CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust

For Generations To Come

2004-2024

open SPACES

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACE

Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust

For Generations To Come

FALL 2024

Our mission is to protect, connect, and enhance wildlife habitat, working lands, and community spaces in Southeast Idaho, now and for future generations.

Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust

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Mission

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Cover Photo

By Parker Lloyd, E.J. Zita and Nancy Armstrong in Field of Blooming Flax on Their Ranch

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS AND CONSERVATION PARTNERS


Tracie O'Neill, Chuck Peterson, and Diane French

The family of Bill Davidson and Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust (SSLT) presented two awards on Friday, July 5, 2024, at the annual Bill Davidson Memorial BBQ and Fundraiser. Dr. Charles "Chuck" R. Peterson was presented with the Bill Davidson Volunteer of the Year award, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Idaho Conservation Easement Team received the Bill Davidson Conservation Partner award.

Chuck has provided outstanding dedication to SSLT during his tenure as our 2023 Artist in Residence. He donated nearly 200 hours of volunteer time and hundreds of photographs to help SSLT better tell the Land Trust's story through his lens. Chuck has also documented events, communities, projects, conservation easements, and the wildlife that use and inhabit these easements. Chuck is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in reptiles and amphibians and has been a mentor and inspiration to not just his many students, but to the community as a whole.

NRCS, including Tracie O'Neill and Diane French, consistently provide outstanding leadership, support, and problem-solving skills to navigate the challenges and complexities of conservation easement funding with federal monies. Tracie, Diane, and the Conservation Easement team have worked tirelessly on behalf of land trusts in Idaho to champion, restructure, and streamline the state's process for grants, administration, and support. All four of SSLT's conservation easements that closed in 2023 were purchased with the help of federal funding from NRCS.

SSLT is grateful for the opportunity to recognize members of our community that make a difference to the landscape and leave a conservation legacy for the benefit of us all.

THANK YOU, ERICA MCMINN, STEWARDSHIP INTERN

At the end of the summer, we said farewell to our Stewardship Intern, Erica McMinn, who has been an invaluable member of our team during the monitoring season.


Erica McMinn

Erica was the leader on multiple monitoring visits across Southeast Idaho and took on a variety of additional roles, including:

- Mapping for various conservation easement and fee title properties
- Planting at Century Heights Preserve
- Helping to design the new kiosk signage for Century Heights Preserve
- Post-fire analysis at Century Heights Preserve
- Assisting with Friends of Edson Fichter Nature Area projects
- Other general stewardship needs
- And much more!

"Working for SSLT has been a wonderful and unique experience and I have appreciated being a part of this team," says Erica. "Everyone here cares about the SSLT mission, and we are all working together to make a difference in the world, which truly is the dream. The support I personally received from the community and our dedicated volunteers was incredible and made this work possible. I feel very fortunate to have been a part of this organization this summer and to know these wonderful people."

Erica recently graduated from Idaho State University with a Master's degree in GIS and is working part time with the Intermountain Bird Observatory to band birds. We hope you join us in wishing her the best of luck in her future endeavors!

Kackley Ranch
Photo by: Charles R. Peterson

SAGEBRUSH STEPPE LAND TRUST ACQUIRES 900+ ACRES OF RANCHLAND IN CARIBOU COUNTY

Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust (SSLT) completed a fee-title transfer of land from the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands (IFPL) on May 31, adding 920 acres of ranchland and wildlife habitat to SSLT's conservation portfolio. The property, known as the Kackley Ranch, contains a variety of habitats including mixed forest, sagebrush steppe, and pastureland. The mixed habitat, as well as the multiple forks of Chippy Creek and Wayan Creek, support an abundance of wildlife such as Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, long-billed curlew, Sandhill crane, elk, deer, moose, migratory songbirds, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, and reptiles and amphibians.

"This beautiful property protects such a valuable corridor of relatively undeveloped land in Southeast Idaho," says Eric Pankau, SSLT Stewardship Manager. "It represents an amazing opportunity for partnership, education, and managing working lands to benefit wildlife. We are so excited to use this property as a focal point to showcase collaborative conservation efforts in this landscape."

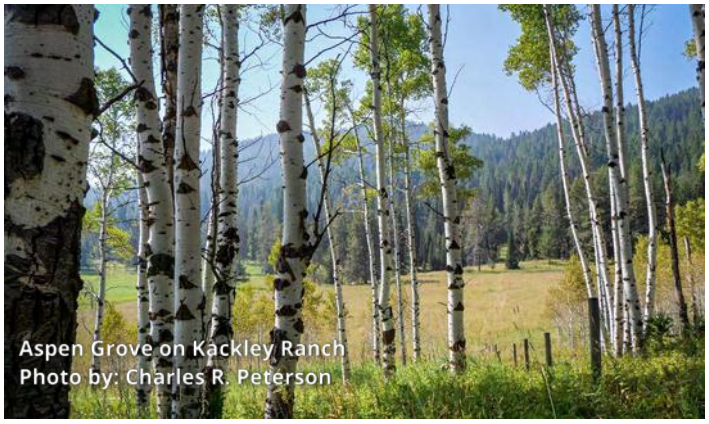
Alvin (Al) Kackley and his brother Ellis had granted a conservation easement and fee ownership to IFPL in 2006, perpetually protecting the Kackley Ranch. Al states that his family loved the property for many years and wanted to see it maintained in its current condition, protecting the land and all the critters that live on it.

After conducting careful stewardship of the Kackley Ranch for over two decades and desiring only to ensure the land's continued protection and honor of the original donor's intent, IFPL worked with Matt Lucia, Executive Director of SSLT, to facilitate a transfer of ownership to a local land trust who could manage the property consistent with the conservation easement terms in perpetuity.

"As Idaho's oldest land trust, we're proud to convey the Kackley Ranch to the Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, a fantastic representative of the current generation of Idaho's conservation organizations. I am delighted that Sagebrush Steppe will provide local management of this beautiful agricultural open space for future generations," says Brandy Wilson, President of Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands.

After taking title to the ranch property, SSLT also received the Al and Yvonne Kackley Endowment to manage the Kackley Ranch in perpetuity. Al Kackley expressed his hope that the endowment will help keep the ranch in its current state for future generations to enjoy. He also said his family was privileged to know the beauty, wonder, and magic of Williamsburg and the wonderful people of Williamsburg and Grays Lake.

"The Kackley Ranch represents an anchor property in this portion of our service area," Matt Lucia of SSLT said. "We are grateful to our partners at the IFPL for entrusting the future of this property to SSLT, to the Kackley family for their dedication to this property and for their financial support to manage it, and to Kyle Barber for managing this property transfer. This property will be managed as a working cattle ranch and as habitat for a variety of wildlife species."
The recent 920-acre transfer brings the total land protected and managed by SSLT to nearly 10,500 acres.



Aspen Grove on Kackley Ranch
Photo by: Charles R. Peterson

Chippy Creek
Photo by: Charles R. Peterson

Monitoring Cedar Creek Easement
Photo By: Sarah Jackson

LAND TRUST 101: CLOSING ON NEW LAND IS JUST THE BEGINNING

By: John O'Connell, Board Member

The Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust (SSLT) has been on a hot streak lately. Throughout its 20 years of operation, SSLT has protected nearly 10,500 acres of prime habitat and working lands within seven southeast Idaho counties from development. Of those 10,500 acres, 40% of that land was permanently protected within the past 2 years.
SSLT celebrates and sends enthusiastic announcements to members and stakeholders whenever its total protected acreage grows, yet conservation easements are only the beginning of a land trust's work. Stewardship over SSLT's holdings is a multifaceted job that must continue indefinitely.

SSLT protects habitat in perpetuity both through land acquisitions and through conservation easements, meaning landowners voluntarily restrict development rights on their property, in perpetuity.

The most recent property acquisition was the Kackley Ranch, which encompasses 920 acres and is located at the Blackfoot River headwaters. The Kackley Ranch supports a broad diversity of wildlife including Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, long-billed curlew, Sandhill crane, elk, moose, deer, songbirds, and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. SSLT acquired the property on May 31 from the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands and leases it for ranching.

Landowners who have an easement on their land may continue using their land for agricultural production, though they are restricting it from development and must also adhere to terms outlined in the easement document.

Aside from the cost of development rights to acquire an easement, SSLT must also have cash allocated to monitor properties, make habitat improvements, and potentially defend its legal rights in court. Standards and Practices of the Land Trust Alliance require annual monitoring of each property to ensure conservation objectives are met.

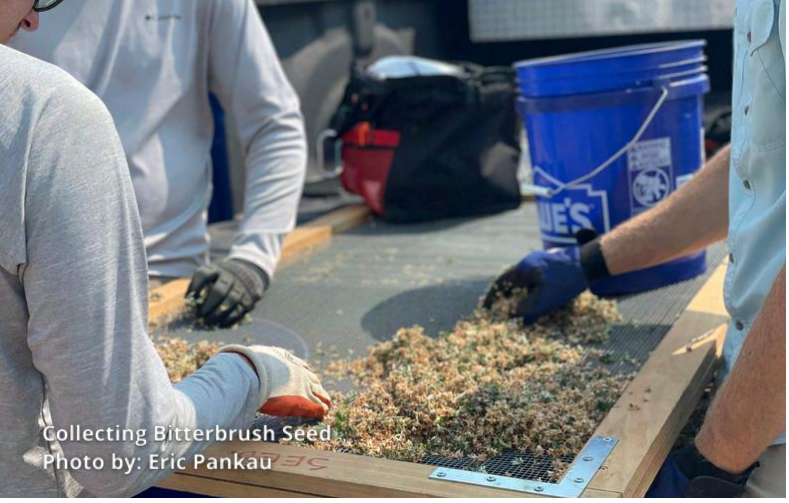
"As it relates to conservation easements, stewardship looks like routine monitoring and working with landowners to ensure terms of the easement are being upheld," said Eric Pankau, SSLT Stewardship Manager. "When we have challenges pertaining to the conservation values of a property, we then work to rectify them in a collaborative process with the landowner before we have to resort to more punitive measures where we enter the enforcement realm."

Eric helped develop a stewardship calculator used by SSLT to estimate the costs associated with potential risks, monitoring, and legally enforcing properties. SSLT secures those stewardship costs prior to closing and invests them to grow the funds. Eric estimates a typical 100-acre parcel may require $53,000 in additional revenue to cover stewardship costs alone. Many of the costs are fixed, regardless of the size of the property.

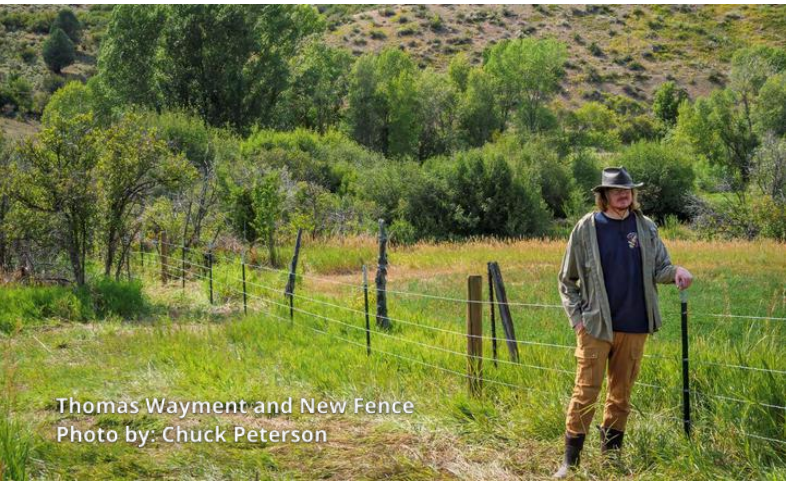
Fortunately, legal disputes are rare, and landowners often work closely with SSLT to make habitat improvements.

"The cool part is when we're working to enhance conservation values. Then we get to do fun stuff like collaborate with landowners and agency support partners and pair those individuals with funding, resources, and technical expertise to assist them to enhance and meet their own conservation goals," Eric said.

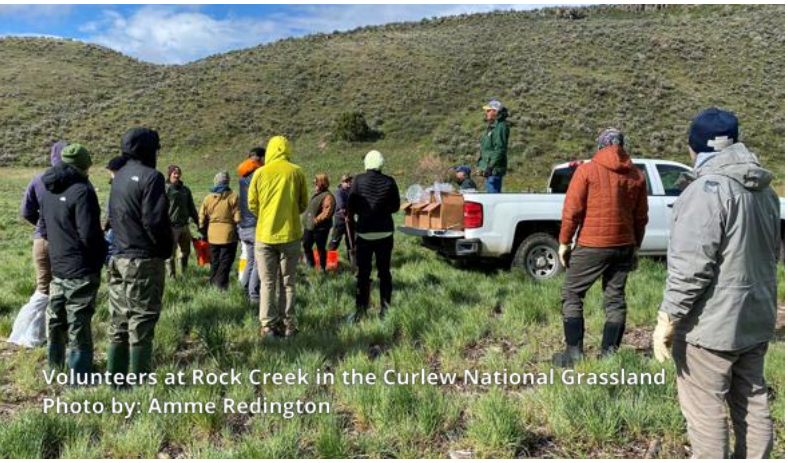
SSLT can help landowners access federal funds through federal agencies such as USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, among other sources. Stream restoration, strategic fence removal, or relocation and installation of wildlife-friendly fencing are common habitat improvements.



Collecting Bitterbrush Seed
Photo by: Eric Pankau



Thomas Wayment and New Fence
Photo by: Chuck Peterson



Volunteers at Rock Creek in the Curlew National Grassland
Photo by: Amme Redington

Helicopter Moving Mule Deer Does Into Traps
Photo by: Bill Schaefer

SSLT also invests heavily in habitat improvements to its own land holdings, benefiting greatly from volunteer labor. For example, volunteers recently helped SSLT plant trees and shrubs to reclaim its Century Heights property in the foothills south of Pocatello. In June, a 30-acre wildfire swept through the parcel, and SSLT is working diligently to fund restoration efforts. "We'll expect to fundraise $10,000 to $40,000 over the next few years just to combat the impacts of that wildfire," Eric said.

PacifiCorp is also among SSLT's valued partners in the Bear River Watershed. The electric company prioritizes habitat improvements and conservation easements for mitigation as mandated under terms of its settlement agreement for operating hydropower projects in the Idaho portion of the Bear River Watershed.

SSLT receives about 80% of its operating funds from individual donations, with the remaining 20% from grants and fee for service contracts. An example of a fee for service is the U.S. Forest Service's contract with SSLT to administer a grant covering a stream restoration project within the federal Curlew National Grassland of Oneida and Power counties.

Properties under consideration by SSLT are scored and ranked based on several factors such as their value to wildlife and stakeholders for recreation. A few years ago, SSLT received strong evidence of the effectiveness of its criteria for selecting projects. The Idaho Department of Fish Game placed radio collars on a pair of mule deer in 2018 to track their movements over two years.

Their migration route passed through several SSLT properties used as critical winter range, spanning from Century Heights in Pocatello to near the Wyoming border.

Local photographer and journalist, Bill Schaefer, has volunteered to create a documentary featuring mule deer migrations through SSLT properties and highlighting thoughts of partnering landowners. He's also covering 30 mule deer that were collared in December and will be tracked over the next few years. Bill plans to offer a sneak peak of his ongoing project during SSLT's holiday party on November 16.

"What we're hoping to show is the importance of working together with the Tribes, federal agencies and private landowners in trying to preserve an ever-shrinking area that's important for people and animals that we cohabit with and how much we as a community benefit when we are able to explore and enjoy open spaces," Bill said.

Collaring a Mule Deer Doe
Photo by: Bill Schaefer

Aerial Photo of Century Heights Preserve Fire

CENTURY HEIGHTS PRESERVE FIRE HIGHLIGHTS GROWING CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERNS

By: Amme Redington, Operations Program Manager

For a wildfire to burn, three essential elements must be present: a heat source, oxygen, and fuel. On June 28th, 2024, these conditions aligned perfectly, resulting in a fire ignition on or near the Century Heights Preserve. Owned and managed by Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust (SSLT), Century Heights contains essential habitat and winter range for mule deer due to south and west-facing slopes, early snowmelt, and juniper trees providing cover. However, the preserve is also overwhelmed by cheatgrass, an invasive annual plant that outcompetes native plants and served as fuel to the flames.

Kats Fire Burn Map
Map created by: Erica McMinn

Fortunately, neighboring landowners quickly spotted the fire and local fire officials extinguished it before it could cause significant damage or spread to surrounding properties. Although approximately 32 acres of the 265-acre preserve were burned, no structures were damaged, and no one was injured. The exact source of the fire remains under investigation, but it was likely caused by human activity. This incident highlights not just the volatility of rangelands dominated by invasive annual grasses like cheatgrass, but also serves as an opportunity to discuss how wildfires like these can become more common, and more dangerous, when the landscape is afflicted by a changing climate.

While natural factors, such as lightning strikes, can ignite wildfires, a significant number --nearly 85%-- are caused by human actions in the United States [1]. Actions may include unattended campfires, discarded cigarettes, and motorized vehicle use, all of which can trigger fires, especially in hot and dry conditions exacerbated by climate change. As such, rising temperatures, low humidity, prolonged droughts, reduced snowpack, and the drying of vegetation create highly flammable conditions. Human-caused fires have also extended the fire season, now lasting nearly three times longer than before [2]. Finally, the long history of fire suppression in the United States [3], which contributed to the buildup of dry fuel, has increased extreme fire risk. Collectively, these conditions make even a small spark, such as a lit cigarette, potentially devastating.

Natural fires, on the other hand, are often caused by lightning. It is important to note, however, that climate change can cause increased frequency and severity of extreme weather [4]. In fact, lightning strikes are predicted to increase approximately 12% for every one-degree Celsius increase in the global average air temperature [5]. So even when only 15% of wildfires are caused by natural means, the expected increase in severe lightning storms have implications for wildfire frequency. These trends highlight the complex and unique interplay between rising temperatures, human ignitions, and climate change.

Despite the challenges posed by climate change and increased wildfire risk, there are promising solutions and preventions. These include adopting appropriate land management practices, engaging with the public, conducting research, and collaborating across agencies and communities, all of which offer pathways to fire mitigation and adaptation. As individuals, we can follow fire restrictions and use common sense when recreating outdoors. While the Century Heights fire was a stark reminder of the dangers of fire in a changing climate, it also underscores the importance of establishing native plant communities, combatting invasive and flammable grasses, and leveraging the knowledge and resources available to ensure a more proactive, decisive approach to wildfire management in the 21st century.

Plane Dropping Fire Retardant on Century Heights
Photo by: Matt Lucia

[1] https://www.fs.usda.gov/rds/archive/catalog/RDS-2013-0009.4
[2] https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/study-shows-84-wildfires-caused-humans-180962315/
[3] https://foresthistory.org/research-explore/us-forest-service-history/policy-and-law/fire-u-s-forest-service/u-s-forest-service-fire-suppression/
[4] https://www.epa.gov/climatechange-science/impacts-climate-change
[5] https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.1259100

Century Heights Preserve Post-Burn
Photo by: Charles R. Peterson

Musk Thistle with Pollinators
Photo by: Amme Redington

HERBICIDE: BALANCING THE PROS AND CONS OF WEED WARFARE

By: Eric Pankau, Stewardship Manager

Over the years, I've observed a wide array of perspectives on weed control and wanted to provide some thoughts on the subject. Without "getting into the weeds" on the topic, I've heard some interesting views on "weeds". As land stewards at SSLT, we often focus our attentions on noxious weeds—a category of invasive plant species harmful to agriculture, ecosystems, and native biodiversity.

There are plenty of approaches to controlling noxious weeds and I'm not advocating for any one method. Chemical herbicides have been a mainstay in weed control since the post WWII booms in agricultural production. Many argue the actual impacts of this widely used tool to combat invasive species, so let's investigate both benefits and drawbacks.

Merits of Herbicide Use

1. **Efficiency and Effectiveness:** Herbicides are known for their efficiency in controlling large infestations of noxious weeds, which can be particularly beneficial in the vast and often rugged landscapes of the U.S. West.

2. **Cost-Effectiveness:** In many cases, herbicides are more cost-effective than other weed control methods, especially for large-scale operations. The initial investment in herbicide application can result in significant savings by reducing the need for repeated treatments and lowering the overall impact on agricultural productivity.

3. **Selective Targeting:** Many modern herbicides are designed to target specific plant species, minimizing damage to surrounding vegetation. This selectivity is crucial in protecting native plants and maintaining the ecological balance while removing invasive species.

Drawbacks and Considerations

1. **Environmental Impact:** One of the major concerns with herbicide use is its potential impact on the environment. Herbicides can contaminate soil, water, and non-target plants, potentially leading to long-term ecological damage.
The risk of chemical runoff into waterways is particularly concerning, as it can affect aquatic ecosystems.

2. **Resistance Development:** Over reliance on herbicides has led to the development of herbicide-resistant weed species, making future weed management more challenging and may require the use of stronger, potentially more harmful chemicals.

3. **Impact on Non-Target Species:** While many herbicides are selective, there is always the risk of affecting non-target species, including beneficial plants and insects. This unintended impact can disrupt local ecosystems and reduce biodiversity, which is particularly problematic in sensitive environments like the sagebrush steppe. Insects and amphibians are especially sensitive to herbicide and long-term impacts aren't fully understood.

Final Thoughts

There is broad recognition that there is no "miracle cure" for weed control and the "war on weeds" appears unwinnable. That said, it is irresponsible to think we can manage our highly altered landscapes by taking no action to control noxious weeds. Controlling these species is simply an obligation we must prioritize annually to maintain the sagebrush steppe, especially as increased pressures continue to threaten these sensitive ecosystems.

I support the idea that when used judiciously and as part of an integrated weed management strategy, herbicides can be an effective tool. However, it is crucial to weigh the immediate benefits against the long-term ecological impacts and to consider alternative or complementary methods, such as biological controls or mechanical removal, to ensure a sustainable approach to weed management.

Cow and Calf Moose in Wolverine Canyon
Photo by: Matt Martens

SYMBOLS OF CONSERVATION

By: Matt Martens, Southeast Idaho Conservation Easement Project Manager

The first moose I saw was ten years ago in Southeastern Idaho. I had just moved from the Midwest and I found myself driving down the backroads with Merle Haggard and Johhny Cash playing on the radio, the windows rolled down, and the smell of sagebrush coming through the vents. I rounded a turn, came over a hill, and there stood a brown body bigger than any elk or deer. I hit the brakes and stared in disbelief. I had always dreamed of living in a place where this was possible - to leave your front door and experience something wild in a matter of minutes.

This area is home to an estimated 300 moose like the one I witnessed that day. These big game ungulates (which can weigh up to 1,000 pounds) migrate across the landscape in a complicated menagerie of private land, federal and state-owned property, and an increasingly developed landscape. The moose in Idaho are Shiras moose, one of four subspecies found in North America. Very few animals were believed to exist here before the turn of the twentieth century. Slowly, however, a population began to establish itself, likely traveling from larger populations in Montana and Wyoming.

Bull Moose in Velvet Crossing Yellowstone River
Photo by: Matt Martens

According to their Moose Management Plan (2020-2025), the #1 goal of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is to "provide high-quality moose hunting and other moose-related recreational experiences for as many people as possible." They work hard to meet this goal by monitoring populations in twenty Data Analysis Units (DAU'S) across the state. SSLT's service area includes two of these DAU's – Bannock and Caribou counties. Population estimates are established through aerial surveys, harvest statistics, remote cameras, and the local knowledge of conservation officers and biologists. Moose sightings are rare in comparison to deer and elk, and most observations are collected incidentally, so more data are needed to further manage this species effectively. In the Caribou DAU alone, which includes Game Management Units 66, 66A, 69, 72, 75, 76, 77, and 78, the number classified during moose surveys has hovered around 200 animals since 1978, with the count peaking in 1991 at 291 moose.

Looking back, the moose I watched standing at the edge of the willows as the sun bled orange over my boyhood dream can be viewed as a symbol. The cow (I'm sure it was a cow, as it was early June and it had a calf nearby) stands as something adaptive yet sensitive to change. There are more windmills and fence lines across the landscape, more homes dotted along the ridgelines, and more imports like me looking for their piece of the West. Idaho is at the top of the list when it comes to our own population growth over the last decade, and with that growing pressure comes an increased responsibility to manage natural resources wisely. As long as I have a chance to see the second biggest ungulate in North America while exploring this unique and special corner of the Gem State, that means we're doing something right.

A MILESTONE CELEBRATION: SSLT'S 20TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AND FUNDRAISER

Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust is thrilled to invite you to our 20th Annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser, a special occasion to celebrate two decades of conservation with our supporters. Join us for an evening of delicious food, local music, and exciting entertainment!

Date: Saturday, November 16, 2024
Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm
Location: Grace Lutheran Church High School Gymnasium
1350 Baldy Ave, Pocatello ID, 83201

This year's celebration will have a catered menu by The Sand Trap featuring prime rib, stuffed portobello mushrooms, scalloped potatoes, garden salad, and rolls. The event will showcase live music and will be guided by a dynamic emcee, keeping the evening lively and engaging.

To secure your spot, you can purchase meal tickets in advance at http://weblink.donorperfect.com/SSLTHolidayParty_2024. The venue has limited space, and tickets are expected to sell out quickly. Meal tickets are available for purchase for $25.00 in advance or $30.00 at the door, so act fast to guarantee your spot.

Our silent auction will offer a range of exceptional items, including local artwork, curated gift baskets, and exciting outdoor trips, including a dove hunting trip to Argentina or Uruguay (winner's choice)! Whether you're an art lover, an adventure seeker, or looking for the perfect gift, you'll find something special to bid on. Auction items will be listed on our website so you can preview what's up for bid and plan your strategy.

In addition to the silent auction, we're hosting the High Stepper Raffle with big-ticket items. Here's a sneak peek at the extraordinary prizes you could win:

1. Restored Drift Boat and Trailer ($50/ticket at 150 tickets): Experience the beautiful and classic drift boat built by boat maker Keith Steele and trailer built by Steve Steele, both in excellent condition. Originally purchased by local boatman Bob Grinzafi in 1984, the boat has since been donated to SSLT. Mike Hysell, Ken Farley, Rod Anderson, and Eric Anderson collectively donated materials and hundreds of hours to restore the boat and trailer. Perfect for whitewater, fishing, or river explorations, this drift boat promises to be a great addition for any outdoor enthusiast. This raffle item includes the drift boat, 3 oars, and the original trailer. The lucky winner will be drawn only if at least 100 tickets are sold. SSLT reserves the right to delay the raffle drawing until the threshold is met.

2. Into the Junipers Oil Painting ($150/ticket at 10 tickets): Locally renowned artist, Tim Norton, painted a lovely view from Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust's Century Heights Preserve. The painting was completed following a hike Tim took after the Land Trust acquired the Century Heights Property. Tim says, "The junipers are one of my favorite things to paint because they make such interesting dark shapes against the blonde grasses that dominate our local landscape. I love the way the light plays on them, illuminating the form of the trees. They seem to grow in waves depending upon the slope of the terrain. The mulleins were in bloom and I liked the way the trail led the viewers' eye into the junipers." We're glad Tim was inspired to paint this stunning 26" x 33" oil painting on canvas!

3. Week-long Salmon River Rafting Trip ($200/ticket at 13 tickets): Experience a five-night, six-day rafting adventure for four on the Lower Salmon River in Idaho. You and three guests will float from Hammer Creek to Heller Bar, enjoying a 72-mile river journey, camping in scenic canyons, and savoring all meals provided. Choose your own adventure with options like hiking, bird watching, and geology exploration. This exciting trip is available from late September to early October 2025, with details and arrangements to be coordinated with the winner.

4. Overnight South Fork Float ($150/ticket at 15 tickets): Enjoy a two-day, one-night catered float trip on the South Fork of the Snake River for up to four people, scheduled after Labor Day and before October 15. This package includes lunch both days, dinner on the first night, and breakfast on the second, along with excellent fishing, birding, and hiking opportunities. You'll also receive insights from experts about the South Fork Conservation Initiative. Overnight camping features comfortable tent cabins, a fire pit, and access to scenic exploration in the South Fork Canyon.

5. Three-Day Weekend Cabin Stay in Island Park ($200/ticket at 10 tickets): The lucky winner and five guests will enjoy a 3-day weekend stay in a private cabin in the Pinehaven subdivision of Island Park. The cabins sleeps six, in two queen-sized beds and two double beds, in three bedrooms. The cabin is located near Harriman State Park and the Henry's Fork Lodge & Restaurant. Private access to the Henry's Fork River is within walking distance. Available any time of the year except for the July 4 weekend – must schedule with the owner. No pets allowed.

6. Day-Long Fishing Trip on the Snake River ($10/ticket at unlimited tickets): Enjoy a day fishing on the beautiful Snake River between Blackfoot, Idaho and the Tilden Bridge near Ferry Butte. You will be treated to the expertise of a seasoned Idaho local fisherman, as well as a riverside gourmet lunch. There will also be a running commentary on the natural world, both terrestrial and aquatic. A drift boat and a river raft will be used to float along at your leisure. Come enjoy the natural bounty of Southeast Idaho! This trip is raffled as a door prize, and throughout the night, we will draw names for fabulous prizes. The grand finale will see the lucky winner scoring this incredible fishing trip!

With only a limited number of tickets sold, your chance of winning one of these exceptional items is within reach. The more raffle tickets you purchase, the greater your chance of winning! Raffle tickets are available for purchase at http://weblink.donorperfect.com/HighStepperRaffle_2024.

Winners of both the silent auction and raffle will be announced during the party. All proceeds will support our staff to complete ongoing conservation projects.

We look forward to celebrating with you and making this 20th Annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser an unforgettable event!

Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust is a private, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) charitable organization incorporated in 2004, and a "qualified organization" withing the meaning of section 170 (h)(3) of the IRS Code.
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Celebrating 20 Years!
2004-2024

Donate today through our secure website at https://sagebrushlandtrust.org/ or by mailing in a check to Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, PO Box 1404, Pocatello, ID 83204

Event Calendar

WUDA OGWA VOLUNTEER PLANTING DAY | NOVEMBER 1-2

Join the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation and partners to plant willows, cottonwoods, and other native plants at the Wuda Ogwa restoration site near Preston, Idaho from 10a-2p. Located at the corner of HWY 91 and Hot Springs Road, Wuda Ogwa is the location of the Bear River Massacre of 1863 and is being restored to improve ecosystem function. It will also eventually feature an amphitheater, walking trails, and a cultural interpretive center. Registration for the planting day is required for all volunteers.
RSVP at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd_X2CKo347TrS2dvU6FL7wPMWbcWdDxEG4fyPtVqh-RMjvYA/viewform

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20TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AND FUNDRAISER | NOVEMBER 16

We are thrilled to announce our annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser! We will host the party at the Grace Lutheran Church High School Gymnasium on Saturday, November 16 from 6PM-9PM (1350 Baldy Ave, Pocatello ID, 83201). Enjoy some food, drink, and music as we celebrate conservation and landowners. Meal tickets are $25.00 in advance and $30.00 at the door. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early at http://weblink.donorperfect.com/SSLTHolidayParty 2024

This year, we are featuring a dove hunting trip to Argentina or Uruguay as a silent auction item (additional auction items to be posted on our website) and the following High Stepper Raffle items:

1. Drift Boat and Trailer (retail ~$5,000). Selling 150 tickets at $50 each.
2. Week-long Salmon River Rafting Trip (retail ~$2,000). Selling 13 tickets at $200 each.
3. Overnight South Fork Snake River Float (retail ~$3,000). Selling 15 tickets at $150 each.
4. Original Tim Norton Painting (retail ~$1,200). Selling 10 tickets at $150 each.
5. Three-Day Weekend Cabin Stay in Island Park (retail ~750). Selling 10 tickets at $200 each.
6. Day-long Fishing Trip on Snake River (retail ~$500). Selling unlimited tickets at $10 each.

Raffle tickets are available for purchase at http://weblink.donorperfect.com/HighStepperRaffle 2024 and winners will be announced during the Holiday Party. Email amme@sagebrushlandtrust.org for more information. We hope to see you there!

GIVING TUESDAY | DECEMBER 3

#GivingTuesday is a national day of giving that falls on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving in the United States. It is all about celebrating each and every single act of generosity we have to offer. Whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor out, or showing up for an issue or people we care about, we each have something to contribute.

This year, we will offer a NEW way to celebrate the spirit of giving. When you donate to our Giving Tuesday campaign on December 3, you will automatically be entered to win a door prize! The larger your gift, the greater your chance of winning! Donate to our campaign at http://weblink.donorperfect.com/24_GivingTuesday. 100% of donations received will go toward operations.