

Conserve

News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust and Salmon Valley Stewardship

A Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2012

Salmon's Municipal Watershed: Tackling the Big Questions

The importance of Salmon's Municipal Watershed -- and its vulnerability -- has been a topic of discussion for nearly as long as Salmon has used water from the four drainages that make up the watershed: Chipps, Pollard, Turner, and Jesse.

This year, the Salmon-Challis National Forest and the Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group started working collaboratively on a potential fuels reduction/forest restoration project in the watershed.

That decision took 6 years to make because of the physical and social challenges inherent in the watershed.

We're in the information gathering stage. In June, members of the public and the collaborative visited the City of Salmon's Water Treatment Plant and toured the water



In July, members of the Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group, partners at Salmon-Challis National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management, and the public hiked down the Leesburg Road from top to bottom. Another hike through some of the project is being targeted for September.

works where Jesse and Pollard Creeks enter the system.

certain kinds of fuel treatments would be in the area.



Tom Gonnoud, Fire Manager for the forest's north zone, explained the rugged terrain and lack of safety zones would make it difficult to get firefighters to a blaze in the watershed.

Then in July, we did a knee-grinding, full-day hike from the Ridge Road all the way down the Leesburg Road. We got a chance to look at the area from the perspective of a wildland firefighter, a wildlife biologist, a City Council member, an archaeologist, and more.

Bill Baer of the Bureau of Land Management shared his study that uses modeling to predict how effective

The collaborative approach works when people take the time to learn about as many facets of the landscape as possible. And in this project especially, one of those facets is people. Residents of Salmon depend upon these drainages for a clean, safe source of water.

We can add you to a list of people who get notified when we have an event, a meeting, or are sharing documents about the Salmon Municipal Watershed project. Just call the SVS office at 756-1686 or email us at salmonvalley@centurytel.net.

All of the collaborative meetings are open to the public and we welcome your participation.



Breann Westfall and Kristin Troy were heading out Highway 28 when they spotted this sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) family. Cranes build nests on the ground in Idaho from late April to mid July. They will typically have 2 eggs and both parents will incubate them for about a month. The young usually fly at about 2 months, and remain with their parents until the following year. (Photo: Breann Westfall).



Merrill Beyeler explains the benefits of re-connecting streams to the Lemhi River, not only for fish, but for the bottom line of Leadore's Beyeler Ranches. Also pictured: Faith Ryan, Salmon-Challis National Forest Range Program Manager; Laurel Sayer, Natural Resource Director for Congressman Mike Simpson; Harv Forsgren, Intermountain Region Forester; and Mike Stevens, Pioneer Mountain Group.

Save the Date!

LRLT and SVS's annual fundraisers are not just a blast -- they are critical to getting our important conservation projects done. Please mark your calendars for the following dates and watch for more information soon:

- * **LRLT Working Lands Celebration**
Hosted by Eagle Valley Ranch
Friday, September 7 @ 5 p.m.
Featuring: tour, kids' activities, live music, silent and live auctions and updates on LRLT projects.
RSVPs are appreciated but not required. To RSVP or donate an item to the auctions, contact Charli at charli@lemhilandtrust.org or 756-8879.



- * **SVS Fall Harvest Celebration**
Saturday, September 29
(Tickets go on sale soon!)

Ranchers Making a Case for Conservation

On August 1, members of the Central Idaho Rangelands Network met in Leadore to tour parts of the Beyeler Ranches private land and public land grazing allotments. The Network, with members from Carey, Arco, Pahsimeroi, Leadore, and Salmon, includes a landscape of more than 1.5 million acres. All of the members have made long-term commitments to conservation on their private property -- giving back to the land -- and the group hopes to work with agencies to address conservation needs on public lands.

Regional Forester Harv Forsgren explained his enthusiasm for efforts such as the Central Idaho Rangelands Network. "Approximately 70 percent of the 34 million acres within the Intermountain Region are part of permitted livestock grazing allotments so this is a subject of great interest to me," Forsgren told the group.



Salmon-Challis National Forest Range Program Manager Faith Ryan and Central Idaho Rangelands Network member Tom McFarland of Carmen discuss range monitoring at an allotment on National Forest land used by Beyeler Ranches near Leadore.

Doing the Heavy Lifting



Matt Hall of Carmen just completed his third summer on Salmon Valley Stewardship's monitoring crew.

SVS bid a reluctant farewell to intern Matt Hall as he headed back to Bozeman for his sophomore year at Montana State where he is studying engineering.

When you hear questions about how prepared Salmon High School students are, or how motivated youth in general are -- come talk to us about Matt. Although the photo above might make it seem like we used him to pack around heavy rocks (and we did), he also is a key member of our monitoring team.

One of the notable differences about the Hughes Creek forest project was the collaborative's commitment to independently monitoring the ecological effects of commercial and non-commercial logging and other activities associated with the project. Matt now knows by heart many of the trees, weeds, logjams, and roads in the Hughes and Ditch Creek areas.

He also inventoried aspen stands on BLM lands, providing the agency valuable information about the vigor or decline of this important tree species.

Best of luck and thanks to Matt!

The Path to Accreditation

In early 2012, Lemhi Regional Land Trust completed a process called "Assessing Your Organization," a guided organizational assessment evaluating LRLT policies and procedures against the Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices.

One of the many outcomes of this process was the decision to pursue becoming an accredited land trust. An independent program of the Land Trust Alliance established in 2006, accreditation is a voluntary process recognizing land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards

for protecting working lands and natural places in perpetuity.

This in depth, multi-step process will evaluate LRLT's compliance with specific accreditation indicators with the Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices. LRLT is one of over 60 land trusts scheduled to apply for accreditation in 2013.

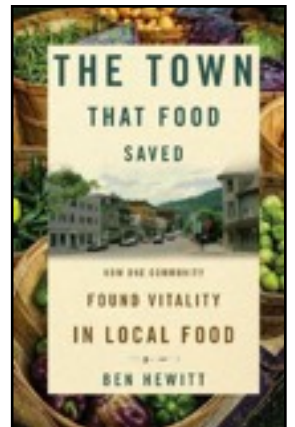
Despite the deadline being over a year away, LRLT has already begun to prepare for the application process by reviewing our policies and procedures and making updates as necessary.

Look for updates as we continue on the path of accreditation.

Great Reads

Jo (Myers) and Michael Philpott have been inspiring people at the Lemhi County Farmers Market all summer with their artisan goat cheeses and fresh milk.

In turn, Jo says she was inspired by Ben Hewitt's book about Hardwick, Vermont -- a town of a little more than 3,000 people that undergoes an "agripreneurial" transformation. In *The Town That*



Food Saved, Hewitt explores the contradictions inherent to producing high-end "artisanal" food products in a working class community.

Let us know what you thought of the book. Tell us on Facebook or just drop us a line at salmonvalley@centurytel.net.



Jo and Michael Philpott of 45 Degrees North Farm sell goat cheese and fresh milk at the Lemhi County Farmers Market every Saturday. Photo by Rachel Layman.

Meet Us for Lunch!

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

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

*When: Wed, Aug 22,
Noon - 1 p.m.*

Where: OddFellows Hall

Cost: Nada, Zero, \$0



Thanks to Elizabeth Ritan for this photo of a great blue heron (ardea herodius).



Summer 2012

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