

# Conserve

News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust and Salmon Valley Stewardship

A Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2014

## Upper North Fork Ecosystem Restoration Project Hits Major Milestone

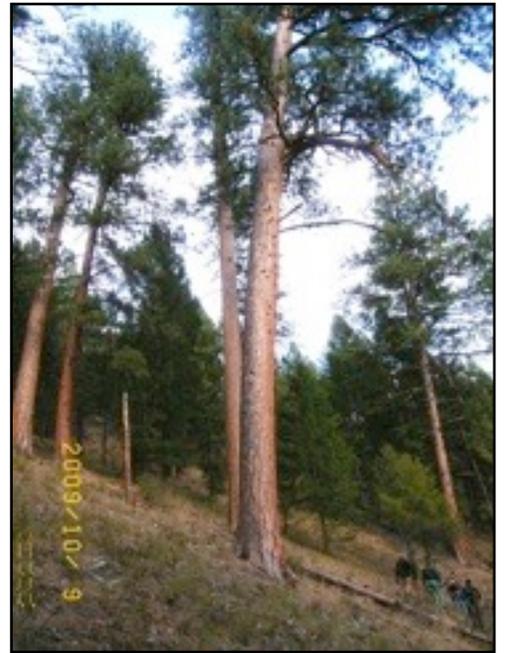
Regional Forester Nora Rasure is set to sign the Upper North Fork Ecosystem Restoration Record of Decision after no objections were filed during the objection period.

Upper North Fork was the Lemhi Forest Restoration Group's second collaboratively designed project. The group began discussing the 40,000-acre project in 2008 and worked diligently on project design from 2009 - 2011.

The Forest Service has been working on environmental analysis of the project as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Nationwide, many Forest Service proposals draw fire from critics during this phase, a factor that sometimes permanently delays project implementation.

Collaborative members wrestled with a wide variety of concerns early on in the planning stage of Upper North Fork, and provided constructive feedback throughout the project's public comment periods.

The time collaborative members took to help shape and guide the proposal and the Salmon-Challis National Forest's ongoing commitment to making sure the group's shared goals are met may mean workers can hit the ground by spring of next year.



Lemhi Forest Restoration Group members made recommendations to the Forest Service based on many field trips to the project area.



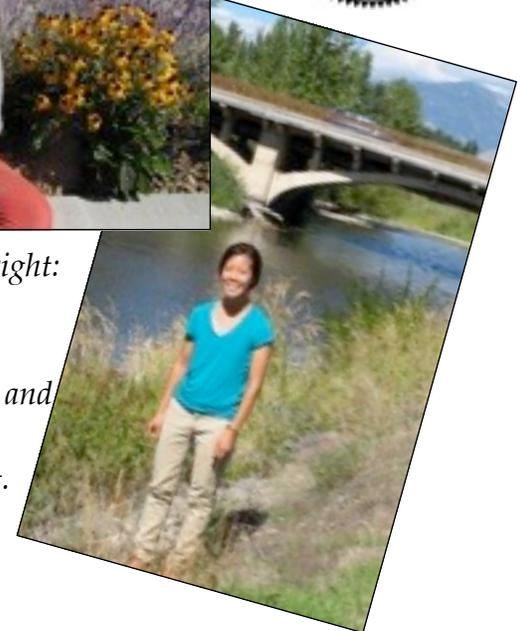
Upper North Fork encompasses the area between Lost Trail Pass and Hughes Creek.

## Salmon Local Foods Enters New Era of Action

SVS is excited to announce that a crew of three people are now dedicated full-time to strengthening our local food network and addressing food insecurity issues.

This amazing influx of people power is made possible thanks to the VISTA Volunteer program.

Over the next 12 months, Suzy Avey, Natalie Hughes, and Linda Cung will be working with the Salmon Local Foods group to enhance the community gleaning project, provide support to food producers, retailers and restaurants, and help our residents become more self sufficient and healthy when it comes to food.



From left to right:  
Suzy Avey,  
Natalie  
Hughes, and  
Linda  
Cung.

Welcome to Salmon!

# LRLT Granted National Accreditation

Over two years ago, Lemhi Regional Land Trust made the decision to take the plunge and apply to become an accredited land trust. In late August, LRLT received the long awaited phone call that we have been awarded accreditation and are able to join the ranks of 280 other accredited land trusts around the U.S.!

“The seal of accreditation is a way to prove to their communities that land trusts are worthy of the significant public and private investment in land conservation,” noted Land Trust Alliance President Rand Wentworth.

LRLT Executive Director Kristin Troy noted, “This is recognition that we are operating at a national level of excellence.” She added, “Throughout the 18-month process, LRLT's Charli Williams made sure that all our *i*'s were dotted and *t*'s were crossed. She did a great job of navigating our road to accreditation.”

Williams said, “To me, accreditation means that we are laying a solid foundation for our future projects. It means that we're in this for the long haul and are holding ourselves to the highest standards possible.”

Land Trust Accreditation Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn said, “Accreditation provides the public with the assurance that accredited land trusts meet high standards for quality and that the results of their conservation work are permanent.” Read more at: <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/>



*A lofty view of the Land Trust's Working Lands Celebration at the Sacajawea Center.*

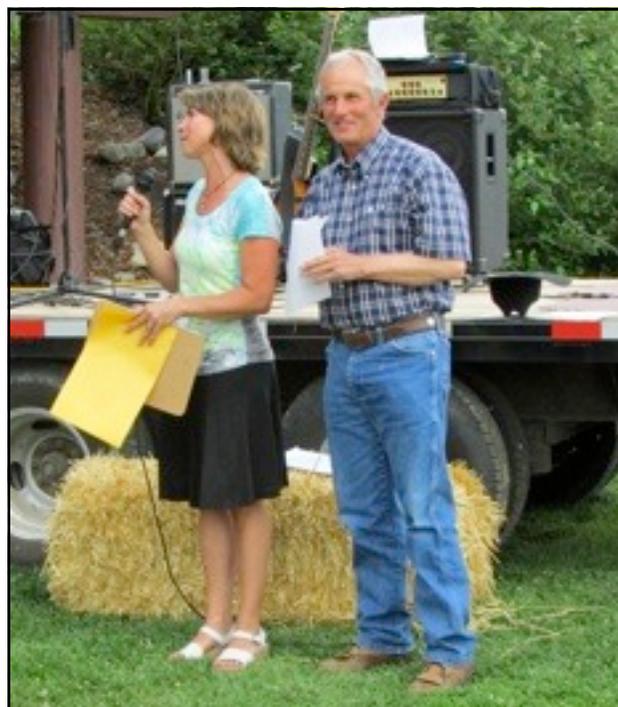
## Another Crowd Pleaser -- LRLT Picnic Time

Lemhi Regional Land Trust hosted our annual Working Lands Celebration on Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at the Sacajawea Center, which again proved to be the perfect venue for celebrating another year of private lands conservation.

The evening featured a whole roasted pig BBQ by Verdell & Valerie Olson, kids' activities, live music and a wide variety of auction items ranging from china tea sets to chainsaws and horses. With roughly 200 people in attendance, the evening was an enormous success.

We are incredibly excited to report that we broke another record and raised more than \$12,000 at the picnic, all thanks to the generosity of our community and our dedicated supporters.

The board and staff of LRLT extends our sincerest thanks to all those who attended, donated auction items and continue to support our work!



*Executive Director Kristin Troy and Board President Merrill Beyeler at LRLT's July 31 picnic.*



*LRLT/SVS Interns Anna Foust and Kristin Nesbit take a break from their hard work making the picnic happen!*



# 2L Trails: The Latest on the Lemhi County Feasibility Study



Trail next to Highway 93 in Montana's Bitterroot Valley.

Dozens of landowners in Lemhi County have been receiving letters asking them about their interest in seeing trails developed along the Salmon River and along Highway 93.

The letters are part of SVS and Lemhi Regional Land Trust's outreach efforts with landowners to determine the feasibility of linking

public lands and the community through a trail system. Landowner openness to exploring trail options is an essential part of SVS's feasibility study. Landowners along Highway 93 North and South, and along the Salmon River to the Morgan Bar campground are being asked for basic input about potential trail segments.

The study team is approaching this with a green light, yellow light, red light kind of indicator. Green light is when a landowner says, "I definitely want to see a trail happen

here," yellow light is "Tell me more, I might be interested under the right circumstances," and red light is "No way, no how would I ever want to see a trail here."

So far, SVS has heard from a number of landowners who say they've been hoping for a trail system for years.

"Landowner sentiment is going to drive the next steps of this study," explained SVS director Gina Knudson. "Those segments that have enthusiastic landowner support are going to be easier projects to construct in the long run, so this is key information for our county commissioners to have up front."

SVS is also looking for landowners or potential trail users who are willing to help gather responses for the survey.

## Wish SVS Happy 10th Birthday at the Harvest Celebration

Tickets are on sale now for the Sept. 27 SVS Harvest Celebration. Aside from this being *the* best way to celebrate this gorgeous time of year and a fantastic harvest season, we have a few insider tips on why you should join us:

- **The Kitchen** catering company turns Salmon's freshest local food into a tasting feast.
- **David Wood** on piano jazzes up any evening.
- SVS's famous **silent auction** lineup may be better than ever. If you've been as fascinated with Lemhi County's monarch migration as we have been, hold onto your shirts. If the Stream of Dreams project touched you like it did us, try to resist an incredible collaborative art piece that commemorates the project. Need hay? We've got hay and rumors of a brood mare as a door prize.

The event has been known to fill to capacity, so don't wait to buy your tickets.

Salmon Valley Stewardship's  
7th Annual  
**HARVEST CELEBRATION**  
Saturday, September 27  
AT THE SALMON ELK'S LODGE  
\* Local Foods \* Local Brews \* Live Music \* Silent Auction \*

Saturday, September 27 - 6:00 to 9:00 PM  
Buy tickets: [www.SalmonValley.org/tickets](http://www.SalmonValley.org/tickets)

- \* A delicious, locally sourced tasting menu
- \* Presentation of the 2014 David Krosting Sustainability Award
- \* Live piano music
- \* Creative silent auction items

Tickets: \$30/person \* Space is limited!

For more information  
208/756.1686 \* [info@SalmonValley.org](mailto:info@SalmonValley.org)

Celebrating 10  
Years of  
Service!

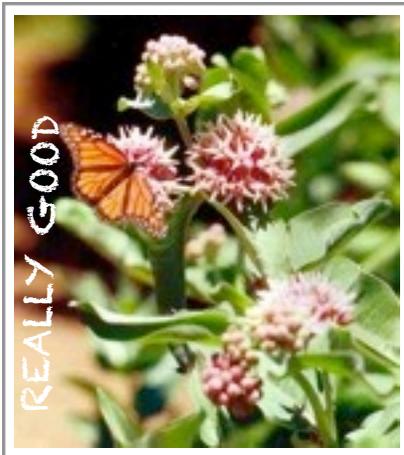
## Lemhi County plants most wanted list -- the good and the bad.

*Milkweed. Milkweed is manna for monarchs, and as such the often maligned plant is getting our nod for plant of the year. Idaho Fish and Game biologists Beth Waterbury and Toni Ruth have been inventorying milkweed and the presence of monarchs, an iconic butterfly that has experienced a tremendous population decline. Monarchs love milkweed, and so should you!*

*Not so popular with our judges is the dreaded puncturevine. If you grew up in an area where the so-called goat head thorns ruined bicycle tire after bicycle tire, you have probably enjoyed your respite from this nasty weed in Lemhi County. Well, beware! Puncturevine has made its way here and if you see this plant, pull it and tell the Lemhi County Weed Department where you found it.*



Showy Milkweed.



Milkweed with a monarch butterfly.



Puncturevine.

Summer 2014

Lemhi Regional Land Trust  
Salmon Valley Stewardship  
107 South Center Street  
Salmon, ID 83467

Name  
Address  
Salmon, ID 83467

## Visit Us Online!

Salmon Valley Stewardship

[www.salmonvalley.org](http://www.salmonvalley.org)

107 South Center Street

Salmon, ID 83467

208 / 756-1686



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