

Conserve

News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust and Salmon Valley Stewardship

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2012

Learning from the Klamath Basin

Kristin Troy, Director
Lemhi Regional Land Trust

When Lemhi Regional Land Trust (LRLT) partners at Sustainable Northwest offered to host a tour of the Klamath Basin for those of us working on endangered fish issues in the Upper Salmon region, we jumped at the opportunity to travel to this iconic landscape.

We were to meet with landowners, agricultural organizations, fisheries managers, tribal leadership and agency personnel who had for over a decade been augured in one of the most epic water wars of our time. Homework for the trip included news articles and a summary document outlining the terms of the 2010 Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement.

But nothing could prepare us for this trip. The raw emotion and steely



(Back row L to R) Jude Trapani, Bureau of Land Management; Mike Edmondson, ID Office of Species Conservation; Don Olson, Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program; Jerry Myers, Trout Unlimited; (front row L to R) James Honey, Sustainable Northwest; Tom McFarland, Lemhi Regional Land Trust; Mark Davidson, The Nature Conservancy; Kristin Troy, Lemhi Regional Land Trust; David Mabe, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

resolve of our Klamath hosts held our attention as they described the layers of complexity of the near social, economic, and ecological unraveling of the Klamath Basin. Mental fatigue and anguish were evident on all sides. Everyone litigated, nobody won. When the federal government stepped in, the divide deepened. Politicians eventually challenged Basin

residents to solve their own issues.

Finally, there was nowhere left to turn but to each other. First steps? All community leaders had the same advice: respect and trust one another. Find common ground and values, they told us, and you can find compromise and solutions that work.

To be sure, there have been no easy answers in the Klamath Basin, but representatives of 45 organizations including Federal agencies, California and Oregon, Indian tribes, counties, irrigators and conservation and fishing groups have agreed to a comprehensive solution for the Klamath Basin. On February 18, 2010, most of the participants in

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Becky Hyde of the Yainix Ranch and Danette Watson, Upper Klamath Water Users Assoc. Coordinator talk about water use, ranching economy, and private land fisheries restoration.



Beekeeper Dan Mudd, courtesy of Open View Photography

Vanishing of the Bees?

Salmon Valley Stewardship sponsored a screening of the documentary *Vanishing of the Bees* on April 20. Bringing the movie to Salmon was the idea of longtime local beekeeper Dan Mudd, who has for most of his 30+ years in the business sought opportunities to teach all ages about the fascinating habits of his workforce -- honey bees.

The documentary focused on the frightening international phenomenon of colony collapse disorder. In the film, the massive and sudden bee disappearances were correlated to the rise of pesticides and the migratory practices of large pollinating companies.

After the movie, Dan spoke about his experience and findings in Lemhi County. He observed that even though his bees forage in areas where pesticides are not heavily used and he and his wife Lisa don't take the hives out of the area, they too have suffered some losses.

Audience members agreed that Lemhi County would be a great study site given our remote and mostly pristine conditions. In the meantime, local residents can do their part to avoid a vanishing of the bees by finding alternatives to using pesticides in your home and garden, and planting bee-friendly plants.

Backyard Agriculture Classes a Hit

Last spring, members of the Salmon Local Foods group created an action plan to start addressing what they saw as a fragile local food network, in other words, an overdependence on food grown outside the area and trucked into the county.

Rachel Layman, the Lemhi County Farmers Market Manager, said Lemhi County hasn't always been at the mercy of imported food. "In bygone decades, Lemhi County not only grew a diverse array of produce in an industrial capacity, but also boasted an impressive local dairy infrastructure. In recent years, we have somewhat lost sight of this heritage. This has been most evident in the relative shortage of local food products that have been available in the debut seasons of Lemhi County Farmers Market. However, since the inception of the Farmers Market, the interest in sourcing our meals locally has grown. Local food production does appear to be on the rise as resident growers and producers are bearing witness to the economic opportunity of this burgeoning local foods niche."

Salmon Local Foods members decided a first step had to be rebuilding knowledge about how to grow our own food. The 2012 Backyard Agriculture workshop series emerged in response to the challenge.

To date, the group has sponsored five workshops: Planting Your Garden, Extending the Growing Season, Fruit Tree Basics, Backyard Chickens, and Composting 101. Next up:

- Greenhouse Basics, with Willie Mundy and Tawna Skinner, Wednesday, May 16, 6 - 8 p.m. at the Sacajawea Center (hands-on session so dress for the occasion)
- Artisan Cheesemaking, Wednesday, June 6, 6 - 8 p.m. at The Kitchen, 710 Union Ave. (seats are limited for this class so please call 756-1686 and reserve a spot).

The cost of the classes are \$10 each and scholarships are available.



More than 40 people attended Tawna Skinner's Planting Your Garden class in January. The audience at all the classes have represented residents young and old, new to the area and multi-generational families, men and women.

The Far Out Almanac

Tales from the Rural West

www.faroutalmanac.wordpress.com



Open Saturdays
from
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Town Square
Park

June 2 - October 6

Questions? Call 756-1686



Dozens of people showed up to show some stewardship of Discovery Hill on a lovely Earth Day, April 21. All ages chipped in to clean up litter, create water bars on some of the singletrack, and repair areas damaged when an off-road user decided to go cross-country through the mud. Many hands made light work. Thanks to everyone and especially to the BLM for a tasty lunch!

Fact or Fiction?

Fact or Fiction? Placing a conservation easement on a piece of land opens the property up to allow for public access.

FICTION. Lands placed under conservation easements remain privately owned and as such, public access is not automatically granted. The decision to grant public access remains at the discretion of the landowner.

Fact or Fiction? LRLT staff can visit conservation easement properties whenever they want.

FICTION. Conservation easements allow LRLT

representatives to enter the property on limited occasions to inspect the land to ensure the terms of the easement are being met. Landowners are notified in advanced of the visit.

Fact or Fiction? I can grant a conservation easement over only a portion of my land.

FACT. Conservation easements can be designed to encompass only a portion of your land. Additionally, the conservation easement can include provisions allowing for future building sites within the encumbered property.

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the Klamath settlement process signed the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement. The two agreements in their entirety -- all 579 pages of them -- represent years of heartache and triumph of the human spirit.

Those of us on the trip stood in awe of their lessons learned and thought more deeply about what we have. Some of the folks we met in the Klamath want to visit the Upper Salmon as they are interested in the innovative practices and collaborative approaches we (as a basin) apply to our natural resource issues. My hope is they will be heartened by their trip to Central Idaho because respect here is still alive and well.

If you are interested in a presentation about the Klamath trip, please call me at 756-8879.



LRLT monitors The Cole Ranch's conservation easement.

Meet Us for Lunch!

Salmon Valley Stewardship and Lemhi Regional Land Trust invite you to the first of what we hope is a long run of casual luncheons.

SVS and LRLT will provide soup and snacks, brief updates of our work, share upcoming opportunities for fun and pitching in, and listen to your ideas.

*When: Wed, May 23,
Noon - 1 p.m.*

Where: OddFellows Hall

Cost: Nada, Zero, \$0



Congratulations to Dale Ford (photo above) and Kathleen Brown for top amateur honors and Jerry Slagle for professional division of this year's Fading Gold Aspen Photo Contest. Thanks to all the entrants!

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