

# THE LAND STEWARD

Teton Regional Land Trust's Stewardship Newsletter

Spring 2018

## Meet Our Stewardship Team!



**Tamara Sperber, Conservation Director** – As Teton Regional Land Trust's Conservation Director, Tamara oversees the Land Trust's conservation program including conservation easement acquisition and stewardship, fee-owned lands acquisition and management, habitat restoration, and conservation planning. Tamara started working at the Land Trust in 2006 after spending 4 years with a non-profit organization in the Central Valley of California completing large-scale riparian restoration along the San Joaquin River.



**Bill Dell'Isola, Resource Specialist** – Bill joined TRLT in 2014 and is our wildlife expert. His work involves conducting annual site visits with landowners, property stewardship, fee-owned property management, documenting ecological features for new conservation easements through the drafting of baseline documentation reports, and leading the Land Trust's ecological monitoring program. Bill provides a wealth of knowledge in species and habitat identification and management. Bill also runs the TRLT Trumpeter Swan Project.



**Pat Creeden, Stewardship Specialist** – Pat works with the TRLT conservation team to complete land management and conservation-related duties including weed management, grazing, fencing, and water management on approximately 1,350 acres in Teton Valley. His work includes stewarding conservation easements, writing baseline reports and management plans, and habitat restoration projects. Pat earned a Bachelors in Anthropology from Colorado College focusing his research on human geography and land issues in the Intermountain West.



**Kimberly Holmes, Stewardship Coordinator** – Kimberly joined TRLT in 2016 and coordinates the conservation easement monitoring program, ensuring we're meeting our recordkeeping requirements and maintaining strong landowner relationships. She also writes baseline documentation reports and provides GIS support to the organization. Kimberly brings extensive conservation easement stewardship experience from working with the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust as a conservation planner, monitoring manager and stewardship specialist.

### Teton Regional Land Trust Staff

**Joselin Matkins,**  
Executive Director

**Tamara Sperber,**  
Conservation  
Director

**Renee Hiebert,**  
Conservation  
Specialist

**Josh Holmes,**  
Land Protection  
Specialist

**Bill Dell'Isola,**  
Resource Specialist

**Pat Creeden,**  
Stewardship  
Specialist

**Kimberly Holmes,**  
Stewardship  
Coordinator

**Diane Temple,**  
Development Director

**Kate Hopkins-  
Salomon,**  
Membership &  
Outreach Coordinator

**Christine Ford,**  
Operations Manager

The Teton Regional Land Trust is proud to announce that we will have 2 interns working with us this summer. Karolina is a student at the University of Wyoming where she is majoring in Environmental Science, and Ella is an incoming freshman from Montana who plans to study Wildlife Biology. Give us a call at (208) 354-8939 to schedule your annual site visit with one of our Stewardship Staff and help us welcome our 2018 Summer Interns to Eastern Idaho!



inspiring you to protect great places



TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST



Island Park, ID. Photo by Jean Bjerke, 2016

## Welcome Spring!

With the arrival of spring, the Teton Regional Land Trust Stewardship Staff are dusting off their boots and getting ready to hit the road for our annual site visits. Please contact us today to arrange a time to meet with our staff as they visit your property this summer! 208-354-8939

## Landowner Resources

With great conservation success comes great responsibility. With every property Teton Regional Land Trust helps protect with a conservation easement, we have assumed an obligation to ensure that the conservation easement terms are upheld and the unique conservation values of the property remain intact, forever.

Our Stewardship Staff are our connection to easement landowners. Building relationships with landowners—walking their land with them and working to address common concerns—goes a long way toward making sure that our conservation easements are upheld.

Please contact our Stewardship Staff to make an appointment to review your conservation easement terms or to join us on the annual stewardship visit.

If you plan to make any changes to your property, such as exercising a reserved right outlined by your conservation easement, or if you intend to sell or transfer your property; give us a call so that we can ensure that the appropriate documentation is obtained when it is required. To facilitate the approval process, we have created an easy to use Landowner Request Form that can be found on our website at Landowner Resources, or give us a call and we can email you a form and a map of your property!

Please visit the Teton Regional Land Trust's website for more information on Landowner Resources, or call us today if you have any questions. [www.tetonlandtrust.org/conservel/landowners](http://www.tetonlandtrust.org/conservel/landowners)

### STAY CONNECTED

If you would like to receive correspondence via email in the future; drop a note to

[stewardship@tetonlandtrust.org](mailto:stewardship@tetonlandtrust.org)

Or just let us know during our next phone call or property visit!

## When to Give Notice?

If you are unsure if an activity requires prior notification and approval from the Land Trust,

### Give us a call!

We are always happy to answer questions regarding your conservation easement

Planning to build or add onto a structure?

Give Us a Call!

Planning to change your land management practices?

Give Us a Call!

Planning to install a fence or road?

Give Us a Call!

Planning to sell/transfer your conservation easement property?

Give Us a Call!

## Teton Regional Land Trust

208-354-8939

[kimberly@tetonlandtrust.org](mailto:kimberly@tetonlandtrust.org)

[bill@tetonlandtrust.org](mailto:bill@tetonlandtrust.org)

[pat@tetonlandtrust.org](mailto:pat@tetonlandtrust.org)

[tamara@tetonlandtrust.org](mailto:tamara@tetonlandtrust.org)



North Fork Teton River. Photo by Leggin Harris

# Regional County Weed Contacts

Don't forget to reach out to your local county weed representative to stay up to date regarding any cost-share weed control programs that might be available:

**Bonneville County:**  
Jeffrey Pettingill,  
Weed Superintendent  
208-589-9920

**Clark County:**  
Bo Billman,  
Weed Department  
208-709-6706

**Fremont County:**  
Bryce Fowler,  
Weed Supervisor  
208-624-7442

**Jefferson County:**  
Mitch Whitmill,  
Weed Superintendent  
208-745-9221

**Madison County:**  
Tony Pozenel,  
Weed Supervisor  
208-356-3139

**Teton County, ID:**  
Amanda Williams,  
Weed Superintendent  
208-354-2593

**Teton County, WY**  
Teton County Weed &  
Pest District  
307-733-8419



## Working Landscapes-Improve Soil Health with Cover Crops

Are you curious about reducing erosion in your rangeland, cropland, or home garden? Do you want to reduce soil compaction, suppress weed growth, and create habitat and resources for wildlife on your agricultural ground? Do you have concerns about the productivity of your land, the presence of an invasive pest, or the vigor of your annual crops? If you answered yes to any of these questions then planting a cover crop may be useful to your operation, large or small.

### What is a cover crop?

- Cover crops include grasses, legumes, and forbs that are planted for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes.
- These crops are typically planted after harvesting row crops. The protective canopy formed by a cover crop reduces the impact of rain on the soil surface thereby decreasing the breakdown of soil aggregates. This greatly reduces soil erosion and runoff and increases water infiltration.
- Typically, after the dormant season, these crops are either consumed by livestock or killed and left as excessive litter for conservation tillage or are incorporated into the soil.

### What can they do?

- Cover crops can provide an excellent forage resource for livestock and spring sod for calving out of the mud.
- Some cover crops have the ability to help suppress invasive pests.
- Cover crops slow the velocity of runoff from rainfall and snowmelt, reducing soil loss.
- When a cover crop is managed for its contribution to soil nitrogen, the application of a nitrogen fertilizer for the subsequent crop may be less, thereby lowering costs of production.
- Decreased soil loss and runoff translates to reduced transport of valuable nutrients, pesticides, herbicides, and harmful pathogens associated with manure from farmland that degrade the quality of streams, rivers and water bodies and pose a threat to human health.

For more information on cover crops, contact your local NRCS Service Center.

Source: [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ny/technical/?cid=nrcs144p2\\_027252](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ny/technical/?cid=nrcs144p2_027252)

# Notes from the Resource Specialist

Pollinators play a major role in both healthy ecosystems and agriculture by fertilizing many of the plants that contribute to our agricultural economy, as well as providing food and cover resources for wildlife. The overall decline in pollinator species, which include a variety of insects and vertebrates, poses a threat to both agriculture and wildlife. There are a number of ways to improve pollinator habitat on both working and wild lands that are generally centered on maintaining plant communities that provide pollen and nectar for pollinators.

- Field borders—areas that are not planted for agricultural production—can be planted with forbs and grasses that provide resources for pollinators.
- Maintain early successional habitat—young forests, especially those with a thick understory of shrubs and grasses provide excellent resources for pollinators. Maintain stands of milkweed to attract monarch butterflies.
- Stream buffers—stands of native vegetation along creeks, streams, and rivers provide excellent habitat for a wide variety of species, including pollinators, and also contribute to water and fishery quality.
- Pasture and rangelands—planting native forbs within pastures and rangelands is a great way to create a diverse plant community that provides forage for livestock as well as resources for pollinator species and other wildlife.
- Cover crops—When cash crops aren't being cultivated, consider planting cover crops that provide nectar and pollen for pollinators in addition to preventing soil erosion and improving soil health.
- Reduce use of pesticides—if possible, reduce the use of pesticides, especially those described as neonicotinoids, which are known to contribute to declines in bee and other pollinator populations.

For more information on how to improve habitat for pollinators, contact Bill Dell'Isola, TRLT Resource Specialist at 208-354-8939 or [Bill@tetonlandtrust.org](mailto:Bill@tetonlandtrust.org).



## Contact Us

For questions, to schedule a meeting to review your conservation easement, or to schedule a visit to walk your land, contact us today!

Teton Regional  
Land Trust  
P.O. Box 247  
Driggs, ID  
83422

(208) 354-8939

Visit us on the  
web at  
[tetonlandtrust.org](http://tetonlandtrust.org)

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PLACE  
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HERE

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easement landowners!

TRLT's Stewardship  
Newsletter!