

Conserve

News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust and Salmon Valley Stewardship

A Quarterly Newsletter Winter 2014

Lemhi Land Trust and Landowners Team Up to Restore Important Riparian Areas

Cole Ranch

In 2010, Dr. Jesse Cole donated an approximately 300 acre conservation easement on his ranch next to the Salmon River. A 450-foot section of the river bank was in need of stabilization, and in 2012, LRLT secured a grant to restore the stream bank.

In November, work began on the bioengineered bank stabilization project. The project involved scaling the bank slope back, using fabric encapsulated soil lifts for stabilization, and transplanting many species of willows and cottonwoods. Local businesses Dahle Excavation and Aspect Consulting helped with the project.

LRLT Stewardship and Conservation Coordinator Breann Westfall was invited to talk to Arlene Wolf's environmental science class at Salmon High School about the project and its conservation measures. Students traveled to the Cole Ranch to get some hands-on experience and spent time helping



Salmon High School Environmental Science students get a hands on lesson at the Cole Ranch bank stabilization project. The students learned how restoring vegetation like willows can help reduce erosion on this stretch of the Salmon River.

plant potted plants, learning about getting permission to undertake such and endeavor, and they learned how to operate a turbidity meter.



Trout Creek Ranch

In 2012, Bob and Ginny Chewning donated a conservation easement on the 133-acre Pahsimeroi Valley Trout Creek Ranch. Four sections of the Pahsimeroi River located on the property needed to be stabilized to decrease sedimentation and the overall water temperature to provide more hospitable habitat for the resident and anadromous fish. Project contractor Intermountain Aquatics of Driggs, Idaho took live willow cuttings and willow clumps located at the site to stabilize the bank by providing vegetation where there had previously been none.

Stabilizing the bank along the Pahsimeroi River with willows and installing about 4,000 feet of new fence will help protect this fragile riparian area.

Upper North Fork Draft Environmental Impact Statement Could Be Released as Early as This Month

Acting North Fork District Ranger Liz Townley told the Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group that the Upper North Fork Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be released in mid-February. The forest restoration group and the Forest Service worked together on the design of the approximately 40,000-acre forest restoration project, and the Salmon-Challis National Forest asked the public to comment on the proposal in August 2011.

Since then, agency specialists have been preparing the environmental analysis for the project that stretches between Lost Trail Pass and the Hughes Creek project area.

Townley said the Forest Service plans to hold public meetings in Salmon and Gibbonsville, hopefully towards the end of February.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the Salmon-Challis' preferred alternative and the agency's analysis of other alternatives.

Once the document is released, the forestry collaborative plans to review their zones of agreement from a series of meetings and field trips ranging from 2009 to 2012. Members will compare these elements to the details in the environmental impact statement and provide feedback to the Forest Service.

Collaborative member Bob Russell of Salmon said, "It's been a long time since we've met as a group to discuss this project, so we will need to get ourselves back up to speed about the details."

Salmon Valley Stewardship will send out more information about dates, times, and locations of public meetings as soon as they are scheduled.



Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor Chuck Mark addresses participants at a January 24 National Environmental Policy Act workshop in Salmon.

A Look Inside One of the Nation's Most Powerful Environmental Laws

The Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group invited noted environmental attorney Susan Jane Brown to come share her perspective about the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The January 24 workshop, made possible under a grant from USDA Rural Development, drew about 40 participants.

Brown shared her experience not only as an environmental attorney who has litigated several

Forest Service projects in the Northwest, but also as a key member of eastern Oregon's Blue Mountain Forest Partnership, a collaborative group.

Huge volumes of analysis don't serve the agency or the public well, Brown advised. She hopes to see documents that focus on what will really be impacted by an action, rather than an encyclopedic look at resources that won't be affected.

Community Round Up

Ag Week is March 17-21. This year's theme is "Agriculture -- Feeding the Future." Lemhi Regional Land Trust and Salmon Valley Stewardship help out with the week's activities because our organizations' are deeply committed to seeing agriculture continue in Lemhi County as a special part of our way of life.



Charli Williams of LRLT says, "LRLT is excited to have the

opportunity to team up with such a huge variety of community partners to celebrate one of Lemhi County's cornerstone industries: agriculture. We hope that everyone will join us in participating the wide variety of activities planned for Ag Week."

One of the things the SVS crew is most excited about is this year's video contest. A top prize of \$500 will go to Salmon and Leadore students for their winning entry. "This year's Wild and Scenic Film Fest in Salmon will feature student videographers, and there is some amazingly talented kids in our community. I can't wait to see what comes out of this contest!" said Gina Knudson, SVS director.



Hats Off

...to the City of Salmon. The new trail from town to City Park has

been needed from a safety perspective for years. Kids can now ride bikes or walk to City Park to swim, play baseball, or head to the golf course without competing with highway traffic.

Thanks to Salmon City Council members who approved the project, City parks and recreation staff who worked on the trail, and a big thanks to Mary Cerise who worked with Idaho Transportation Department to make sure the trail project met all the standards to qualify for funding.

Other Salmon Area Trails priorities are listed in the [Salmon Area Trails Action Plan](#).

Stream of Dreams: Celebrating Salmon's Fishy Heritage Through Art & Education

Quick Facts

The big idea? After learning about watersheds, kids and adults work together to create hundreds of brightly painted wooden fish representing our area's native fish populations. In May 2014, this artwork will be installed on the Salmon High School fence next to Highway 93 South.

Why bother? The Salmon River and its native fish species are important to our natural history and to our current economy. Let's let the world know!

Where do I find more information? www.salmonvalley.org/stream-of-dreams

How can I help? Businesses have stepped up to offer some terrific booty for raffle prizes. Check out the prizes at the Salmon River Fly Box on Main Street or at the Wild and Scenic Film Fest (see story below).



Idaho Fish & Game staff are helping to put the Stream of Dreams plan into motion. Shown above are sturgeon, salmon, and steelhead the IDFG crew cut from plywood. They are now ready for Salmon students to bring to life with paint. (Open View Photography)

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

SVS is excited to once again team up with the fabulous Salmon Arts Council on Salmon's third Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Movie nights will be Wednesday, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12, starting at 7 p.m. at the Oddfellows Hall.

The festival is part of a national film tour. With hundreds of films to choose from, Salmon Valley Stewardship and Salmon Arts Council's "wild and scenic squad" carefully consider which movies will most appeal to our audience.

SVS's Rachel Layman says one of her favorite picks for this year is *Snows of the Nile*. "It is an environmental adventure film about two scientists/photographers/adventurers who trek to the remote Rwenzori Mountains in Africa, home to some of the world's only equatorial glaciers. They hope to compare a set of photos of the glaciers, taken in 1906, to see just how much climate change has caused glacial recession in those remote mountains. Some of the landscapes they explore on their ascent are like something from another planet entirely. It is a beautiful film."

Tickets for each night's entertainment are \$8 general admission, \$5 students. Babysitting is available on site (by reservation only!) and dinner will be available.

For the complete lowdown, call SVS at 756-1686 or visit the website, www.salmonvalley.org.

Salmon's Stream of Dreams
BRINGING COMMUNITY ART & WATERSHED EDUCATION TO THE SALMON SCHOOLS

Raffle Prizes Include

- ✓ WINSTON BORON III SPEY ROD (13'3 7WT.) WITH MATCHING LINE
- ✓ CLACKACRAFT 9' CATARACT COUNTER BALANCED COMPOSITE OARS WITH MAGNUM II BLADES
- ✓ CUSTOM MADE 3WT TROUT ROD
- ✓ A BOX OF JOHN STENERSEN'S CUSTOM STEELHEAD FLIES

PURCHASE TICKETS AT THESE FINE LOCATIONS
 Salmon River Fly Box • The Junkyard Bistro • Oddfellows Bakery
 The North Fork Store • 93 Sports • Salmon Valley Stewardship

TICKET PRICES: \$5.00 Each or 5 for \$20.00
 Prizes on display at the Salmon River Fly Box
 Drawing to be held the first week in May.
 Limited tickets available. Need not be present to win.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.SALMONVALLEY.ORG/STREAM-OF-DREAMS/

Wed, Feb 12 - SVS/LRLT Meet & Greet, Oddfellows Hall, 12 - 1 p.m

Our quarterly luncheon gives members of the community a face-to-face opportunity to hear the latest from Salmon Valley Stewardship and Lemhi Regional Land Trust, suggest ideas, complain, get to know staff and board members, or do some fact checking. We'll have homemade soup to share. Bring a friend (or two!).

Sage Grouse

Vicki VanSickle has been working for SVS in a partnership with Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, the BLM, and the Salmon-Challis National Forest to monitor sage grouse. Check out Vicki's blog about her experiences on our website: salmonvalley.org



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