



The Land Trust Times

December 2007

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Board of Directors

- Tom McFarland, *Chairman***
- Fran Tonsmeire, *Vice-Chairman***
- Carol Yerden, *Secretary***
- Don Olson**
- Mike Overacker**
- Norma Staaf**
- Richard Smith**
- Kristin Troy, *Exec. Director***

Our Mission:
 To generate and provide supportive funds and resources for the preservation of land and natural resources and in particular, central Idaho ranchlands and agricultural land.

The Chairman’s Report by Tom McFarland

2007 was a year of building for Lemhi Regional Trust and also a year of great loss and sadness.

Progress has been made towards securing easements on parts of the Salmon River corridor and lower Carmen Creek. We are working on the third, and hopefully successful, funding proposal on Carmen. We are making steady progress on the Big Flat project, in partnership with the BLM and The Conservation Fund.

Our Executive Director Kristin Troy attended two Land Trust Alliance seminars and other planning forums this past year. Keeping current on laws governing easements, funding sources, and building key relationships are very important.

After a lot of time, effort, and differing views LRLT produced its first easement template. This will provide a starting point for future easements with voluntary landowners. It reflects the general philosophies of the current Board with relation to water, fences, feedlots, development, roads, etc. This document will be the basis for providing the protection for agriculture and its associated values.

Our chairman, Joe Tonsmeire, passing in March was a tragic loss to our local community and LRLT. In the early winter of 2003-2004 Salmon Valley Stewardship was talking about the need for a local land trust. With every successful startup group there needs to be a catalyst or that one person that makes things happen. Joe was that catalyst. He would say,

“We can sit here and talk about it or we can do it.” Joe didn’t just talk about conservation, he practiced it on his land and in his life. It will be impossible to replace him but we are very fortunate to have his wife Fran as a new director helping LRLT to complete Joe’s mission to protect the agricultural lands and their associated wildlife and scenic values in Lemhi County.

In 2008 I am confident that LRLT will close their first easement and make significant progress on others. As the group’s new chairman, I would encourage landowners and people in the community to openly support land conservation. Write your federal and state legislators to support conservation funding legislation that is mentioned on page 3. Community support in the upcoming legislation will ensure their passage and give land trusts like LRLT the tools they need to protect ranch lands, open spaces, habitat, and associated wildlife. Thank you for your interest and support.



Thank You Joe Tonsmeire Memorial Donors



Joe enjoying the afternoon at the LRLT 2006 picnic

Dowton 3X Ranch, Ellsworth Angus Ranch, Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation, Barbara Tonsmeire, Dan Tonsmeire, Pam Latham, Skipper Tonsmeire, Yvette Austin, L.G. Adams, F.M. Fischrupp, James Moffat III, Ellis & Katherine Allen, J.R. Jones, Jack Edwards R.A. Moore, Hank Miller, Tim Holladay. David Delan, Shelly Perlmutter, Winthrop Hallett III, David & Melanie Turner, Kit Caffey, Art Dyas, Clinton & Maria Adams, James Smith, Charlene Lee, Louis Breland, Mary Herndon, Ruth Quackenbush, Thornton Garth, Veronica Herndon, Joe & Susan Wilson, Fred Garth, Nancy Garrett, Kay Smith, Earle & Betty Long, Rebecca Harding, Martha Edgar, Celia & Michael DeLaney, Thomas Hutchison, Henry Hutchison, Susan Shoemaker, W. Joe Wilson, Robert Randall

The View From Here—Executive Director’s Note

Joe Tonsmeire came to my husband’s and my river rafting business office in the summer of 2005 and told me that the formation of a land trust in Lemhi County was becoming a reality. A 501© (3) status had been applied for, there was a board of directors, and now, he said with a grin, we need a “little help”.

Hmmm.

“Is there an office?” I asked.

Nope.

“Checkbook?”

Nah.

“ANY funding?”

Nada. “Right. And you are specifically asking *me* because.....?”

And with his memorable blue eyes shooting sparks, he replied simply, “I think you care about what we’re trying to do.” Sneaky, brilliant man. One of Joe’s many gifts to us was

assembling people who he thought *cared* about this idea that we must carefully include conservation options in our decisions regarding this landscape we hold dear.

And the rest is not yet history. Borrowing lyrics from Bob Schneider, a favorite singer/songwriter, “We have a long way to go, and a short time to get there.” Surely Joe would have readily agreed. When it came to land conservation, my nickname for Joe was “Mr. Urgent”. He had a certain stomp in his gait, and a quiet intensity in his gaze that characterized his “mover” mentality.

With the impending arrival of a fresh, New Year I would like to challenge you to be a “mover” like Joe. If you care deeply about this landscape, if you believe conservation options are important in Lemhi

County, please consider supporting our work.

At a recent Land Trust Alliance conference I attended in Denver several of my fellow land trust friends throughout the west asked how we were doing and I replied with a big smile, “Zero to sixty.” But we need gas to keep the rig runnin’. Join us for the ride.



Ava Troy and Kelsey Olson— 2 good reasons to care about the future.

Joe Tonsmeire Stewardship Endowment Fund

On a cold, windy, rainy day in April, Tom McFarland, Don Olson and I were invited by **Nikos Monoyios and Val Brackett** to tour their property at their Eagle Valley Ranch up Bohannon Creek. Over a hot mug of coffee we discussed our current projects, goals for the future and the need to set up a permanent conservation easement stewardship endowment fund that would financially se-

cure all future easement monitoring expenses.

In 2006, Joe and Fran Tonsmeire and Joe's brother Dan Tonsmeire each generously contributed \$5,000 to be set aside for this purpose. Much to our surprise and delight, as we refilled our mugs, Nikos and Val offered LRLT an additional \$10,000 memorial in

Joe's name. Their gracious offer catalyzed the formal creation of an LRLT endowment totaling \$20,000. Donations to this fund will be restricted for conservation easement

ing monitor- and defense.



Steele-Reese, Brainerd and Woodhouse Foundations Support LRLT Work

In addition to dozens of individual contributions made in 2007, here is a look at our foundation support:

Steele-Reese Foundation	\$25,000
Brainerd Foudation	\$20,000
Woodhouse Foundation	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
Total	\$48,000

** The Woodhouse Foundation supported LRLT in 2006 with a \$5,000 grant that was mistakenly credited to Barton Biggs in our 2006 newsletter. We regret the error.



Welcome New Board Member Richard Smith

After 28 years of providing dental care to Salmon residents, Richard has recently launched into retirement. To supplement his many other endeavors, this self-described conservationist has joined the LRLT Board bringing small business savvy, people skills, a deep understanding of our area, and an unlimited arsenal of backcountry adventures. When asked what he hoped Lemhi County would look like in 20 years, he replied "As close to now as can reasonably be expected. That shouldn't be all that hard; it's what people want. "



Richard and Jeni Smith at the annual picnic. Happy with the direction of LRLT and the desert table, they are all smiles.

Legislative Issues To Watch

2008 Farm Bill— On December 14th, the Senate passed a Farm Bill that included an extension of the New Tax Incentive. Next step: House-Senate Conference in January. This bill also contains funding for the Farmland Protection Program. Visit lta.org and go to their public policy section for more information.

Idaho Ranch, Farm and Forest Protection Act - A working group representing farmers, ranchers, timber companies, conservationists and sportsmen are proposing a tax credit that protect working ranches, farms and forests. Read about it in Dan Popkey's Idaho Statesman column that ran 12-17-07. Go to idahostatesman.com/popkey/ and click on House Bill 262. *Our legislators need to hear from us on these issues.*

Lemhi Regional Land Trust

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www.lemhilandtrust.org

3rd Annual Lemhi Regional Land Trust Picnic Held at Olson Ranch

LRLT Wish List

HP Color Laser Printer

Fireproof Filing Cabinet

On September 29th, a hearty, snow-tolerant crowd gathered pond-side at the Don and Kathy Olson Ranch located up the Lemhi Road. Guest Speaker Gary Power, who serves as the Region 7 Fish & Game Commissioner addressed the group with an update of Commission activities and how conservation easements play a critical role in the protection of wildlife habitat statewide. Chairman Tom McFarland summarized current land trust projects and Executive Director Kristin Troy reported on the financial health of the organization and the creation of the Joe Tonsmeire Endowment Fund.

Lunch was served at noon with offerings of BBQ ribs, green salad, beans, rolls, and many choices of decadent homemade desserts. Don had his team hitched up and offered kids of all ages a wagon ride and tour of his working ranch conservation easement. Warmest thanks goes out to Don & Kathy Olson, Gary and all those who made it out.



IDFG Commissioner Gary Power

