

Conserve

News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust and Salmon Valley Stewardship

A Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2015



The Lemhi River and Big Springs Creek converge on the Tyler Ranch in Leadore.



Lemhi Landowners Continue to Step Up

An historic agreement signed July 22nd by a Lemhi Valley rancher and state and federal agencies will conserve working ranch lands and protect critical spawning habitat for threatened salmon and steelhead populations.

The conservation easement permanently safeguards more than 20 miles of river and streamside habitat in the upper Lemhi River basin. This represents more than half the salmon and steelhead spawning habitat in the Lemhi Basin and is also important habitat for wildlife such as deer and elk.

“Growing up in Lemhi County, I developed a great appreciation for the land and the people who work it,” said landowner Karl Tyler, an Idaho native who splits time between his ranch near Leadore and a home in Missoula. “I’m proud to be able to make sure a portion of the Lemhi Valley maintains its rural character and to protect the qualities – including the fish and wildlife – that make it a special place.”

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Donna and Karl Tyler with Zip.

My Favorite Time of Year

If you've never been to an SVS Harvest Celebration, here's what you are missing:

- **The beauty and creativity of fresh, locally produced and prepared food.** It's harder than it sounds. We're at the mercy of nature. Will the apples be ready to pick, will the tomatoes ripen before the first frost, will the hens go on strike again? Eating locally is absolutely the right thing to do, but also challenging!

- **Silent Auction experiences that last.** I've gotten cards from people who "won" birdwatching excursions that they'll never forget, photos of friends gathered at their pre-ski breakfast, a homesick native wrapped in a Lemhi County quilt. The generosity of the



donors and the bidders is unbelievable.

- **The chance to celebrate community.** Every year, I have bad dreams that no one will come, and every year toward the end of the night, I look out on a crowd that makes my heart swell with pride and admiration. The people who come to the Harvest

Celebration seem to share a belief in a positive future for Salmon. Better yet, most of them are working to make that belief a reality.

So get a ticket yourself, give a pair to someone you know needs a good dose of fun, tell your friends not to miss out. Friday, September 25. See you there. -- GK

Working Lands Celebration is a Success! (and Kind of Fun, Too)

Lemhi Regional Land Trust celebrated 10 years of private lands conservation on July 30th at the Sacajawea Center.

Nearly \$14,000 was raised that evening with approximately 225 people in attendance. The highest selling item was seven days of hunting access on the Little Eight Mile Ranch at Leadore donated by Karl and Donna Tyler, which sold to Mark Norem of Big Timber, Montana.

Another donation that drew lots of attention was a fully restored 1959 wooden sea coaster sport boat donated by Darrell Bidstrup. Valerie and Verdell Olson's pulled pork and Jen Snyder's band delivered once again in the crowd pleasing department. Sponsors for the event included Summit National Bank, Mark Norem Real Estate, Odd Fellows' Bakery, and the Junkyard Bistro.

Thanks to everyone who donated items, attended, volunteered their time to make and serve food, decorated, did crafts with kids, and the list goes on. This is truly a community supported land trust!



**Lemhi Landowners --
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The conservation easement covers 4,682 acres of streamside and upland habitat owned by Tyler. It encompasses both sides of 11 miles of the Lemhi River, six miles of Big Springs Creek and four miles of other tributaries. These streams provide critical salmon spawning habitat in the Lemhi Basin, while also providing clean water for irrigation, sport fishing and other downstream uses.

Under the conservation easement, the land will remain in Tyler's ownership and traditional land uses will remain intact, but Tyler's sale of the ranch's development rights will protect the land from subdivision or other development in perpetuity.

"This is truly a win-win for everyone involved," said Kristin Troy, executive director of the Lemhi Regional Land Trust, which facilitated the agreement. "It preserves the Lemhi Valley's tradition of wide open land and cattle operations and will help achieve broader goals of protecting our valuable salmon and steelhead."

Funding for the agreement was provided by the Bonneville Power Administration and Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation. Both agencies used funding pools set aside for salmon recovery to secure the easement with Tyler.



Front row seat at branding time at the Tyler Ranch. Photo by Ilona McCarty

"This is a significant and historic agreement that all of the region can be proud of," said Lorri Bodi, BPA's vice president of Environment, Fish and Wildlife. "BPA and its partners

have been working in the Lemhi for years to restore habitat. This agreement helps consolidate that progress. It's a testament to the strength of partnerships and a demonstration of what we can accomplish by working together."



Kristine Tyler brings a calf in for branding. Photo by Ilona McCarty

The Idaho Office of Species Conservation said intact, healthy streams and banks such as those on Tyler's ranch have a disproportionate benefit for wildlife habitat, particularly in arid eastern Idaho.

"This agreement is an investment with multiple benefits that will pay off for generations," said Mike Edmondson of the Idaho Office of Species Conservation. "It protects a working Idaho landscape and it aids in the recovery of threatened salmon and steelhead – a perfect example of agriculture and the natural environment in harmony."

HELP WANTED

Lemhi Regional Land Trust has an opening for a full time Land Protection Coordinator. The position will primarily be responsible for working with rural landowners in developing and managing permanent land protection projects. This includes grant writing in support of conservation projects as well as easement negotiation and acquisition. As an ambassador for Lemhi Regional Land Trust, the Land Protection Coordinator will promote and maintain positive relationships with landowners, public agencies, conservation organizations, local governments, foundations and private donors. Applications are being accepted through Sept. 18. For more information, go to <http://www.lemhilandtrust.org/>



Sage Grouse Nest Success -- Mostly. (Jenny Gonyer Photo)

SVS Moves Into Year Two of Successful Local Foods Americorps Program

Mindy McFarland moved to Salmon from Boise last January with her fiance Dan and dog Archer. She said they "felt ready for a change of pace, a better quality of life, we were ready for chickens." Mindy's background in public relations and non-profit management combined with her passion for local foods is proving to be a winning combination.

Marii Stratter is originally from Estonia. She and husband Jeff moved here a few weeks ago from Los Angeles, an experience she describes as "like stepping back in time -- in a good way." Marii's decision to come to Salmon to work on local foods issues centered on her realization "that that the time has come for me to go on and dive into what has taken up a lot of my free time in the past years - trying to find better ways for us, humans, to live on Earth."



Mindy McFarland



Marii Stratter

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