



Land Trust Times

Winter 2009
Volume 3 Issue 1

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LRLT 4th Annual BBQ and Fundraiser

Saturday, September 26th, 2009, marked the 4th Annual LRLT BBQ and Fundraiser. The beautiful fall day brought out LRLT supporters and Salmon community members to enjoy live music, delicious beverages, a scavenger hunt for children, and a great silent auction.



After burgers were served fresh off the grills, LRLT Board members Tom McFarland, Fran Tonsmeire, Richard Smith, and Mike Overacker, along with Executive Director Kristin Troy gathered the crowd's attention to update everyone on LRLT's land conservation successes. Highlights included informa-

Lemhi Regional Land Trust's 4th Annual BBQ and Fundraiser held at the 300 acre McFarland Easement Property on Carmen Creek

tion on the LRLT's new 2008 completed conservation easements: the McFarland Easement Property (300 acres) and the Eagle Valley Ranch donated easement on Bohannon Creek (5,112 acres). Live music by lo-

cals Todd Nelson and Fred Jacobsmeyer followed, along with an environmentally educational scavenger hunt for the kids led by Bonnie Jakubos.

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Board of Directors

Tom McFarland
Chairman

Fran Tonsmeire
Vice-Chairman

Mike Overacker

Carol Yerden

Don Olson

Richard Smith

LRLT Staff

Kristin Troy
Executive Director

Breann Westfall
Stewardship Coordinator

Norma Staaf, Thank You and Good Luck

After 17 years in Salmon, Idaho, and serving 4 years as an LRLT founding board member, Norma Staaf has relocated to the Bitterroot Valley with her new husband, Nick, to join the Lolo National Forest as a recreation program manager/landscape architect. Norma reports, "All is well here at Fort Missoula. Nick's summer for the Bitterroot National Forest was busy with trail crews, contractors, horses, mules, burros and volunteers. Summer was madness for me with packing, moving, unpacking, and starting a new job. I love

my new job on the Lolo National Forest, with every day being a new adventure getting involved in many types of projects. I miss the wild and rugged landscape of the Salmon-Challis Forest. After so many years living in Salmon, I think it will always be home to me, but I am enjoying the diversity here."

LRLT would like to thank Norma for her dedication and time. We wish her the best of luck and hope she can return home for a visit soon.



Norma Staaf and Nick Hazelbaker married at the Sacajawea Center

Chairman's Report, Tom McFarland



Hello everyone. We've had a very busy and successful past year. When we started this land trust there was a lot of excitement as we looked to the future and what we might achieve. At the same time the obstacles in our

path looked formidable. Project and operations funding, landowner trust and structuring easements that would acknowledge both the land owner and land trust's present and future needs, while maintaining sustainable land uses were among our many heavy concerns. We've

been able to address many of these initial challenges and our first easements have been completed. We are so pleased to get those in place, and we've gained confidence and momentum toward making significant contributions towards sustainable agriculture while protecting the associated fish, wildlife and scenic values.

Our newest challenge is that we have a growing number of landowners throughout the Upper Salmon Region interested in pursuing conservation easements, but there is a limited number of funding sources. There are significant opportunities through the Snake River Basin Adjudication Fund and the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, but those monies are targeted for anadromous fish recovery and habitat conservation in prioritized areas, which include the upper Lemhi and Pahsimeroi val-

leys. The farm bill has some available money, with the best fits for Lemhi County being either the Grassland Reserve Program or the Farm and Ranch Protection Program. Finding a good funding fit for a conservation easement is just the first step; coming up with the required non-federal cash match can be very challenging - in some cases it is as high as 50%. To those landowners who have expressed an interest in a potential easement, please be patient, you haven't been forgotten. We will continue to search for funding to meet our common conservation goals.

A lot of time is required meeting with interested landowners, working through applications, easement negotiations and keeping the lights on. This is where you can help.

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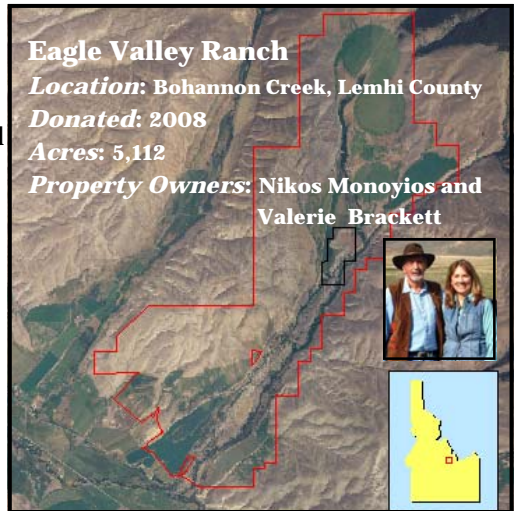
LRLT Land Conservation = 5, 412 Acres!



McFarland Easement Property
Location: Carmen Creek, Lemhi County
Acquired: 2008
Acres: 300
Property Owners:
 Bruce & Bonnie McFarland
 Dave & Janet McFarland
 Tom & Teresa McFarland

The McFarland Easement Property and Eagle Valley Ranch were LRLT's first conservation easements. After three years of tireless work, LRLT and property owners closed on their respective land conservation easements in late 2008. LRLT has two projects due to close by the end of 2009 and several more slated to close in 2010.

Go to our website to read more about each property, funding sources, and our dedicated property owners.
www.lemhilandtrust.org



Eagle Valley Ranch
Location: Bohannon Creek, Lemhi County
Donated: 2008
Acres: 5,112
Property Owners: Nikos Monoyios and Valerie Brackett

Legislative Issues You Should Know About

LRLT is concerned about a few major issues currently under legislation. More information about each bill can be found at lta.org or senate.gov or house.gov. **Our legislators need to hear from you about these issues.**

Conservation Easement Incentive Act H.R. 1831 The Conservation Easement Incentive Act is co-sponsored by 261 representatives from all 50 states, including Idaho's Mike Simpson (R), but not Idaho's Walt Minnick (D).

Estate Tax Reform Bills H.R. 3050 American Family Farm and Ranchland Protection Act, introduced

by Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Eric Cantor (R-VA) to expand the 2031 (c) exclusion from 40% to 50% and from \$500,000 to \$5 million.

H.R. 3524 Family Farm Preservation Estate Tax Act, Introduced by Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) to indefinitely defer estate taxes on agricultural land so long as it remains in the family.

H.R. 1328 Farmland Preservation and Land Conservation Act, introduced by Rep. Tim Bishop (D-NY) to defer estate taxes on agricultural lands or land of conservation value.

New Staff at LRLT

Meet our new LRLT staff member, Breann Westfall. As a Salmon, Idaho native, Breann has returned home after acquiring her Masters degree in hydrogeology last December. Working as LRLT's Stewardship Coordinator, Breann is responsible for the yearly monitoring reports for each LRLT held easement, among other tasks. Breann's love for the Idaho rivers and mountains drew her back to Salmon, and she is now eager to assist LRLT's efforts. Last fall, Breann completed monitoring visits and reports for both Eagle Valley Ranch and the McFarland Easement Property, and is currently working on a the technical side of a conservation easement transaction, developing the Baseline Documentation Report. All's well at the LRLT office, and Breann is enjoying her first year here at LRLT.



Chairman's Report ...continued from page 1

Support comes in many forms; we need monetary support to keep the doors open, moral support to help us stay energized, public input to make sure we're staying on the right track and meeting the needs of the land and those on the land, and political pressure to ensure we have the tools necessary to get the job done. There is no way a small local land trust can achieve its common goals without your input and help. We will continue to make wise use of any future contributions. Thank you for your time, consideration and effort.

What Do You Know?

What is a Land Trust?

A land trust is a nonprofit organization that contributes voluntary private land conservation agreements for land owners.

What is a Conservation Easement?

A CE is a legal agreement between a land owner and a land trust that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It is important to remember that the CE still leaves ownership of the land in the landowner's hands, meaning the land is *still* the landowner's to sell or pass on to heirs.

What is LRLT's main function?

LRLT provides incentives and options for property owners of ranchlands to preserve their agricultural lifestyles.

Land Trusts 101

LRLT Spotlight on Gary Power

Gary Power is one busy guy. Ask him his schedule, and you might get worn out just listening. Retired from the Idaho Fish and Game Department after 29 years of service, Gary now serves on the Idaho Fish and Game commission as the Salmon Region representative, is a member of the Forest Service Resource Advisory Committee, a board member for Camp Discovery, guides rafting and fishing trips, goes on backcountry pack trips, travels with his wife Tam and enjoys hunting in the fall. Despite his active schedule, Gary has always found time to attend land trust

events and has been a steadfast supporter of LRLT since the beginning in 2005.

At the annual picnic in September, Gary stepped up and bought the land trust's premier silent auction item: a guided fishing trip for four to Silver Creek Preserve, graciously donated by the Nature Conservancy of Idaho. THANK YOU GARY!



LRLT Contributors

Stewards \$500+

Shelly Perlmutter
 James Elroy
 Doug and Deb Westfall
 Dave and Janet McFarland
 Richard and Jennie Smith
 Fran Tonsmeire

Partners \$100+

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 James Smith
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 Daniel Kenyon
 Albert and Vera Fols
 Kenneth C. Hill
 Jerry and Terry Myers
 Kyra Povirk
 Alison Steen
 Chris Swersey & Mary Wright

4th Annual BBQ and Fundraiser...continued from page 1

With the help of *many* Salmon community supporters, the silent auction was a huge success.

With around 120 people attending the event, LRLT raised over \$3200. The event was a wonderful success for LRLT. Thank you to everyone who con-

tributed and attended the event.

A special thank you goes out to event volunteers Alison Steen, Amy Tonsmeire, Seth Tonsmeire, Mark Troy, Shane Moser, Bonnie Jakubos, all LRLT board members, and all silent auction donors.



1. Kristin and Ava Troy serve homemade sides & desserts.
2. Pam Dahle browses the silent auction tables.
3. Volunteers Alison Steen and Amy Tonsmeire serve up beer and wine.
4. Board member Richard Smith addresses the crowd on LRLT's updates.
5. Board member Fran Tonsmeire talks about LRLT's 2 new easements.
6. Grill Masters—Mark Troy, Shane Moser, and Seth Tonsmeire.
7. Dana Merrill serves the crowd.
8. Tom McFarland peruses the silent auction.



THANK YOU to our BBQ and Fundraiser Supporters

Wolf Den Ranch Alpacas, Tom and Carol Yerden
 Wilderness River Outfitters
 Westfall, Inc., Doug and Deb Westfall
 Jerry and Terry Myers
 Purple Easel Gallery
 Carmen Land and Livestock
 Mike and Merridee Overacker
 Idaho Rocky Mountain Ranch
 Seth Tonsmeire
 The Nature Conservancy
 Fran Tonsmeire
 Amy Tonsmeire
 Bruce and Bonnie McFarland
 Dave and Janet McFarland
 Tom and Teresa McFarland
 Country Candy Co., Curtis and Shannon Fayle
 Dana Merrill and Terry Maeda

Richard and Jenni Smith
 Don and Kathy Olson
 Rawhide Outfitters, John and Cathy Cranney
 Idaho Adventures
 Mark and Kristin Troy
 Ava Troy
 Shane Moser
 Sun Valley Ski Resort
 Mark Davidson
 Salmon Valley Stewardship
 Bonnie Jakubos
 Alison Steen
 Bertram's Brewery
 Ilona McCarty
 Hope Benedict
 Silver Cloud River Expeditions
 Junkyard Bistro



The View from Here, Executive Director's Note

I was asked to give an update on one of our conservation easement projects at a meeting recently, and before I launched into the particulars, I paused and decided to veer a bit off message. My address to the roomful of biologists sounded something like this: we can get pretty focused on a particular biological outcome that a specific conservation easement will achieve, but it is the *people* who are the gatekeepers to that outcome. People like the many thoughtful ranchers who are planning not just for their children, but for their great-great grandchildren's future. People like those who have given so generously to sustain a local land trust to protect and steward the land we call home. People like *you* who can see a future with open space that is as sustainably productive as it is scenic, clean rivers full of fish, healthy riparian areas full of wildlife and a quality of life unsurpassed anywhere in the west. Nobody loves this place like we do; nobody can save it like we

can. Landowners are stepping up, but it will take the same thoughtful resolve of *many* to support land conservation work in our valley. Please consider giving a gift today. Let history judge our work, I have no doubt that it will be favorable. KT



Visit our Website
www.LemhiLandTrust.org
 Updated Continually!

Grants Support LRLT

Brainerd Foundation

The Brainerd Foundation awarded LRLT the second installment of two \$30,000 grants this November. The Brainerd Foundation is a North-west-focused family foundation that provides grants to strengthen the ability of nonprofit, communities, and decision-makers to protect our region's air, land and water.

Environmental Systems Research Institute

ESRI awarded a grant in-kind for the ArcGIS program and needed land conservation software applications. The total goods and services ESRI granted to LRLT retail for \$8000. LRLT uses ArcGIS daily to develop conservation projects.

Heart of the Rockies Initiative

HOTR awarded LRLT a \$7000 capacity grant for 2009. HOTR is a collaboration of 21 national, statewide, and local land trusts working along the Continental Divide in Alberta, British Columbia, Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming.

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Email us at info@lemhilandtrust.org

Our mission is to provide supportive funds and resources for the preservation of land and natural resources for Central Idaho ranchlands and agricultural lands.



Summer Stewardship Workshop

On August 21st and 22nd, 2009, LRLT sponsored a Land Stewardship Workshop. Members of the Salmon community and two folks from the Bitterroot Valley Land Trust gathered for a two-day workshop on exactly what land conservation and stewardship means. Sponsored through a grant provided by the Heart of the Rockies Initiative, the workshop consisted of a classroom room day and field day, educationally focusing on land trust, conservation easements, land stewardship, and all of the technical information associated with Baseline Documentation Reports and yearly monitoring reports for acquired easements.

LRLT's goal was to educate interested and qualified community members about what each individual can bring to the table for land conservation and stewardship in Lemhi County. The workshop provided participants with background knowledge about land conservation, as well as a technical hands-on experience for understanding the development of a conservation easement project and land stewardship.

Led by a land stewardship veteran Joselin Matkins, and the current Exec. Dir. for the Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust in Pocatello, the 18 participants gathered for a classroom session in LRLT's



Stewardship workshops participants monitoring the McFarland Easement Property on Carmen Creek.

office and conference room on day one. On day two, we headed to the McFarland Easement Property on Carmen Creek to perform the yearly monitoring visit for the 300-acre easement. The visit was very successful, allowing our constituents to learn exactly what land stewardship for LRLT entails and providing a comprehensive overview of what land conservation means in Lemhi County.

Thank you to all of our workshop participants! We look forward to working with you all again in the future. If you would like to volunteer or be considered in a professional capacity with LRLT, please feel free to contact us.

New LRLT office in downtown Salmon

In January 2009, LRLT's office moved to 105 1/2 South Center Street in downtown Salmon. Located directly behind the historic Shoup building on Main Street, LRLT has found a permanent office of our own. Sharing the office space with The Nature Conservancy (Idaho branch, based in Hailey, Idaho) has made the new office a great location for achieving conservation in our valley. Thank you to the renovation crew, led by Tom McFarland! The fresh paint, beautiful new windows, and refinished hardwood floor make our LRLT office a wonderful edition to Salmon's downtown businesses.



Join Us!

Lemhi Regional Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and all cash donations are tax deductible.

Send your yearly renewal or donation to:

**PO Box 871
Salmon, Idaho
83467**



Lemhi Regional Land Trust Supporter

Yearly Supporter Renewal New Supporter Donation

Enclosed is my gift of: \$35 Friend \$500 Steward

\$100 Partner \$5000+ Founder

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