

# Conserve

*News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust and Salmon Valley Stewardship*

A Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2013

## 4th Generation Pahsimeroi Ranch Protected

The Pahsimeroi Valley is remarkable and wild. The valley provides important winter range for elk and deer. Bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, wolves, black bear, and sage grouse are no strangers to the area. Chinook salmon and steelhead returns here were legendary many years ago.

For rancher Ted O'Neal, the Pahsimeroi is simply home. He and his wife Debbie ranch the 353-acre property that has been in Ted's family for four generations. In November, the O'Neals recorded a conservation easement on the property that assures the property can remain a working ranch, while enhancing native fish and wildlife habitat.

*"This keeps us whole," Ted O'Neal said, "and we appreciated Lemhi Regional Land Trust helping us through the process."*

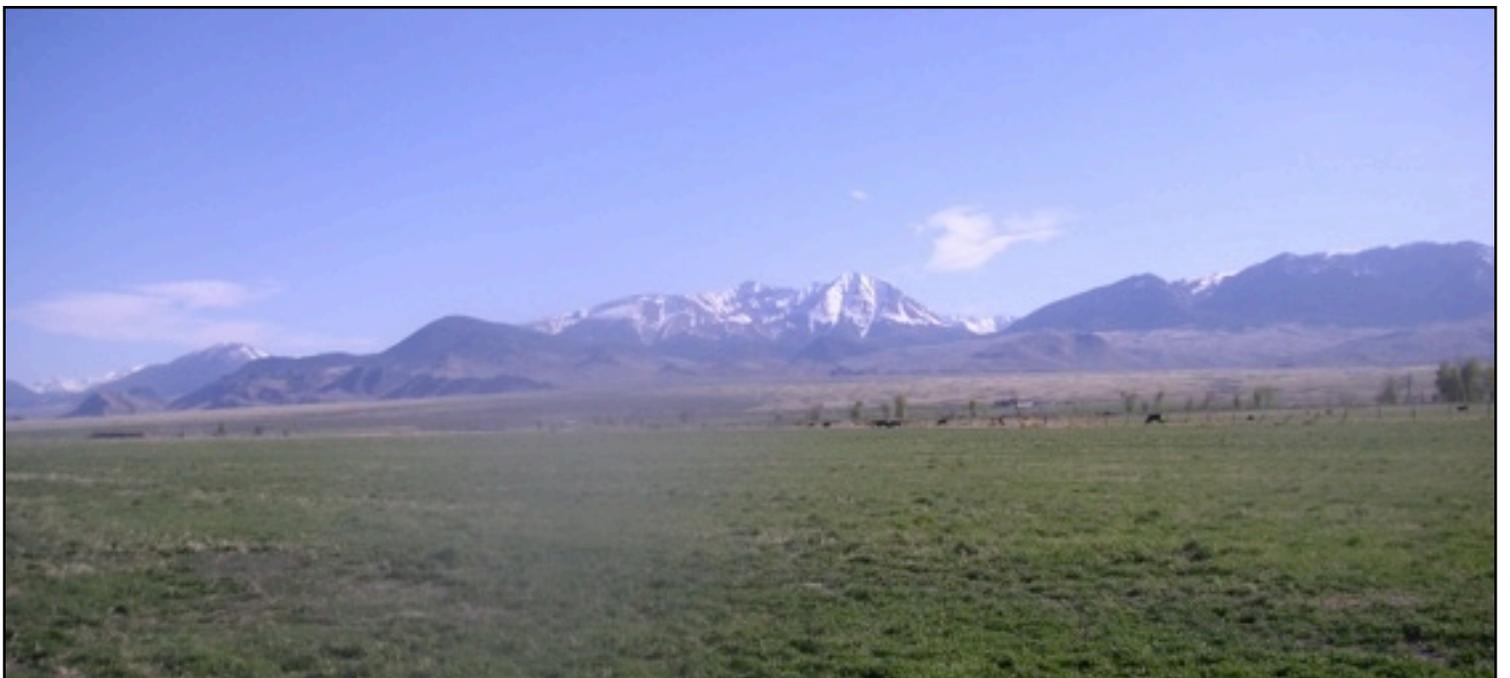


*Ted O'Neal is the fourth generation of ranchers on his property 18 miles up the Pahsimeroi Valley.*

The deal represents a joint venture between LRLT, The Nature Conservancy of Idaho and four Pahsimeroi Valley ranches. The goal of the joint venture is to place nearly 5,800 acres under conservation easements, ultimately providing permanent protection for approximately 5.75

miles of the Pahsimeroi River, 2 miles of Pahsimeroi River tributaries and spring and wetland sources.

The O'Neal property represents the eighth conservation easement and nearly 8,000 acres protected in Lemhi Regional Land Trust's portfolio.



## Update on LRLT's Road to Accreditation

Lemhi Regional Land Trust is excited to announce that our accreditation package has been submitted! The comprehensive application weighed in at a hefty 17 pounds. LRLT director Kristin Troy said outreach coordinator and office manager Charli Williams' help was invaluable during the 18-month long process needed to complete the application.



The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, is now conducting an extensive review of LRLT's policies and programs. The review may take up to 8 months to complete, but we will announce the results as soon as we are notified of the Commission's decision.

To learn more about the accreditation program, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org).



## Celebrating Harvests



SVS's 6th Annual Harvest Celebration was our biggest success to date, thanks to so many people. The move to The Elks Lodge was very well received, and all agreed that SVS board VP Sherry Elrod transformed the room into a magical venue. The Hub with head chef Ben Garcia showed off their culinary capabilities to the crowd. Guest speaker Melanie Parker of Montana's Swan Valley inspired everyone in the room with her passion for rural communities and spectacular places (like Salmon).

And a week later, we were ready for the 2nd Annual AppleFest, a sort of closing ceremony for another highly successful Farmers Market season. Everyone in town should now have at least one gallon of fresh pressed apple cider ... if not, do not blame Sadie and Scott Grasser. The Grassers certainly did their part, pressing hundreds of gallons of cider and raising awareness about heritage varieties of apple trees that once filled this valley.

Long live local foods!

## Salmon Valley Stewardship's Never Boring Board

SVS welcomes **Ella Deutchman** to its board of directors. Ella has long family

ties in Lemhi County, and she and her husband Adam have lived here for 10 years with their daughters Dagny and Logan. Ella's experience with the Salmon business community and her passion for sustainable agriculture will come in handy as SVS plans activities for the upcoming year.

Ella joins a board of directors that includes **Julie Hopkins (president), Sherry Elrod (vice president), Toni Ruth (newly elected treasurer), Dave Ellis, Gary Power and Sadie Grasser.**

Meanwhile, board treasurer **Bob Russell** rides off into the sunset after serving two 3-year terms for Salmon Valley Stewardship. We don't want to advertise his qualities too much,

but let's just say we owe Bob a debt of gratitude for his thoughtful and generous leadership style. Thank you, Bob, and thanks to all these volunteers who are the heart and soul of our organization!

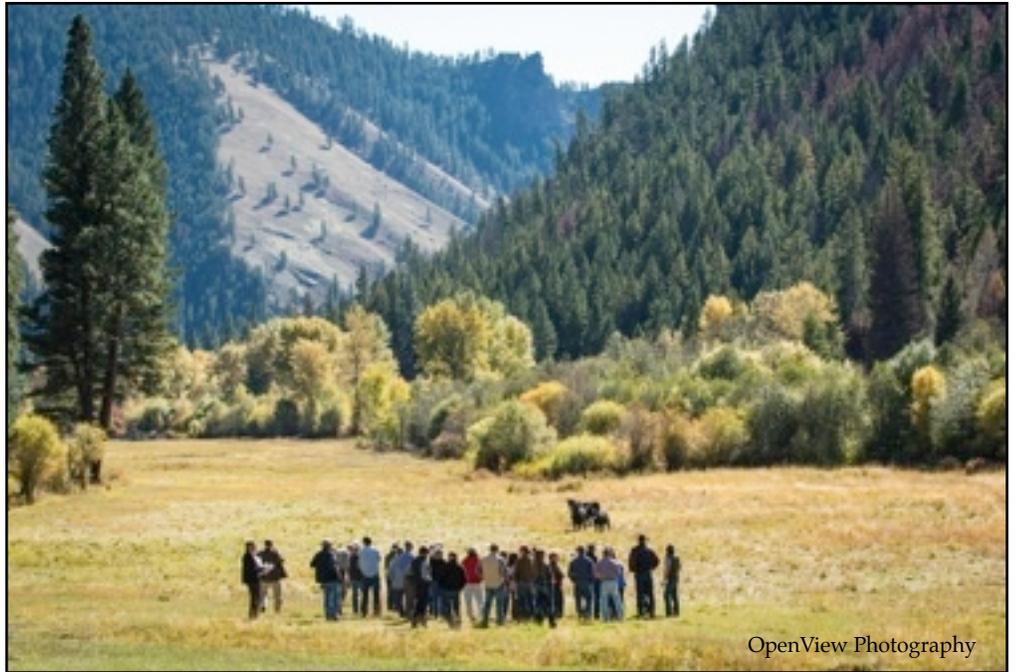


# Lemhi County Showcased for Regional Conservation Leaders

More than 65 leaders from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and as far away as Maryland, spent three days in Salmon to discuss how to achieve maximum results in conservation. The workshop, sponsored by The Blackfoot Challenge of Montana's Blackfoot Valley and hosted by local organizations Salmon Valley Stewardship and Lemhi Regional Land Trust, used Lemhi County successes as a backdrop for deeper discussion.

The workshop was a follow-up of a similar convening held in Seeley Lake, Montana in October 2012.

Lynn Scarlett, who served as Deputy Secretary of the Interior from 2005 to 2009 and recently became The Nature Conservancy's Director of Public Policy, provided the keynote address at the Sacajawea Center.



Workshop attendees started their Hughes Creek tour at the picturesque Cerise Pasture.



Idaho Fish and Game biologist Jeff DiLucia and Rancher Merrill Beyeler talk about finding common ground at Timber Creek, a tributary of the Lemhi River, near Leadore.

Scarlett emphasized that the united voices of landowners, conservation groups, community leaders, and agency personnel have changed public lands policy dramatically. SVS Forest Restoration Specialist Michelle Tucker led a field tour in the Hughes Creek area that focused on carefully designing a hazardous fuels reduction project to enhance community benefits, like jobs and wildfire protection.

Lemhi Regional Land Trust director Kristin Troy brought the group to Merrill Beyeler's ranch operation in Leadore. Beyeler explained how he has worked with federal land managers to change practices that benefitted his family's bottom line while providing impressive environmental results.

Troy said, "It was a pleasure to have our colleagues make the trip to Salmon and use some of our successes as a springboard for discussing what many communities may be able to accomplish collectively in the future. Rural people need to know that they are not alone in facing the challenges of staying viable and relevant."



Results-Oriented Conservation Class of 2013

*Wed, November 13 - 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!).*

### *The AppleFest Pie Queens of 2013*

*Congratulations to AppleFest pie contest champs Kathy Sundberg, Berniece Benedict, and Shanda Fitte, who brought home the gold, silver, and bronze, respectively. Nice baking, ladies!*



FALL 2013

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