



LEMHI  
REGIONAL  
Land Trust

# Annual Report 2023




## Board Members


Bob Russell • Mike Overacker  
Ingrid Fulstone • Ace Hess  
Becca Aceto • Mike Dougherty  
Mike Kossler • Kyra Povirk

## Staff

Charli Williams • Katie Berasi  
Heidi Messner

## Stay in touch with us!

 (208) 756-8879

 105 S. Center Street  
Salmon, Idaho 83467

 [info@lemhilandtrust.org](mailto:info@lemhilandtrust.org)

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

 Lemhi Regional Land Trust

 [lemhilandtrust](https://www.instagram.com/lemhilandtrust)



The accreditation seal is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.

They say the only thing constant is change and that has certainly rung true for Lemhi Regional Land Trust over the past year. In the midst of all the change, one thing has remained constant: our commitment to conserving the very best pieces of Central Idaho. In 2005 four local ranchers formed LRLT out of concern about what would become of those special places: the working ranches, wildlife habitat and open spaces that fill our valleys and realizing that vision has only been possible thanks to the endless support of folks like you. People who cherish the very same things about Central Idaho as our founders.

With your support, we've permanently conserved 13,553 acres of private lands and we have another 4,700 acres worth of projects currently in progress. A not insignificant amount in a region dominated by public lands. We've protected properties that contribute to our local economy, provide some of the best fish and wildlife habitat you'll find anywhere and have the most stunning views you'll find anyplace.

With your help, in the coming year we can continue working towards conserving:

- Two multigenerational family ranches;
- Migration corridors and winter range for big game including elk, mule deer and white tailed deer;
- Over two miles of prime spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead; and
- Some of the best agricultural ground in Central Idaho

**But, we can't do it alone. It's the support from folks like you that keeps our lights on, our doors open and gives us the ability to pursue new projects. Please consider making a gift or signing up as a monthly donor TODAY!**

Happy Holidays,

The Board and Staff of Lemhi Regional Land Trust

# Dry Gulch Trailhead Transferred to BLM



Dry Gulch trailhead on Williams Lake Road

**2013:** Lemhi Regional Land Trust works with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Salmon Field Office and the High Divide Collaborative to develop and promote projects for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) support.

**2017:** The Dry Gulch parcel is identified as an acquisition priority for BLM to divert congestion and some public use from the adjoining Henry Creek trailhead.

**2018:** Due to funding delays, LRLT steps in and purchases the property from Roy and Sharon Hoffman.

**2018 - 2023:** LRLT holds the property while allowing for public recreational access and trailing of livestock to adjoining BLM lands.

**2023:** LRLT transfers ownership of property to BLM.

## Project Partners:

Bureau of Land Management - Salmon Field Office  
Roy and Sharon Hoffman

## Current Funding Sources

**Bonneville Power Administration:** Funds paid out for conservation and habitat projects to mitigate for the Lower Snake River dams.

**Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund:** Fund administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Division created by Congress in 2000 to fund projects designed to reverse the declines of Pacific salmon and steelhead.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Land Easement Program:** Funds projects designed to protect croplands and grasslands on working farms and ranches by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land.

**Keep It Connected:** Established by the Heart of the Rockies Initiative (HOTR), a network of 27 independent land trusts working in five western states and two providences, the Keep It Connected Program focuses on conserving private lands that provide connectivity for wildlife.

## What Are We Working On?

5

Active Conservation Easement Projects

4,700 Acres to be Protected

4

New Funding Applications Submitted

19

Landowner Inquires

17

Annual Monitoring Visits Completed

# Showcasing Fisheries and Conservation in Lemhi County

In April, Adam Hinterthuer, Director of Programs for the Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources (INJR), reached out to LRLT to organize a tour with journalists from around the country. INJR is a small non-profit dedicated to helping journalists tell stories about how people use natural resources. They take groups of journalists out into the field to see the places they write about and have the opportunity to meet the people involved. Fifteen journalists were selected and traveled to Salmon to explore issues around landscape connectivity and other topics that emerge when humans interact with their environment.

In the morning, the group gathered in the Lemhi County Historical Museum's River of No Return Exhibit where guest speakers led discussions about private landowners in conservation efforts, the importance of healthy fisheries, and aquatic connectivity to both fish and people who need them around for outdoor recreation and outfitting activities. Following the discussions, the group traveled to the fish screen at Lemhi Hole. Jeff DiLuccia explained to the group what a fish screen is and how they work. The tour ended at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Pine Creek Ranch habitat restoration project where Jeff shared with the group what the river was like before they started, where it's currently at, and what the final plan is going to be. It was a great opportunity for Lemhi County to be showcased and we are thankful we were able to be a part of it!



Tour participants viewing the Lemhi Hole fish screen.



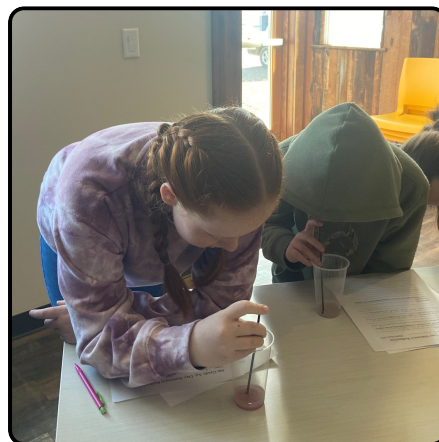
Jeff DiLuccia discussing habitat restoration efforts in the Upper Salmon Basin.

## Celebrating Agriculture Week

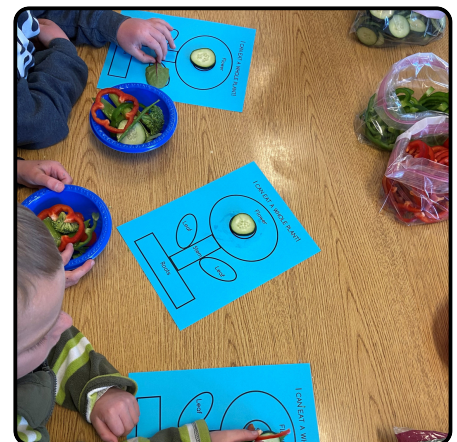
This year, under the coordination of the Lemhi County Extension Office, Lemhi Regional Land Trust teamed up with a variety of other organizations to offer educational programming to every school in the county as part of agriculture week. LRLT's presentations kicked off at Mountain Valley Farmstead in Carmen where Salmon Junior-Senior High sixth grade students were able to participate in a "feel lab". In this lab, they felt inside four different containers that simulated the compartments of a sheep's ruminant digestive system. The next field trip took place at the University of Idaho's Nancy M. Cummings Research, Extension and Education Center. Pioneer Elementary fifth grade and Fernwaters' fourth and fifth grades learned about DNA in the beef industry and were able to extract DNA from strawberries. The last of the events was visiting the Tendoy School and Pioneer Elementary first graders. These students learned different parts of a plant and were able to create a plant out of various vegetables to see that it is possible to eat all parts of a plant.



A sixth grade student feeling the inside of a container that simulates the abomasum compartment of a sheep's stomach.



Fifth grade students have extracted the DNA from strawberries and are trying to get it to stick to a straw.



Students at the Tendoy School constructing a plant out of vegetables to determine if they really can eat all the parts of a plant.

# Some New Faces & Some Familiar Faces

## Charli Williams - *Executive Director*



The seventh generation born into a southern Utah ranch family, Charli seized the opportunity returned to the valley her family has called home since 1999 and joined LRLT's staff in 2011 after receiving a bachelor degree in Agricultural Science, Communications and Leadership from the University of Idaho. Her first twelve years at LRLT were focused on financial management and communications, and in 2023 she moved into the role of Executive Director. As Executive Director she works closely with the Board of Directors and oversees all facets of LRLT's operations including the office, staff, budget, fundraising, conservation and stewardship programs. Charli is also a leader with the Lemhi County 4-H program, where she leads market beef, market lamb, breeding sheep and cooking projects and is the treasurer for the Lemhi County Junior Livestock Program.

## Katie Berasi - *Stewardship Coordinator*



While working on her bachelor degree in Biology with an emphasis in Ecology, Katie worked seasonally for LRLT from 2020 - 2022. After graduating from Boise State University, Katie decided she wanted to return to her hometown and joined LRLT as the new Stewardship Coordinator. Her duties including completing annual monitoring of LRLT's 13 conservation easements and four fee title properties, assisting with the Salmon School Garden, coordinating outreach and social media, and handling all of LRLT's GIS needs. Within the community, Katie is the head coach of the Salmon Hockey Girls U19 team and plays with the men's and women's adult leagues. She also owns and races a Wissota Street Stock car at Salmon Valley Speedway.

## Heidi Messner - *Conservation Coordinator*



Heidi grew up recreating in the mountains and working and playing on the rivers of Idaho, working on the Middle Fork and Main Salmon Rivers starting at the age of 14. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation Management from the University of Idaho, Heidi worked for multiple agencies as a Fisheries Technician and eventually moved back to her hometown of Salmon where she most recently worked as a Project Planner for the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program and Office of Species Conservation. At LRLT, Heidi will be spearheading our conservation easement and land acquisition projects. Outside of work, Heidi is a busy mother of two wild and adventurous boys, runs her own artwork business, Custom Fish Art by Heidi, is a ski patroller, and enjoys hunting, biking, and spending time in the outdoors with family and friends.

## Kyra Povirk - *Board Member*



Kyra and husband, Dave, came to Salmon from north central Wyoming in 2001. Her career in environmental consulting services took her across the West, Alaska, and Florida doing everything from invasive plant survey, sage grouse habitat assessment, archaeological surveys, vegetation mapping, fuel load assessment, fire management planning, gas field work, rangeland health assessment, and more. Kyra joined the Salmon BLM in 2009 as a rangeland management specialist and held the Salmon-Cobalt and Leadore District Ranger position from 2018 to 2022. She currently works for the Six Rivers National Forest remotely from Salmon. Kyra enjoys native plant gardening, spending time with family and entertaining dogs Lucile Ball and Rosie.

# Best of Luck, Breann!

First hired in 2009 as LRLT's first ever Stewardship Coordinator, Breann Green has worn many hats over the last 14 years at LRLT. She built our stewardship program from the ground up, assisted with the closing of ten conservation easements and three fee title properties and completed seven large scale habitat restoration projects. In late 2022, she stepped into the role of Conservation Manager. Over the past year, Breann has been instrumental in completing our Dry Gulch project, moving three in progress conservation easements forward and submitting three funding applications for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund dollars and one application for the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Agricultural Land Easement Program. Outside of her work at LRLT, Breann is also a dedicated community volunteer and has been deeply involved in the Salmon Whitewater Park Association, Pioneer Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and Lemhi Youth Baseball. This commitment to her hometown and community of Salmon has served her well in her years at LRLT and we have no doubt it will continue to do so in her new role as City Administrator at the City of Salmon. While the Board and staff of LRLT are sad to see her go, we can't wait to see what she'll accomplish in this new role and know that our entire community will benefit from her enthusiasm, dedication and tireless efforts on our behalf!



## From the Executive Director...

It was 2004 or 2005 when I first heard about conservation easements, I was a junior in high school, visiting my grandparents with our entire extended family on the family ranch in the tiny southern Utah town our family has called home since the 1800s. Some of us were holed up in my grandpa's basement den, hiding from the July heat and it was the first time I had been part of a discussion about the future of the ranch and I loved the idea. A permanent agreement that would ensure our ranch never became a subdivision? Sign me up.

Like so many other families, as the generations passed, property had been divided up amongst siblings and our ranch could only support one family, so in 1991, we moved off the ranch to be closer to my parents' off-ranch jobs. Even so, countless weekends were spent back on the ranch. While my parents put up hay and worked cattle, my brother and I tagged along. Catching lizards, digging up old metal ear tags at the corrals and taking turns helping trail cows, alternating riding horseback and in the truck with Grandma and Grandpa Great, as my great grandparents were affectionately known. Those days on the ranch and a copy of what my grandma Charlotte jokingly dubbed "that bad Williams ranching gene" instilled a deep love of the land and the people that make their living from the land in me at an early age.

So this summer, as I pointed my truck south through the snarl of Salt Lake City traffic, I was on a mission: to make that nearly twenty year old conversation about a conservation easement a reality. See, I'll never move back to the ranch, never make a living on the same piece of ground that supported the six generations before me, but what I can do is make sure it's available for the next generation. For the first time, I'm sitting on the landowner side of the table and here's what I've learned: it's not all that different from sitting on the land trust side of the table. The goal is still the same: protect a special piece of land and keep it intact so the next generation can experience it, love it and make a living from it in the same way previous generations did.

It's why I chose to apply for the Executive Director position and why I'm a monthly donor to LRLT. There's arguably few things more important to protect than land. And it's a mission I hope you'll join me in. Together we can continue conserving the very best pieces of Central Idaho for the next generations, just as the original four ranchers that founded LRLT envisioned.

Best,

*Charli Williams*

Charli Williams  
Executive Director



*Celebrating Easter on the ranch with a hayfield picnic with Grandpa and Grandma Great in 1990*



# WIN a Honda Pioneer 500!

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT**

**Lemhi Regional Land Trust**  
105 S. Center Street

**OR**

**Wild Side Sports**  
122 S. Challis Street

**Tickets are \$100 each - Only 200 will be sold!**

If you would like to mail us a check for your ticket, please put "Side x Side" in the memo or buy a ticket online under "Donate" and type "Side x Side" in the comment section!

## Working Lands Celebration

On June 23rd, Lemhi Regional Land Trust hosted our annual Working Lands Celebration. This year, we were lucky enough to host in the Salmon Elks Lodge and provide dinner by donation, listen to Jim Gregory, of Lost River Fish Ecology, give a thoughtful speech, enjoy music from a local band, 93 North, and run a silent auction with a large variety of items that were donated. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and folks attending the event, we were able to raise over \$16,000 which will go directly towards continuing our work of conserving land in this corner of Idaho we all cherish.



*There was a large crowd in attendance at the Elks Lodge.*



*Charli Williams, LRLT Executive Director, giving a short welcome speech.*

## Working Lands Celebration Sponsors and Donors

- |                                   |                                  |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Ace Hess                          | Craig McCallum                   | Kristin and Mark Troy                       | Shelly Overacker                       |
| Allen Marquette                   | Doug Westfall                    | Kyra Povirk and Dave Lingle                 | Stump Wizard - Mitch Wolfe             |
| Alan Janda                        | Fred Snook and Karen Somner      | Lori Kohls                                  | Summer Creek Farm Goods                |
| Amy Berasi                        | Gary and Tamara Power            | Lowell and Mary Cerise                      | Suzy Avey                              |
| Becca Aceto                       | Hyde Creek Ranch                 | Matt and Breann Green                       | Swift River Farm                       |
| Bev Hall                          | Ingrid and Buck Fulstone         | Merrill and Sharal Beyeler                  | Tawna Skinner                          |
| Bob Morton                        | Jay and Eleen Wiley              | Mike and Ann Kossler                        | Teton Toyota                           |
| Bob and Nancy Russell             | Jean Fennell                     | Mike Dougherty and Jane Dougherty Sandstrom | Teton Volkswagen                       |
| Bonnie and Wes Rose               | Jim Juza and Lois Blackadar      | Mike and Merridee Overacker                 | The Nature Conservancy - Idaho         |
| Bruce McFarland                   | Jody Brostrom                    | Northwest River Expeditions                 | Tom and Teresa McFarland               |
| Caryll Designs - Caryll McConnell | Joe Stewart and Hannah Alverson  | Odd Fellow's Bakery                         | Toni Ruth                              |
| Cecil and Judi Jackson            | Joel Rea and Marla Huntzman      | Paulette's                                  | Tony Latham and Stephanie Smith-Latham |
| Celia Leber                       | Joan Geary-Smith                 | Perpetua Resources                          | Valley Agronomics                      |
| Charli Williams                   | J&J Cabins - John and Kim Nelson | Rick and Sherrie Snyder                     | Wild Side Sports                       |
| Chris and Anne Healy              | Kaelie Pena                      | Rio ASE                                     | Will Murray                            |
| Chuck and Tammy Overacker         | Kevin and Amy Hoffman            | Salmon River Chiropractic                   | 93 North Band                          |
| Cornerstone Gifts and Antiques    |                                  | Seth McFarland                              |  |
|                                   |                                  | Shannon and Brad Williams                   |  |

# Thank You to Our Supporters!

## FRIENDS (up to \$75)

Baker, Jim  
Burke, Jane and Thornton  
Fleurish Floral  
Harper, Madison  
Littlejohn, Lucy  
Johnson, Barbara and TC  
Nemeth, Craig and Marimae  
Nichols, Rosemary and Tony  
Owens, Jim  
Wiggington, Elaine

## PARTNERS (\$76 - \$150)

Fealko, Chad and Amy ★  
Goodworth, Fred  
Hafenfeld, Rick and Patty Bates  
Hazelbaker, Nick and Norma Staaf  
Hoffman, Sharon  
Knudson, Jeff and Gina  
Lim, Liz

## PARTNERS (continued)

Mudd, Dan and Lisa  
Ohl, Andy & Cheri  
Overacker, Mike and Merridee  
Reed, Pamela  
Resources First Group  
Snyder, Gabriela  
Wellard Constructors Inc.  
Wiens, Paula  
Williams, Charli ★

## SUSTAINERS (\$151-\$250)

Cook Westfall, Deb  
Gapp, Gary  
Jones, Trent  
Kozacek, Susan  
Leidner, Stuart and Nina Chambers ★  
Loucks, Bob and Ann  
Povirk, Kyra ★  
Skinner, Tawna

## TRAILBLAZERS (\$251-\$500)

Brostrom, Jody ★  
Rocky Mountain Environmental  
Wallis, Harley and Eileen

## STEWARDS (\$501-\$999)

Schuldt, Diane and Pete ★

## GUARDIANS (\$1,000+)

Hernandez, Mario and Glenda  
Monoyios, Nikos and Valerie Brackett  
Perlmutter, Shelly  
Russell, Bob and Nancy ★  
Tonsmeire, Skipper

★ Monthly Donor

## Leaving a Legacy

Lemhi Regional Land Trust (LRLT) is founded on the principle of perpetuity-that the work we are doing today to conserve land in Central Idaho will last for generations to come. By supporting LRLT you are a part of a legacy that will endure just as long as our conservation easements - forever - and one of the easiest and most long lasting gifts you can make is including LRLT in your will and estate planning. It's an investment in the vision we all share for the future of our community, landscapes, and the lifestyles we all cherish.

The Tonsmeire Eddy is a group of individuals who have invested now or pledged to invest in the future of conservation through a contribution to our operating endowment. Establishment of this group and its associated endowment fund is how our organization is planning for perpetuity. As an endowment, the principal of these funds will always remain intact and we will only ever utilize the interest generated from this account to support our operations.

But perpetuity isn't cheap. Our long term goal is to raise and invest \$5 million. Enough to ensure that LRLT will always have the financial resources necessary to carry out our mission. **Help us meet that goal by making a contribution TODAY or including LRLT in your estate planning.**



LRLT founding board members, Fran and Joe Tonsmeire.

## Tonsmeire Eddy Members

Amy Tonsmeire • Bob and Nancy Russell  
Jody Brostrom • Ken Hill • Norma Kossler  
Seth Tonsmeire

**Interested in learning more about legacy giving options? Contact Charli at (208)756-8879 or email [charli@lemhilandtrust.org](mailto:charli@lemhilandtrust.org). We would be honored to help you design your own conservation legacy!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**Visit [www.lemhilandtrust.org](http://www.lemhilandtrust.org) and click  
“Donate” or scan the QR code to set up your  
MONTHLY GIFT!**

**I wish to support  
Lemhi Regional Land Trust as a:**

- Friend: \$50-\$100
- Partner: \$101-\$250
- Sustainer: \$251-\$500
- Trailblazer: \$501-\$750
- Steward: \$751-\$1,000
- Guardian: \$1,001+
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!***

Lemhi Regional Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and your gift is tax deductible as provided by law.

**Want more bang for your buck? Become a monthly donor!**

Monthly giving is an easy way to support our work and those gifts truly do add up! Just \$10 a month turns into \$120 over the course of a year. Our monthly givers are the backbone to our work and in addition to their generosity, they're practical and know that giving monthly allows us to devote the most time to conserving those places we all love.