

our place

INSPIRING YOU TO
PROTECT GREAT PLACES



TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST

WINTER 2021/2022

Notes from our Leadership Team

BUILDING ON OUR FOUNDATION



In light of this season of giving thanks, I would like to express my gratitude for the Teton Regional Land Trust's staff, Board of Directors, landowners, partners, and, of course, our supporters. Their focused dedication and hard work this year has resulted in the permanent protection of thousands of acres of our beautiful and important landscape! Additionally, our Land Trust community continues to inspire me with their kindness, generosity, resilience, and passion for conservation.

As I continue to travel through, play in, work for, and appreciate our region, I am undeniably proud of our efforts and our community. The Land Trust has now conserved nearly 40,000 acres of land, a true testament to the power of what can be accomplished when people come together with purpose to give the best gift we can give to future generations. Best wishes to all, and bring on the snow!

The rapid-paced changes we're seeing in east Idaho have me thinking a lot about the importance of a solid foundation and, oddly, Aristotle. So far this year, the Land Trust has worked with landowners to conserve more than 2,600 acres as part of four projects. All four of these projects have built upon complexes of existing conservation patchworked together, over time, by the Land Trust and our partners. Each of these projects could stand alone on their own merit with their open farm and ranch lands, benefits to wildlife, and scenic values. However, collectively with adjacent protected lands, the resulting impact of each of these projects is landscape-scale. Aristotle's notable principle stating that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts" applies to more than psychology. It is a principle we prioritize through our strategic conservation work. Additionally, keeping scenic open spaces, agriculture, and abundant wildlife as part of our east Idaho landscape will take more than individual organizations, agencies, and landowners—it will take the support and caring of us all, the whole.



This fall was one of the most colorful I have experienced since moving here in 2012. I really can't remember the last time I was in so much awe of the spectacle a change of season can bring. Every day when I peeked outside and saw the leaves still on the trees, slowly changing into a deeper red, a brighter yellow, or a more intense orange that seemed to glow, I told myself: 'Another bonus day you get to enjoy!' Each of those trees represents a life lived to its fullest potential, always at the mercy of the changing environment, weather patterns, and fluctuating temperatures. Amongst the many unknowns and challenges, each tree makes the most of it and not only survives, but often thrives, against all odds, atop its foundation of deeply anchored roots. That is how I feel about our current team, through the most turbulent of times and seemingly endless unknowns, we make the most of it, continuing our work that is built on strong foundations, meaningful relationships, and lasting partnerships. Four new conservation easements in 2021 provide permanent protection of special places! What a way to make this year stand out, like a bright yellow glorious Aspen tree.

Conserving working farms and ranches, fish and wildlife habitat, and scenic open spaces in eastern Idaho for this and future generations.

Three Forks Conservation

IMPORTANT MIGRATORY BIRD HABITAT

Protected Scenic View at
Three Forks in Teton Valley

Sandhill Cranes, often thought of as a harbinger of fall in east Idaho, can now continue to forage and prepare for their long migration on 130 acres located west of the Teton River that have recently been protected with a conservation easement. Three Forks conserved this irrigated farmland adjacent to their existing conservation easement properties that are located in the Three Forks area of the Teton River, about five miles west of Driggs. This acreage adds to a significant corridor of protection between the Teton River and Big Hole Mountains. In addition to Sandhill Cranes, the property provides important habitat for Trumpeter Swans, Long-billed Curlew, and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse in both spring and fall and is part of a migratory corridor for big game, including white-tailed deer, elk, and moose.

The landowners would like to continue to use the property as farmland and, in the longer term, may also be interested in producing barley, specifically for crane foraging, and other crops that would benefit birds and big game. The property is zoned A-2.5 Agricultural/Rural Residential with a 2.5-acre minimum lot size, which would suggest that the 130-acre property could have been approved for development of up to 52 homes. This is the family's second easement donation in Teton Valley and likely not their last. Over the past several years, they have envisioned the protection of a corridor extending from the Teton River west to the Big Hole Mountains. With owning considerable surrounding farm ground, their vision could become a reality in years to come. We are so grateful for the vision and generosity of these landowners. Their legacy in the valley will be appreciated forever.

The family also donated the value of the conservation easement, which provided a needed private match for the Land

Trust's current North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant. This is the Land Trust's sixth \$1 million NAWCA grant that benefits Teton Valley and brings funds to local landowners interested in conserving their land to benefit wetland-dependent bird species. Each grant has been leveraged by several million private dollars in the form of both easement donations and monetary donations from private foundations and individuals, benefiting local communities, both human and wild. The Cross Charitable Foundation helped fund some of the project's expenses.

"Although a Midwesterner, I have a deep attachment to the Tetons stemming from backcountry skiing in the area over the past fifty years. I have witnessed the simultaneous loss and protection of wildlife habitat on both the Idaho and Wyoming sides of Teton Pass and have chosen to become involved with Teton Regional Land Trust and the Jackson Hole Land Trust.

My vision has been to assemble parcels in an east-west pattern to preserve an undeveloped corridor from the Teton River to the Big Hole Mountains as a secure migratory passage for both the various ungulates and a variety of avian species, particularly the elegant Sandhill Cranes. The conservation easements held by TRLT ensure that there will be very little residential development, thereby providing the open space necessary for the historic seasonal passage of birds and mammals. A further objective is to demonstrate that sensitive agricultural practices are compatible with wildlife."

— Nancy Hamill Winter, Three Forks Property Manager

An easement is considered "donated" when the landowner does not seek any payment for the financial value of the easement, but they can choose to seek a tax deduction. An easement is considered "purchased" when the landowner receives a payment for the easement's value.

Family Ranch Conserved

CRITICAL BIG GAME HABITAT

*Protected Open Space and Wildlife
Habitat Adjacent to Tex Creek
Wildlife Management Area*

In September, one of Teton Regional Land Trust's (TRLT) largest conservation easements was granted by a family on their ranch adjacent to the Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Bonneville County east of Idaho Falls, preserving critical transition habitat that is vital for big game herds that winter on the WMA. Elk, mule deer, moose, Columbian Sharp-tailed grouse, and a multitude of other wildlife species will benefit from the protection of this large property. This conservation project met the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) qualification for Grasslands of Special Significance because of the sagebrush habitat, which allowed the NRCS to contribute a significant amount of funding for the easement under the Agricultural Lands Easement program.

"Conserving over 2,000 acres of rangeland next to the WMA couldn't have happened without the landowners' vision and help from our dedicated partners. The NRCS has been a wonderful partner all along the way, helping us overcome numerous hurdles to get the ranch protected. You don't see too many ranches of this size in this area. I can't thank the family enough for working with us to implement their conservation vision to protect such a special place," says Josh Holmes, Land Protection Specialist for TRLT.

In addition to the support received by NRCS, other partners that supported the project include the Cross Charitable Foundation, the JKL Family Foundation, the local Safari Club chapter, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and private donors.

The NRCS's Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements. Under the Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) component, NRCS provides financial assistance to partners for purchasing conservation easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of land. The program also helps farmers and ranchers keep working farms in agriculture. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS may contribute up to 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement. When NRCS determines that grasslands of special environmental significance will be protected, NRCS may contribute up to 75 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.

Sharp-tailed Grouse - *Tympanuchus phasianellus*

One of four species of North American grouse, the Sharp-tailed Grouse is a beautiful, round, chicken-like game bird with pointed central tail feathers and a small, slightly crested head. Sharp-tailed Grouse are active, animated birds, and even when hunted, can seem curious and tame around humans and vehicles. Sharp-tailed numbers have declined greatly in the southern and eastern portions of its historical range due to fragmentation, degradation, and loss of suitable lek (breeding) sites. Many populations now depend on cropland and land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program for their habitat and foraging needs. When displaying at lek sites, males point their tails up, spread their wings, hold their heads low, and stamp their feet in a sort of stutter-dance that looks like an airplane trying to take off. The males of a community all dance at the same time as a part of their battle over territory and to impress females. Sharp-tailed Grouse are vegetarian for much of the year, though they, especially young birds, will eat insects. They are resident birds, meaning they don't migrate, but will shift habitat according to the season, occupying more open grasslands in summer and groves of aspen, birch, or willow trees in winter, where they feed heavily on the winter buds of those trees. Sharp-tailed Grouse sometimes build tunnels through snow for their night roosts, which provide protection from predators and insulation against extreme cold.



PHOTOS: GROUSE, TIM MAYO; LION, JEFF COMINSKY

Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area

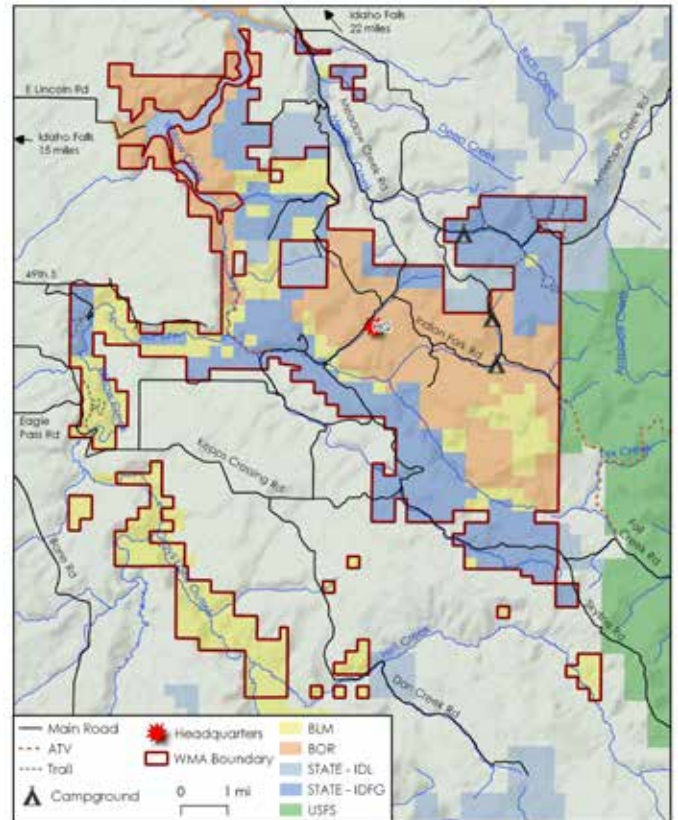
NEW ACQUISITIONS EXPAND AREA

Josh Holmes' work with landowners in the Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area over the past few years helped facilitate Idaho Fish and Game's recent acquisitions of three properties that added 2,119 acres to the area. These land acquisitions connect some of the isolated parcels of Tex Creek and enhance the overall habitat management. During late fall and throughout the winter, upwards of 4,000 elk and 3,000 mule deer typically migrate to the WMA to spend the winter, often crossing over private, state, and national forest lands. Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area is more than 37,000 acres and is a mix of state and federal land managed by IDFG for wildlife habitat, hunting, and wildlife-related recreation.

"The long-term protection of transition and winter range via conservation easements and fee-title acquisitions is an important topic at the moment. I feel very fortunate that IDFG was able to capitalize on work done in conjunction with TRLT around Tex Creek WMA over the last few years to ensure that we maintain open space for wintering ungulates and other wildlife."

- Ryan Walker, Tex Creek District
Habitat Biologist, Idaho Fish and Game

Tex Creek Wildlife
Management Area



Mountain Lion - *Puma concolor*

The mountain lion, or cougar, is North America's largest species of cat and can be found throughout Idaho. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game estimates that 97 percent of the state is potential mountain lion habitat, though their numbers are likely sparse in the open landscape of the Snake River Plain. They seem to prefer mountainous country with cliffs and rimrock and semi-wooded canyon habitat with mixed open and forested slopes. The mountain lions' range is over vast areas and their lithe bodies can move through diverse habitat types. A single mountain lion's home range is exceptionally large, and can cover 50 to 350 square miles, overlapping with other lions' established territories. Their carnivorous diet relies heavily on mule deer, though they are somewhat opportunistic by eating large and small mammals, such as bighorn sheep, coyote, mice, squirrels, and rabbits. Porcupines are also prey for mountain lions and porcupine quills can actually pass through their digestive system, apparently with no ill effects. They will even eat insects and reptiles. Mountain lions are active day and night throughout year and in all kinds of weather, and are primarily solitary with the exception of females with kittens. Experts believe there are currently about 2,000 mountain lions in Idaho.

A 2019 Utah State University study found that the cougar is actually the main predator influencing the movement of elk across the winter range of northern Yellowstone National Park and that prey species behavior is complex when it comes to avoiding predators. The findings help explain why we observe wolves, cougars, and elk all co-existing and thriving on the Yellowstone landscape.



Pine Creek Bench

PROTECTING SCENIC VIEWS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

*Intact Sagebrush Landscape
Beneficial for Grouse Leks*

In early September, after twelve years of relationship building, a conservation easement granted to Teton Regional Land Trust by the Bradford family preserved one of the last pieces of unprotected farmland on Pine Creek Bench in Swan Valley, Idaho. Overlooking the South Fork of the Snake River, this 140-acre easement is surrounded by other protected farms and land owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which collectively protect the incredible scenery along the famed trout-filled river. The property adjoins public land and is visible to people hunting, fishing, and hiking these lands. “This was an exceptionally rewarding project to be a part of,” says Josh Holmes, TRLT Land Protection Specialist, who worked on the conservation easement. “Anytime you see an inholding conserved, you know the resources in the area have a greater chance of remaining intact for the future benefit of local wildlife. Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse and big game are a few of the species that rely on the open space and habitat of the Pine Creek Bench. The Bradfords have made a significant and lasting impact on conservation in the area.” The deep, rich soils of this area provide productive ground for grain production without irrigation and the majority of this property is currently cultivated for grass hay.

The Land Trust has worked with willing landowners, BLM, the Conservation Fund, the Nature Conservancy, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) to conserve the majority of the private land on the Pine Creek Bench. This area is important to many wildlife species, including transitional and winter range for elk, mule deer, and moose. The bench is a stronghold for Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse, whose habitat has been reduced to about 10 percent of their historic range. IDFG has documented six Sharp-tailed Grouse leks (breeding sites) on Pine Creek Bench. The presence of these leks indicates that the bench and this property provide important breeding, nesting, and foraging habitat for Sharp-tailed Grouse. Three Bald Eagle nests are present along the South Fork bordering the west side of Pine Creek Bench and the open fields provide valuable foraging habitat for Bald Eagles. This habitat provides for other bird species such as Swainson’s Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, and Short-eared Owl.

This project builds on the 30-year effort by the Snake River Conservation Partnership to protect lands along the South Fork, adding to the more than 10,000 acres that have been preserved from development along the river. Funding was also provided by IDFG, the JKL Family Foundation, the Cross Charitable Foundation, and a private bequest.



At the easement closing, Rhett and Jackie Bradford, Josh Holmes, and TRLT Board Members Bruce Mincher and Tim Reynolds.

Stewardship Update

A RECORD BREAKING YEAR



*Kimberly Holmes
Taking Down Fencing
with Jackson Hole
Wildlife Foundation and
Volunteers.*

As we trade in our hiking boots for snow boots, stewardship staff are working to wrap up another busy field season. In 2021, we continued to find ways to help our team work more efficiently, including improvements to our remote monitoring program and refinements to our database and reporting in order to set our team up for success in 2022. These advancements ensure that we can effectively steward our conservation easements through a pandemic, while allowing us more time to focus on building relationships with our incredible conservation easement landowners as we continue our partnership in stewarding the important resources on their land.

With the help of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation and dedicated volunteers, we were able to resume our fence removal program this year. We also participated in the annual Christmas bird count and performed annual management tasks on Six Springs Ranch and our fee-owned Land Trust properties with the help of our summer intern, Hayden Evans. This fall, we released and have been monitoring five cygnet Trumpeter Swans and conducted Greater Sandhill Crane counts during their pre-migration staging in Teton Basin. We also

welcomed more than twenty new conservation easement landowners—2021 was a year of considerable conservation easement property sales. Each time a conservation easement property changes hands, we have the opportunity to welcome the new landowners to the Land Trust family and begin building a relationship with them as we learn their goals for the property and plans for the stewardship of the conservation values protected by the easement on their land.

This summer, I graciously accepted the position of Stewardship Director and we welcomed new Land Steward, Katie Guetz, to our team. Katie brings a passion for conservation, excellent resource knowledge, and professional experience working in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Together, we look forward to continuing to build a strong stewardship program as we uphold our obligation to preserve and enhance the conservation values on the properties that our Land Trust has worked to conserve in partnership with our conservation easement landowners, permanently protecting more than 39,000 acres in east Idaho.

- Kimberly Holmes, Stewardship Director



WELCOME KATIE GUETZ, LAND STEWARD

Katie Guetz grew up in Golden, Colorado. During a semester off from college in 2011, she moved to Bozeman to ski. She became fascinated by the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and transferred to Montana State University, earning her B.S. in Earth Science in 2015. After graduation, Katie explored and worked in various natural resources roles across Montana, Alaska, and Arizona. A trip down the Colorado River in 2017 inspired her to pursue an M.S. in Environmental Sciences and Policy at Northern Arizona University where her research focused on restoring and enhancing river connectivity across the western states. She graduated in 2020, spent a season working as a hydrology technician in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. As an AmeriCorps member, she collected data for surface and groundwater monitoring efforts around Bozeman. Katie joined our team in August and is excited to live and work in Teton Valley and contribute to the long-term protection of its vital ecosystems. She enjoys exploring new areas on a mountain bike or skis, spending time on rivers, playing with her dog Leo, and doing art projects.

Building Clim

It's hard to deny the impacts of a changing climate when we are experiencing more frequent extreme weather events, including drought and flooding, and increased intensity and duration of wildfires. We can all make a difference to lessen our impact on climate change and help ensure a vibrant future for both humans and wildlife. As an organization, Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT), along with land trusts across the nation, is poised to help move the needle when it comes to increasing climate resiliency to ensure that highly functioning ecosystems and viable agriculture continue into the future. The work of the Land Trust and our partners is centered around a community of caring, in which many organizations are working toward a common goal of fostering climate resiliency in our amazing region to benefit everyone.

Climate resiliency is the adaptive capacity for an ecosystem to absorb stresses and maintain function in the face of a changing climate and the ability to adapt in order to improve the sustainability of the system, leaving it better prepared for future climate-related impacts. Climate-resilient landscapes are more likely to sustain native plants, animals, and natural processes into the future. The areas with highest resilience represent natural strongholds for biodiversity because they support many habitats in a highly connected area, which provide options for species and increases the likelihood they will endure.

Land trusts across the U.S. have conserved a combined 60 million acres, and the national land trust community hopes to double that number within the next decade. From local initiatives to global action, addressing climate resiliency is a nationwide priority. In order for the U.S. to tackle today's challenges, we need to take advantage of the efforts already being made in private land conservation. Unlike managing public lands, where efforts may be restricted or encumbered by federal or state government initiatives, private landowners working with their local land trusts have the ability to advance conservation freely and with the newest science in play.

Because the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) is one of the last intact temperate ecosystems in the Northern Hemisphere, it is more resilient than lots of other places. The natural environment here is better prepared to withstand some chang-

es in climate than large urban areas. With less man-made infrastructure, the wilderness is able to react naturally and adapt to changing weather events. However, as development pressures persist, our region's resiliency is under threat.

Idaho is home to wide-ranging species that need large, connected natural areas. Conservation experts are working to identify crucial areas for biodiversity, while keeping in mind that the current range for our region's animals and plants may not stay the same. As global temperatures change, species may seek out higher elevations, shadier sites, or an entirely new location or migration route that is more suitable to their needs. Idaho's increasingly shorter winters, earlier snowmelt, and hotter, drier summers threaten wildlife due to impacts on their habitat, and studies show that with each decade, wildlife is slowly moving more northward and seeking higher elevations to cope with these changes. To help wildlife, land trusts around the nation are using climate science and climate modeling to identify and conserve the places that are more likely to sustain plants and animals even as conditions change. In Idaho and throughout the GYE, this means making plans to conserve forests, working lands, and open space so that species like grizzly bears, Sandhill cranes, mule deer, and elk can move freely between habitats to complete their life cycles.

MORE RESOURCES

When thinking about extinctions, we are mostly talking about loss of animal species. Plants, on the other hand, are more resilient and increased efforts are mobilizing to protect regional plant diversity. Plants are amazing beings and are currently the only sure way to pull carbon out of the air that we breathe. For neat new science about the amazingness of plants, including how they share carbon with their offspring and recognize their neighbors, check out "Finding the Mother Tree" by Suzanne Simard, "Entangled Life" by Merlin Sheldrake, "What a Plant Knows: A Field Guide to the Senses" by Daniel Chamovitz, "In Defense of Plants" by Matt Candeias and "The Hidden Life of Trees" by Peter Wohlleben.

ate Resiliency

THROUGH A COMMUNITY OF CARING

Farmers are also facing mounting stresses as conditions change. Idaho has been hit especially hard this year by drought, high winds, and destructive fires. Changing weather patterns bring less reliable soil health and water resources each year. This has led to adverse conditions in the agriculture industry. Improving soil and water quality is a powerful tool that increases climate resiliency and farmers are some of the best stewards of healthy lands. Working lands with good micro-climate buffering, such as the balanced interplays of soil temperature, air temperature, wind, and water, see increased crop production and better overall health, and support species diversity. In addition to the farmlands in our region, eastern Idaho supports vast wetlands, which provide many functions that can reduce the impacts of climate change, such as storing carbon, providing water storage, and reducing flooding.

Conservation easements, our primary tool in conserving land, preserve species diversity by providing corridors for wildlife movement and conserving the natural and traditional values of the land. Safeguarding land is key to maintaining diversity and supporting climate resiliency. Strategic land conservation and stewardship of these lands, in tandem, are so important to supporting the health of an ecosystem, and maintaining the quality of life that east Idaho offers to its human and wild inhabitants.

At TRLT, we are working to bring the newest science into our decision making and planning. We have developed a strategic conservation plan that prioritizes migration corridors, open spaces, and wetlands, areas that are valuable to supporting climate resiliency and species diversity. This plan helps us focus our conservation efforts on projects with the greatest impact.

How is our community responding to changing conditions?

In 2018, the Henry's Fork Foundation partnered with Friends of the Teton River (FTR), Trout Unlimited, and the Nature Conservancy to form the Upper Snake River Collaborative Farms and Fish Program, a program which aims to benefit both agriculture and fisheries through incentives to keep working farms working, protect rural landscapes, reduce rates of water withdrawal, and keep water in the Island Park Reservoir. FTR's soil health initiative and aquifer recharge program address the root causes of climate change and pursue climate adaptation strategies. Additionally, FTR is participating in the Teton Climate Action Planning group, with the goal of ensuring that Teton Valley and our residents play a significant role in regional climate action and climate adaptation efforts. The Natural Resources Conservation Series (NRCS) offers programs to landowners who want to maintain or enhance their land in a way beneficial to agriculture and/or the environment. NRCS works with farmers to implement cover crops, no-till practices, and upgraded irrigation systems that are helping to improve water quality and soil health, while also increasing the quality of produce and thus the farmers' bottom line. All NRCS programs are voluntary and provide technical help and financial assistance to interested parties. LegacyWorks Group works with water managers and users to improve water resources and riparian habitats, and has been instrumental in bringing local groups together to address climate change. With these partnerships working to protect the natural resources in our region, we are all supporting climate resiliency.

Conservation is a social practice, as it relies on the efforts of many, and there is not just one method that works alone. It literally takes a village! This is an important moment. There is an inspired movement of sharing knowledge, experiences, and support within the scientific and conservation worlds that brings hope, and hopefully, action. Much like the complexity of the natural world that we are trying to protect, it will take an interconnected web of communities to protect our place.

WHAT IS PLANNED GIVING?

A planned gift is a gift you arrange today in order to make a lasting difference in the future toward something that is important to you. When you make a planned gift to Teton Regional Land Trust, you help ensure that east Idaho's landscapes remain intact, **forever**. Your legacy will live on in the lands, rivers, and wildlife, and in the memories of people who love this place. It is the greatest gift you can give to our future generations!

Planned gifts are made through:

- Bequests and Wills
- Gifts of Real Estate and Appreciated Property
- Gifts of Special Assets such as Life Insurance Policies and Retirement Accounts
- Gifts that Pay Income

When you make a planned gift, you determine how your assets are distributed. You may even earn income from your gift as it matures or gain tax benefits.

SUPPORT OUR WORK AND SAVE ON TAXES!

If you are 70½ or older and have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you can lower your income taxes by making a tax-free gift from your IRA directly to the Teton Regional Land Trust. These gifts, called Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (up to \$100,000 annually), and effectively lower your adjusted gross income giving you many tax benefits. To make your QCD to the Land Trust, please visit our website to learn how under our "Support" tab.

Meet Richard Grundler

LAND TRUST MEMBER AND DONOR



Richard G. Grundler grew up in western New York and went to the University of Vermont and then to the University of Buffalo School of Dentistry. He joined the Navy and spent a year in Vietnam with the Marines. Upon his return, Richard set up his dental practice in Burlington, Vermont. After running his practice for 28 years, he retired in 1990. Richard first came out to fish in Teton Valley in 1961. Ever since then, he has been drawn to Teton Valley for its skiing and fishing. In 1999, he bought his current home in Victor and moved here permanently from Vermont in 2001.

Richard inherited a home on Nantucket Island, which he committed to donating to the Teton Regional Land Trust in 2014. This summer, his extremely generous donation came to fruition when he transferred full ownership to the Land Trust with the intent for the nonprofit to sell it. Once the property was sold, the proceeds of the sale established the Richard G. Grundler Teton Valley Conservation Fund to support conservation efforts in Teton Valley.

"I recognized Teton Valley as a last remaining location where nature still had a chance. I want to do as much as possible to assure that happens. I have traveled the world and recognize how fortunate we are. I feel privileged that I will be able to see what my involvement in the valley results in."

IN RICHARD'S WORDS:

What is your vision for Teton Valley moving forward?

Keeping it peaceful, quiet, serene, and most importantly having "short lift lines!"

What are some of your concerns about the future of Teton Valley?

Non-harmonious, uncontrolled development, and resulting isolated parcels of land that are left fragmented and are no longer farmable.

What would you say to TRLT donors that are thinking of leaving a legacy gift similar to yours?

Do it now when you are able to see the benefits of your donations while you are still living. You can also offer input on how best to see your donations used.

What are some of your favorite things about the valley? Definitely fishing. I also enjoy watching the many different bird species in my backyard. A fun memory: One evening, while having burger and beers with friends on my deck, we spotted four mountain lions on the hillside that we were able to watch for a while. It was truly spectacular!

Letter from our Board President

REFLECTION



Elk habitat on John Nedrow's conserved property

Wow! That's about the best word I can think of to describe the last two years and how fast they have gone. I never dreamed that my term as board president would be one of the most challenging periods the Land Trust has ever faced. COVID-19 and all the uncertainty around it had the potential to seriously disrupt our work. However, our staff rose to the occasion and kept our work on track.

I want to thank our great staff, especially the leadership team of Tamara, Jeske, and Christine, who have been sharing the executive director duties, as well as continuing to do their "regular" jobs. I also want to thank our board vice president, Arantza Zabala, who will be stepping into the president's role in January. She has been an irreplaceable member of

the leadership team, taking on the near full-time job of leading the executive director search committee. I could not have done my job without her help, support, and expertise.

I want to also extend a special thank you to Richard Grundler, who gifted us a property on Nantucket Island in Massachusetts. The sale of that property was completed in September and the proceeds will help us complete some wonderful conservation projects in Teton Valley.

Thank you again to all of our faithful supporters whose generosity has allowed us to keep doing our important work.

- John Nedrow, Board President

Welcome to the Board, William "Brad" Bradley



Brad is a retired IT company co-founder/senior executive and attorney. He was raised on a farm outside of Lawrence, Kansas, and currently lives in Overland Park, Kansas. While in school, he fell in love with the mountains on backpacking trips in Colorado. He graduated from the University of Kansas and twenty years later, bought a second home in Jackson, Wyoming. When Jackson was getting "crowded and noisy," he moved to Irwin, Idaho.

He currently owns and manages the 2,000-acre Little Osage Ranch along the Kansas-Missouri border. He practices regenerative agriculture for row crop production and intensive livestock grazing. The entire ranch is under a conservation easement with Pheasants Forever. Brad is married to Robbie Harding and they have five children and stepchildren and eight grandchildren and step grandchildren. He enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking, skiing, sailing, and scuba diving.

"I became acquainted with TRLT when I bought a raffle ticket for a chance to win a drift boat. I was contacted by TRLT and one thing led to another. My involvement increased significantly when I moved to Irwin and I met staff and board members. Land Trusts in general and TRLT in particular are critical to protecting functioning ecosystems, habitats, and scenic corridors as population and development increase. Once this land is "gone" for any of those purposes, it is gone forever. So, we have a once-in-a-forever chance to do something and I'm proud to join the board of such an important organization."

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR BOARD MEMBERS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE.

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



PHOTO: ANNA KIRKPATRICK

The Trumpeter Swan Project is a long-term effort to establish Trumpeter Swans in Teton Valley and secure the heritage of breeding Trumpeter Swans in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. In 2021, we released five cygnets onto a conserved property in Teton Valley, and we are continuing our monitoring efforts of these young birds in hopes that they will return to breed here.

STAFF LIST

Tamara Sperber
CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

Christine Ford
OPERATIONS MANAGER

Jeske Gräve
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Katie Guetz
LAND STEWARD

Renee Hiebert
CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

Josh Holmes
LAND PROTECTION SPECIALIST

Kimberly Holmes
STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR

Hilary Ordoñez
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

Kate Hopkins Salomon
COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS
COORDINATOR

PASTBOARDMEMBERS

Lonnie Allen, Dennis Aslett, Clen 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, Jean Crabtree, Liz Davy, Harold Dunn, Ken Dunn, Frank Felton, Lou Gaylord, Dan Gerber, Jamie Greene, Gary Grigg, Ed Hill, Tom Hill, Tim Hopkins, Beach Huntsman, Nancy Huntsman, Glenn Janss, Jeff Klausmann, Amy Lientz, Debbie McGregor, Martin McLellan, Connie Mohr, Heidi Nelson, Brett Novik, Jon Prahasto, Jerry Reese, David Reinke, Chuck Rice, Dave Richardson, Ron Rope, Frank Russo, Dave Rydall, Gene Sewell, David Shipman, Rick Sitts, Steve Smart, Catherine Smith, Gloria Smith, Susan Steinman, Albert Tilt, Ned Twining, Glenn Vitucci, Michael Whitfield, Meredith Wilson, and Delbert Winterfeld.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Nedrow, President
Farmer | Ashton, Idaho

Arantza Zabala, Vice President
Retired Idaho National Laboratory Human Resource Manager | Victor, Idaho

Bonnie Self, Treasurer
Grant Writer | Alta, Wyoming

John Van Orman, Secretary
Entrepreneur | Swan Valley, Idaho

Mike Allen
Attorney | Swan Valley, Idaho

Robin Anderson
Retired Financial Advisor | Teton, Idaho

William "Brad" Bradley
Retired IT Company Co-founder & Senior Executive | Overland Park, Kansas

Tim Brockish
Small Business Owner | Rexburg, Idaho

Bill Graham, Past President
Entrepreneur | Kenilworth, Illinois & Teton Valley, Idaho

Phyllis Hockett
Philanthropist | Salt Lake City, Utah & Swan Valley, Idaho

Wes Keller
Retired Physician | Salt Lake City, Utah & Teton Valley, Idaho

Bob Lugar, Finance Committee Chair
Retired Financial Advisor | Rigby, Idaho

Matt MacMillan
Real Estate Broker | Jackson, Wyoming

Paul Merrill
Financial Advisor | Teton Valley, Idaho

Bruce J. Mincher
Retired Scientist | Idaho Falls, Idaho

Laura Pickard
Farmer | Ashton, Idaho

Timothy Reynolds
Ecologist | Rigby, Idaho

Karen Rice, Conservation Committee Chair
Retired BLM Associate District Manager | Idaho Falls, Idaho

Bill Rogers
Retired Chemist/Chemical Engineer | Idaho Falls and Teton Valley, Idaho

Sue Talbot
Fly Fishing Guide/Snow Cat Driver | Swan Valley, Idaho

David Work, Development Committee Chair
Retired Executive | Victor, Idaho

BOARD EMERITUS

Susan Lykes
Linda Merigliano
Lew Mithun
Dean Scofield

208.354.8939 | TETONLANDTRUST.ORG

SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER ON OUR WEBSITE.



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.

