The Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust is excited to partner with the City of Pocatello and the community as we develop plans and strategies to begin implementing the Portneuf River Vision. The shared community vision for the Portneuf River is to restore the river corridor with a focus on ecological, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life. This fits squarely with the Land Trust’s mission, “To celebrate, connect, protect and enhance natural lands and waters, wildlife habitat, working farms and ranches, community spaces and recreational lands in Southeast Idaho, now and for future generations” (SSLT Mission and Vision 2025).

Our community has an ambitious vision to recover and restore the Portneuf River through the Pocatello Valley. By creating engaging community spaces, removing the concrete channel in Old Town, and connecting the River to its historic floodplain, we envision a community with direct access to the River and trails, a thriving recreational economy, enhanced wildlife habitat, and open space for people to connect with each other and nature. This is our community’s most important river campaign in a generation.

The Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust will play a leadership role in coordinating local groups to raise awareness and develop fundraising strategies for restoration efforts. The Land Trust will work to build a diverse partnership that supports Pocatello’s vision for the Portneuf River.

For more information on the Portneuf River Vision Study, please visit https://river.pocatello.us/