

Conserve

News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust & the Salmon School Garden

Closing Out 2024 with a Bang

Lemhi Regional Land Trust (LRLT) is thrilled to report that we closed out 2024 with a bang. In addition to working on our in-progress conservation easement projects, we are continuously working on building a pipeline of future projects and currently have a pipeline built out into 2028. If you've been around for a while, you may recall that LRLT has historically struggled to utilize the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS's) Agricultural Land Easement Program (formerly known as the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program) due to the required 50% non-federal match and inability to use those funds to cover staff time and project implementation costs. In recent years, thanks to the creation of the Keep It Connected program through our regional land trust collective, the Heart of the Rockies Initiative, we have been able to secure those elusive matching funds, which has allowed us to feel confident in submitting applications to NRCS. In 2024 we secured funding to protect nearly 1900 acres across two working ranches in Lemhi County, which will ultimately put \$3.2 million in conservation on the ground.



But Keep It Connected isn't just for NRCS projects, in December 2024, we were awarded funds to cover the staff time and project implementation costs for a 240-acre donated conservation easement in Custer County. We are thrilled to be able to partner with motivated landowners who want to permanently conserve their land, but also recognize that a full donation, where the landowner covers 100% of our staff time and project implementation expenses, is a significant financial commitment. By contributing \$65,000 towards the costs of this conservation easement, the Keep It Connected funds will leverage nearly \$312,000 in on the ground conservation.

Additionally, in 2024, private funding was secured for an approximately 100-acre conservation easement on the Lemhi River near Lemhi, which will protect a large-scale habitat restoration project. Originally part of a large-scale conservation easement slated to be funded by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), LRLT withdrew from negotiations with BPA in August of 2024, so, being deeply committed to our landowners, LRLT staff has gotten creative. This 100-acre conservation easement will be the first of two conservation easements on this property, with the remainder of the nearly 2100-acre ranch slated for an application for NRCS funding in late 2025.

2024 has brought big wins to our organization and in 2025, we're looking forward to securing even more funding and closing multiple conservation easements. We can't wait to share more about each of these amazing properties as they're protected and celebrate our 20th anniversary by protecting even more the working lands, fish and wildlife habitat and open spaces that make our corner of Idaho unique.

2025 Seasonal Job Opportunity

POSITION TITLE: Stewardship Technician
REPORTS TO: Conservation Coordinator
STATUS: Temporary, Full Time (32-40 hours/week-exact hours to be negotiated upon hire), Non-Exempt

STARTING SALARY: \$17-\$20/hour, depending on experience
LOCATION: Salmon, Idaho
CLOSING DATE: March 10, 2025



The Stewardship Technician will, under direct supervision, complete long-term monitoring and documentation of resources on properties under conservation easement or owned by LRLT and compile land management documents. As an ambassador for LRLT, the Stewardship Technician will maintain positive relationships with landowners, public agencies, conservation organizations, local governments, and other interested parties. The employee is responsible for transportation to/from the office and their own housing, with LRLT assisting in finding housing as possible. Transportation to the field provided by LRLT owned vehicle. Ideal start date May 27-June 9.

Job Duties:

- Complete stewardship and monitoring of conservation easement and fee title owned properties.
- Compile initial drafts and make edits to drafts of annual stewardship and monitoring reports.
- Assist with development of management plans for fee title properties.

View the full job description online at: www.Lemhiregionallandtrust.org



Glass Garden Gathering

Create a beautiful, personalized miniature garden while enjoying a fun, relaxing experience filled with creativity and connection. Each person will get to build their own unique terrarium and one drink ticket!

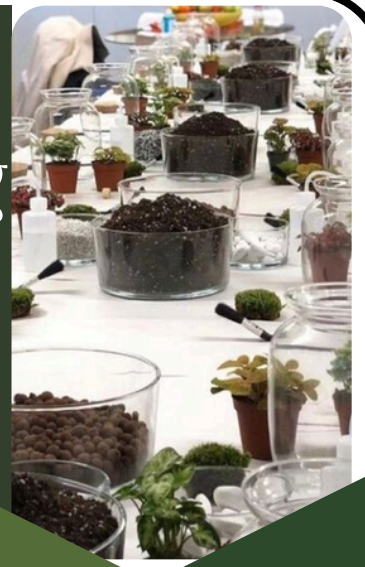
When: Wednesday, March 26th 6pm-8pm

Where: Highlander Brewery

Cost: \$40 per person

(20 spots available - 12 participant minimum)

RSVP by calling (208)756-8879 or email makenze@lemhilandtrust.org



Celebrating 20 years of Lemhi Regional Land Trust

Lemhi Regional Land Trust (LRLT) has spent the last twenty years transforming a bold vision into a legacy of conservation. From its grassroots beginnings in 2005, when a small group of ranchers and community members banded together to protect Lemhi and Custer County's working lands, wildlife habitats, and open spaces, LRLT has grown into a vital force for stewardship in Central Idaho. Guided by passion and commitment, the organization has built strong partnerships with local landowners, ensuring the conservation of the landscapes that define the region's identity.

Over two decades, LRLT has permanently protected thousands of acres through conservation easements, safeguarding ranching heritage and critical wildlife corridors alike. From the Salmon River to the sprawling rangelands in Leadore, and up the lush valley of the Pahsimeroi, these lands remain as vibrant and productive as ever, thanks to the collaborative efforts of LRLT, landowners, and the broader community. By working closely with local landowners, each project ensures the protection of vital habitats for various species,

including mule deer, elk, pronghorn, sage grouse, and other endangered or sensitive species. Their efforts not only safeguard the ecological integrity of Central Idaho but also maintain the area's agricultural heritage for future generations.

What began as a dream without funding or infrastructure is now a well-established nonprofit with an office in downtown Salmon, a dedicated staff, and a strong foundation of support. Beyond the numbers, LRLT's success lies in its relationships with landowners, organizational partners, and volunteer Board members. LRLT commitment to long-term stewardship, which includes annual property visits and ongoing collaboration with landowners, ensures that the goals of each conservation easement are upheld for generations to come.

As LRLT celebrates its 20th anniversary, it stands as a testament to what a community can achieve when united by a shared purpose. LRLT continues to protect the landscapes, wildlife, and ways of life that make Lemhi and Custer County and surrounding areas extraordinary, ensuring that the vision of its founders will endure well into the future.



Volunteering with LRLT!

Did you know that LRLT thrives with the help of passionate volunteers? In addition to our dedicated Board of Directors, LRLT has several committees that include both community members and board members. These committees play a vital role in shaping and supporting our work to protect Central Idaho's lands and resources.

Our committees focus on key areas like stewardship, finance, fundraising, and land protection, ensuring that every aspect of our mission is thoughtfully managed and executed. Whether you're passionate about conservation, skilled in financial planning, or enthusiastic about building community connections, there's a place for you to make a difference.

Volunteering with LRLT is a meaningful way to contribute to the preservation of areas landscapes, wildlife habitats, and ranching heritage. Join us in continuing this important work!

If you're interested in volunteering for a committee, please email Charli Williams at charli@lemhilandtrust.org or call our office at 208-756-8879



New Salmon School Garden Committee Member!

Katie Baumann grew up enjoying a large garden in the Midwest and working on an educational farm which jump-started a love for plants, animals, and digging in the dirt. Here in Salmon, what started as a couple of pots on the porch, quickly escalated to a large apartment container garden before moving to a more permanent home. She enjoys helping people get started in gardening at any level and is excited to support the Salmon School Garden in doing just that. Katie works for the Salmon-Challis National Forest as a plant biologist in the Botany, Invasive Species and Pollinators Program. She is learning how to grow native plants in her own garden, and hopes to be able to share that knowledge with others too.



4th Grade in the Salmon School Garden

From growing to digging to sorting to grading to eating, Pioneer Elementary 4th graders learn a lot about potatoes. Each fall the students have the opportunity to dig potatoes directly from the garden. Then as the "farmer" they sort them into sizes and learn how a farm is paid based on the size and shape of the potatoes. Later in the classroom, the students learn about starch in the potatoes and do starch experiments on various foods. While that is all fun, eating what they grew seems to be the highlight of the fall programming.

Come spring, they learn to grow potatoes. For them, it starts in a 2 liter bottle so they can see exactly what is happening. They turn into a science experiment, altering one input such as water, sunlight, or a soil amendment. Last year one class learned that potatoes do not like over-watered. Once the ground is thawed and the soil is warm, then the students plant potatoes for the next class to dig come fall.



Thank You!

CARMEN GRANGE
CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR
YOUR DONATION OF
\$8,012.00 TO THE
SALMON SCHOOL
GARDEN!

Outdoor Not School Garden Program

The Outdoor Not School Garden Program is a weekly summer experience for kids aged 5-12, running from late June to early August. This hands-on program blends STEM learning with gardening fun, offering activities like planting, harvesting, and exploring the science behind how gardens grow. Each week, children dive into topics like plant life cycles, soil health, and the role of pollinators, all while enjoying time in a vibrant outdoor space right here in the Salmon community. Designed to inspire curiosity and a love for gardening, this program provides an engaging and educational adventure in the garden. Look for more details in our spring newsletter and on social media!

Interested in Volunteering at the Salmon School Garden?

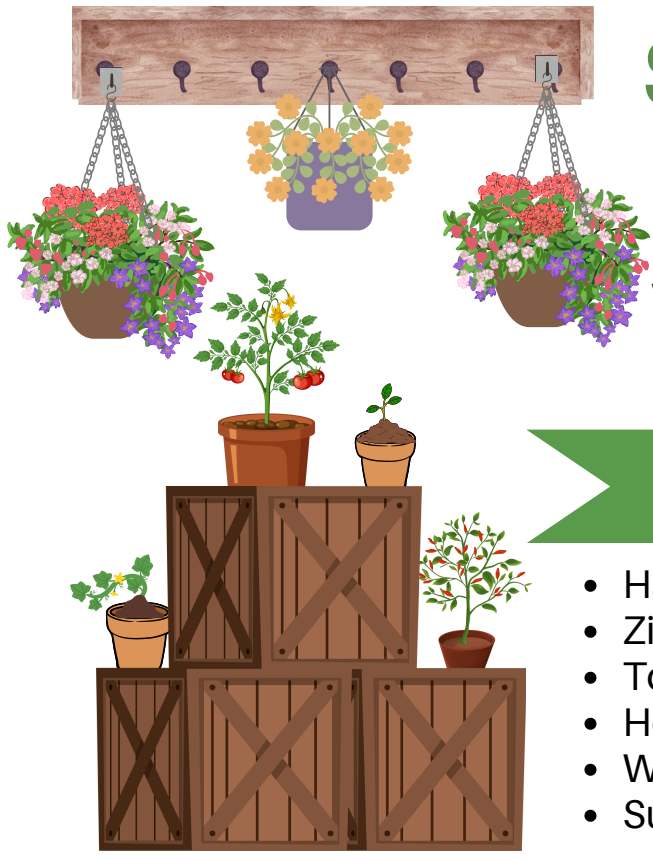
Looking for a way to get involved and make a difference? The Salmon School Garden is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers! Whether you're interested in helping with planting, fundraising, educational programs or joining the School Garden Committee, there are plenty of ways to lend a hand.

Connect with us to learn more about volunteer opportunities:

Follow us on social media for updates and events.

Email us at salmonschoolgarden@gmail.com to ask questions or get involved.





SAVE THE DATE Annual Plant Sale

SALMON SCHOOL GARDEN

Saturday, May 17th

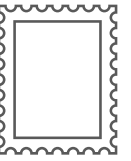
1309 Minnie Street [behind Wild Side Sports]

All sales by donation!

- Hanging Flower Baskets
- Zinnia, Marigolds, Petunias
- Tomatoes
- Herbs
- Winter Squash
- Summer Squash
- Peppers
- Eggplants
- Swiss Chard
- Cucumbers
- Pumpkins
- Strawberries
- AND MUCH MORE

Conserve Winter 2025

Lemhi Regional Land Trust
105 S. Center Street
Salmon, Idaho 83467



Lemhi Regional Land Trust

www.lemhilandtrust.org
105 S Center Street
Salmon, Idaho 83467
(208)756-8879

Click "Donate" or scan the QR code below to make a contribution to LRLT!



Lemhi Regional Land Trust



@lemhilandtrust



Salmon School Garden

www.salmonschoolgarden.org
1309 Minnie Street
P.O. Box 382
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Click "Donate" or scan the QR code below to make a contribution to the SSG!



The Salmon School Garden Project



@salmonschoolgarden

