

THE LAND STEWARD

Teton Regional Land Trust's Stewardship Newsletter

Fall 2018

Problem Fence?

Old, unused, and dilapidated fences pose a major hazard to wildlife. They can cause significant injury or death by entanglement and disrupt migration patterns of many big game species by fragmenting movement corridors. By removing fences and fencing materials that are no longer needed for management of a property, landowners can significantly improve permeability of their land for wildlife.

Tired of fixing fence that gets damaged by wildlife? Retrofitting old fences to meet wildlife-friendly fence standards can be an effective measure to reduce the loss of wildlife and costs of annual repairs.



There are many wildlife-friendly fence designs options that are easy, low cost, and reduce future fence repair. If you would like to learn more about wildlife-friendly fences or how to make your property more wildlife friendly, feel free to contact us anytime. We would also be happy to send you a wildlife-friendly fencing brochure. Also, if you have a fence or fencing material that needs to be removed, we can rally and coordinate volunteers to help.

Good Beaver, Bad Beaver

Beavers are one of our most remarkable wildlife species for their ability to create wetlands, in addition to being historically and culturally significant. Fur trappers flooded the West, including the lush east Idaho landscape, in search of very valuable and versatile beaver hides in the early 1800s. Fur trappers, including John Hoback and Richard "Beaver Dick" Leigh, marked the beginning of European settlement in the western United States. Losses of beaver throughout the 1800s also marked the beginning of major wetland habitat losses throughout the western United States. Today, beaver still inhabit the east Idaho landscape and continue to live up to their "ecosystem engineer" title by creating and establishing wetlands, which are overall the most productive habitats for wildlife in the West. However, beaver populations continue to be significantly lower than historic levels.



While beaver are excellent to have on the landscape, they can be a nuisance. Often their work to create wetlands can put homes and infrastructure at serious risk, which is why beaver are not suitable to inhabit certain locations.

Increasing beaver numbers where they do not pose such a risk can have landscape-scale benefits to people and wildlife by establishing and maintaining water resources. If you have an unwanted beaver on your property, rather than eradicating it, please consider Idaho Department of Fish

and Game's beaver relocation program. This program relocates beavers from areas where they are unwanted to areas where wetland creation is a priority. Please contact the Land Trust or Idaho Department of Fish and Game for more information.

Teton Regional Land Trust Staff

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Outreach Coordinator

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inspiring you to protect great places





Welcome Fall!

The days are getting shorter and the evenings are getting cooler. What could that mean? Winter is just around the corner. This quieter time of year gives us time for reflection and hopefully affords us quality time to spend with our families and friends. It is also the time of year that the Stewardship Staff at Teton Regional Land Trust are busy at their desks instead of spending long days out visiting our wonderful conservation easement properties across eastern Idaho.

During these winter days, you might find yourself thinking about changes to your property management, improvements to your land, or even the future ownership of your property. If you have questions about how your conservation easement might affect these changes or if you have plans to get started on a project in the spring, please give us a call. We are happy to meet with you and discuss your ideas and can guide you through the approval process for certain improvements that require prior written notice and approval.

Reviewing Your Conservation Easement

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

(208) 354-8939
stewardship@

tetonlandtrust.org

or

Visit us on the web at
tetonlandtrust.org

Has it been a few years since you reviewed your conservation easement? Do you often wonder if a certain practice or improvement would be allowed by the conservation easement agreement? If you answered yes to either of these questions, it might be time to review your conservation easement agreement again. The Land Trust's Stewardship Staff would be happy to make an appointment to sit down with you at our office or at your home to review your conservation easement agreement and answer any questions that you might have.

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 on to a structure?

Give Us a Call!

Planning to change your land management practices?

Give Us a Call!

Planning to build a fence or road?

Give Us a Call!

Planning to sell/gift your conservation easement property

Give Us a Call!

Teton Regional Land Trust

208-354-8939

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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



No-Till November? A look at no till practices.

As the fall harvest continues throughout east Idaho, you've likely noticed farmers harvesting crops and preparing fields for the winter season. Typically, the long list to get ready for winter includes tilling agricultural fields. Tilling the soil, according to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agronomist Neil Sass, has been commonly practiced for decades, and significant tillage over many decades can damage layers of soil, expose it to wind and water erosion, and create carbon loss. Because of these concerns, Sass recommends considering a no-till technique this fall. No-till farming is essentially leaving what crop residue is on the fields after the harvest until you are ready to plant the next crop. Here are some facts about no-till practice and how it can help improve soil health in the long run.

No-till practices can help:

- Retain soil structure
- Prevent wind erosion, water erosion, and carbon loss
- Preserve organic matter through protective crop residue cover on the field surface
- Utilize crop residue to protect soil against extreme temperature and precipitation
- Increase water absorption
- Keep soil out of waterways and on fields
- Reduce time spent operating equipment, fuel use, and wear-and-tear on machinery
- Potentially increase crop yield because of long-term soil health improvement.

Depending on where you live in east Idaho, the conditions may require some amount of tillage in order to properly prepare for next season's plantings. Though the uniformity of a tilled field may be attractive, many producers are experimenting with no-till principles to try and create a lasting "blanket" of soil protection. No-till or "light till" practices are now being utilized with the goal that the soil will be healthier and require fewer inputs. Perhaps no-till (or light till) farming will be your choice this fall.

To learn more about no-till farming, visit your local USDA NRCS Service Center.

Idaho Falls Service Center:	Rigby Service Center:	Rexburg Service Center:	St. Anthony Service Center:	Driggs Service Center:
208-522-6250	208-745-6664	208-356-5701	208-624-7391	208-354-2680

NRCS EQIP Applications Due November 16, 2018



The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) helps agricultural producers complete resource conservation projects and make conservation-related management changes on their farms or ranches. Conservation program participation is voluntary and helps private landowners and operators defray the costs of installing conservation practices.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Idaho has announced an early sign-up period for four categories of EQIP projects. Applications may be submitted for conservation practices covered under:

- The National On-Farm Energy Initiative
- The High Tunnel System Initiative
- Disaster Relief Funding, this includes any Grassland Reserve Program, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program or Agricultural Land Easement Program easements that need repairs
- Conservation Activity Plans

Applications must be received by November 16 to be considered for this funding cycle. Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed in subsequent funding cycles.

For more information on how to apply, as well as eligibility requirements, stop by your local USDA service center or visit NRCS online at <http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>.

USDA/
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Driggs Service
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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