

summer 2026

our place

INSPIRING YOU TO
PROTECT GREAT PLACES

Photo Credit: Kit Weitnauer



TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST

Dear Friends,

Many people think the highlight of this job is spending time outside. That is certainly a gift, but truly, the best part of this work is the connection between people and place, between stewardship and community, and between past and future.

That truth is embodied by Nancy Winter. Earlier this year, Nancy completed two conservation easements with Teton Regional Land Trust, leaving a legacy on the land she loved. Nancy approached the land trust in the early 2000's as a conservation buyer, buying parcels that could have been developed, then placing them under conservation easement. Nancy died this February days after completing her most recent easement. Nancy's impact, however, reaches far beyond acreage. She has been a visionary for land trusts across the nation, showing what is possible when conservation is grounded in respect, partnership, and trust. Here at TRLT, Nancy helped open doors, building meaningful relationships with neighboring landowners, agricultural producers, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Because of her, our work is deeper, more inclusive, and more durable.



— Kim Trotter

Executive Director,
Teton Regional Land Trust
Photo ©2025 Linda M. Swope

Staff

Amanda Bly: *Stewardship Director*

Nicole Cyr: *Stewardship Coordinator*

Katie Gabel-Patterson: *Finance and Operations Director*

Lydia Hanson: *Staff Attorney/Conservation Project Manager*

Renee Hiebert: *Land Protection Director*

Madison Jacks: *Engagement Associate*

Anna Naylor: *Communications and Development Manager*

Niah Pennington: *Stewardship Coordinator*

Kristy Smith: *Stewardship Associate*

Tamara Sperber: *Conservation Director*

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We are equally inspired by landowners like Dale Daw. Dale lived through the Teton Dam flood 50 years ago, and alongside his neighbors, helped rebuild not just his farm, but community. Today, he continues that legacy by protecting his family farm for the next generation. He embodies farm succession with his resilience, cooperation, and hope rooted firmly in the land.

This spirit of connection also guides what's ahead. This summer we invite you to join us for the Teton Valley Bioblitz - a community celebration of the birds, bugs, plants, and people that make this valley unique, in partnership with the Teton Valley Chapter of Idaho Master Naturalists. Together, we'll build connection with the biodiversity that sustains us all. We hope you will join us on June 6.

And finally, we hope you will join us to celebrate friends, community, and conservation on Wednesday, June 24 at Six Springs Ranch for a double header of IN A LANDSCAPE: Classical Music in the Wild and Dinner at the Barn. This year's double header will be double the fun. Join just for music, just for dinner and celebration, or the entire evening.

Thank you for being part of this community and this shared work.

The Faces Behind Our Work

Welcome New Team Members

Amanda Bly
Stewardship Director



Originally from Virginia's northern Shenandoah Valley, Amanda developed an early interest in the outdoors and natural resources. She earned a BS in Environmental Science from University of Virginia and built a career in sustainable agriculture, conservation, and land management. Her experience includes work with the Forest and Park Service, agricultural research, and state and federal agencies, most recently as a supervisor for the USDA in Idaho. She also served as Field Operations Manager

for the Virginia Department of Agriculture, overseeing projects and staff statewide.

A former beekeeper and pollinator enthusiast, Amanda established a half-acre pollinator plot in Virginia that continues to support research at Virginia Tech. In 2024, she relocated to eastern Idaho and now lives in Jackson, where she worked as a part-time wildlife guide in the Teton Range. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, skiing, climbing, wildlife viewing, and exploring the outdoors.

Madison Jacks
Engagement Associate



Born and raised in Southern California, Madison earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Arizona State University before pursuing a dual master's degree in the political economy of development abroad. She received a Master in International Governance and Diplomacy from Sciences Po in Paris and an MSc in Development Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Madison's professional background is in international development, land use policy, and governance. She has worked and lived in Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, the United Kingdom, France, and most recently Washington, DC. These experiences have shaped her commitment to thoughtful development practices that balance economic opportunity, environmental stewardship, and community wellbeing.

Bill Bauer
Board Member



Bill grew up in a small farming community in northeast Nebraska, where he spent his youth exploring creeks and rivers, fishing, hunting, and developing a love for the outdoors. Family trips, especially to the Oregon coast and through the Mountain West, deepened his interest in wild places, alongside early inspiration from wildlife television programs.

He went on to earn a dual degree in biology and chemistry from Chadron State College before pursuing a Ph.D. in analytical

chemistry at the University of Idaho. During a 34-year career at Idaho National Laboratory, he worked on research ranging from cancer treatment to environmental contaminants.

Since settling in Idaho, Bill has embraced outdoor pursuits like skiing, biking, hiking, rafting, and fly fishing. He and his wife, Stephanie Rose, enjoy time with their children and grandchildren, restoring historic properties, and traveling.



Teton Valley faces growing wildfire threats. Learn more and prepare at
tvwildfiremitigation.org



TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST

2026 EVENTS



BioBlitz

Multiple locations | Teton Valley, ID
Various Times

Join the Idaho Master Naturalists in partnership with the Land Trust for the inaugural Teton Valley BioBlitz, a community celebration of local plants, animals, and habitats. Learn from experts and contribute as a citizen scientist.

Birding on the Henry's Fork

Lawson's Henry's Fork Property
St. Anthony, ID | 7:30 AM – 10 AM

Join us for a morning walk to look and listen for birds on an amazing conserved property on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River.



Plant Ecology Tour

Woods Creek Fen | Driggs, ID
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join our team for a tour of Woods Creek Fen, an ecologically important area protected by Teton Regional Land Trust.

Thursday Walks Series

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

June 18 at Six Springs Ranch, July 16 at Three Forks, and September 24 at Pontirussa Ranch. June 18 will include a fisheries tour with Friends of the Teton River.



Scan to learn more about our events.

In A Landscape:
Classical Music in the Wild™
& Dinner at the Barn

Six Springs Ranch | Driggs, ID
4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Pianist Hunter Noack will perform on a grand piano set right in the heart of the property. Following the performance, join us for dinner in the barn.



Stories from the Land

The Nedrow's Property | Ashton, ID
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Join us to listen to landowner stories and learn all about the history of the area from people who have lived there over the years.

Drinks on the Porch

TRLT's Office | Driggs, ID
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Join us for a casual open house at our office, an easy way to spend a summer evening with drinks, a few light bites, and good conversation.



9th Annual Greater Yellowstone
Crane Festival

Across Teton Valley, ID

Celebrate the migration of Sandhill Cranes through tours, workshops, and a grand celebration on Saturday at Grand Teton Brewing.

Holiday Party

Grand Targhee Resort | Alta, WY
Public at 3:00PM, Member at 6:00 PM

Celebrate the year of conserving land in eastern Idaho, with an open gathering at The Trap Bar and Grill, followed by a ticketed dinner and membership appreciation event at the Powder Cache.



AFTER THE FLOOD: THE DAW FAMILY'S Journey to Rebuild and Protect Their Farm

Remembering June 5, 1976, and reflecting on how a single day reshaped the Teton River Valley, its land, and its community for generations.

On June 5, 1976, the failure of the Teton Dam sent floodwaters rushing through the Teton River Valley, destroying homes, farms, and fields that had been worked for generations. Entire landscapes were reshaped in a matter of hours.

June 5, 2026, marks the 50th anniversary of that day.

For the Daw family near Newdale, the flood is not just part of regional history. It is part of their family story. Dale Daw was only four months old when the dam broke. In the hours after people began hearing the dam had failed, neighbors gathered nearby, trying to understand what was happening. Dale recalls the story that was told in his family about what they saw next.

"There was an old spud pit right here, and all the neighbors, my mom, dad, uncle, and aunt, were sitting on top of it because they'd heard the dam had broken. They looked up and they could see a brown wall, just trees and everything rolling out of the canyon. Roy Cubell said they were too low and they needed to get higher, so they jumped in their pickups and cars and drove across the field."

Dale said his mother remembered that his father was complaining the whole way as they drove across newly planted grain to reach higher

ground. But in the end, it didn't matter, because the floodwaters washed it all away.

Dale's grandparents had been in Montana when the dam had broken, and when they returned home after the flood, almost everything was gone.

"When they got home only two of their old cows were hanging around their place. Grandpa went to go fix the corral, and he didn't even have a hammer, or nails, or board, or anything, because it was all gone. So, he had a neighbor come over and push some old equipment up and makeshift a corral."

The next morning, they came outside and the two cows they had left were gone. Someone had stopped and stolen them.

"Grandpa said it was the worst thing ever, when you lose everything once and the next day you lose everything again."

In the years that followed, Dale's father had to sell pieces of the family farm to make ends meet. Land that had once been farmed together was divided into separate parcels.

About twenty-five years after the disaster, the Daw family began the long process of buying land back whenever it became available. Dale

said seven different neighboring family farmers owned parcels that bordered their property. Over time, the family worked with those neighbors to purchase the land piece by piece.

Eventually, more than 650 acres of the original farmstead were back together along the lower Teton River.

By fall 2025, after decades of restoring their family farm, the Daw family reached a new milestone. With Teton Regional Land Trust, they placed 654 acres of their land into a conservation easement, ensuring the farm and its riverfront would forever remain a home for both family and wildlife.

Funding for the project included private support and assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service through its Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

For Dale, the decision was simple.

"I think it's a good idea, or I wouldn't have done it. I think it needs to be done. Farm ground needs to stay farm ground, and riverfront needs to stay riverfront."

Over the years he has watched how development changes the landscape. Houses built close to the water push ducks and geese away, and elk have shifted their movement as development spreads into areas where they once traveled.

The Daw property remains open along the river.

"Farm ground needs to stay farm ground and riverfront needs to stay riverfront."

— Dale Daw
Legacy Landowner

Photo Credit: Devin Pool



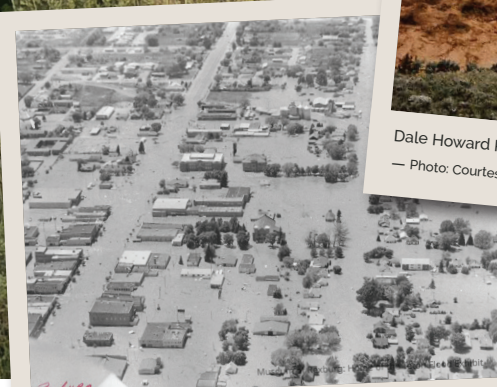
Cows running through a farmer's field trying to outrun the flood.
— Photo: Courtesy of the Museum of Rexburg.



The dam flood waters moving through town
— Photo: Courtesy of the Museum of Rexburg.



Dale Howard Photo featured in Time Magazine.
— Photo: Courtesy of the Museum of Rexburg.



Rexburg completely flooded by the Teton Dam disaster
— Photo: Courtesy of the Museum of Rexburg.

"I just didn't want the ground to ever be developed," Dale said.

Today, the land and waters continue to support agriculture while also providing habitat for wildlife including moose, Sandhill Cranes, Trumpeter Swans, and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. It also plays a critical role for mule deer and other big game in the region. Josh Rydalch, a wildlife biologist with Idaho Department of Fish and Game, explained that the Daw property serves as terminal winter range for mule deer. "It's where they end up when weather gets really severe... it's kind of that anchor for them to have, just to hold out the winter months from the high country."

Rydalch emphasized the importance of protecting lands like the Daw farm. "Much of our mule deer winter range is on private lands, and protection of lands like the Daw farm is critical in long-term sustainability of some of these big game populations. It's a great example of how working lands and wildlife can be managed together."

Nearly fifty years after the Teton Dam failure, the Daw family has done something remarkable. They brought their farm back together after the flood scattered it. With the conservation easement now in place, it will provide critical habitat for wildlife moving through the Teton Valley, and the land will forever remain farmland and open.

The Protection of Horseshoe Flats

Our community recently lost a remarkable conservationist, friend, and mentor, **Nancy Winter**.

Nancy first connected with Teton Regional Land Trust in 2005 as a conservation buyer, and over the past two decades, her vision and persistence helped protect more than 800 acres of farmland and wildlife habitat along the Teton River. Even in her final weeks, Nancy remained deeply engaged in this work, helping complete two new conservation easements with her Three Forks, LLC, protecting 290 acres west of Driggs.

Known as Horseshoe Flats I (160 acres) and Horseshoe Flats II (130 acres), these lands now join more than 2,000 acres of already protected working lands and wildlife habitat. The properties include an essential elk migration corridor and critical breeding grounds for Sandhill Cranes and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse. Every fall, the fields fill

with more than 1,100 Sandhill Cranes during their pre-migration staging, gathering in the open alfalfa, barley, and wheat fields before beginning their long journey south. These landscapes, now permanently protected, will remain alive with wildlife and productive farmland because Nancy believed deeply in preserving them.

Nancy's impact extended far beyond acres conserved. She challenged us to think bigger, strengthened our projects, and encouraged broader conversations with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes about cultural access, camas restoration along the Teton River, and interpretive opportunities on conserved lands. Vibrant and purposeful, Nancy traveled widely, was an Olympic equestrian who loved horses with all her heart, and supported conservation efforts across the country. In every place she worked, she left land, people, and institutions stronger than she found them.



Nancy Winter
1943–2026

Horseshoe Flats stands as a testament to Nancy's dedication and her enduring vision for conservation in Teton Valley. Her partnership and friendship continue to inspire us as we work to secure lasting protection for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

160
Protected Acres in Horseshoe Flats I

130
Protected Acres in Horseshoe Flats II

2,320+
Acres of protected Horseshoe flats land

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE of Working Lands

Farms and ranches are the backbone of eastern Idaho. As many landowners approach retirement, planning for the next generation is increasingly important. Over the next two decades, nearly one-third of U.S. agricultural land will change hands, shaping the future of communities, local economies, and working lands.

To support these families, Teton Regional Land Trust has partnered with American Farmland Trust through the Land Transfer Navigators Program. Supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the four-year initiative provides funding, training, and technical assistance to help transfer farms and ranches to the next generation.

Without a clear plan, agricultural land is vulnerable to fragmentation or conversion to non-farming uses. "Recent data shows that we are losing 14 square miles of prime farmland in Idaho every year, totalling over 400 farms and ranches annually. So we are in the crux of this

land transition now in Idaho," said Staff Attorney/Conservation Project Manager, Lydia Hanson. Between 2016 and 2023, over 64,000 acres of farmland shifted out of agricultural production, with more than 400 farms and ranches lost. These changes affect not only livelihoods, communities, and ecosystems.

Succession planning can be complex. It often requires coordination with estate attorneys, financial advisors, lenders, mediators, and appraisers, as well as navigating personal and family decisions. Many landowners are unsure where to start.

Through the Land Transfer Navigators Program, Teton Regional Land Trust helps families take those first steps by providing guidance, connecting them with trusted professionals, and offering resources to navigate the process with confidence.

By supporting these transitions, eastern Idaho's farms and ranches can remain productive, resilient, and a lasting part of the community.

400
Idaho farms & ranches lost annually

For more information and resources, reach out to Lydia Hanson at lydia@tetonlandtrust.org.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

The Relationships That Protect The Land

“ I have the unique opportunity to work at multiple scales to protect and sustain critical wildlife habitat, while supporting agricultural production, which is the life force of our service area. ”

— Kristy Smith
Stewardship Associate

The work of conservation doesn't end when a conservation easement is signed. In many ways, it's only the start.

For every property protected with a conservation easement, Teton Regional Land Trust takes on a permanent responsibility: ensuring that the land remains protected according to the terms agreed upon with the landowner. But stewardship is more than oversight and monitoring. It's a long-term relationship built on trust, respect, and a shared commitment to the land.

Year after year, staff return to these properties, not just to monitor the land, but to stay connected with the people who care for it every day. These visits are conversations as much as they are check-ins. Opportunities to listen, to learn how things are changing, and to support local families as they make decisions about their land.

Because stewardship spans generations, these relationships often grow over time. A landowner who once placed an easement may pass the land on to family, or sell to someone new. Operations shift, priorities evolve, and each chapter brings new questions. Through it all, the Land Trust remains a consistent partner, all while respecting the independence and knowledge of the people on the ground.

“I strive to immerse myself in the ecosystems I choose to live in, and that includes getting to know the people that call it home who have a working relationship with the land,” said Stewardship Associate, Kristy Smith. “I have the unique opportunity to work at multiple scales to protect and sustain critical wildlife habitat, while supporting agricultural production, which is the life force of our service area.”

Behind the scenes, stewardship also includes the careful documentation that ensures conservation commitments hold over time. Baseline reports, mapping, and ongoing records help maintain a clear understanding of each property, even as ownership changes.

At its core, stewardship is about showing up year after year with care and consistency. It's about honoring the trust landowners place in conservation, and working alongside them to ensure that the land continues to support agriculture, wildlife, and open space.

Behind every conserved property is a relationship rooted in a shared belief that this land matters, and that it's worth taking care of.

THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE

Sandhill Crane Initiative

Each fall, the skies of eastern Idaho fill with the unmistakable calls of Sandhill Crane, a timeless signal of migration in the Greater Yellowstone region.

Thousands gather in the Upper Snake River Valley to rest and refuel before

continuing south to New Mexico.

Drawn by a rare combination of wetlands and working farmland, the valley supports the largest pre-migration staging

population in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Our Initiative focuses on conserving wetlands and agricultural habitat, planting grain lure crops for reliable food sources, conducting annual fall surveys, and building public awareness and engagement.

At Teton Regional Land Trust, we believe conservation is strongest when it brings people together. By supporting the Greater Yellowstone

Sandhill Crane Initiative, our community is helping safeguard the lands and waters cranes depend on.

This work also carries forward the legacy of renowned crane biologist Rod Drewien, whose decades of research shaped much of what we know about Sandhill Cranes in the Rocky Mountain region. Over a career spanning 50 years, he documented migratory pathways, seasonal habitat, population trends, and developed survey methods still used today.

We're now 73% of the way toward our \$1.2 million goal to permanently fund this work and sustain habitat, partnerships, and stewardship for years to come.

To those who have already contributed, thank you. Your support is helping protect one of the region's most extraordinary wildlife migrations. If you'd like to be part of this effort, donations can be made to the Rod Drewien Crane Conservation Fund on our website.



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Photo Credit: Tim Mayo



9th Annual Crane Festival is September 23-26, 2026
— Photo: Linda M. Swope



Crane Festival Features: Crane tours, photography workshop, painting class, and a Community Crane Celebration at Grand Teton Brewing on Saturday the 26th

FEATURED VOLUNTEERS:

Idaho Master Naturalists, Teton Valley Chapter

Across Teton Valley, the Teton Valley Chapter of Idaho Master Naturalists is helping deepen our understanding of the natural world by bringing together community members committed to learning about Idaho's ecosystems and putting that knowledge to work through conservation.

Sponsored by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Idaho Master Naturalist program trains volunteers to become informed stewards of Idaho's landscapes and wildlife. Participants complete coursework and field experiences, then volunteer through stewardship, citizen science, and conservation education.

Each September, IMN assists Teton Regional Land Trust with monitoring pre-migratory Sandhill Crane populations, supporting the Greater Yellowstone Sandhill Crane Initiative by documenting staging birds before fall migration.

"The Idaho Master Naturalist Teton

Valley Chapter plays an important role in our Sandhill Crane surveys by bringing trained volunteers with local knowledge and a true passion for conservation," Stewardship Coordinator, Niah Pennington said. "They know exactly what to look for and provide quality data that strengthens this long-term study and helps to support the Land Trust's mission on securing the future of Idaho's crane populations."

Their dedication earned the group TRLT's 2025 Fred Mugler Volunteer Appreciation Award, which honors the legacy of the longtime conservation supporter, and recognizes the spirit of volunteerism that makes this work possible.

This June, IMN is inviting the entire community to participate in something new: the inaugural Teton Valley BioBlitz.

Taking place June 5-6, the BioBlitz is a community effort to celebrate

Teton Valley's biodiversity. Saturday morning, participants will join experts at five sites to survey wetlands, forests, and riparian areas, recording plants and animals in iNaturalist for a growing public database. As Idaho Master Naturalist Martha Glenn shared, "The experience helps people feel more comfortable in and appreciative of nature."

Expert-led sessions focused on bats, insects, and birds will also take place Friday evening and early Saturday morning.

After the general surveys, on Saturday afternoon, participants are invited to Six Springs Ranch for a community Conservation Fair featuring local organizations, hands-on activities, and a recap of BioBlitz discoveries. As Idaho Master Naturalist Kathy O'Neil puts it, "It's an effort to engage community members, and bring them into a better awareness of biodiversity and other species who we share space with."



11th Season

IN A LANDSCAPE

Classical Music in the Wild™

& Dinner at the Barn

Join Teton Regional Land Trust on June 24, 2026, for IN A LANDSCAPE and Dinner at the Barn, an evening that brings the community together through music, food, and a shared connection to the landscape.

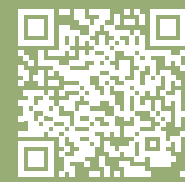
The evening begins at 4:00 PM with a guided conservation tour of Six Springs Ranch to learn more about the land you'll be experiencing that evening. From 5:00–6:30 PM, pianist Hunter Noack will perform on a grand piano set right in the

heart of the ranch. Guests listen through wireless headphones and can explore the grasslands and willow-lined creeks at their own pace, experiencing the music in the open landscape.

Head over to tetonlandtrust.org to purchase your tickets and sign up for a conservation property tour. We are so excited to have you join us for music, dinner, and a community live auction and paddle raise to support our conservation work in eastern Idaho.

June 24 | Six Springs Ranch | Driggs, ID | 4–8 PM

Scan to learn more



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TETONIA CLUB

Pamela & Roger Mayes
Frank & Maryann Russo
Sue Rope
Park & Sharon Price
The Linger Family



Photo Credit: Linda M. Swope

tetonlandtrust.org 15



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Driggs, ID 83422



Remember us in your Tin Cup giving this year!

To donate, visit tincupchallenge.org **June 12 – July 24**, and select Teton Regional Land Trust as your recipient.

Your Tin Cup contribution will help us continue protecting Teton Valley's most vulnerable and irreplaceable habitats. With your support, we can continue to collaborate with passionate landowners to conserve lands critical for wildlife and communities for generations to come.

Since 1990, your generous support has helped conserve over 13,000 acres in Teton County, including over 29 miles along the Teton River. Thank you for making an enduring impact on this landscape!



Photo Credit: Linda M. Swope

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*

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.