



THE LAND TRUST TIMES

December 2006

Volume 1, Issue 1

Board Of Directors

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Beth Waterbury

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Kristin Troy, Exec. Director

GREETINGS FROM LEMHI REGIONAL LAND TRUST

Just a quick note to mention some updates on the land trust. Some very landowner friendly legislation has made 2007 a great time to consider a donated conservation easement on land that you would like to see protected for future generations. Ranchers are able to write off the full amount of an easement in 2007 or stretch the donation over 16 years. There is an article on the back page of this newsletter outlining Congress's modification of the tax law for this coming year.

The land trust is involved in a lot of activity in the valley right now; some donated easements are in progress in the Lemhi Valley, and we are working on buying some conservation easements on the Salmon River. It is very exciting to see many of these projects gaining momentum.

We couldn't do this work without our local supporters and friends, and would like to take this opportunity to thank them. Additionally, we want to extend a big thank you to the Steele-Reese and Brainerd Foundations and Salmon Valley Stewardship for their encouragement and support.

I believe that we all share a common thread - our affection for the land, the community we live in and our desire to maintain our rural culture.

Your friend and neighbor,
Joe Tonsmeire



Chairman Joe Tonsmeire speaking at the 2nd Annual LRLT Picnic.



Our Mission

Landowners formed Lemhi Regional Land Trust in order to generate and provide supportive funds and resources for the preservation of land and natural resources, and in particular, central Idaho ranchlands and agricultural lands.

Biologist Beth Waterbury Joins Board of Directors

The board extends a warm welcome to Beth Waterbury, who accepted an invitation to fill a seat on the Board of Directors in January of 2006. Beth has over 20 years of experience as a professional wildlife biologist with state fish and wildlife agencies and federal land management agencies. She is now the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Salmon Region non-game biologist. Beth brings a wealth of in-



Beth with Dave Ellis on Freeman Creek

formation to the land trust roundtable. She has been actively involved in assisting the land trust with fish and wildlife resource assessments on current and potential land protection projects. The Board greatly appreciates Beth's perspectives during the lively monthly discussions. She also holds a Board position on the Salmon Arts Council, and in her spare time enjoys creating artful stained glass windows.

Land Trust Opens Office in Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project



Executive Director Kristin Troy at her new desk.

Russell Knight, Coordinator of the Watershed Project was aware of the land trust's need for an office

Lemhi Regional Land Trust has an official new office located at 955 Riverfront Drive, Suite B inside the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project office area.

Russell Knight, Coordinator of the Watershed Project, and contacted the Soil Conservation Commission to discuss utilizing a newly vacated office. The land trust accepted a low cost lease agreement offer from the Soil Conservation Commission from September 2006 through June 2007. The Watershed Project has generously provided the land trust with a computer to use, printer services, conference room use and friendly support from the entire Watershed staff. Stop by and visit anytime!

2nd Annual Fall Picnic Held at Olson Ranch



On October 7th, the land trust hosted a fundraising event at the Don & Kathy Olson Ranch located on the Lemhi River. An old fashioned picnic was laid out on the banks of the Olson's fish-filled pond. Barbequed sandwiches were flanked by delicious salads and home-baked desserts that were so distractingly tasty, it seemed nobody noticed the gray skies and soggy weather. Indeed, the good smells must have drifted up the valley, as more than 100 plates of food were served.

Chairman Joe Tonsmeire gave an update of activities as well as the mission and goals of the land trust, and shared information regarding new legislation that affects donated conservation easements.

Guest speaker John Crumley, President of the Madison Valley Ranchlands Group from Ennis, Montana explained that ranchers in his valley joined together ten years ago to address the rapid growth of "amenity ranches" and the resulting displacement of historical working ranches. The Madison Valley Ranchlands Group now actively participates in grass banking, land management plans, and successfully uses conservation easements as tools to protect their open space and working ranches.

Visitors to the Olson's had the chance to hop aboard Don's horse drawn wagon and tour the part of the Olson Ranch that operates under conservation easement.



Kelsey Olson, age 5, enjoying the day.



Volunteer Spotlight: Kathy Olson

Kathy Olson brightens our board meeting discussions, feeds us when we're hungry, and is the head honcho for our social events. Kathy is the longtime sidekick of Board Member Don Olson and together they have raised four children on their Lemhi Valley ranch. As conservation easement holders, Don and Kathy bring practical knowledge to land protection discussions. Thank you, Kathy, for your hard work and dedication!



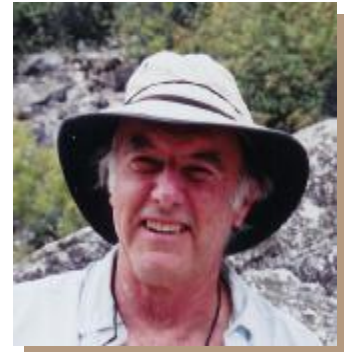
Kayce Olson, age 5, with Grandma Kathy.



Volunteer Spotlight: Skipper Tonsmeire

Skipper Tonsmeire, a frequent and welcome visitor to Board Meetings, is the land trust's version of the "fountain of knowledge". As a Founding Board Director of the Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation in his home state of Alabama, Skipper has walked the walk. His sage advice, encouragement and complete devotion during this challenging start-up phase has been deeply felt and appreciated by all. After a recent call to Skipper's cell phone re-

questing wise counsel, he called back— from Thailand, on a bike—with his now familiar "can-do" attitude. Thank you, Skipper, for your unwavering support and continual assistance.



Skipper Tonsmeire

Steele-Reese and Brainerd Foundations Support Land Trust

This past August, the Steele-Reese Foundation awarded Lemhi Regional Land Trust \$25,000, and will give another \$25,000 in 2007 totaling a \$50,000 gift for general support. In addition, the Brainerd Foundation is supporting the land trust work with a \$10,000 gift. These monies are providing a part-time Executive Director, assisting with the general operating expenses of the land trust, and are allowing the land trust to focus on working towards protecting ranches, wildlife habitat and our rural way of life.

With warmest thanks, we recognize Steele-Reese and Brainerd Foundations for supporting our work.



"We learn from our gardens to deal with the most urgent question of the time: How much is enough?"
Wendell Berry

Join Us!

Lemhi Regional Land Trust is a 501 ©(3) non-profit corporation and all cash donations are tax deductible.

Please send donations to:

**PO Box 871
Salmon, ID 83467**

Yes, I will become a member today!

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$35 Friend
- \$100 Partner
- \$500 Steward
- \$5,000 + Founder

- My check payable to Lemhi Regional Land Trust is enclosed
- Please Charge my Visa, MasterCard or Discover

Card # _____ Exp. _____
 Cardholder Name _____
 Billing Address _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Lemhi Regional Land Trust
PO Box 871
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Visit us online at
www.lemhilandtrust.org

NEW FEDERAL TAX INCENTIVE FOR CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LAND

Congress just passed a new tax law that helps all of us interested in protecting clean water, natural areas and family farms. The law enhances the federal tax benefits for landowners who donate voluntary conservation agreements. These agreements can provide a win-win solution for protecting resources important to our community while keeping land in productive private ownership.

What Congress just did makes the tax law work much better for many modest income landowners who, under the old rules, only got credit for a small portion of the value of their donation. Now, a conservation donor can deduct up to 50 percent of their adjusted gross income

in any year (up from 30%), and, if most of their income is from farming, ranching or forestry, they can deduct all of their income. Even more important is that if the value of their donation is larger than this, they can continue to use the deduction for up to 15 years (up from five) after the initial year.

These agreements, often referred to as conservation easements, are donations of a landowner's development rights to land, to protect specific natural, scenic or historic resources. The landowner continues to own and manage their land, and continues to pay local taxes. The public gets protection of resources that are an important heritage for our

community.

Lemhi Regional Land Trust accepts these kinds of donations. This change in the law will enable us to help many more landowners to protect resources for our children and for our community's future.



“ Conservation is ethically sound. It is rooted in our love of the land, our respect for the rights of others, our devotion to the rule of the law. “

Lyndon Baines Johnson

Lemhi Regional Land Trust Thanks Our Supporters

Individual Giving:

Founders \$5,000 +

Barton Biggs
Val Brackett &
Nikos Monoyios
Greer Radcliff
Dan Tonsmeire
Joe Tonsmeire
Skipper Tonsmeire

Stewards \$500 +

Anita Andrus
Tom McFarland
Edward Tonsmeire

Partners \$100 +

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Tom Thompson
Plummer Tonsmiere
Phillip Sankey
Mark & Kristin Troy
Beth Waterbury
David Yanoff
Carol & Tom Yerden

Friends \$35 +

Bill & Diz Allen
Randy Carpenter
Walt & Hana Merrell
Jerry & Barbara Miller
Vic Phillips
Chris Tambe

Seth Tonsmeire

Amy Tonsmeire

Jay Wiley

Special thanks to Skipper Tonsmeire for purchasing 135 memberships as gifts for his friends.

Foundations & Non Profit Grants:

Steele-Reese Foundation—\$50,000

Brainerd Foundation—\$10,000

Salmon Valley Stewardship—\$5,000

