

# Conserve

*News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust and Salmon Valley Stewardship*

A Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2018

## A Growing Partnership: LRLT in the Garden

When Lemhi Regional Land Trust (LRLT) purchased the property that the Salmon School Garden Project (SSGP) calls home, we did so with the goal of supporting the SSGP and helping them build upon the successes they had already realized in their short tenure. As part of these efforts, LRLT has taken an active role in the SSGP's youth programming and in May teamed up with the University of Idaho's Lemhi County Extension Office to host the Pioneer Elementary first graders and Salmon Junior-Senior High School seventh and eighth graders in the Garden.

Through this partnership, first graders visited the Garden on two separate occasions, learning about the life cycle of the sunflower and planting sunflower seeds, then returning several weeks later to check on the progress of their sunflowers and to observe other changes in the Garden. Thanks to seventh and eighth grade science teacher, Leslie Deschaine, her students visited the Garden once a week for the entire month of May. Topics varied each week and included the water cycle with LRLT Stewardship Coordinator, Breann Green; straw bale gardens with UI Extension Educator, Shannon Williams; botany with LRLT Outreach Coordinator, Charli Williams and soils with Bebe Dodds from the University of Idaho's Nancy M. Cummings Research, Extension and Education Center. For the final week, students got to try their hand prepping and sampling different healthy snacks including chocolate hummus, roasted veggie dip, mini veggie pizzas and fruit dip.



*First graders plant sunflower seeds with LRLT Outreach Coordinator, Charli Williams.*



*Seventh graders plant their straw bale gardens.*



*Eighth graders try their hand at making roasted beet dip.*

# An Update from the 2L Trails Group

Since 2012, under the leadership of Salmon Valley Stewardship, the 2L Trails Group has been working to preserve and improve multi-modal access to public lands and the Salmon and Lemhi Rivers, as well as multi-modal travel within and between our rural communities. This group, comprised of trails advocates, federal land management agency staff, non-profit groups, and concerned citizens, has worked collaboratively to establish a vision, goals and objectives for a regional trail system; explore funding opportunities; discuss potential stakeholder resources, issues and concerns; and outline an action plan. To this end, the group has written and published trail books, prioritized trail work events within a 50-mile radius of Salmon, and strengthened partnerships where rifts once existed.

One of 2L Trails Group's biggest accomplishments to date is the successful advocacy for the construction of a 5-mile trail along Highway 93 from Salmon to the Shoup Bridge recreational site. This brand new trail will vastly improve safety of travel for folks who wish to ride bikes or walk along this route. 2L Trails members continue to work with partners to move this exciting project forward, with the ultimate goal of construction breaking ground in late 2019.

In addition to improving non-motorized transportation safety, 2L Trails also works on recreational trails projects in the area. In the recent past, various trail user groups pursuing trail maintenance activities in this region have been approaching a very large problem individually from separate approaches. This has created competition where cooperation would make much more sense and be much more efficient, and the group has been working to remedy this issue. In 2015, with leadership from 2L Trails partner, Youth Employment Program, the group initiated a Volunteer Trail Work Program designed to coordinate the efforts of individual trail user groups, resulting in a number of beneficial outcomes:

- Improvement of dozens of miles of public lands trails
- Creation of a coordinated work plan concentrated on series of trails important to all trail users - a more focused use of resources toward common goals
- Buy-in from a diversity of user groups willing to work together on trails that matter most to the broader community

The 2L Trails Group hopes to continue bringing a diversity of local voices together to achieve this vision of new and better-quality trails for everyone. Meetings are held every other month and are open to public participation. The group's next meeting will be Tuesday, September 11 at 5:30 pm at Summit Bank. Contact Rachel Layman ([rachel@salmonvalley.org](mailto:rachel@salmonvalley.org)) for more information.



The Highway 93 Trail from town to Shoup Bridge recreation site will greatly improve safety for folks who wish to travel the route on foot or by bicycle.



In August 2016, during 2L Trails' "Trailapalooza" Volunteer Trail Work Celebration, partners and a diversity of volunteers worked together to clear Twin Creeks Trail in the Salmon-Challis National Forest.



## Pollinator Pathways Phase II: The Pollinator Trailer

Pollinator Pathways Phase I focused on youth education and culminated in the mural on the Pioneer Elementary School fence. Phase II, initiated this summer, is designed to reach a broader audience and raise awareness for the plight of pollinators, specifically their habitat.

Funded by the Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative, the Pollinator Trailer features native plants that are crucial habitat for pollinator species, such as native bees and butterflies. The Trailer has been at the Lemhi County Farmer's Market and Lost Trail Music Festival showcasing these native plants and educating both adults and children about the importance of pollinators to our local food systems and ecology.

The project has been a success in two ways. First, we've reached a wide audience of citizens interested in how they can help pollinators at home (step one: don't pull native plants!). Second, our milkweed plants became hosts to monarch caterpillar, who devoured the plants as they moved through their lifecycle. We're so happy to see our trailer benefit people and pollinators alike!



The Pollinator Trailer (above) has been a frequent visitor to the Lemhi County Farmer's Market along with our two interns, Justin and Ethan

## Land and Water Conservation Fund Dollars at Work



The Dry Gulch Trailhead access site located on Williams Creek Road is dedicated to the memory of Roy Hoffman's father, Merle H. Hoffman. – Alex Sholes Photography



Left to Right: Merrill Beyeler, LRLT Chairman; Todd, Roy & Sharon Hoffman; Jim Roscoe, LRLT Land Protection Coordinator. – Alex Sholes Photography

Lemhi Regional Land Trust announced another exciting land conservation accomplishment at the annual Working Lands Celebration. Since 2013, LRLT has worked closely with the BLM Salmon Field Office and the High Divide Collaborative to develop and promote projects for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) support. These projects provide public access, protect valuable wildlife and fisheries habitat, and important community services. In fact, the Salmon City Pool was developed using LWCF funds. A top priority BLM project for 2017 was the purchase of a 20-acre parcel at the mouth of Dry Gulch where a public trailhead would be developed to divert some current public use and congestion away from the adjoining Henry Creek trailhead.

Landowners Roy and Sharon Hoffman had encouraged this project since they had purchased the property, and had patiently waited several years for it to happen. Unfortunately, federal budgets were delayed throughout 2017 with no certainty of when LWCF and BLM funding for the purchase would actually be available. Since LRLT was a project partner with BLM, LRLT decided to purchase the property, and then hold it to resell to BLM, and thus fulfill Roy and Sharon's dream. So LRLT formally bought the Dry Gulch property in January 2018, and at Roy's request, the property was dedicated to the memory of his father, Merle H. Hoffman. The purchase of this property by LRLT and ultimately by BLM, ensures permanent public recreational and livestock access through Dry Gulch, and on to adjoining public lands.

# SVS's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Celebration

Join us for our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Celebration. This year's event will be held at a new venue, Sweet Water Hollow, featuring the same amazing silent auction items and tasty local foods and drinks, but with the addition of live music! **Tickets are available on our website, at our office, or over the phone.** We will also be announcing the winner of our David Krosting Sustainability Award recognizing a group, business or individual who works towards improving our community, environment, and economy. To nominate a group, business, or individual for this award, please contact us and submit your nomination via email, snail mail, over the phone, or at our office by **August 30<sup>th</sup>**.



Both Salmon Valley Stewardship and the Lemhi Regional Land Trust rely on small donations from individual community members to build relationships and continue our work.

**Visit [SalmonValley.org](http://SalmonValley.org) or [LemhiLandTrust.org](http://LemhiLandTrust.org) or stop by our offices to donate. Thank you!**

## Support Our Work!

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