

Conserve

News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust and Salmon Valley Stewardship

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2010

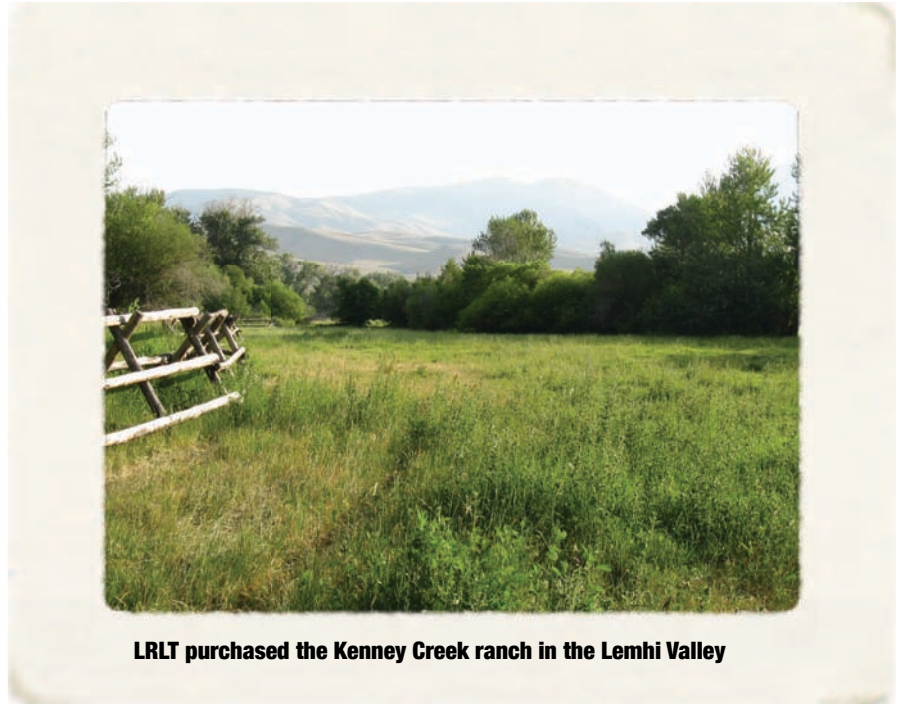
Easements Secured

Lemhi Regional Land Trust has been busy in the last few months! These two projects -- Kenney Creek and the Adams Ranch -- represent the elegant balance between working ranches and continued wildlife protection.

Kenney Creek

- LRLT purchased a 520-acre ranch along a tributary of the Lemhi River important for salmon, steelhead, and other native fish.
- Funding for this acquisition came from the Snake River Basin Adjudication Habitat Fund and Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund.
- The stream will be reconnected with the Lemhi River through water agreements specifying minimum stream flows for different water conditions.
- Once a conservation easement is in place, plans are in place to transfer the property to a local rancher, keeping the land in agricultural production.
- Kenney Creek is surrounded by public lands, and the ranch includes 1 mile of Lemhi River frontage.

"This project is the culmination of years of work by The Nature Conservancy, other partners, funders and landowners willing to explore new and creative ways to keep water in the stream for fish and local working ranches in business," said LRLT Director Kristin Troy. "It's a win for the fish to be able to reach their habitat in Kenney Creek and win for our community to keep our local ranches where they want to be, working and stewarding their land."



LRLT purchased the Kenney Creek ranch in the Lemhi Valley

Adams Ranch - Hayden Creek

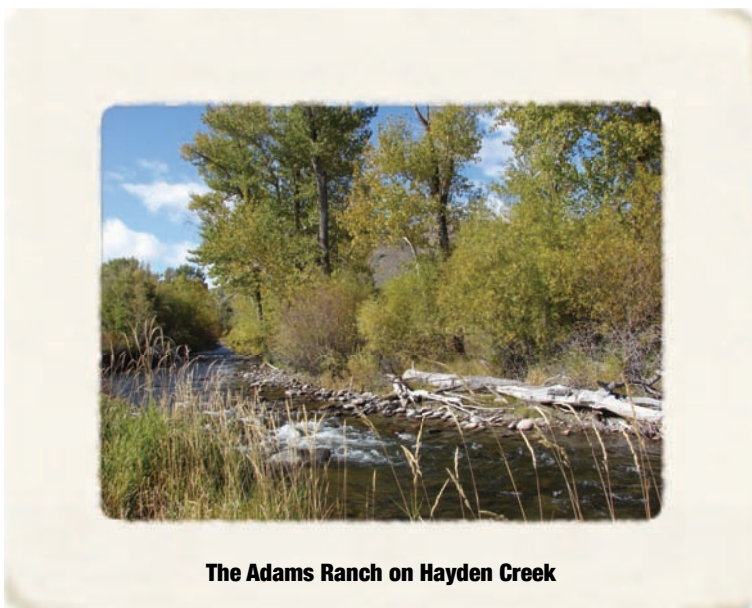
- LRLT now holds a conservation easement on a 150-acre property formerly owned by Ted, Chet and Opal Fay Adams. Once the easement was in place, the Adams sold the property to neighbor Spiro and Annette Daskalos.
- Funding for this easement came from the Snake River Basin Adjudication Fund, The Nature Conservancy's Northwest Wildlife

Conservation Initiative through the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and landowner donation.

- The property includes a 1-mile stretch of Hayden Creek riparian corridor that is designated critical Chinook spawning and rearing habitat.
- Hayden Creek is the flagship tributary of the Lemhi River watershed. Idaho Department of Fish and Game reports this stream is the

only tributary connected to the Lemhi River year-round that currently has active Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout spawning and rearing.

• Hayden Creek is also home to wildlife species including elk, deer, moose, sage grouse, and bald eagles.



The Adams Ranch on Hayden Creek

COMBINED FORCES

While we may be two separate organizations, the combined successes of Lemhi Regional Land Trust and Salmon Valley Stewardship mean one thing: the landscape and livelihoods of the Salmon River Valley are being preserved for generations to come.

Our respective boards of directors agree that whenever possible LRLT and SVS should combine forces, and our resources, to make a difference in our community. This joint newsletter is just one example of how we can share our successes with supporters like you, and keep you updated about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and exciting news.

We see a definite link between using conservation easements to keep working lands in production and a thriving farmers market; between enhancing riparian habitat on private lands and improving forest conditions on public lands.

We share a belief that conflicts surrounding natural resource issues are best solved when a broad range of interests are represented at the table, committed to being respectful of their neighbors and the land.

Most of what we do feels very much like exploring new territory -- this endeavor being no exception. So please let us know how you feel about the team approach to this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

Best Regards,



Kristin Troy

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Gina Knudson, Director, SVS

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Volunteer Round Up

Weed spray at Kenney Creek

May 25, Tendoy

LRLT NEEDS YOUR HELP spraying weeds on the 520-acre Kenney Creek Ranch. The Lemhi Cooperative Weed Management Area (LCWMA) has sponsored annual Spray Days for many parts of Lemhi County. They supply landowners with free herbicide, spraying equipment, and technical expertise on invasive weeds for their property.



Kenney Creek Ranch's Spray Day will be part of the Tendoy area Spray Day. On Tuesday, May 25th at 8:00am, LRLT staff and volunteers will meet at the Tendoy School to get spraying supplies and promptly head to the Kenney Creek Ranch to spray invasive weeds. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Breann Westfall (775) 225 - 9954 or email breann@lemhilandtrust.org.

Sacajawea Community Garden

For years, the Sacajawea Center Community Heritage Garden has been a showpiece at the Center, ablaze with gorgeous flowers and well tended vegetable beds.



Those beds don't tend themselves, however! Please join Chief Gardener

Tawna Skinner

and others at any or all of the following work days:

- **Friday, April 30, 9 - Noon**

Garden bed preparation and maintenance

- **Fri/Sat, May 21 & 22, 9 - Noon**

Garden bed prep and planting

- **Fri/Sat, May 28 & 29, 9 - Noon**

Garden bed planting

- **Fri/Sat, June 4 & 5, 9 - Noon**

Garden bed planting

No experience or special tools required. Bring gloves if you have them. For more information, contact Tawna Skinner at 756-4658 or SVS.

West Meets East

Both Salmon Valley Stewardship and Lemhi Regional Land Trust are committed to sharing our place-based experiences with policy makers.

LRLT Chair Tom McFarland was honored to be invited to the April 16 **White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors.**



"There is no doubt that we face serious challenges to our natural resources: climate change,

air and water pollution, a lost connection between some Americans and the outdoors, and a fragmentation and loss of open space," said Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture. *"We believe that the best way to answer these challenges is to work with landowners, conservation groups, sportsmen and women, local communities, and state and local governments to conserve America's great outdoors, and in doing so, reconnect Americans to our forests, working lands and public lands."*

In our next newsletter, we'll hear Tom's perspective on how the conference went and how our community might respond.

Just days later, Gina Knudson and Kristin Troy joined colleagues from Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC) on a trip to DC. They met with members of Idaho's Congressional delegation, and representatives from the Agriculture and Interior Departments.

Kristin has been working on ranchland and agriculture issues with coalition members while Gina has concentrated on public lands stewardship and rural green jobs.

"RVCC has members from Western place-based conservation groups like ours, as well as people who know how to turn our local challenges into solid policy recommendations," Gina said. *"People in Washington DC do recognize that Lemhi County has our fair share of natural resource challenges, and I believe they listen when we tell them our conservation successes or what we need to be able to succeed."*



Local Foods Movement in Lemhi County

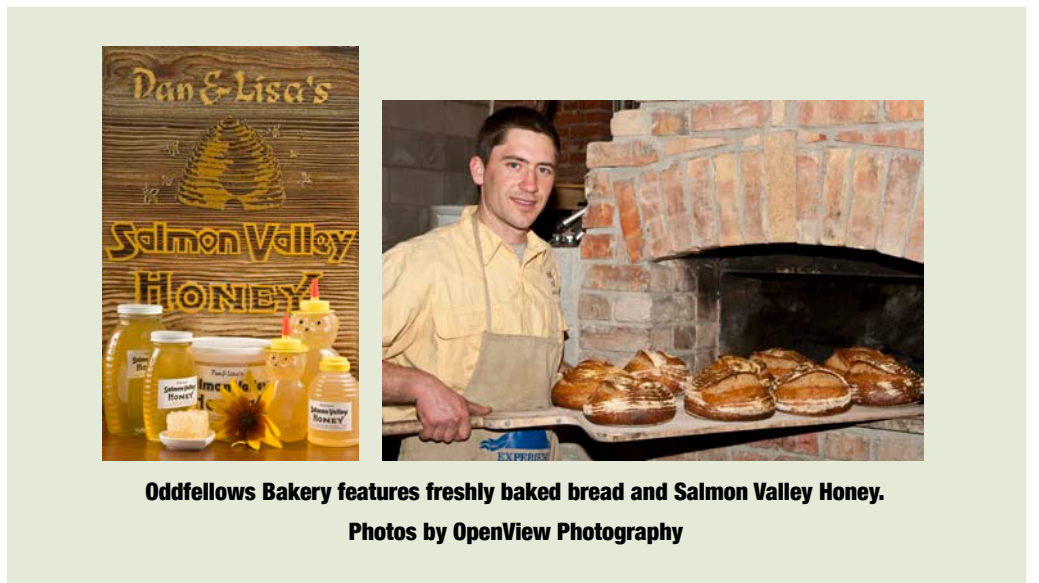
Beaverhead Ranch Photo by OpenView Photography

Nationally, the trend towards eating local is evident in restaurant menus, grocery stores, and backyard gardens. Lemhi County also has local food fever.

The buzz surrounding the Lemhi County Farmers Market seemed deafening ... until the **Oddfellows Bakery** opened. The bakery's bread is so local they even use naturally occurring yeast as a leavening agent. The carbohydrate craze bakery owners Craig and Jessica McCallum and Josh Morton have started doesn't bode well for South Beach dieters, but for the rest of the population, our time has come.

Overhead on the street, "Now Salmon has a bakery, a brewery, and a bike shop -- looks like I'm staying!"

The **Lemhi County Farmers Market** will most likely double its number of produce vendors, and market managers even plan to post livestock growers information on a bulletin board for those interested in buying meat directly from the producer.



Oddfellows Bakery features freshly baked bread and Salmon Valley Honey.

Photos by OpenView Photography

Local foodies can participate in online discussions by joining the Salmon Local Foods google group.

Go to <http://groups.google.com/group/salmonlocalfoods>

The group shares information about gardening, food policy, and they've started a movie night, viewing the documentary "Food, Inc." last winter and "Fresh" this spring.

If you are interested in helping local producers understand the demand for their products, fill out the online local foods survey available on Salmon Valley

Stewardship's website: www.salmonvalley.org

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

SVS is also working with health department staff to create a Frequently Asked Questions list to clarify state and federal rules dealing with food. Want to know how to retail your homegrown eggs? Can the Bakery's bread be served in our local restaurants? Stay tuned for those answers and more.

Aspen Photo Contest

Congratulations to Jerry Slagle (photo at left), Howard Carroll, Adrienne Trapani (photo at center), and Syllas Troy (photo at right) who were the finalists in Salmon Valley Stewardship's first annual aspen photo contest. Special thanks to Ilona McCarty who served as our celebrity judge and the Lemhi County Museum for printing the posters for our finalists.



Spring 2010

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