

Conserve

News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust and Salmon Valley Stewardship

A Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2016

Page Families Donate Two Pahsimeroi Parcels

In late December, Lemhi Regional Land Trust completed two new projects in the Pahsimeroi Valley. Owned and operated by brothers Tom and Michael Page of Hailey, Big Creek Ranch is located in the upper reaches of the Pahsimeroi Valley. Big Creek



The Grouse Creek parcel experienced a significant change in hydrology after the 1982 Borah Quake.

Ranch is comprised of ranches that were purchased in variable condition, with the twin goals of making them more environmentally sustainable and

improving overall land health. Tom Page said working with degraded lands presents an opportunity to show what can be achieved through infrastructure improvements combined with different management techniques than had been employed in the past. The Pages donated two parcels to LRLT, and both are surrounded by lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. LRLT will ensure these parcels continue to function as part of the surrounding

grazing allotments just as they have under Big Creek Ranch's management. LRLT will also be taking part in the Idaho Department of Fish & Game's Access Yes! Program to provide public access to both parcels.

The Rock Springs parcel totals 76 acres and features a small pond area that will be the site of LRLT's next restoration project in the coming months. LRLT will be working with Big Creek Ranch, BLM and US Fish and Wildlife Service to install fencing, native plants, stockwater access, and a public camping area.

At 480 acres, the Grouse Creek parcel is particularly important for providing stockwater access to the surrounding grazing allotment. Up until 1982, this property was a fully functioning ranch, but following the Mount Borah earthquake virtually all of the water on the property dried up. Today all that remains of the original operation is a few stray pieces of antique equipment, the outline of the former hayfields and a 510-foot deep well that pumps just enough water to provide a tank for livestock watering.



Fossils stand the test of time at Rock Springs.

LRLT News Flash



LRLT welcomes **Jim Roscoe** from Dillon, Montana to our staff. Prior to joining LRLT, Jim

was a BLM wildlife biologist for over 30 years, he's been a Land Steward with Montana Land Reliance, Community Garden Manager for University of Montana Western, and private wildlife consultant. He and his wife, Louise, also operate L&J Concessions and Catering, and partner with their son in a custom haying business. Jim has a B.S. degree in wildlife management and M.S. degree in fishery biology, both from Colorado State University. At LRLT, Jim will be coordinating the development of conservation easements and other projects, and working with private landowners and all our various partners to make these conservation efforts productive and effective.

Ken Hill is the newest member of the LRLT board of directors. Ken owned

and operated the North Fork Store, Café, Motel and RV Park for 32 years



before selling the business and moving to Salmon. Today Ken manages Fitness 7 Athletic Club, serves on the Lemhi County Humane Society board of directors and was recently re-elected for another term on the Salmon City Council. He holds a degree from the University of Colorado with dual majors in Economics and Political Science with post graduate work in Business Management. He hopes his background and experiences will benefit LRLT and looks forward to assisting in maintaining our area's agricultural lands, restoring our rivers and promoting our native fish and wildlife populations.

Conservation Easement Tax Incentive Now Permanent

For landowners, donating a conservation easement is a way to protect places they love. It's also a major financial decision. When landowners donate a conservation easement, they give up part of the value of their property — often their family's biggest asset. Tax incentives offset some of that loss in property value, making conservation a viable option for more landowners. One of the most important incentives is the federal conservation tax deduction, which allows landowners to deduct all or part of the value of a donated easement from their taxable income. In late 2015, Congress made permanent the federal tax incentive for conservation easement donations, helping thousands of landowners conserve their land. These changes apply to donations made at any time in 2015 and to all donations made after that. This is a powerful tool for allowing modest-income donors to receive greater credit for donating a very valuable conservation easement on property they own.

Impact Investing

With each new conservation easement project LRLT completes, part of the package is funding to ensure that LRLT can meet our legal obligation to steward each property and defend any legal challenges that may arise. This funding can come from a variety of sources and each contribution is invested in low risk investments designed to provide the Land Trust with a steady interest amount, which can then be used for annual monitoring expenses, while protecting the principal. The concept of impact investing, or investments made with the intention to generate a measurable, beneficial social or environmental impact alongside a financial return, is a way to invest some of LRLT's stewardship dollars right in our own community. We are beginning to look at opportunities for impact investment in our local communities in 2016 and look forward to sharing our progress with you!

Salmon Valley People

SVS thanks **Gary Power** for his incredible board service from 2012-2015. The retired wildlife biologist, community leader, and



river guide has the kind of experience and passion to make any organization better off. Thank you, Gary!



Emmett, Nora, and Kim Murphy

We're pleased to add **Kim Murphy** to the board. Kim is a fisheries biologist, with degrees in Environmental Science from Paul Smith's College and Fisheries Biology from the University of Idaho. Before joining the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Regional Office she worked for the US Forest Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project, University of Idaho, and Peace Corps Philippines. Kim has lived in the Salmon area since 2002. SVS's promotion and support of environmental education, local foods, and sustainable land use practices, was her primary reason for wanting to be a part of Salmon Valley Stewardship.

HELP WANTED!

SVS is seeking an undergrad or graduate student with upper-level courses in plant systematics or botany. This person will be a seasonal member of SVS's range crew conducting upland, riparian, and sage-grouse habitat monitoring.

For more information, call Jenny @ SVS, 756-1686 or go to: www.salmonvalley.org.

Local Foods Happenings

Salmon Valley Local Foods has invited Salmon High School Art students to help design a new **Salmon Valley Local Foods logo**. Local Foods members will work with art teacher Meri Galvan to teach students about logo design, marketing and community outreach. Several local restaurants will be showcasing the student art on their windows the first weekend of February. Community members will vote on their favorites, determining the new Salmon Valley Local Foods logo.

"It's going to be fun to see the students and our community get involved with this project," said Mindy Crowell, Salmon Valley Stewardship's Local Foods Outreach Coordinator. "Salmon's students are so talented, we can't wait to see what they come up with."

"We are proud to work with Salmon Valley Local Foods and are excited about continuing to add local items to our menu as they become more available," said Mary Whalen, one of the owners of the Junkyard Bistro, "We see this as a great opportunity to support the kids and to be involved in local foods."

The contest takes place February 4- 12. To vote online visit the [Salmon Local Foods](#) Facebook page.

Assessing Our Local Foods Needs: Step 1 - Do We Need a Community Kitchen?

"The concept of a shared-use community kitchen facility has been discussed at Salmon Valley Local Foods meetings for years, but there's long been disagreement about whether existing commercial kitchen spaces are available and accessible enough for the needs of our small or emerging foods producers," explains Rachel Layman, Salmon Valley Stewardship's Local Foods Coordinator. "If an enterprising local with a visionary food concept wants to market their product to restaurants, outfitters, retail outlets - often even at the farmer's market, they are required to prepare it in a certified commercial kitchen. We've heard that most folks simply don't have adequate access to commercial facilities here. This survey, as part of a larger feasibility study, is intended to put some actual data behind what we've been hearing."

In addition to creating a comprehensive directory of existing kitchen facilities, Salmon Valley Local Foods is circulating a survey to find out what the demand would be from users. Surveys are available at the Salmon Library, the Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership office in Salmon, at SVS or online at the [Salmon Local Foods Facebook](#) page. The surveys will be collected through February.

Salmon Local Foods Join us for the **Good Food Film Series**
Help raise \$3000 for the Salmon School Garden Project

Part 1: "Lunch.Love.Community"
School Garden Fundraiser Kickoff
When: Thursday, February 4th @ 6pm
Where: Odd Fellows Hall
What: Suggested family donation \$20
Includes: raffle entry, local food dinner & drinks!

Part 2: "Nourish"
When: Friday, February 26th @ 6pm
Where: Odd Fellows Hall
What: Suggested family donation \$10
Includes: Snacks & drinks
Raffle at Intermission

Part 3: "Cafeteria Man"
When: Friday, March 11th @ 6pm
Where: Salmon Public Library
What: Donations welcome
Snacks & drinks offered
Raffle at Intermission

"When the hearts and minds of our children are captured by a school lunch curriculum, enriched with experience in the garden, sustainability will become the lens through which they see the world."
- Alice Waters

Can't attend?
Donations can also be made to
Salmon School Garden Project

For More Information: (208) 796-1686
www.facebook.com/SalmonSchoolGardenProject
www.facebook.com/SalmonLocalFoods

Foodie Film Nights Benefit the Salmon School Garden Project

We asked Marii Stratter, SVS Local Foods Americorps VISTA member, for the lowdown on the Good Food Film Series.

"**Lunch. Love. Community**" kicks off the film series event on Feb. 4. Suggested donation \$20 per family, includes film screening, raffle entry, local foods dinner and drinks. (Oddfellows Hall)

"**Nourish**" (Feb 26) reveals the many ways that food connects to our environment, our health, and our communities. Most importantly, "**Nourish**" offers specific steps that individuals and groups can take to create a sustainable food future and offer a focal point for discussion and dialogue. Suggested donation \$10 per family, snacks and drinks offered. (Oddfellows Hall)

"**Cafeteria Man**" (March 11) is an inspiring story of one chef's and school district's efforts to replace pre-plated, processed foods with locally-grown, freshly-prepared meals. The film offers an inspiring portrayal of the possibilities, as well as a realistic view of the challenges of transforming school food. Donations accepted, snacks and drinks offered. This will be at the new Salmon Public Library!

Doors to all 3 events open at 6:00 pm, films start at 6:30 pm. Donations benefit Salmon School Garden.

Hands on the Land Partnership Gets Lemhi County Youth Outside

SVS's partnership with the BLM, offering fun and educational outdoor experiences to area students, has a new twist. Cross-country skis purchased through the partnership are now available to rent through local business The Hub for \$5/day if you are 18 or younger. The Hub is open Thursday - Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Max Lohmeyer of the Hub has joined many of the Hands on the Land outings, and he said he also hopes to offer low-cost bike rentals for kids when ski season is over.

With this year's snowpack, people have been cross-country skiing at the Golf Course and Sacajawea Center, at Discovery Hill, and the Williams Creek trail system just southwest of town has been fabulous. On Feb 9, Salmon Middle Schoolers will try skiing and snowshoeing at Chief Joseph Ski Area.



HANDS
ON THE
LAND

Winter 2016

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Visit Us Online!

Salmon Valley Stewardship

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