Bar T Bar Makes the Cut: Country Natural Beef & New Frontiers in Flagstaff

For years, the Diablo Trust has worked towards the goal of bringing local beef into the greater Flagstaff community. On Thursday, May 29th, with the opening of the new New Frontiers Natural Marketplace store, that dream became a reality. Selling under the Country Natural Beef label was beef from our ranch, the Bar T Bar, which along with the Flying M make up the two ranches of the Diablo Trust.

We are honored to be in New Frontiers, and to be the first Arizona ranch to join Country Natural Beef, which was founded in 1986 when fourteen family ranches formed a consumer-driven beef marketing cooperative with a vision to preserve both beautiful places and the rural culture and families that nurture them. Most recently CNB, which now numbers over 120 ranches throughout the West, expanded into the Southwest and searched for local ranches with goals common to theirs. Below are some of these goals we all share:

- Stewardship*: Respect for our land and animals is an ethic we take seriously. We have our own Graze-well Principles which all members embrace.

- No Additives*: Our animals have never received antibiotics or any form of growth stimulating hormones. All beef is USDA federally inspected. All feed-stuffs are vegetarian.

- Feedlot, processing plant, and ranch*: Humane animal handling, sanitation, animal compassion, and a respectful end to our cattle’s life cycle is critical to us.

(*All these claims have been substantiated by a stringent third party verification at the ranch, at the gathering feedlot, and at the processing plant.)

Ranching in harmony with the environment means by definition that any single ranch can’t produce local beef, in any significant quantity, year-round unless it is frozen. These ranches with shared values in the CNB co-op are from different locales and different climates, and therefore, by producing at the optimum time for their specific land base, can keep fresh beef in our stores year-round. So while we cannot guarantee that the 100% of the beef you will be purchasing at New Frontiers is from the Bar T Bar, we CAN guarantee that you will be supporting the CNB ranchers’ goal of sustainability: healthy land, healthy animals, the opportunity to pass the family ranch on to the next generation, and providing wide open space across millions of acres for local communities. Nowhere else in Flagstaff can you be assured you are buying beef that will further that goal, and we will continue to work towards bringing 100% local beef to our community.

In the meantime, we are proud to be a part of Country Natural Beef, a business model that has stood the test of time. Through the efficiency of the model, CNB can provide a quality product that has a lighter carbon footprint than many small-scale, freezer beef type programs. We encourage you to visit the CNB website, as well as that of Food Alliance, the third party certification program.

For more information on Country Natural Beef, please visit http://www.oregoncountrybeef.com/

And, to the many of you who have already sampled Country Natural Beef at New Frontiers, we thank you for your support of our product, and our ethos.

- Judy Prosser, Bar T Bar Ranch
Getting to Know... Eliza Daley Read

Eliza is an attorney with her own Flagstaff practice, specializing in Estate Planning, Wills, Trust Law, Guardianship, Conservatorship, Elder Law, Taxation and Small Business Law. She and her husband Brad live north of town along with 7 horses, 3 donkeys, 2 goats, 6 dogs, 7 cows, pigeons, chickens, and a cockatiel named Harvey.

Eliza has been the pro-bono counsel of the Diablo Trust since October, 2006. “I think Diablo Trust represents an amazing collaboration of entities and individuals doing something really important — preserving and living with our open spaces and all of the life that goes on there, and exploring how we can live here sustainably into the future. I am really proud to be able to be of service to Diablo Trust.”

Eliza’s Diablo Trust Profile

**Born in**: Cleveland, Ohio

**Childhood hero**: Jane Goodall. I wanted to be her when I grew up!

**Current hero**: My dad.

**Favorite College Class**: “Experimental Orchestra” with Gunnar Schonbeck. We created all sorts of crazy instruments, and had parades every week. Woohoo!

**Album you recently enjoyed**: “The Best of the Memphis Jug Band.” I can even play along :)

If you had a home on the range, actor you would cast in the role of your husband: My husband! If he was unavailable, it would have to be someone very patient with a great sense of humor.

**Hobbies**: Horses, donkeys, cello, drawing, pilates.

**Favorite Western**: Either “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” or “Two Mules for Sister Sarah”

**Favorite Western-Wear Item**: Chaps or a good cowboy hat.

**Favorite Ranch Recipe**: Flame-broiled steak, under the stars. Mmmmm...

**Fondest Outdoor Memory**: Camping with my dad as a kid, and pack trips in Wyoming.

**As of yet unrealized life’s dream**: Playing with my horses full-time.

**Favorite Quotation**: “Is that all ya got?!?”
Meet the Board of the Diablo Trust

In February of this year, after our 15th Anniversary Annual Meeting, we convened the new board of the Diablo Trust, made up of nine new and nine existing members, for the first time.

Over these past 15 years, Diablo Trust’s mission has remained essentially the same — a strong focus on quality of life, economic, social and biological goals. What has changed dramatically is the growth and scope of our program-of-work and community outreach. Needing new expertise and experience to assist us with organizational growth opportunities while remaining true to our goals was the basis for a board recruitment process that began almost a year ago.

We enthusiastically welcomed the new board, and asked each member to write a few words about themselves, and why they decided to commit some of their valuable time and energy to supporting the Diablo Trust.

Their responses were as wide-ranging and as thoughtful as the diverse and talented group they represent.

We want to thank all of our board members and Diablo Trust participants for the invaluable work you do to help us create and tell the continuing story of the Diablo Trust. Our collaborative work is noticed across the West; we hope it contributes to furthering the sustainability of our communities, and happier, healthier living.

We look forward to seeing you at a Diablo Trust event this summer.

- Mandy Metzger, President

Drew Barringer  
President,  
Barringer Crater Company

My first of many visits to this area took place in the early 1950’s as a result of my family’s ownership of Meteor Crater. Over the years, I have developed a keen appreciation for the natural beauty and unique landscapes that one finds in and around Flagstaff. The mission of the Diablo Trust combines my interest in and appreciation for the land that surrounds us, as well as for a lifestyle that helped define the West and which should be sustained for future generations. I’m particularly impressed with the Trust’s reliance on collaboration with a wide variety of partners in carrying out its mission.

Becky Daggett  
Business Retention & Expansion Mgr.,  
City of Flagstaff

As a child, I spent most of my summers in the forests of northern Arizona, and it was through these experiences that I first gained a deep love, respect, and appreciation for northern Arizona’s spectacular landscapes. The Diablo Trust expresses the values that I hold personally, namely respect for the land and for each other. The work of the Diablo Trust is critical for many reasons, but especially because it provides sound science intermingled with education, both necessary to help foster the public’s deep and abiding respect for the landscapes of northern Arizona.

Maury Herman  
President,  
Coast & Mountain Properties

In 1899, my grandparents opened a dry goods store in Flagstaff. During the next fifty years, my family operated a variety of retail stores and built three of the historic buildings in Flagstaff. Participating in the Diablo Trust allows me to participate in one of the most exciting and creative collaborations in our region. The Trust is not only a forum for different interests (ranchers, environmentalists and even artists) to discuss their vision on land management, it is a role model for how divergent groups can communicate and collaborate.

Money Matters & Your Support Will Make a Difference

To find out how you can support the Diablo Trust please visit www.diablotrust.org
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role/Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Highsmith</td>
<td>Software Developer, Project Management Consultant</td>
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<td><strong>My vision for the Diablo Trust is its role in Building Sustainable Western Communities. Both sustainable and Western are multi-dimensional concepts. The Flagstaff area is a center for ideas and practices surrounding sustainability and the Diablo Trust has and can continue to contribute to sustainability by being a place for research and experimentation involving multiple community groups and land managers. Flagstaff and the surrounding area are similar to many communities in the West; we have a distinctive Western style and flavor that should not be lost to growth.</strong></td>
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<td>Rick Knight</td>
<td>Prof. of Wildlife Conservation, Colorado State University</td>
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<td><strong>Diablo Trust serves as an important lever in building bridges between rural and urban communities over our shared values of open space and healthy productive lands. By its success, it is symbolic of the good work that people can do everywhere across the U.S. In an era when we are increasingly acknowledging that big government doesn’t work like it could, Diablo Trust is part of an ever-growing number of watershed-based groups that are re-defining a new, more accountable way of doing conservation.</strong></td>
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<td>Norm Lowe</td>
<td>Consultant on Land Management &amp; Sustainable Development</td>
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<td><strong>I have lived in Flagstaff 21 years and worked 12 years as a range conservationist directing the range program for the Navajo New Lands. I value the work Diablo Trust is doing in maintaining open space, and expanding habitat for antelope. I believe the most significant long-term benefit of the Diablo Trust to the greater Flagstaff community is providing an open forum for effective collaboration process between multiple stakeholders including private, state, and federal landowners, service agencies, universities and schools, the recreating public, and environmental interests.</strong></td>
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<td>Jack Metzger</td>
<td>Rancher, Flying M Ranch</td>
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<td><strong>Our family came to the Flagstaff area in 1894. When I was young, ranches, cattle and sheep were bought and sold in the lobby of the Monte Vista Hotel, or more likely the bar. Ranching now works best when it is fully inclusive of the community. There is great potential for a joined future for the Diablo Trust ranches and Flagstaff. Ultimately there will be new jobs in the community as we move toward local products on our store shelves. And those locally produced products in turn help to keep the land open. That’s why I believe in the Diablo Trust. And, ironically, that’s closer to the world in which I grew up!</strong></td>
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<td>Kit Metzger</td>
<td>Rancher, Flying M Ranch</td>
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<td><strong>Lots of times we get asked, why did you start Diablo Trust? For me it was formed out of fear that the ranching business was badly misrepresented. I thought that if people could look into the land and let it tell its own story, they could make their own judgments as to what was going on. In some cases that turned out to be true and others it did not. I do feel that if the ranches can maintain a healthy business with the base being renewable land products, cows, wood, wind, etc. we can and will provide a large wide open space out of which people can and do get a great deal of enjoyment.</strong></td>
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<td>Mandy Metzger</td>
<td>President of the Diablo Trust, Consultant</td>
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<td><strong>I love that a community comes together on the land - to support it; to paint it; to study it; and to protect it. The Diablo Trust is the link that brings us all together - ranches and community, land and its products to people. With a cast of incredible expertise and diversity of ideas, the Trust is a land-based laboratory dedicated to the development of sound and science-based management ideas. It is also a place where the coffee pot is always on – where we make friends and explore ideas that in other circumstances might not be discussed.</strong></td>
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Joan Murphy
Rancher, OX Ranch

There is a lack of understanding among many people as to the value of having ranchers as caretakers of the land. The Diablo Trust makes it possible for others to develop an understanding of the challenges of land management. Both their private and leased land are utilized for scientific research. As I work with both a national environmental group as well as the livestock industry, I am personally very committed to the collaborative process. The value of this approach is particularly true in the area of land management, as all entities are really committed to the same goal—a healthy environment.

Bob Prosser
Rancher, Bar T Bar Ranch

Like my father before me, I am a Recovering Animal Breeder. We that are addicted believe that we can produce the perfect cow: one that will be adapted to its’ unique environment, raises a calf (that excels in every trait) for at least 10 consecutive years, and will provide the consumer an exceptional eating experience time after time. I also believe in the protection of open space and know that Diablo Trust can, and does, play a viable role. I would not be happy, if 20 years from now, I drove down I-40 and saw 40 acre subdivisions where today we have cows—well, not just cows, but soon-to-be-perfect cows.

Judy Prosser
Rancher, Bar T Bar Ranch

I was raised on the existing Bar T Bar, but went to school in Flagstaff (K-12). When we formed the Diablo Trust, we were feeling disconnected from the community, wondering if anyone appreciated what we did, and hoping it was just all in our minds that everyone wanted to get rid of cows from public lands. In addition to sharing what we do with you all, our learning curve has expanded exponentially over the years; we have learned a great deal from you by listening and hearing your side of the various issues we have dealt with over the years. And I am very grateful for that.

Helen Sisk
Biologist, President of High Country Pony Club

My interests in community level issues started in graduate school when I managed a small gardening store that was an educational center for the local community of backyard gardeners. Since moving to Flagstaff I have been involved in various community efforts; I also run the local chapter of the US Pony club, an educational group for kids and horses. I have great admiration and respect for the ranchers and their creation of the Diablo Trust. The subdivision of the western landscapes that is happening around us concerns me, and I am interested in the land use decisions that impact the Federal and State lands that surround Flagstaff.

Tom Sisk
Prof. of Ecology, Northern Arizona University

I believe that all living things have a right to exist, and that the highest calling today is for humans to find a way to live without eliminating other life forms, or pushing them into zoos and the corners of creation. The Diablo Trust struggles to address the human, cultural, and economic issues that put humans at odds with nature. It is tough work, and there are not many easy answers. The fact that this diverse group takes this challenge seriously, and that it has a long-term commitment to the land and to the people is something unusual and important.

Carl Taylor
Architect & County Supervisor, Coconino County

My family has been in the West since 1848. I first visited Flagstaff in the early ‘50s. I loved it then and I love it now. I am a community activist—with an interest in preserving our landscape and natural lifestyle. In my role as County Supervisor, I am well positioned to help achieve these goals. Diablo Trust is the only organization I know that provides a forum for thinking action in the interface of government, private business and academia. Preservation of the ranching life will result in preservation and conservation of the land. This is highly valued by the people who choose to live here.
Meanwhile, back at the Ranch...

Well, the good news is the ranch is still here. We didn’t wash away and so far we haven’t blown away. So we are holding our own against Mother Nature. We had a great winter as far as precipitation, with the canyons and ditches running for a long time. Then somebody shut off the storms and we didn’t have much moisture till the May snow. We were looking at a great spring for plant growth but the wind and cold night temps kind of made it into only a good spring. On the Mesa the growth is about a month behind just due to the cold. Typical Arizona weather: we either have moisture and no heat or heat and no moisture.

Livestock and wildlife had a long winter but now are all on the mend. Lots of standing in blowing snow and drinking ice water really takes the weight off animals. The Mesa did snow up this winter and most of the wildlife came off the rim for awhile. Some of the Elk looked like they waited to long to come off and were pretty rough. Most of them were young and probably have never moved off in their life. Then as it melted they all moved back up with snow line. Saw lots of ducks on the tanks below till the ice went off the mountain lakes. Hopefully the wind won’t blow all the water out of those lakes, its trying to. Pretty hard on shore nesters when the shore keeps moving farther away.

The cutting down of the small invasion juniper on the eastern part of Anderson Mesa let the snow really drift this winter. It takes lots of drifting snow to put the water in those shallow lakes. We were not getting those drifts in the last 15 years or so with all those young trees stopping the snow. There were drifts of 8 to 10 feet deep and still around till the end of April dribbling into the Lakes. Looked like “the good old days.”

All of the areas that (my brother) Jack has cleared in the last few years seems to be enticing the Antelope in. We have been seeing them there in good numbers. Quite a lot of forbs, weeds, have come up this spring where the old piles were burned, and Game and Fish seeded.

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Meanwhile [cont’d]

Some of the areas burned had large old cedar piles, from the chaining in the fifties, and that burning got the ground a little to hot, exposing a lot of soil to the wind.

When we treat areas like that again, maybe we should only burn half of those old piles along with the smaller nipped stuff. Overall though we have way more diversity in these areas than before, so we made a good jump towards our goals for Zone 3.

Many of the beetle killed trees; both Pinon and Pine are really coming down now. We have had to cut big downed pines out of our cow trail up the rim this spring after every big wind. If you know our trail the rocks are bad enough, don’t need anything lying across it. Campers at Pine Hill this summer might really want to look up before making camp. A little camp wood is great, but if one falls on your camp trailer or tent it might just mess up the hot dogs. They sure have messed up a lot of fence.

We have started work on the Greenhouse site. Our goal there is to grow vegetables for the local market. Branding and putting cattle on the mountain is going on now, so as soon as that’s done we will finish building and start growing. Derrick Stone has spent a lot of time researching this winter and gathering ideas. Anybody for an old time barn raising?

Grapevine Wind Farm is still ongoing with the USFS scoping process for the transmission line up to the WAPA line on the Mesa. The Met Towers, the ones that test the wind speed and direction have been up for over a year collecting data. This spring was more normal, with southwest wind then northeast wind most days. So we are looking forward to the data report. We are putting together a plan for renewable power for the ranch headquarters. Diesel has gotten high enough now that a solar, wind combo installation will just about pencil.

We are talking to a couple recreational outfits about using the main house as a bed breakfast, eco-tourism site. We are not to sure about the whole “Dude Ranch” thing, since we are all such “People” people, but there are some good possibilities along that front as well.

- Kit Metzger, Flying M
Upcoming Diablo Trust Events

Sunday, June 22nd: Local Foods Benefit Concert to help re-launch the Canyon Country Fresh Food Alliance
Featuring Tony Norris, Grammy-nominated Adrienne Young and her band Little Sadie, and MC'd by Gary Paul Nabhan.
Orpheum Theatre, downtown Flagstaff; doors open at 7pm

Friday, July 11th: July Monthly Meeting
10am - noon, Peaks District Ranger Station, Hwy. 89 North, Flagstaff

July 28th - August 3rd: Canon Envirotion at NAU: “Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources”
Volunteers needed. Please visit www.azenvirothon.org for more information.

Saturday, August 23rd: Summer 2008 Artists’ Day on the Land
Location and starting time to be determined, but this will be the last Artists’ Day to qualify for the “Reflections of the Land” exhibit in 2009, so Save the Date!
Slideshows from recent Artists’ Days can be viewed at http://www.diablotrust.org/slideshows.htm

Saturday, August 23rd - Sunday, August 24th: 2008 Camp-Out Under the Stars
Held in conjunction with the Artists’ Day, and co-hosted for the second year in a row with Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music, the summer Camp-Out Under the Stars is a great time in a beautiful place with a great music and great food. But don’t just take our word for it, check out pictures from last year’s Camp-Out and see for yourself:
As per the Artists’ Day, location TBD, but please Save the Date!

Please visit our website, http://www.diablotrust.org/, for details and further information on these and all future events.