

Conserve

News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust and Salmon Valley Stewardship

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2014

Baling Twine and Fishing Line Recycling Programs Target Deadly Threat to Fish and Wildlife

By Gina Knudson, SVS

When Beth Waterbury, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game's wildlife diversity biologist, and longtime SVS board member and wildlife biologist Toni Ruth first talked to me about the dire need to do something about baling twine and fishing line creating havoc for wildlife, I believed them. But I honestly had no idea how widespread and serious the problem was in our valley.

Just a few days ago, the two helped untangle an osprey whose talons were bound tight with twine. Beth and Toni assure me that the only unusual thing about this situation is that they were able to save the bird. Baling twine is an unfortunately attractive nest building material for birds of prey like osprey. The results

can be deadly for adult birds and their young.

Without the rescue effort, Waterbury said the osprey was "doomed."

Aside from baling twine, monofilament line left behind by anglers poses yet another opportunity to entangle fish, birds, and other wildlife.

Recycling options are now available for both baling twine and monofilament line.

Here are a few simple things we can do to make a big difference for our fish and wildlife neighbors:

Baling Twine

- ★ Pick up baling twine in fields and on fence posts.
- ★ Store used twine safely out of reach of ospreys.
- ★ Recycle used, dirt-free baling twine at either Millcreek Recycling (756-1886), 76 Highway 93 North in Salmon or by arranging to have Soderquist Farms of Terreton pick up full bins of twine. Call 208-663-4894.

Monofilament Line

- ★ IDFG is working to place recycling containers for fishing line at popular recreation sites throughout the Upper Salmon Area.
- ★ The first containers will be installed at Kid's Creek Park, the Lemhi Hole, and Island Park.
- ★ We'll be looking for



The recent osprey rescue near Kid's Creek in Salmon required capturing the female, whose legs and feet were bound by baling twine. Rob Domenech, Adam Shreading and Tyler Veto from the Raptor View Research Institute came all the way from Missoula to assist with the effort. Jim Leadbetter of Salmon provided crucial assistance with his bucket truck. (IDFG photo)



On June 2, rescuers help release this female osprey's legs and feet, completely bound by baling twine. (IDFG photo)

volunteers to help install containers and make sure they get emptied on a periodic basis.

- ★ Whatever you do, don't toss fishing line on the bank where it can make its way into our rivers and streams, in bird nests, or wrapped around wildlife!

SVS and Lemhi Regional Land Trust are proud to be partners in this worthwhile initiative. Please watch for more information about this program. If you, your company or organization would like to volunteer for this effort, please email Waterbury at beth.waterbury@idfg.idaho.gov.

The People Report: Salmon Valley Stewardship

Salmon Valley Stewardship bids goodbye and a big THANK YOU to retired board members **Dave Ellis** and **Sadie Grasser**.



Dave Ellis at his Beaverhead Peaks Ranch



Sadie Grasser at last year's Apple Fest, her signature event to support the Idaho Heritage Tree Project

Dave completed 6 years of board service and will continue working on sage grouse issues and with the Central Idaho Rangeland Network.

Sadie served on the SVS board for a 3-year term and promises to stay active in the local foods movement.

Joining the board is veteran wildlife manager and avid fisherman **Bob Price**.



Bob Price is a welcome addition to SVS.



Toni Ruth standing on the border between Chile and Argentina.

SVS treasurer **Toni Ruth** recently returned from a trip to Valle Chacabucco, in southern Chile (within the Andes mountain system) to review a research program for Conservacion Patagonica.

Aside from being an awesome board member, Toni's other talent is as a widely respected wildlife biologist with a bent toward felines. Toni went to South America with Panthera, an international program working to save cats).

"Panthera's research program focuses on understanding the impact of predation and removal of 25,000 sheep and 5,000 cattle to endangered huemul (pronounced

"hwy mule") deer as they transition the property from a long-term *Estancia* (or ranch) and create a new national park -- Parque Patagonia," Toni explained.

"The area is almost at the same latitude as we are, but directly opposite on the globe. I was there at the end of April which was the beginning of their winter."

Other endangered species Toni encountered included viscacha (a rodent) and lesser rhea (a flightless bird). "I saw 5 lesser rhea at one time, which is one-third of the population!" she reported.

A short hop it was not ... the trip took Toni 2 days to get there and 45 hours to get back to Missoula!



SVS, LRLT, and the Central Idaho Rangelands Network will be working with both the BLM and the Forest Service to conduct range monitoring on grazing allotments. Pictured from left to right are Darby Linares-Gebauer (U of Idaho), Seth McFarland (SVS), Hunter Foss (SVS), Andrew Grenier (SVS), Craig Woodruff (Upper Salmon Watershed Project), Jenny Gonyer (SVS), Anna Foust (SVS and LRLT's US Fish and Wildlife Service's college intern), and Michelle Tucker (SVS).

The People Report: Lemhi Regional Land Trust

Nonprofit organizations depend upon a volunteer board of directors to govern the organization and maintain accountability with the community, funders, and supporters.

Lemhi Regional Land Trust



Richard Smith



Carol Yerden

owes a debt of thanks to retiring board members **Richard Smith** and **Carol Yerden**.

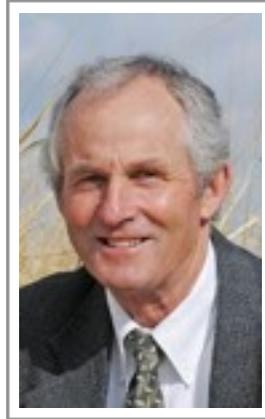
Joining the LRLT crew is **Bob Russell**. Bob is a veteran nonprofit board member. He was on the SVS



Bob and Nancy Russell

board of directors until 2013, and he currently serves on the Lemhi County Historical Society board and is the Chair of the Idaho Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee. Welcome aboard the Land Trust bus, Bob!

Meanwhile, **Merrill Beyeler** was elected as LRLT's new chairman and won his primary bid to be an Idaho legislator in the same night!



Merrill Beyeler

Tom McFarland, who has served as LRLT's chairman since 2007, remains on the board.

LRLT Executive Director **Kristin Troy** was a featured presenter at a recent real estate



continuing education course in Salmon. The class, titled "Understanding and Marketing Properties with Conservation Easements," drew real estate professionals from Stanley, Mackay, Challis, Salmon, Idaho Falls, and Pocatello.

"This was a great opportunity to provide area real estate professionals with a first hand look at the work we do," Troy said.

LRLT board members **Merrill Beyeler** and **Tom McFarland** also attended the workshop put on by Salmon Valley Stewardship, offering their perspective as landowners with conservation easements on their properties.

SAVE THE DATE!

Lemhi Regional Land Trust's
Annual Working Lands Celebration
Thursday, July 31st

Open View Photography
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Got Solar?

Congratulations and thank you to Jody Brostrom (house pictured on left) and Bill and Gail Baer (house pictured at right) of Salmon! These two households converted to solar power in June. Matt Spencer of Solartek managed the projects and we're excited about what we're hoping is the beginning of Salmon Valley's bright and renewable energy future.

What Would Tawna Do?

If you haven't checked out our on-the-ground gardening blog with expert gardener Tawna Skinner, you are missing out! Visit the blog at our website: salmonvalley.org



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