



See a Social Security Number? Say Something!
Report Privacy Problems to <https://public.resource.org/privacy>
Or call the IRS Identity Theft Hotline at 1-800-908-4490



990

Form

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.

▶ Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

A For the 2015 calendar year, or tax year beginning January 1, 2015, and ending December 31, 2015	
B Check if applicable: ☐ Address change ☐ Name change ☐ Initial return ☐ Final return/terminated ☐ Amended return ☐ Application pending	C Name of organization THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE Doing business as _____ Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite PO Box 355 City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code Helena, MT 59624 D Employer identification number 81-0369262 E Telephone number 406-443-7027 G Gross receipts \$ 3,516,291 H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? ☐ Yes ☒ No H(b) Are all subordinates included? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "No," attach a list. (see instructions) H(c) Group exemption number ▶ _____ I Tax-exempt status ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c) () (insert no) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527 J Website: ▶ www.mtlandreliance.org K Form of organization ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other ▶ _____ L Year of formation 1978 M State of legal domicile MT

Part I Summary	
Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: The mission of MLR is to partner with landowners to provide permanent protection for private lands that are significant for agricultural production, forest resources, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space.
	2 Check this box ☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.
	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a) 3 12
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b) 4 12
	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2015 (Part V, line 2a) 5 25
	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary) 6 0
	7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12 7a 0
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34 7b 0	
Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h) 2,862,424 3,201,289
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g) 53 47
	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d) 7,887 14,311
	11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e) (7,269) (10,428)
	12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12) 2,863,095 3,205,219
Expenses	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3) 226,772 1,312,809
	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4) 0 0
	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10) 970,893 1,047,430
	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e) 0 0
	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ _____
	17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e) 1,800,043 863,480
	18 Total expenses. Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25) 2,997,708 3,223,719
19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12 (134,613) (18,500)	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16) 2,573,051 2,529,418
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26) 79,953 54,820
	22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20 2,493,098 2,474,598

Part II Signature Block	
Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.	

Sign Here	Signature of officer <i>George S. Olsen</i> Date 10/5/16
	Type or print name and title George S. Olsen President
Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name _____ Preparer's signature _____ Date _____ Check ☐ if self-employed PTIN _____
	Firm's name ▶ _____ Firm's EIN ▶ _____
	Firm's address ▶ _____ Phone no _____

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) ☐ Yes ☐ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Cat No 11282Y

Form 990 (2015)

SCANNED NOV 03 2016

647

12

Part III Statement of Program Service AccomplishmentsCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III ☒

- 1**
- Briefly describe the organization's mission:

The mission of MLR is to partner with landowners to provide permanent protection for private lands that are significant for agricultural production, forest resources, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space.

- 2**
- Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?
- ☐
- Yes
- ☒
- No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

- 3**
- Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?
- ☐
- Yes
- ☒
- No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

- 4**
- Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code:) (Expenses \$ 1,758,469 including grants of \$ 1,000,000) (Revenue \$)Land Projects:

MLR worked with numerous (over 50) landowners in 2015 to permanently protect their private lands for continued agricultural production, open space, and natural habitat. Ten of these landowners donated/sold conservation easements to MLR that protected over 14,800 acres, including 377 additional acres in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem bordering Yellowstone National Park. Nearly 18 miles of river/stream frontage on some of Montana's blue ribbon trout fisheries were protected in perpetuity. Over fifty percent (50%) of the easements completed in 2015 were adjacent to or within 5 miles of properties already protected by conservation easements. MLR is creeping ever so close to that 1,000,000 acres of land protected -- as of 12/31/15 easements protected over 958,348 acres of agricultural/recreational lands in Montana. That acreage includes crop, hay, and pasture lands; range/forest lands; stream frontage, elk habitat, and wetlands. See Schedule O for a complete list of projects & expenses.

MLR granted \$1,000,000 to the Montana Land Reliance Foundation, Inc., to be invested into the Conservation Fund (a permanent endowment).

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ \$479,402 including grants of \$ 151,316) (Revenue \$)Stewardship and Monitoring:

MLR stewardship staff (consisting of the Lands Manager, 2 full-time Land Stewards, and 13 seasonal Land Stewards) monitors each and every property on which MLR holds a conservation easement. This monitoring includes a visit to the subject property and discussions with the landowners and managers. The stewardship staff also works with existing easement holders to supply natural resource information and contacts for the landowner to improve their land holdings for conservation purposes. Stewardship staff also works with legal counsel in regard to any potential issues that arise regarding enforcement of conservation easements held by MLR. For a list of stewardship and monitoring related expenditures, please see Schedule O.

MLR granted \$151,316 to the Montana Land Reliance Foundation, Inc., to be invested into the Land Protection Fund to cover stewardship and monitoring expenditures.

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ 635,317 including grants of \$ 161,293) (Revenue \$)Education & Outreach:

MLR staff travel across the state of Montana conducting meetings with potential clients, county planning boards, county commissioners, various agricultural groups/organizations, and other community groups to provide answers to their questions and to conduct general educational activities focused on the benefits of land conservation and conservation easements. For these outreach activities, MLR publishes various educational brochures and an annual report to provide information and enhance the transparency of its public interest activities. Additionally, staff participate with numerous conservation groups to educate the general public about the land trust community's conservation efforts. For a complete list of expenditures related to MLR's outreach and education activities, please see Schedule O.

MLR made grants totaling \$161,293 to the Montana Land Reliance Foundation, Inc., to be invested. The grants were made at the request of donors and were intended to help MLR continue with its current and future outreach and education activities centered around land conservation in Montana.

- 4d**
- Other program services (Describe in Schedule O.)

(Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e Total program service expenses **2,873,188**

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A	☒	☐
2 Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors (see instructions)?	☒	☐
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I	☐	☒
4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II	☒	☐
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	☐	☒
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I	☐	☒
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II	☒	☐
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III	☐	☒
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV	☐	☒
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V	☒	☐
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI	☒	☐
b Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII	☒	☐
c Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII	☐	☒
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX	☐	☒
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X	☐	☒
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X	☐	☒
12 a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII	☐	☒
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional	☒	☐
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	☐	☒
14 a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	☐	☒
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV.	☐	☒
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV	☐	☒
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV.	☐	☒
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I (see instructions)	☐	☒
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II	☒	☐
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III	☐	☒

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

	Yes	No
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H		✓
20b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
21 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II	✓	
22 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III		✓
23 Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? If "Yes," complete Schedule J		✓
24a Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a		✓
24b Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		✓
24c Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		✓
24d Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		✓
25a Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I		✓
25b Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I		✓
26 Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II		✓
27 Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III		✓
28 Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)		
28a A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV		✓
28b A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV		✓
28c An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV	✓	
29 Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	✓	
30 Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	✓	
31 Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I		✓
32 Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II		✓
33 Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I		✓
34 Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1	✓	
35a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		✓
35b If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2		
36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2		✓
37 Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI		✓
38 Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O.	✓	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax ComplianceCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V ☐

Yes No

1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable	1a	6			
b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable	1b	0			
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	1c		✓		
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return	2a	26			
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns?	2b		✓		
Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions)						
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	3a			✓	
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No" to line 3b, provide an explanation in Schedule O	3b			✓	
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	4a			✓	
b	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ► See instructions for filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).					
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	5a			✓	
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b			✓	
c	If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?	5c				
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions?	6a			✓	
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	6b				
7	Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).					
a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?	7a		✓		
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7b		✓		
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7c			✓	
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year	7d				
e	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	7e			✓	
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?	7f			✓	
g	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	7g			✓	
h	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?	7h		✓		
8	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds. Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	8				
9	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.					
a	Did the sponsoring organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a				
b	Did the sponsoring organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?	9b				
10	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:					
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12	10a				
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities	10b				
11	Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter:					
a	Gross income from members or shareholders	11a				
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.)	11b				
12a	Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	12a				
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year	12b				
13	Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.					
a	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state?	13a				
Note. See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.						
b	Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans	13b				
c	Enter the amount of reserves on hand	13c				
14a	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?	14a			✓	
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	14b				

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI ☒

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year	1a 12		
If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O.			
b Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent	1b 12		
2 Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?	2		☒
3 Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?	3		☒
4 Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	4		☒
5 Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?	5		☒
6 Did the organization have members or stockholders?	6		☒
7a Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	7a		☒
b Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	7b		☒
8 Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:			
a The governing body?	8a	☒	
b Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	8b	☒	
9 Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O	9		☒

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

	Yes	No
10a Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	10a	☒
b If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?	10b	
11a Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11a	☒
b Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.		
12a Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	12a	☒
b Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12b	☒
c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	12c	☒
13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	13	☒
14 Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	14	☒
15 Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
a The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	15a	☒
b Other officers or key employees of the organization	15b	☒
If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions).		
16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?	16a	☒
b If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?	16b	

Section C. Disclosure

17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed ► **N/A**

18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (Section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.

☐ Own website ☐ Another's website ☒ Upon request ☐ Other (explain in Schedule O)

19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.

20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records: ►

Lois Delger-DeMars, 324 Fuller Avenue, PO Box 355, Helena, MT 59624; 406-443-7027

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent ContractorsCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII ☐**Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees****1a** Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See instructions for definition of "key employee."
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee, or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees; highest compensated employees; and former such persons.

☒ Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) George S. Olsen President	2 1	✓		✓				0	0	0
(2) Carol Bibler Vice-President	1 1	✓		✓				0	0	0
(3) Phil Rostad Secretary-Treasurer	1 1	✓		✓				0	0	0
(4) Jerry Townsend Director	1 1	✓						0	0	0
(5) Allen Bjergo Director	1 1	✓						0	0	0
(6) Roy O'Connor Director	1 1	✓						0	0	0
(7) Judith Hutchins Director	1 1	✓						0	0	0
(8) Rick Berg Director	1 1	✓						0	0	0
(9) Judy Tureck Director	1 1	✓						0	0	0
(10) Chris Montague Director	1 1	✓						0	0	0
(11) Sue Anderson Director	1 1	✓						0	0	0
(12) Dan Vermillion Director	1 1	✓						0	0	0
(13) Paul D. Ringling Managing Director	40 5					✓		105,464	0	4,800
(14)										

Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(15)										
(16)										
(17)										
(18)										
(19)										
(20)										
(21)										
(22)										
(23)										
(24)										
(25)										
1b Sub-total								105,464	0	4,800
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A								0	0	0
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)								105,464	0	4,800

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization **▶ 1**

	Yes	No
3 Did the organization list any former officer, director, or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>		✓
4 For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>		✓
5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>		✓

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
N/A		
2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization ▶	0	

Part VIII Statement of RevenueCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII ☐

				(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a	Federated campaigns	1a				
	b	Membership dues	1b				
	c	Fundraising events	1c	118,623			
	d	Related organizations	1d	511,400			
	e	Government grants (contributions)	1e	0			
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	2,571,266			
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f: \$		514,454			
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f		3,201,289			
	Program Service Revenue			Business Code			
2a		publications	813312	47	47		
b		_____					
c		_____					
d		_____					
e		_____					
f		All other program service revenue .					
g		Total. Add lines 2a-2f		47			
Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		14,712			
	4	Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds					
	5	Royalties					
	6a	Gross rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal			
	b	Less: rental expenses					
	c	Rental income or (loss)					
	d	Net rental income or (loss)					
	7a	Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other			
	b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses					
	c	Gain or (loss)					
	d	Net gain or (loss)			(401)		
	8a	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ 118,623 of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	a	5,882			
	b	Less: direct expenses	b	16,310			
	c	Net income or (loss) from fundraising events		(10,428)			
	9a	Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	a				
	b	Less: direct expenses	b				
	c	Net income or (loss) from gaming activities					
10a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a					
b	Less: cost of goods sold	b					
c	Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory						
Miscellaneous Revenue			Business Code				
11a	_____						
b	_____						
c	_____						
d	All other revenue						
e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d		0				
12	Total revenue. See instructions.		3,205,219	47			

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX ☐**Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.**

	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21	1,312,809	1,312,809		
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22	0	0		
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16	0	0		
4 Benefits paid to or for members	0	0		
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	0	0	0	0
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)	0	0	0	0
7 Other salaries and wages	830,221	641,230	112,575	76,416
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	91,575	74,414	10,311	6,850
9 Other employee benefits	52,800	39,460	7,750	5,590
10 Payroll taxes	72,834	59,339	8,356	5,139
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management	0	0	0	0
b Legal	37,445	35,011	2,434	0
c Accounting	16,784	1,380	14,024	1,380
d Lobbying	0	0	0	0
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17	0			0
f Investment management fees	0			
g Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O.)	71,462	57,566	10,250	3,646
12 Advertising and promotion	58,248	46,598	0	11,650
13 Office expenses	59,283	36,496	13,338	9,449
14 Information technology	2,501	1,534	871	96
15 Royalties	0	0	0	0
16 Occupancy	31,799	26,143	2,891	2,765
17 Travel	91,358	70,733	8,208	12,417
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials	0	0	0	0
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	13,764	9,515	1,959	2,290
20 Interest	0	0	0	0
21 Payments to affiliates	0	0	0	0
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	28,401	25,561	1,420	1,420
23 Insurance	15,132	9,396	5,134	602
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a Equipment	17,560	6,260	9,000	2,300
b Uncollectible Accounts	1,743	1,743	0	0
c Acquisitions	418,000	418,000	0	0
d				
e All other expenses				
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	3,223,719	2,873,188	208,521	142,010
26 Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here ☐ if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X Balance SheetCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X ☐

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	265,823	1	210,858
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	1,550,053	2	1,786,571
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net	0	3	0
	4 Accounts receivable, net	392,548	4	229,174
	5 Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L	0	5	0
	6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions). Complete Part II of Schedule L	0	6	0
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net	0	7	0
	8 Inventories for sale or use	0	8	0
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	0	9	0
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment. cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	295,667		
	b Less: accumulated depreciation	168,112	10c	127,555
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities	0	11	0
	12 Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11		12	174,432
	13 Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11	217,177	13	
	14 Intangible assets	0	14	0
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	818	15	828
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	2,573,051	16	2,529,418	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	79,953	17	54,820
	18 Grants payable	0	18	0
	19 Deferred revenue	0	19	0
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities	0	20	0
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D	0	21	0
	22 Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L	0	22	0
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties	0	23	0
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties	0	24	0
	25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D	0	25	0
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	79,953	26	54,820
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☒ and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.			
	27 Unrestricted net assets	2,467,380	27	2,393,175
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets	24,900	28	80,595
	29 Permanently restricted net assets	818	29	828
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☐ and complete lines 30 through 34.			
	30 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds	0	30	0
	31 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund	0	31	0
	32 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds	0	32	0
	33 Total net assets or fund balances	2,493,098	33	2,474,598
	34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	2,573,051	34	2,529,418

Part XI Reconciliation of Net AssetsCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI ☐

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	3,205,219
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	3,223,719
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	(18,500)
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	2,493,098
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	0
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	0
7	Investment expenses	7	0
8	Prior period adjustments	8	0
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	0
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	2,474,598

Part XII Financial Statements and ReportingCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII ☐

1 Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: ☒ Cash ☐ Accrual ☐ Other _____
If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O.

2a Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? . . .
If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both:

☐ Separate basis ☒ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis

b Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?
If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both:

☐ Separate basis ☒ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis

c If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant?
If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O.

3a As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?

b If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits.

	Yes	No
2a	✓	
2b	✓	
2c	✓	
3a		✓
3b		

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2015

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE

Employer identification number

81-0369262

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box.)

- 1 ☐ A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2 ☐ A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E (Form 990 or 990-EZ).)
- 3 ☐ A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**.
- 4 ☐ A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state: _____
- 5 ☐ An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 6 ☐ A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7 ☒ An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 8 ☐ A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 9 ☐ An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III.)
- 10 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**.
- 11 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2)**. See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box in lines 11a through 11d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e, 11f, and 11g.
- a ☐ **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
- b ☐ **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
- c ☐ **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
- d ☐ **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
- e ☐ Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.
- f Enter the number of supported organizations
- g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1–9 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
(A)						
(B)						
(C)						
(D)						
(E)						
Total						

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2011	(b) 2012	(c) 2013	(d) 2014	(e) 2015	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	2,983,100	4,425,386	1,867,905	2,862,424	2,201,289	14,340,104
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3.	2,983,100	4,425,386	1,867,905	2,862,424	2,201,289	14,340,104
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f).						1,678,645
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						12,661,459

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2011	(b) 2012	(c) 2013	(d) 2014	(e) 2015	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	2,983,100	4,425,386	1,867,905	2,862,424	2,201,289	14,340,104
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	15,532	19,391	4,187	7,887	14,311	61,308
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)	2,394	7,081	(9,682)	(7,216)	989,619	982,196
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						15,383,608
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	(17,804)
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ☐						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2015 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	82 %
15 Public support percentage from 2014 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	%
16a 33 1/3% support test—2015. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization. ☒		
b 33 1/3% support test—2014. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐		
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2015. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐		
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2014. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐		
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions ☐		

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II.
If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2011	(b) 2012	(c) 2013	(d) 2014	(e) 2015	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support. (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2011	(b) 2012	(c) 2013	(d) 2014	(e) 2015	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						
14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ☐						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2015 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2014 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2015 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2014 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	%
19a 33 1/3% support tests—2015. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here . The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐		
b 33 1/3% support tests—2014. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here . The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐		
20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ☐		

Part IV Supporting Organizations

(Complete only if you checked a box in line 11 on Part I. If you checked 11a of Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked 11b of Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked 11c of Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked 11d of Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

Section A. All Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain.		
2 Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in Part VI how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).		
3a Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below.		
b Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? If "Yes," describe in Part VI when and how the organization made the determination.		
c Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.		
4a Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? If "Yes," and if you checked 11a or 11b in Part I, answer (b) and (c) below.		
b Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? If "Yes," describe in Part VI how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.		
c Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.		
5a Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? If "Yes," answer (b) and (c) below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in Part VI , including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed; (ii) the reasons for each such action; (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action; and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).		
b Type I or Type II only. Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?		
c Substitutions only. Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?		
6 Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (i) its supported organizations, (ii) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (iii) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .		
7 Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (defined in section 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35% controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ).		
8 Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described in line 7? If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ).		
9a Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .		
b Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined in line 9a) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .		
c Did a disqualified person (as defined in line 9a) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .		
10a Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of section 4943 because of section 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? If "Yes," answer 10b below.		
b Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? (Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings.)		

Part IV Supporting Organizations (continued)

	Yes	No
11 Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?		
a A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (b) and (c) below, the governing body of a supported organization?	11a	
b A family member of a person described in (a) above?	11b	
c A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (a) or (b) above? If "Yes" to a, b, or c, provide detail in Part VI .	11c	

Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the directors, trustees, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's directors or trustees at all times during the tax year? If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove directors or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.	1	
2 Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? If "Yes," explain in Part VI how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization.	2	

Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? If "No," describe in Part VI how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s).	1	

Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (i) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (ii) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (iii) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?	1	
2 Were any of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees either (i) appointed or elected by the supported organization(s) or (ii) serving on the governing body of a supported organization? If "No," explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).	2	
3 By reason of the relationship described in (2), did the organization's supported organizations have a significant voice in the organization's investment policies and in directing the use of the organization's income or assets at all times during the tax year? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.	3	

Section E. Type III Functionally-Integrated Supporting Organizations

1 Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (see instructions):			
a ☐ The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete line 2 below.			
b ☐ The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete line 3 below.			
c ☐ The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in Part VI how you supported a government entity (see instructions).			
2 Activities Test. Answer (a) and (b) below.		Yes	No
a Did substantially all of the organization's activities during the tax year directly further the exempt purposes of the supported organization(s) to which the organization was responsive? If "Yes," then in Part VI identify those supported organizations and explain how these activities directly furthered their exempt purposes, how the organization was responsive to those supported organizations, and how the organization determined that these activities constituted substantially all of its activities.	2a		
b Did the activities described in (a) constitute activities that, but for the organization's involvement, one or more of the organization's supported organization(s) would have been engaged in? If "Yes," explain in Part VI the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.	2b		
3 Parent of Supported Organizations. Answer (a) and (b) below.			
a Did the organization have the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of each of the supported organizations? Provide details in Part VI .	3a		
b Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs, and activities of each of its supported organizations? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role played by the organization in this regard.	3b		

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

- 1** ☐ Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov. 20, 1970. **See instructions.** All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E.

Section A - Adjusted Net Income		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1 Net short-term capital gain	1		
2 Recoveries of prior-year distributions	2		
3 Other gross income (see instructions)	3		
4 Add lines 1 through 3	4		
5 Depreciation and depletion	5		
6 Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions)	6		
7 Other expenses (see instructions)	7		
8 Adjusted Net Income (subtract lines 5, 6 and 7 from line 4)	8		
Section B - Minimum Asset Amount		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1 Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year):			
a Average monthly value of securities	1a		
b Average monthly cash balances	1b		
c Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	1c		
d Total (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d		
e Discount claimed for blockage or other factors (explain in detail in Part VI):			
2 Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt-use assets	2		
3 Subtract line 2 from line 1d	3		
4 Cash deemed held for exempt use. Enter 1-1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions).	4		
5 Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	5		
6 Multiply line 5 by .035	6		
7 Recoveries of prior-year distributions	7		
8 Minimum Asset Amount (add line 7 to line 6)	8		
Section C - Distributable Amount			Current Year
1 Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, Column A)	1		
2 Enter 85% of line 1	2		
3 Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, Column A)	3		
4 Enter greater of line 2 or line 3	4		
5 Income tax imposed in prior year	5		
6 Distributable Amount. Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions)	6		
7 ☐ Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally-integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions).			

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations (continued)

Section D - Distributions		Current Year	
1	Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes		
2	Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity		
3	Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations		
4	Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets		
5	Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required)		
6	Other distributions (describe in Part VI). See instructions.		
7	Total annual distributions. Add lines 1 through 6.		
8	Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in Part VI). See instructions.		
9	Distributable amount for 2015 from Section C, line 6		
10	Line 8 amount divided by Line 9 amount		

Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2015	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2015
1 Distributable amount for 2015 from Section C, line 6			
2 Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2015 (reasonable cause required-see instructions)			
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2015:			
a			
b			
c			
d From 2013			
e From 2014			
f Total of lines 3a through e			
g Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
h Applied to 2015 distributable amount			
i Carryover from 2010 not applied (see instructions)			
j Remainder. Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from 3f.			
4 Distributions for 2015 from Section D, line 7: \$			
a Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
b Applied to 2015 distributable amount			
c Remainder. Subtract lines 4a and 4b from 4.			
5 Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2015, if any. Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2 (if amount greater than zero, see instructions).			
6 Remaining underdistributions for 2015. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1 (if amount greater than zero, see instructions).			
7 Excess distributions carryover to 2016. Add lines 3j and 4c.			
8 Breakdown of line 7:			
a			
b			
c Excess from 2013 . . .			
d Excess from 2014 . . .			
e Excess from 2015 . . .			

Part VI

Supplemental Information. Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V, Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8; and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions.)

SCHEDULE C
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities

For Organizations Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c) and section 527

▶ **Complete if the organization is described below.** ▶ **Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**
▶ **Information about Schedule C (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.**

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

**Open to Public
Inspection**

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 3, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 46 (Political Campaign Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations Complete Parts I-A and B Do not complete Part I-C.
- Section 501(c) (other than section 501(c)(3)) organizations Complete Parts I-A and C below Do not complete Part I-B.
- Section 527 organizations: Complete Part I-A only.

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 4, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 47 (Lobbying Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)): Complete Part II-A. Do not complete Part II-B.
- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)): Complete Part II-B. Do not complete Part II-A.

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 5 (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions) or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 35c (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions), then

- Section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations Complete Part III.

Name of organization	Employer identification number
THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE	81-0369262

Part I-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c) or is a section 527 organization.

- 1 Provide a description of the organization's direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV.
- 2 Political expenditures ▶ \$ 0
- 3 Volunteer hours 0

Part I-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3).

- 1 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by the organization under section 4955 ▶ \$
- 2 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by organization managers under section 4955 ▶ \$
- 3 If the organization incurred a section 4955 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 4a Was a correction made? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b If "Yes," describe in Part IV.

Part I-C Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c), except section 501(c)(3).

- 1 Enter the amount directly expended by the filing organization for section 527 exempt function activities ▶ \$
- 2 Enter the amount of the filing organization's funds contributed to other organizations for section 527 exempt function activities ▶ \$
- 3 Total exempt function expenditures. Add lines 1 and 2. Enter here and on Form 1120-POL, line 17b ▶ \$
- 4 Did the filing organization file **Form 1120-POL** for this year? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 5 Enter the names, addresses and employer identification number (EIN) of all section 527 political organizations to which the filing organization made payments. For each organization listed, enter the amount paid from the filing organization's funds. Also enter the amount of political contributions received that were promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization, such as a separate segregated fund or a political action committee (PAC). If additional space is needed, provide information in Part IV.

(a) Name	(b) Address	(c) EIN	(d) Amount paid from filing organization's funds If none, enter -0-	(e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization If none, enter -0-
(1)				
(2)				
(3)				
(4)				
(5)				
(6)				

Part II-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

- A** Check ☐ if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group (and list in Part IV each affiliated group member's name, address, EIN, expenses, and share of excess lobbying expenditures).
- B** Check ☐ if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply.

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)		(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals												
1a	Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grass roots lobbying)	25,000	0												
b	Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)	0	0												
c	Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)	25,000	0												
d	Other exempt purpose expenditures	3,198,719	0												
e	Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)	3,223,719	0												
f	Lobbying nontaxable amount. Enter the amount from the following table in both columns.	311,186	0												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:</th> <th>The lobbying nontaxable amount is:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Not over \$500,000</td> <td>20% of the amount on line 1e.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000</td> <td>\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000</td> <td>\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$1,000,000.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:	Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e.	Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.	Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000	Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.	Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000.		
If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:														
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e.														
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.														
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000														
Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.														
Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000.														
g	Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)	77,797	0												
h	Subtract line 1g from line 1a. If zero or less, enter -0-	0	0												
i	Subtract line 1f from line 1c. If zero or less, enter -0-	0	0												
j	If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?	☐ Yes ☐ No													

4-Year Averaging Period Under section 501(h)

(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below. See the separate instructions for lines 2a through 2f.)

Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period					
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2012	(b) 2013	(c) 2014	(d) 2015	(e) Total
2a Lobbying nontaxable amount	327,292	214,760	298,635	311,186	1,151,873
b Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column (e))					1,727,810
c Total lobbying expenditures	0	0	0	0	0
d Grassroots nontaxable amount	81,823	53,690	74,659	77,797	287,969
e Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					431,954
f Grassroots lobbying expenditures	0	0	25,000	25,000	50,000

Part II-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and has NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

For each "Yes," response on lines 1a through 1i below, provide in Part IV a detailed description of the lobbying activity.

	(a)		(b)
	Yes	No	Amount
1 During the year, did the filing organization attempt to influence foreign, national, state or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of:			
a Volunteers?			
b Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines 1c through 1i)?			
c Media advertisements?			
d Mailings to members, legislators, or the public?			
e Publications, or published or broadcast statements?			
f Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes?			
g Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body?			
h Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any similar means?			
i Other activities?			
j Total. Add lines 1c through 1i			
2a Did the activities in line 1 cause the organization to be not described in section 501(c)(3)?			
b If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred under section 4912			
c If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred by organization managers under section 4912			
d If the filing organization incurred a section 4912 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?			

Part III-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6).

	Yes	No
1 Were substantially all (90% or more) dues received nondeductible by members?	1	
2 Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less?	2	
3 Did the organization agree to carry over lobbying and political expenditures from the prior year?	3	

Part III-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6) and if either (a) BOTH Part III-A, lines 1 and 2, are answered "No," OR (b) Part III-A, line 3, is answered "Yes."

1 Dues, assessments and similar amounts from members	1	
2 Section 162(e) nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures (do not include amounts of political expenses for which the section 527(f) tax was paid).		
a Current year	2a	
b Carryover from last year	2b	
c Total	2c	
3 Aggregate amount reported in section 6033(e)(1)(A) notices of nondeductible section 162(e) dues	3	
4 If notices were sent and the amount on line 2c exceeds the amount on line 3, what portion of the excess does the organization agree to carryover to the reasonable estimate of nondeductible lobbying and political expenditure next year?	4	
5 Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures (see instructions)	5	

Part IV Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part I-A, line 1; Part I-B, line 4; Part I-C, line 5; Part II-A (affiliated group list); Part II-A, lines 1 and 2 (see instructions); and Part II-B, line 1. Also, complete this part for any additional information.

Part I-A

The Montana Land Reliance made a contribution to the Land Trust Alliance's Policy Committee to do grass roots lobbying work on the enhanced tax incentives for conservation easements.

Part IV **Supplemental Information** *(continued)*

**SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

► **Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990,
Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.**
► **Attach to Form 990.**

► **Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.**

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE

Employer identification number

81-0369262

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year		
2 Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)		
3 Aggregate value of grants from (during year)		
4 Aggregate value at end of year		
5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? ☐ Yes ☐ No		
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? ☐ Yes ☐ No		

Part II Conservation Easements.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply).	
☐ Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education)	☐ Preservation of a historically important land area
☒ Protection of natural habitat	☐ Preservation of a certified historic structure
☒ Preservation of open space	
2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year.	
a Total number of conservation easements	2a 825
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2b 958,348
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2c 0
d Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2d 0
3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ► 4	
4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ► 1	
5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? ☒ Yes ☐ No	
6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ► 8,869	
7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ► \$ 479,402	
8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.	

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.	
b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items:	
(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1	► \$
(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X	► \$
2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items:	
a Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1	► \$
b Assets included in Form 990, Part X	► \$

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):

a ☐ Public exhibition

d ☐ Loan or exchange programs

b ☐ Scholarly research

e ☐ Other _____

c ☐ Preservation for future generations

4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII.

5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:

	Amount
c Beginning balance	1c
d Additions during the year	1d
e Distributions during the year	1e
f Ending balance	1f

2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided on Part XIII ☐

Part V Endowment Funds.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance	0	0	0	0	0
b Contributions	0	0	0	0	0
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses	0	0	0	0	0
d Grants or scholarships	0	0	0	0	0
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs	0	0	0	0	0
f Administrative expenses	0	0	0	0	0
g End of year balance	0	0	0	0	0

2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:

a Board designated or quasi-endowment ☐ 0%

b Permanent endowment ☐ 0%

c Temporarily restricted endowment ☐ 0%

The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.

3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:

(i) unrelated organizations ☐ Yes ☒ No

(ii) related organizations ☒ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes" on line 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? ☒ Yes ☐ No

4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land	0	55,000		55,000
b Buildings	0	0	0	0
c Leasehold improvements	0	15,000	2,583	12,417
d Equipment	0	225,667	165,529	60,138
e Other	0	0	0	0
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10c.)				127,555

Part VII Investments—Other Securities.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation. Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely-held equity interests		
(3) Other		
(A) Liquid assets & cash	174,432	cost basis
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12.) ▶		

Part VIII Investments—Program Related.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation. Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 13.) ▶		174,432

Part IX Other Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1) Conservation easements	825
(2) Mineral rights	2
(3) Water rights	1
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 15.)	828

Part X Other Liabilities.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 25.) ▶	

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions. In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740). Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII ☐

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		1	
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:			
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a		
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b		
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1:			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)		5	

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		1	
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:			
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a		
b	Prior year adjustments	2b		
c	Other losses	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)		5	

Part XIII Supplemental Information.

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

PART II, Line 3 (conservation easement modifications): Of the total 825 easements held by MLR at the end of 2015, four easement documents were modified (less than 1% of the total easements held). The purposes of the three (3) corrections and one (1) restatement/amendment documents were to correct errors or omissions, to remedy mutual mistakes that occurred when an easement was drafted, to add additional lands to the easement property, and to eliminate ambiguities in easement terms that could have led to enforcement challenges by updating outdated conservation easement language. In all four easement modifications, MLR also secured landowners' ratifications of the terms and conditions of the conservation values and purposes of the original easements. As an accredited land trust, MLR followed rigorous conservation easement amendment policies to ensure perpetual protection of the conservation values and to avoid conferral of prohibited private benefit and inurement, all in accordance with national standards and practices as recommended by the Land Trust Alliance.

Corrections:

1) Hamilton Property -- This easement was originally recorded on December 31, 1996, as Document No. 40388, Volume 215, Book of Deeds, Page 183, in the public records of Fergus County, Montana. The easement protects approximately 233 acres in the Big Spring Creek

Part XIII Supplemental Information *(continued)*

drainage southeast of Lewistown, Montana. The Deed of Conservation Easement was corrected by that certain Correction to Deed of Conservation Easement, recorded on June 15, 2015, as Document No. 119566, records of Fergus County, Montana. Upon the death of the original donor of the easement, it was discovered that the original easement document erroneously included a portion of land that was not owned by the donor at the time of the easement donation or at the time of his death due to an inaccurate certificate of survey. To settle Mr. Hamilton's estate the error was corrected in the public records by the completion of the Correction to Deed of Conservation Easement that accurately described the property under the easement.

2) V-O Ranch (Lyndes Property) -- The original Deed of Conservation Easement on the Lyndes Property utilized an incorrect legal description when it was recorded on December 23, 2002, as Document No. 3031980, in Lewis and Clark County public records. The error in the warranty deed and the Deed of Conservation Easement were not discovered until 2015 after the Lyndes family transferred ownership of the property to V-O Ranch, LLC, and wanted to sell the entire easement property. Ultimately there were approximately 25 acres of the Lyndes property that were omitted from the original easement that the family members intended to include under the easement. The legal description for the 204-acre property was corrected in the warranty deed and in the easement prior to the sale of the property. The Correction to Deed of Conservation Easement was recorded on April 7, 2015, as Document No. 3271028, Book M49, page 6806; and re-recorded on April 10, 2015, as Document No. 3271159, Book M49, page 6929 due to a typographic error when referencing the original deed.

3) Skogen Property -- This 610-acre property is located approximately 1.5 miles from Fort Shaw, Montana, on the Sun River. This property was subdivided in approximately 2008 into 20+ lots; thankfully none of the lots sold and the Skogen family purchased the property. On December 22, 2014, the Skogens donated a Deed of Conservation Easement (recorded as Doc. No. R030-0319, records of Cascade County, Montana) that restricted the sale of the property to one parcel only. The legal description in the original easement document erroneously omitted three of the lots. Via that certain Correction to Deed of Conservation Easement, recorded on May 6, 2015, those three additional lots were included in the protection of the property as the family originally intended.

Restatement/Amendment:

1) South Jack Creek Ranch -- This property in the Madison Valley near Ennis, MT, was first protected by a Deed of Conservation Easement donated in 1996. In 2011, the subsequent landowner purchased an additional 516 acres bordering the property that was incorporated into the easement by a "Restatement of Deed of Conservation Easement and Grant Deed of Conservation Easement on Additional Lands"

(continued in Schedule O)

**SCHEDULE G
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information Regarding Fundraising or Gaming Activities

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, lines 17, 18, or 19, or if the organization entered more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule G (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE

Employer identification number

81-0369262

Part I

Fundraising Activities. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 17.
Form 990-EZ filers are not required to complete this part.

- 1 Indicate whether the organization raised funds through any of the following activities. Check all that apply.
- | | |
|---|--|
| a ☐ Mail solicitations | e ☐ Solicitation of non-government grants |
| b ☐ Internet and email solicitations | f ☐ Solicitation of government grants |
| c ☐ Phone solicitations | g ☐ Special fundraising events |
| d ☐ In-person solicitations | |
- 2a Did the organization have a written or oral agreement with any individual (including officers, directors, trustees or key employees listed in Form 990, Part VII) or entity in connection with professional fundraising services? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b If "Yes," list the ten highest paid individuals or entities (fundraisers) pursuant to agreements under which the fundraiser is to be compensated at least \$5,000 by the organization.

(i) Name and address of individual or entity (fundraiser)	(ii) Activity	(iii) Did fundraiser have custody or control of contributions?		(iv) Gross receipts from activity	(v) Amount paid to (or retained by) fundraiser listed in col (i)	(vi) Amount paid to (or retained by) organization
		Yes	No			
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
Total						

- 3 List all states in which the organization is registered or licensed to solicit contributions or has been notified it is exempt from registration or licensing.

Part II Fundraising Events. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 18, or reported more than \$15,000 of fundraising event contributions and gross income on Form 990-EZ, lines 1 and 6b. List events with gross receipts greater than \$5,000.

		(a) Event #1	(b) Event #2	(c) Other events	(d) Total events (add col (a) through col (c))
		Donor Dinners (event type)	Ag Forums (event type)	Bio-control/Misc. (total number)	
Revenue	1 Gross receipts	63,450	34,950	26,105	124,505
	2 Less: Contributions	63,450	34,950	20,223	118,623
	3 Gross income (line 1 minus line 2)	0	0	5,882	5,882
Direct Expenses	4 Cash prizes	0	0	0	0
	5 Noncash prizes	0	0	0	0
	6 Rent/facility costs	397	1,075	615	2,087
	7 Food and beverages	1,521	3,255	844	5,620
	8 Entertainment	0	0	0	0
	9 Other direct expenses	466	4,214	3,923	8,603
	10 Direct expense summary. Add lines 4 through 9 in column (d) ▶				16,310
	11 Net income summary. Subtract line 10 from line 3, column (d) ▶				(10,428)

Part III Gaming. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 19, or reported more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.

		(a) Bingo	(b) Pull tabs/instant bingo/progressive bingo	(c) Other gaming	(d) Total gaming (add col. (a) through col. (c))
Revenue	1 Gross revenue				
Direct Expenses	2 Cash prizes				
	3 Noncash prizes				
	4 Rent/facility costs				
	5 Other direct expenses				
	6 Volunteer labor	☐ Yes _____ % ☐ No	☐ Yes _____ % ☐ No	☐ Yes _____ % ☐ No	
	7 Direct expense summary. Add lines 2 through 5 in column (d) ▶				
	8 Net gaming income summary. Subtract line 7 from line 1, column (d) ▶				

9 Enter the state(s) in which the organization conducts gaming activities: _____

a Is the organization licensed to conduct gaming activities in each of these states? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "No," explain: _____

10a Were any of the organization's gaming licenses revoked, suspended or terminated during the tax year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," explain: _____

- 11** Does the organization conduct gaming activities with nonmembers? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 12** Is the organization a grantor, beneficiary or trustee of a trust or a member of a partnership or other entity formed to administer charitable gaming? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 13** Indicate the percentage of gaming activity conducted in:
- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---|
| a The organization's facility | 13a | % |
| b An outside facility | 13b | % |
- 14** Enter the name and address of the person who prepares the organization's gaming/special events books and records:

Name ▶ _____

Address ▶ _____

- 15a** Does the organization have a contract with a third party from whom the organization receives gaming revenue? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b** If "Yes," enter the amount of gaming revenue received by the organization ▶ \$ _____ and the amount of gaming revenue retained by the third party ▶ \$ _____
- c** If "Yes," enter name and address of the third party:

Name ▶ _____

Address ▶ _____

16 Gaming manager information:

Name ▶ _____

Gaming manager compensation ▶ \$ _____

Description of services provided ▶ _____

☐ Director/officer

☐ Employee

☐ Independent contractor

17 Mandatory distributions:

- a** Is the organization required under state law to make charitable distributions from the gaming proceeds to retain the state gaming license? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b** Enter the amount of distributions required under state law to be distributed to other exempt organizations or spent in the organization's own exempt activities during the tax year ▶ \$ _____

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Provide the explanations required by Part I, line 2b, columns (iii) and (v); and Part III, lines 9, 9b, 10b, 15b, 15c, 16, and 17b, as applicable. Also provide any additional information (see instructions).

SCHEDULE I
(Form 990)

Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations,
Governments, and Individuals in the United States

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Name of the organization

► Attach to Form 990.
► Information about Schedule I (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public
Inspection

Employer identification number

THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE

81-0369262

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

- 1 Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 2 Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States.

Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

1 (a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
(1) Montana Land Reliance Foundation; PO Box 355; Helena, MT 59624	27-1125289	501(c)(3)	1,312,809	0	cash	N/A	investments
(2)							
(3)							
(4)							
(5)							
(6)							
(7)							
(8)							
(9)							
(10)							
(11)							
(12)							

- 2 Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table 1
- 3 Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table 0

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Cat. No. 50055P

Schedule I (Form 990) (2015)

Part III Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Individuals. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 22.
Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

(a) Type of grant or assistance	(b) Number of recipients	(c) Amount of cash grant	(d) Amount of non-cash assistance	(e) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f) Description of non-cash assistance
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

Part IV Supplemental Information. Provide the information required in Part I, line 2, Part III, column (b), and any other additional information.

The Montana Land Reliance Foundation, Inc., was established to provide services to The Montana Land Reliance (MLR), to provide financial assistance to MLR, and to hold assets in support of MLR. Two members of MLR's Board of Directors serve on the Board of the Montana Land Reliance Foundation to provide oversight of the use of funds provided to the Foundation by MLR. There are three other members of the Foundation's Board that are not members of the MLR Board and provide further oversight of the funds. MLR monies granted to the Foundation are invested to provide income that is then granted to MLR to assist in the completion of land projects, to assist with the financial burden of monitoring existing conservation easements, to assist MLR with costs associated with its education and outreach program to landowners, professionals, and other conservation organizations, and to assist MLR with its general operating expenses. In 2014, MLR granted: 1) \$161,493 to the Foundation to be invested in the Education and Outreach Fund and Glacier/Fathead Fund (income from both is used to assist with MLR's education and outreach activities); 2) \$151,316 to be invested into the Land Protection Fund (income from which is used to assist MLR with conservation easement project costs and monitoring/stewardship costs); and 3) \$1,000,000 to be invested into the Conservation Fund (a permanent endowment to benefit the Reliance).

SCHEDULE L
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Transactions With Interested Persons

▶ **Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a, 25b, 26, 27, 28a, 28b, or 28c, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a or 40b.**
▶ **Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**
▶ **Information about Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.**

OMB No. 1545-0047

2015

Open To Public Inspection

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE

81-0369262

Part I

Excess Benefit Transactions (section 501(c)(3), section 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations only).

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a or 25b, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 40b.

1	(a) Name of disqualified person	(b) Relationship between disqualified person and organization	(c) Description of transaction	(d) Corrected?	
				Yes	No
(1)					
(2)					
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					
(6)					

2 Enter the amount of tax incurred by the organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under section 4958. ▶ \$

3 Enter the amount of tax, if any, on line 2, above, reimbursed by the organization ▶ \$

Part II

Loans to and/or From Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a or Form 990, Part IV, line 26; or if the organization reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 5, 6, or 22.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship with organization	(c) Purpose of loan	(d) Loan to or from the organization?		(e) Original principal amount	(f) Balance due	(g) In default?		(h) Approved by board or committee?		(i) Written agreement?	
			To	From			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
(1)												
(2)												
(3)												
(4)												
(5)												
(6)												
(7)												
(8)												
(9)												
(10)												
Total ▶						\$						

Part III **Grants or Assistance Benefiting Interested Persons.**
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 27.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of assistance	(d) Type of assistance	(e) Purpose of assistance
(1)				
(2)				
(3)				
(4)				
(5)				
(6)				
(7)				
(8)				
(9)				
(10)				

Part IV Business Transactions Involving Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 28a, 28b, or 28c.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of transaction	(d) Description of transaction	(e) Sharing of organization's revenues?	
				Yes	No
(1) Montana Land Reliance Foundation	support org to MLR	\$30,000	accounting services per Inter-		✓
(2)			porate Services Agreement		
(3)		\$475,400	Grant request to cover the costs of		✓
(4)			MLR's operations, monitoring/		
(5)			enforcement of easements, &		
(6)			education/outreach activities.		
(7)					
(8) Ruby Habitat Foundation	support org to MLR	\$6,000	investment services per Inter-		✓
(9)			porate Services Agreement		
(10)					

Part V Supplemental Information

Provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule L (see instructions).

There are two current members of MLR's Board of Directors who serve on the Board of Directors of the Montana Land Reliance Foundation - Carol Bibler and Jerry Townsend. These two individuals provide oversight of the funds that MLR invests in the Foundation to further its conservation efforts across the state of Montana. Three members of the Foundation's Board of Directors are not members of MLR's Board of Directors and provide additional oversight on the investment funds.

Through an Intercompany Services Agreement, MLR provides accounting/bookkeeping and administrative support to the Montana Land Reliance Foundation.

In 2014, the Montana Land Reliance Foundation's Board of Directors approved a grant request from MLR in the amount of \$475,400 to cover MLR's costs related to education and outreach activities, and the monitoring/enforcement of the 825 conservation easements currently held by the organization.

MLR staff provides, through an Intercompany Services Agreement, investment and tracking support to the Ruby Habitat Foundation. The President of MLR's Board of Directors and two of the Managing Directors of MLR serve on the Board of Directors of the Ruby Habitat Foundation to provide oversight.

SCHEDULE M
(Form 990)

Noncash Contributions

OMB No. 1545-0047

2015

**Open To Public
Inspection**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

► Complete if the organizations answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, lines 29 or 30.

► Attach to Form 990.

► Information about Schedule M (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE

81-0369262

Part I Types of Property

	(a) Check if applicable	(b) Number of contributions or items contributed	(c) Noncash contribution amounts reported on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1g	(d) Method of determining noncash contribution amounts
1 Art—Works of art				
2 Art—Historical treasures				
3 Art—Fractional interests				
4 Books and publications				
5 Clothing and household goods				
6 Cars and other vehicles				
7 Boats and planes				
8 Intellectual property				
9 Securities—Publicly traded	✓	13	511,842	market quotation
10 Securities—Closely held stock				
11 Securities—Partnership, LLC, or trust interests				
12 Securities—Miscellaneous				
13 Qualified conservation contribution—Historic structures				
14 Qualified conservation contribution—Other	✓	10	10	valued @ \$1.00/each
15 Real estate—Residential				
16 Real estate—Commercial				
17 Real estate—Other				
18 Collectibles				
19 Food inventory				
20 Drugs and medical supplies				
21 Taxidermy				
22 Historical artifacts				
23 Scientific specimens				
24 Archeological artifacts				
25 Other ► (mileage)	✓	1	454	federal mileage rate
26 Other ► (lodging)	✓	1	500	vendor receipt
27 Other ► (services)	✓	3	848	vendor receipts
28 Other ► ()				

29 Number of Forms 8283 received by the organization during the tax year for contributions for which the organization completed Form 8283, Part IV, Donee Acknowledgement 29 5

	Yes	No
30a During the year, did the organization receive by contribution any property reported in Part I, lines 1 through 28, that it must hold for at least three years from the date of the initial contribution, and which is not required to be used for exempt purposes for the entire holding period?		✓
b If "Yes," describe the arrangement in Part II.		
31 Does the organization have a gift acceptance policy that requires the review of any non-standard contributions?	✓	
32a Does the organization hire or use third parties or related organizations to solicit, process, or sell noncash contributions?		✓
b If "Yes," describe in Part II.		
33 If the organization did not report an amount in column (c) for a type of property for which column (a) is checked, describe in Part II.		

Part II **Supplemental Information.** Provide the information required by Part I, lines 30b, 32b, and 33, and whether the organization is reporting in Part I, column (b), the number of contributions, the number of items received, or a combination of both. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Area with horizontal dashed lines for supplemental information.

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE

Employer identification number

81-0369262

PART III, Line 4a (specific expenditures related to land projects). Total expenditures were \$1,758,469 (\$1,000,000 granted to the Montana

Land Reliance Foundation as noted on Form 990, Part III, Line 4a. The remaining \$758,469 was expenditures related to projects: general land

project planning/easement discussions - 300,615; Thompson - 508; Engwis - 2,164; Stalmaster - 1,078; Hutchins VI - 1,247; Brokaw - 6;

Williams - 2,045; Wood - 3,911; Gainey - 498; Gross - 778; DePauw - 1,724; SRI River Holdings - 1,333; Delaney - 2,267; Freeman - 16; Shoco

Ranch - 1,022; Townsend Ranch - 520; Hauge - 510; Breitenstein - 381; Keeling II - 249; Navratil - 3,888; Brenneman - 4,683; Mountain High

Ranch - 1,648; King - 162; Binkerd - 350; Taylor - 150; Smith - 575; Reints - 2,046; Widdicombe III - 903; OK Bar Ranch - 540; Boyle - 395;

American Prairie Reserve II - 1,492; O Ranch - 274; Shennum - 57; and James - 692. Uncollectible accounts were written off the books - 1,743.

Easement bargain purchases: Stalmaster - 18,000; Williams - 400,000.

PART III, Line 4b (specific expenditures related to stewardship & monitoring activities). Total expenditures related to the monitoring and

stewardship of the 825 conservation easements held by MLR amounted to \$479,402 (\$151,316 of which was granted to the Montana Land

Reliance Foundation as noted on Form 990, Part III, line 4b). The remaining \$328,086 covered the costs of the Lands Manager, two full-time

land stewards, and 13 seasonal land stewards (salaries - 269,976; printing - 254; rent - 4,033; equipment - 4,081; insurance/licensing - 3,096;

telephone - 2,022; contract - 965; legal counsel - 18,816; postage/supplies - 3,104; and travel/per diem - 21,738. Stewardship/monitoring

activities carried out by these 16 staff members involves visiting each easement property on an annual basis to insure that the terms

of the conservation easement are being upheld.

PART III, Line 4c (specific expenditures related to outreach and education activities). In addition to the \$161,293 grant to the Montana

Land Reliance Foundation noted on Form 990, Part III, line 4c, there were expenditures of \$635,317 related to MLR's outreach and education

activities. Expenditure specifics include: General outreach/education activities to landowners, attorneys, accountants, government

agencies, etc. - 309,083; publication materials (brochures/annual report) - 29,734; memberships/outreach to state, regional, and national

land conservation/agricultural organizations, etc. - 46,962; accreditation by national Land Trust Alliance - 15,604; state/national policy

work - 18,051; and outreach/education activities to support organizations (Montana Land Reliance Foundation/Ruby Habitat Foundation) -

\$54,590.

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE**81-0369262**

PART VI, Section B, Line 11a: MLR's annual Form 990 is drafted by staff, reviewed by legal counsel, and then distributed to MLR's Board of Directors for review, comment, and approval. The drafted Form 990 is also reviewed in detail by the independent auditors during MLR's annual audit process. Should the drafting of the Form 990 be delayed, leaving insufficient time for the full Board's review, the MLR Financial Committee is authorized to review and approve the submittal.

PART VI, Section B, Line 12c: MLR's conflict of interest policy covers all employees, board members, members of the council of trustees, major donors, and individuals such as independent contractors or former employees who might have access to inside information (conflicted parties) and references conflicted parties' spouse, domestic partner, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, or business entities (related parties). Conflicted parties must disclose the material facts of the transaction and his/her interest to the full Board/staff prior to any discussion, and shall not vote on or be present for the discussion of an issue. Potential conflicts of interest are documented in Board minutes and discussed with legal counsel if necessary. In accordance with Montana law, a Board transaction with a conflicted party may only be authorized, approved, or ratified if the transaction received the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors who have no direct or indirect interest in the transaction. Each Director and employee signs a statement which affirms he/she has received, read, understands, and agrees to comply in all respects with MLR's conflict of interest policy.

PART VI, Section B, line 15a and 15b: The salaries of all MLR employees are determined by the Board of Directors following recommendations of the Management Team and the Board's Compensation and Evaluation Committee and are based upon their review of salary/benefit surveys conducted on other conservation organizations across the country. These surveys are conducted annually by the Land Trust Alliance and by TREC (a nationally known survey organization). MLR staff may also be given cost-of-living increases that are based on the Social Security Administration's cost-of-living calculations. The Compensation and Evaluation Committee has the authority to revise proposed salary packages if they determine that is necessary/warranted. The annual salary packages (along with recommendations from the Compensation and Evaluation Committee) are presented to and discussed with the full Board of Directors for final approval on an annual basis.

PART VI, Section C, Line 19: MLR provides its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and audited financial statements to the general public upon request at no cost.

Name of the organization

THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE

Employer Identification Number

81 : 0369262**SCHEDULE D, Part II, line 3:****Conservation Easement Corrections-Amendments (cont.)****South Jack Creek Ranch (continued)**

recorded on December 22, 2011, as Document No. 143708, records of Madison County, Montana. In 2014, the landowner requested that the easement area be expanded again with the inclusion of a 331-acre property that also bordered the original easement property. The South Jack Creek Ranch increased in size from the original 3,896 acres to a total of 4,743 over the course of three years. The "Second Restatement of Deed of Conservation Easement and Grant Deed of Conservation Easement on Additional Lands" was completed and recorded in the public records of Madison County, Montana, on November 12, 2015.

SCHEDULE D, Part II, Line 9:

Conservation easements are recorded by MLR as in-kind donations with a value of \$1 each. By a resolution of the Board of Directors, MLR values all conservation easements held at a nominal amount of \$1 due to the fact that said easements cannot be sold, transferred, or borrowed against. Expenses incurred in "bargain" purchases of easements and other in-house expenses related to completion of conservation easement are expenses out in the year of the purchase and/or donation. The following is the text of the footnote used in MLR's annual audited financial statements: "MLR has acquired conservation easements from various contributors. Conservation easements represent rights to restrict use of certain properties. By accepting the easement contribution, MLR commits to protecting the easement restrictions in perpetuity. The easements have no market value in the hands of MLR. MLR can assign the easements only to another qualified conservation organization. Accordingly, they are represented in the financial statements at a nominal value of one dollar per easement. Purchased easements are expensed."

SCHEDULE D, Part V, Lines 3 and 4:

The Montana Land Reliance Foundation, Inc., was established to hold assets in support of The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) as a related 509(a)(3) support organization. One of the funds that is currently held by and overseen by the Foundation is the Conservation Fund, which has two subfunds, the "General Conservation Fund" and the "Traditions Fund". The Conservation Fund is an endowment fund

General Conservation Fund. The General Conservation Fund provides a source of revenue to MLR for outreach to landowners for land conservation projects, and research, public outreach, and education on private land conservation. The present value of any contributions to the Fund is not expended as required by Montana Administrative Rule 42.15.507(6) and any successor provisions. The corpus may not be used. Any grant requests to the Foundation from MLR must be authorized by the Foundation's Board of Directors

Traditions Fund: The Traditions Fund provides a steady source of revenue to MLR for bridge capital for property acquisitions, for option purchases for all or a portion of a threatened property to be resold to a conservation buyer, or for conservation easement purchases. The corpus of the fund may not be used. Any grant requests to the Foundation from MLR must be authorized by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

**SCHEDULE R
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33, 34, 35b, 36, or 37.
▶ Attach to Form 990.

▶ Information about Schedule R (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2015

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Employer identification number

Part I Identification of Disregarded Entities Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33.

(a) Name, address, and EIN (if applicable) of disregarded entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Total income	(e) End-of-year assets	(f) Direct controlling entity
(1)					
(2)					
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					
(6)					

Part II Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No
(1) Ruby Habitat Foundation, PO Box 638, Sheridan, MT 59749 EIN # 45-0487621	support organization	Montana	501(c)(3)	509(a)(3), Type I MLR	MLR		✓
(2) Montana Land Reliance Foundation, PO Box 355, Helena, MT 59624; EIN #27-1125289	support organization	Montana	501(c)(3)	509(a)(3), Type I MLR	MLR		✓
(3)	(see Part VII for detail)						
(4)							
(5)							
(6)							
(7)							

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Cat. No. 50135Y

Schedule R (Form 990) 2015

Part III Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Partnership Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a partnership during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Predominant income (related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512-514)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of- year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V-UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
							Yes	No		Yes	No	
(1)												
(2)												
(3)												
(4)												
(5)												
(6)												
(7)												

Part IV Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Corporation or Trust Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a corporation or trust during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Type of entity (C corp, S corp, or trust)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Percentage ownership	(i) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
								Yes	No
(1)									
(2)									
(3)									
(4)									
(5)									
(6)									
(7)									

Part V Transactions With Related Organizations Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34, 35b, or 36.**Note.** Complete line 1 if any entity is listed in Parts II, III, or IV of this schedule.

1 During the tax year, did the organization engage in any of the following transactions with one or more related organizations listed in Parts II-IV?		Yes	No
a	Receipt of (i) interest, (ii) annuities, (iii) royalties, or (iv) rent from a controlled entity		1a
b	Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s)		1b
c	Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s)		1c
d	Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s)		1d
e	Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s)		1e
f	Dividends from related organization(s)		1f
g	Sale of assets to related organization(s)		1g
h	Purchase of assets from related organization(s)		1h
i	Exchange of assets with related organization(s)		1i
j	Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s)		1j
k	Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s)		1k
l	Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s)		1l
m	Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s)		1m
n	Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s)		1n
o	Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s)		1o
p	Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses		1p
q	Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses		1q
r	Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s)		1r
s	Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s)		1s

2 If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," see the instructions for information on who must complete this line, including covered relationships and transaction thresholds.

(a) Name of related organization	(b) Transaction type (a-s)	(c) Amount involved	(d) Method of determining amount involved
(1) Montana Land Reliance Foundation	b	1,312,900	cash
(2) The Montana Land Reliance	c	475,400	cash
(3) Montana Land Reliance Foundation	i	30,000	cash (Services Agreement)
(4) Ruby Habitat Foundation	i	6,000	cash (Services Agreement)
(5) Montana Land Reliance Foundation	q	1,384	cash
(6) Ruby Habitat Foundation	q	2,147	cash

Part VI Unrelated Organizations Taxable as a Partnership Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 37.

Provide the following information for each entity taxed as a partnership through which the organization conducted more than five percent of its activities (measured by total assets or gross revenue) that was not a related organization. See instructions regarding exclusion for certain investment partnerships.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Predominant income (related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512-514)	(e) Are all partners section 501(c)(3) organizations?		(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V—UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
				Yes	No			Yes	No		Yes	No	
(1)													
(2)													
(3)													
(4)													
(5)													
(6)													
(7)													
(8)													
(9)													
(10)													
(11)													
(12)													
(13)													
(14)													
(15)													
(16)													

Part VII **Supplemental Information**

Provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule R (see instructions).

PART II, Line 1:

The Ruby Habitat Foundation is a 501(c)(3) (public charity status - 509(a)(3)) support organization of MLR that is dedicated to preserving and preserving and enhancing the natural resources, and social and economic makeup of the Ruby Valley and southwest Montana.

PART II, Line 2:

The Montana Land Reliance Foundation is a 501(c)(3) (public charity status - 509(a)(3)) the purpose of which is to provide services and financial assistance to MLR, and to hold assets in support of the programs administered by MLR.

PART V, Line 1b:

The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) granted \$1,312,809 to the Montana Land Reliance Foundation to be invested to generate income for MLR's operations, education and outreach activities, and stewardship and monitoring activities related to its conservation work across the state of Montana.

PART V, Line 1c:

MLR received a grant from the Montana Land Reliance Foundation in the amount of 475,400 to cover costs related to its education and outreach activities, and to the stewardship, monitoring, and enforcement of the 825 conservation easements MLR currently holds.

PART V, Line 1f:

MLR received \$30,000 from the Montana Land Reliance Foundation per the Intercorporate Services Agreement executed by the two entities for accounting/administrative services. MLR also received \$6,000 from the Ruby Habitat Foundation, another support organization to MLR, per the Intercorporate Services Agreement those two entities executed for investment/accounting services.

PART V, Line 1g:

The Montana Land Reliance Foundation reimbursed MLR for its portion of directors' liability insurance (\$981), filing of its annual report (\$15), and the Foundation Directors' costs for lodging/meals during MLR's Annual Meeting (\$388). A total of \$1,384 was reimbursed.

The Ruby Habitat Foundation reimbursed MLR for its portion of directors' liability insurance (\$981), Directors' costs for lodging/meals during MLR's Annual Meeting (\$1,081), and for maps MLR staff generated for the Ranch (\$85). A total of \$2,147 was reimbursed.