

our place

INSPIRING YOU TO
PROTECT GREAT PLACES



TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST

FALL/WINTER 2016

Learn more about the Teton Creek
Corridor project on pages 4-5

TETON CREEK
PHOTO BY LEXI DOWDALL

Community Collaboration Gets Big Results



Founded by community members that worked the land, fished the streams, and were inspired by the incredible beauty of this landscape, we continue to fulfill our mission by establishing relationships with landowners and community members to protect our place.

Over the last year, the Land Trust has continued to collaborate and partner with others to complete our work. As you flip through the pages, you'll notice that our continued work with Snake River Conservation Partnership led to the protection of another family farm along the banks of the Henry's Fork in August. This adds up to over 13,300 acres on 53 properties of protected family lands along the Henry's Fork and South Fork rivers that are protected forever.

We are also excited to share two new projects in the Teton Valley—the Teton Creek Corridor Project and the Bates Teton River Access Project. These projects not only protect important wildlife habitat, wetlands and agricultural lands along Teton Creek and the Teton River, but also add value and enrich lives by providing safe access and providing a place for families to play and connect to nature. Looking to the next 25 years, the Land Trust has reaffirmed our commitment to connecting people to the land and to each other. Thank you to all of you who have given your support over the years to make Eastern Idaho such a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

— Joselin Matkins

Opportunities to Support Your Land Trust

ENHANCE YOUR TAX DEDUCTION



Each year, you make thoughtful decisions about your charitable giving. You research your options, consider your capacity to give, and chose an organization with a mission you believe in with sound governance to put your hard-earned gift to work. That's why you, and so many others, have chosen to give to the Land Trust.

Your thoughtful contributions keep Eastern Idaho farms, ranches, riverbanks and habitat open and free—forever. There are so many ways to give and make a significant difference while enhancing your tax deductions.

In 2016, Congress passed a new law that allows individuals to give directly from an IRA to the Land Trust. Anyone age 70 ½ or older can make a gift up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA each year. A married couple can make a gift up to \$200,000. An IRA gift will count against your Mandatory Minimum Distribution from your retirement account and won't go toward your Adjusted Gross Income.

And it's easy to do. Just tell your IRA plan administrator that you want to make a gift from your IRA to the Land Trust. They will send us a check and then report that gift as counting against your IRS required annual distribution in 2016. Feel free to give Diane a call at 208-354-8939 or diane@tetonlandtrust.org for more information.

**We advise you to consult your attorney or a tax professional about how tax benefits may apply to your specific situation. The Teton Regional Land Trust's tax identification number is 94-3146525.*

OTHER WAYS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE CONSIDER A PLANNED GIFT

WILLS AND BEQUESTS

Bequests allow individuals to make much larger gifts than they could during their lifetime. Bequests allow you to decide what your legacy will be and the kind of impact you have on the future—just as you planned.

APPRECIATED STOCK GIFTS

The gift of an appreciated asset, often stock or mutual fund shares, is a valuable way to make a contribution to the Land Trust and receive tax benefits based on the value of the assets. By giving appreciated assets, you can reduce capital gains taxes on the appreciation and receive the current tax deduction on the full value of the gift.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES (CGA)

This gift option is a combination of an investment and a gift and provides life income to you. The Land Trust accepts the gift and in return, we obligate ourselves to pay a fixed and specific dollar amount to you for life. A CGA immediately becomes property of the Land Trust and is an irrevocable gift. The Land Trust is legally bound to fulfill our commitment to pay you for life and payments are fixed. The Land Trust will have use of the funds after your lifetime. As a portion of the annuity is a gift, you'll receive a tax deduction.



Protecting a Family's Future

A STORY OF SAFEGUARDING LAND ALONG THE HENRY'S FORK

Prime Habitat. The Price family worked with the BLM and the Teton Regional Land Trust to make protecting the land possible.

“We want to keep it this way forever” is the sentiment expressed when Boyd and Rhea reflect on their land.

Boyd and Rhea Price's ranch borders Bureau of Land Management and Idaho Fish and Game properties, making it a refuge enjoyed by family and livestock, but also wildlife.

Within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game ranked the lower Henry's Fork as the number one conservation priority for its irreplaceable natural resources and inherent conservation value. The Henry's Fork joins with the South Fork of the Snake River, which meanders across southern Idaho plains and eventually drains into the Columbia River.

About five miles downstream of St. Anthony, the Henry's Fork of the Snake River borders and runs through Boyd and Rhea's land. The river corridor provides important habitat for water birds and bald eagles. Annually, moose and deer make their migration through and around the ranch on their way to their wintering grounds in central Idaho. The ranch has a rich history which is emblematic of Idaho's cultural heritage. Over the years the property has stayed within the family, being passed down through the generations. Boyd and Rhea continue their rich ranching tradition, as their family before them, by working the land and grazing their livestock.

They were inspired to collaborate with the Land Trust by their upstream neighbors, the Birch family, who worked

with the Land Trust to place 265 acres, including a quarter mile along the Henry's Fork, under conservation easement. Working with the Land Trust and the BLM, the Price family conserved their 90-acre ranch. They share their neighbors' love of the land. Their desire for it to remain undeveloped has been secured by placing it under a conservation easement.

The conservation easement made a well-deserved retirement possible, which has given Boyd and Rhea quality time to spend exploring and fishing the riverbanks with their grandchildren. They could have sold to a developer, but they did not want to see their property subdivided.

The Price's affection for their ranch runs deep and is a part of who they are. The practice of working the land, living near the river and having wildlife as neighbors is something that few people experience. They are grateful that through their husbandry of the land and the conservation easement, they will be

able to pass their land down and keep it in the family; future generations will continue to enjoy the open space and uninterrupted views when floating along the river. The conservation easement made a well-deserved retirement possible, which has given the Prices quality time to spend exploring and fishing the riverbanks with their grandchildren. They could have sold to a developer, but they did not want to see their property subdivided.

The Land Trust uses conservation easements as a tool to keep special places, such as the Price's land, protected forever; working together with families to ensure the character of our majestic rangeland, the productivity of our agricultural lands, and the health of our rivers and wildlife habitat remain pristine forever.



Teton Creek Corridor Project

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO PROTECTING TETON CREEK

Photo by Chris Boyer

We are thrilled to let you, our friends and supporters, know about an exciting new venture — the Teton Creek Corridor Project. This project represents collaborative efforts with Teton Regional Land Trust, Friends of the Teton River, Teton Valley Trails and Pathways, Valley Advocates for Responsible Development, LegacyWorks Group, Teton County and the community to enhance the Teton Creek Corridor.

Teton Creek provides connectivity for wildlife movement, important habitat along the banks and throughout the cottonwood forests, a home for spawning trout, and supports productive farms and ranches.

Teton Creek is an icon in the heart of Teton Valley, flowing from the high mountain forest to the basin; it's an important resource worthy of conservation efforts. It provides connectivity for wildlife movement, important habitat along the banks and throughout the cottonwood forests, home for spawning trout, and supports productive farms and ranches. East of Highway 33, most of the northern habitat surrounding

Teton Creek has been developed. With the southern side remaining relatively open, we saw a unique opportunity for conservation with the community in mind.

This project has a number of goals:

PERMANENT PROTECTION

So far, funding from the Teton Creek Corridor Project has enabled the Land Trust to permanently protect important wildlife habitat and farmland along the south side of Teton Creek between State Line Road and Highway 33. The conservation easements have significantly **reduced the amount of residential development** that can occur within the Teton Creek Corridor, forever.

AGRICULTURE

The project will strive to maintain productive farmland along the Teton Creek corridor, protecting Teton Valley's agricultural heritage. To date, **approximately 200 acres of farmland have been permanently protected by the Land Trust along the south side of Teton Creek with the Teton Creek Corridor Project.**

UPLAND RESTORATION

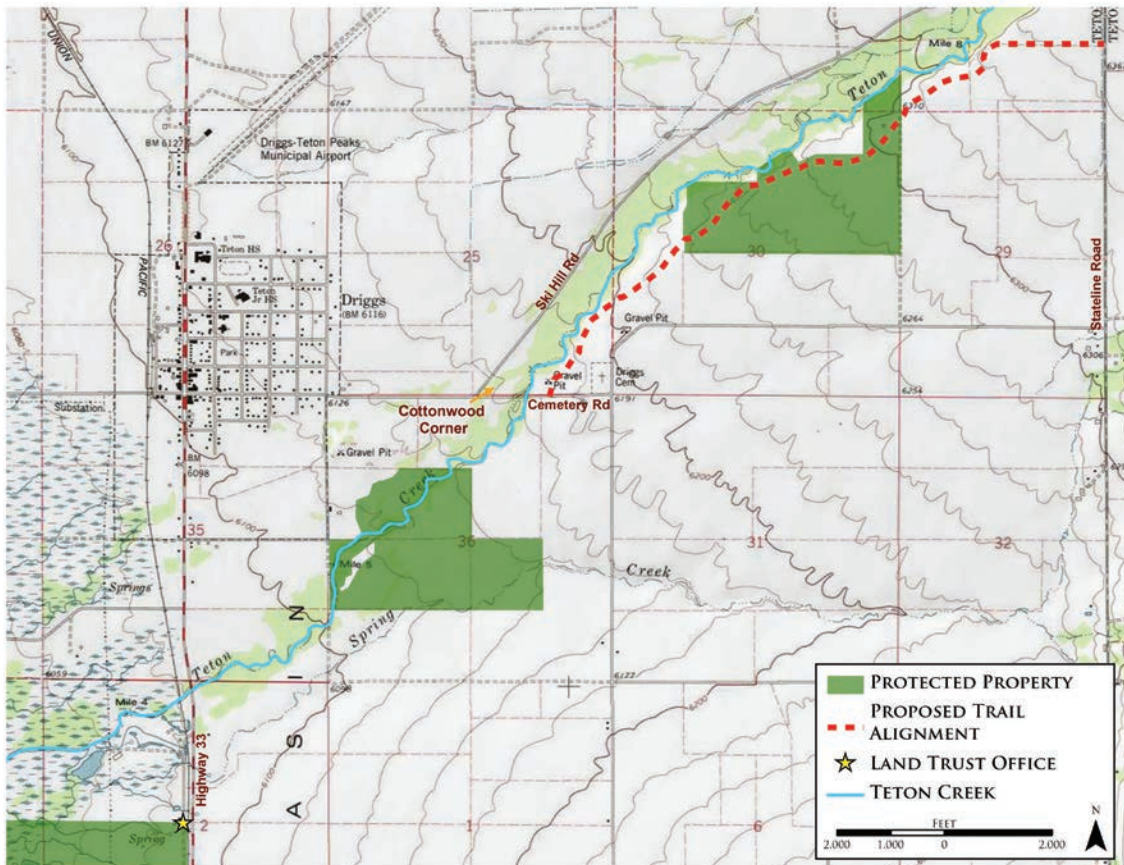
The project will **enhance wintering big game habitat through upland restoration.** The restored upland habitat on Land Trust owned property will be subject to winter closure to protect critical winter range for big game species.

STREAM AND RIPARIAN HABITAT

The project aims to stabilize more than five miles of Teton Creek streambed, reducing flooding risk for private property and the City of Driggs and improving stream function and habitat. The project will also improve and protect important instream and riparian habitat along Teton Creek. **This work will further enhance the total 1,350 acres of property permanently protected by the Land Trust and willing landowners along Teton Creek.**

PATHWAYS AND PUBLIC ACCESS

The Land Trust and its partners are excited to help provide public access to Teton Creek to foster appreciation for this incredible resource, but also understand that community use must balance the needs of wildlife using the Corridor. The project will establish a new 2.5-mile paved pathway from Cemetery Road to Stateline Road. The trail will lie above the Teton Creek riparian corridor along the upland bench overlooking the Creek. **Public use of the trail will be for non-motorized use, and subject to seasonal winter closure to protect critical winter range for big game species.**



Teton Creek Trail Map

Healthy Riverbanks for Thriving Fisheries

PROTECTING THE YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT



Photo by Lexi Dowdall, Location of upcoming restoration project on the HD Dunn Ranch

Forming in its headwaters nestled in the southern reaches of Teton Basin, the Teton River winds north, crashes through a canyon and then flows gently through the Fremont and Madison County farmlands before it joins up with the Henry's Fork of the Snake River. When floating the placid stretches of the Teton River, you can see moose wade across the river, land a prized trout, listen to the songbirds in the nearby willows and take in the majestic views of the Tetons.

Because the Teton River is spring fed, the water temperature remains relatively constant, fostering ideal conditions for insect hatches and healthy fish. The Teton River is a stronghold for Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT). Historically, the banks have been heavily grazed causing them to erode. As the banks fail, the soil becomes unstable and creates a layer of silt and sediment on the bottom of the river that forms a barrier to the river rocks that provide perfect habitat for trout to spawn.

In addition to the habitat degradation caused by bank erosion, the YCT face other threats such as disease, competition, and hybridization with nonnative fish species such as the rainbow trout.

As a result, populations of YCT are shrinking and many agencies are working together to further protect and increase

their populations. To achieve this objective, the Land Trust has been awarded several grants to fund a project to stabilize an eroded section of riverbank along the HD Dunn Ranch conservation easement along the Teton River.

The Land Trust works with families and together, we've protected 27 miles of banks along the Teton River and its tributaries. Because the condition of the river directly affects Yellowstone cutthroat trout, projects such as these are vital to further their population.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO RESTORE A RIVER?

1. We'll begin by leveling the riverbank and embedding footer logs to stabilize the bank.
2. Next, root wads from mature trees will be extended into the river to slow the water course and large willows will be transplanted at an angle overhanging the water.
3. Smaller willows and sod mats of native vegetation will be transplanted at the top the banks to provide further stabilization and a cooler, shady place.
4. Look for our restoration work along the east riverbank between Rainey and Packsaddle public access points this fall.

How Can You Help?

ROUNDUP THE RAINBOWS

One of the biggest threats to Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) is the prevalence of rainbow trout which is a species of Pacific salmon native to tributaries of the Pacific Ocean in Asia and North America. Not only do rainbows compete with native cutthroat for food and habitat, they interbreed with YCT, weakening their genetic identity with hybridized offspring. What can you do? Anglers are encouraged to harvest rainbow trout to ensure more genetically pure cutthroat populations will thrive.

In the spirit of saving the YCT, we've concocted a tempting recipe to inspire you to visit the Teton River and savor the flavor of a few rainbow trout. Don't forget your Idaho State Fishing License and adhere to all catch limits. For the Teton River, Idaho Fish and Game does not set a harvest limit on rainbow trout or hybrids. Of course, the YCT must be released back into the river.



TRLT Stewardship Specialist, Anthony Gunnell

RECIPE ROUNDUP SAVORY TROUT RECIPE



INGREDIENTS

Freshly Caught Rainbow Trout, Sliced Lemon, Thick Cut Bacon, Toothpicks, Aluminum Foil, Rosemary Sprigs, Salt, Pepper

STEP 1 Before fishing, you must first build a fire to yield a bed of glowing coals. Do not leave your fire unattended while you're out hunting, assign someone the noble task of coal cultivation.

STEP 2 After catching rainbows, clean and rinse. Line a fish basket with foil and place lemon slices with a sprig of rosemary inside each trout. Finish the preparation by wrapping each trout with a slice of bacon, secure with toothpicks. While not required, the bacon adds a delicious, savory flavor to your meal. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

STEP 3 Rake out a flat spot among your hot coals and place the foil-wrapped fish atop the heat source. Cooking time will vary depending on the wood used and the temperature of your fire. Generally 10-15 minutes on either side will produce perfect fish. Check often and cook longer if required. Settle down to a delicious meal knowing you've helped protect the threatened Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout by relishing the delicate taste of Rainbow Trout.



Photo by Anthony Gunnell, Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout

We would like to extend our gratitude to the following organizations for their support in restoring Teton riverbanks and helping the Yellowstone cutthroat trout:

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation

US Fish & Wildlife Service— Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Grand Targhee Protect Our Winters Foundation

Teton River Access Project

CONNECTING YOU TO OUR WATERWAYS

The Bates Road access point to the Teton River is the hub for river use in the valley. It is used extensively by local families, fishing guides, and visiting tourists. The access to the Teton River was on private land and the public's right to use it was always at risk, but became a bigger concern when the property came up for sale in 2015. This provided an opportunity for community groups to pull together and turn this area into a safe, public access point.

One of the many areas of focus for the Land Trust is improving access to nature and inspiring people to get out and enjoy the incredible landscape we call home. When the Bates property came up for sale, we knew something had to be done and soon. We partnered with several key stakeholders to work toward a common goal of improving the safety, environment, permanence, and facilities of the Bates Bridge river access while protecting the rich natural character of the area.

Working together with Teton County, the Trust for Public Land, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Friends of the Teton River, Legacy Works Group, Valley Advocates for Responsible Development, and generous private donors, the Land Trust supported fundraising to purchase an 80 acre parcel encompassing the Teton River's most popular access point. This fall, the property was deeded to Teton County, Idaho and a significant portion of the property was placed under a conservation easement held by the Teton Regional Land Trust.

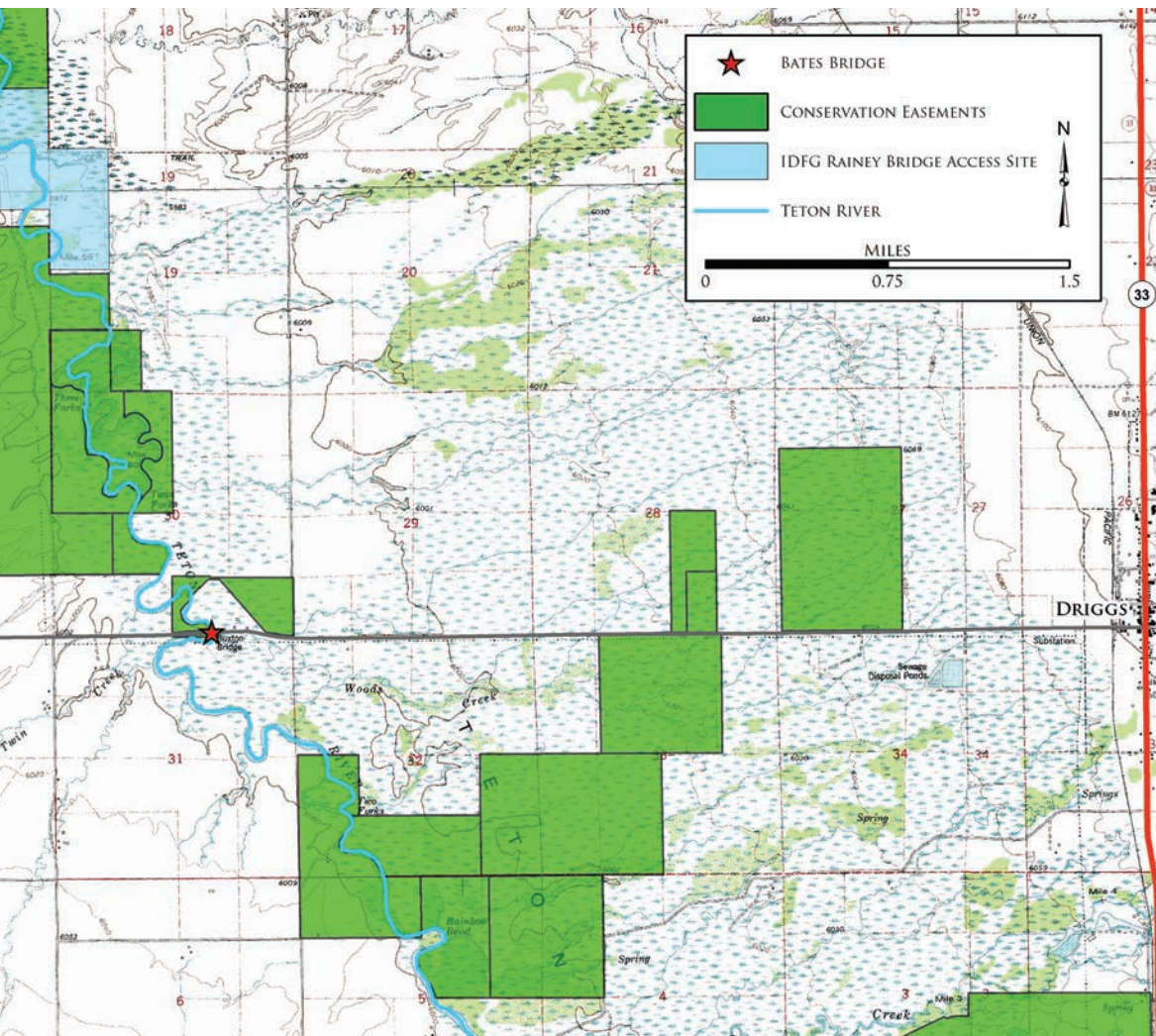
Long term goals include improved facilities and a day use area funded by Idaho Department of Fish & Game. The Land Trust is thrilled to permanently protect the remainder of the Bates property's wetland and riparian habitat ideal for waterbirds, songbirds, native trout, and big game. This property borders the Woods Fen wetland complex. Its protection decreases habitat fragmentation and safeguards rare wetland plant communities that thrive in the fen. This special place will be protected from development, securing open space and scenic views for the many passionate users who will soon enjoy safer access to the Teton River.

This multifaceted project would not have been possible without the help and cooperation of the many individuals, organizations, and donors who are committed to the health and vitality of the area. The Land Trust values the collaborative support needed to improve and permanently guarantee river access on the Teton River.





Bates Property, Teton River. Photo by Lexi Dowdall





Tips From the Land Steward

WINTER TRACKING INFO: WHO ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS?

The fleeting summer in Eastern Idaho gives way to long, frigid winter months. To stay cooped up indoors can make even the staunchest homebody a little stir crazy. Luckily, our mountains and valleys offer ample opportunity to get outdoors and invite fresh, cold air into your lungs. Whether you prefer cross country skiing, alpine touring, snow biking, snowshoeing, or a simple walk, the call of the wild may help you combat the restlessness many feel during this seemingly endless season.

PORCUPINE

These creatures will often use the same trails and trees to feed, and for this reason, finding an intact, untrampled track is a rarity. Tracks will show four toes on the front paws and five on the hind foot. Claw marks can typically be observed along with a pebbly texture from the heel pads. Look for hints nearby such as quills, debarked trees, and nipped quills. Quill tracks of parallel lines in the snow are also common.

MOOSE

An adult moose track will measure between 6-8 inches in length. The rear foot impression will follow slightly behind the front foot marking. For comparison, elk tracks typically measure around 4 inches in length and deer tracks measure about 3 inches. Moose tracks are heart-shaped and narrower than elk tracks. Imprints from the dewclaw may be noticed; those on the front feet point outward to the sides while the rear foot dewclaw imprint will point in the direction of the animal's travel.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Look for a track with two distinct toe (hoof) imprints that form an upside-down heart with a rounded bottom indicated the direction of travel. The sides of this track are rounded, and the outside toe is slightly larger than the inside toe. Expect to see front tracks that are larger than tracks from the White-tailed deer's rear tracks.

ERMINE AND LONG-TAILED WEASEL

The ermine (A.K.A short-tailed weasel) and long-tailed weasel are two very closely related members of the Mustelid or weasel family. Both members utilize a wide variety of habitats from woodlands, grasslands, uplands, and riparian areas. Look for very small five toed tracks, all weasel species have five toes on both front and hind feet. Ermine tracks measure around a 1/2 inch in length and long-tailed weasel tracks measure a little longer at about 5/8 of an inch, claws are typically seen in these tracks. In deep soft snow, look for marks of their tail and body that follow along the tracks, that create a dashed line pattern.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Look for unique wing marks in the snow, each measuring roughly ten inches in length. You'll likely find these tracks in pastures, meadows, and agricultural fields in winter. Distinctive wing marks may often be accompanied by holes or depressions in the snow as the sharp-tailed grouse dig to find food or bed down on cold winter evenings.

CAN YOU GUESS WHAT HAPPENED HERE?



Please give us your best guess! All correct entries will be entered into a drawing for a TRLT hat and Tshirt.

Please email your entry to kate@tetonlandtrust.org by January 31, 2017.

WWW.TETONLANDTRUST.ORG

Letter From the President

RIVERS FILL OUR SOULS

About a month ago, I bought myself and my husband a birthday gift, an auction lot at our fabulous Dinner On The Land event. Our winning bid earned us a guided float on the South Fork of the Snake River. Now, we have floated the South Fork many times, but usually, we are captaining ourselves. To have someone else organizing the “heavy lifting” and logistics would be a real treat. Our fantastic guide landed us on a trifecta of rainbows, browns, and cutthroat trout. What a joy to see robust, native cutthroat thriving in the waters of the South Fork...and on the end of my line! We watched a bald eagle soar above



Robin Anderson, Board President

our heads, talons clutching a fish while fending off the aggressive swoops of a golden eagle. As dusk fell, I said, “What a blessing, what a real treasure in our lives, to have access to not one, but three beautiful rivers: the South Fork, the Teton and the Henry’s Fork. These rivers fill our souls and cause us to remember how lucky we are to call this place, “Our Place.”

As winter draws near, I look back at our hard work, protecting land with an easement along the Henry’s Fork and providing enriching events all summer from wildflower walks, to lectures, to a well-attended fly fishing clinic. We put our hearts into projects that provide enhanced public access to nature and protect the landscape of Eastern Idaho. I look forward to 2017, filled with a great deal more hard work, establishing legacies, and hearing more of your stories about what inspires you, what fills your soul and what makes you grateful for this place, Our Place.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

The Land Trust is excited to announce Kate Hopkins Salomon joined staff as the Outreach and Membership Coordinator. Kate brings 20 years of experience in branding, communications, outreach, and media relations to the team. More recently, she gained experience with membership and non-profit work at the Idaho Falls Arts Council. Kate is thrilled to use her talents and resources to further conservation efforts throughout Eastern Idaho. In her free time, she enjoys skiing, hiking, rafting and spending time adventuring in the mountains and along the rivers with her husband, Hopi. Their daughter, Emma, joins them when she is home from the University of Idaho in Moscow where she is a sophomore.



Boots on the Ground, Protecting Wildlife

FENCE REMOVAL PROJECTS



Old, unused and dilapidated fences dot the landscape of Eastern Idaho, disrupting the migration of many animals and often causing entanglement or death. This summer, two ranchers sought our help in engaging the community to remove several neglected fence lines. With the help of volunteers, we removed old fences along the South Fork in Swan Valley and north of Felt, Idaho. Our work will aid big game migration and prevent habitat fragmentation in these landscapes that are used as corridors by a diverse collection of wildlife.

TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST
1520 SOUTH 500 WEST
PO BOX 247
DRIGGS, ID 83422

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #51
Pocatello, ID

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robin Anderson PRESIDENT

Financial Advisor | Teton Valley

Bill Graham VICE PRESIDENT

Entrepreneur | Kenilworth, Illinois & Teton Valley

Dean Scofield TREASURER

Investment Advisor | Jackson, Wyoming

John VanOrman SECRETARY

Entrepreneur | Swan Valley, Idaho

Mike Allen

Attorney | Swan Valley, Idaho

Tim Brockish

Small Business Owner | Rexburg, Idaho

Jean Crabtree

Retired Otolaryngologist | Alta, Wyoming

Gary Grigg

Agronomist | Ashton, Idaho

Bob Lugar FINANCE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Financial Advisor | Rigby, Idaho

John Nedrow

Farmer | Idaho Falls, Idaho

Brett Novik

Fishing Guide | Swan Valley, Idaho

Timothy D. Reynolds

Ecologist | Rigby, Idaho

Karen Rice

Retired BLM Wildlife Biologist Manager | Idaho Falls, Idaho

Bonnie Self FINANCE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Grant Writer | Alta, Wyoming

Rick Sitts CONSERVATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ecologist | Henry's Lake, Idaho & California

Delbert Winterfeld

Farmer | Swan Valley, Idaho

David Work DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Retired Executive | Victor, Idaho

Arantza Zabala

Human Resource Manager | Idaho Falls, Idaho

BOARD EMERITUS

Susan Lykes

Linda Merigiano

Lew Mithun

Albert Tilt



OUR STAFF

Joselin Matkins

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tamara Sperber

CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

Diane Temple

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Renee Hiebert

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

Bill Dell'Isola

RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Josh Holmes

LAND PROTECTION SPECIALIST

Kimberly Holmes

STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Anthony Gunnell

STEWARDSHIP SPECIALIST

Christine Ford

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Kate Hopkins Salomon

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH

COORDINATOR

Lexi Dowdall

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTOR

PAST BOARD MEMBERS

Lonnie Allen, Dennis Aslett, Glen Atchley, Emma Atchley, Lynn Bagley, Richard Beesley, Don Betts, Jan Betts, David Breckenridge, Kane Brightman, Jaydell Buxton, Jeanne Marie Callahan, Dr. James Cecil, Janet Conway, Ron Cordes, Liz Davy, Harold Dunn, Ken Dunn, Frank Felton, Lou Gaylord, Dan Gerber, Jamie Greene, Ed Hill, Tom Hill, Tim Hopkins, Beach Huntsman, Nancy Huntsman, Jeff Klausmann, Debbie McGregor, Martin McLellan, Connie Mohr, Heidi Nelson, Jon Prahasto, Jerry Reese, David Reinke, Chuck Rice, Dave Richardson, Ron Rope, Frank Russo, Dave Rydallch, Gene Sewell, David Shipman, Steve Smart, Catherine Smith, Gloria Smith, Susan Steinman, Ned Twining, Glenn Vitucci, Michael Whitfield and Meredith Wilson.

208.354.8939 | TETONLANDTRUST.ORG



SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Want to find out about new projects, family-friendly programs and hikes, conservation tips and community events? Shoot us an email at info@tetonlandtrust.org with "sign me up" in the subject line of your email or sign up on our website, tetonlandtrust.org.

Teton Regional Land Trust has been accredited by the Land Trust Alliance, meeting national standards for excellence, upholding the public trust and ensuring that conservation efforts are permanent.

A copy of the latest Financial Report and Registration filed by this organization may be obtained by contacting us at: PO Box 247, Driggs, ID 83422; (208)-354-8939
Teton Regional Land Trust is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

