



# Salmon Valley Stewardship News

March 2007

Volume 2, Number 1

## Salmon Valley Stewardship Board of Directors

Anita Andrus, Chair  
Small Business Owner

Toni Ruth, Secretary  
Wildlife Biologist

Jerry Myers  
Guest Ranch Operator  
and Outfitter

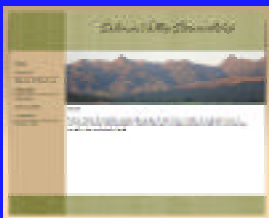
Shannon Williams  
U of I Agricultural  
Extension Agent

Russ Chinske  
Public School Teacher

## Thank You 2007 Contributors!

Bill and Diz Allen  
Barbara and Jerry Miller  
Beth Waterbury  
Randy Carpenter  
Lin and Gini Johnson  
Tom McFarland  
Mary Ann Oberhaus  
Jeff and Gina Knudson  
Toni Ruth

Check Out Our  
Re-Designed Website  
[www.salmonvalley.org](http://www.salmonvalley.org)

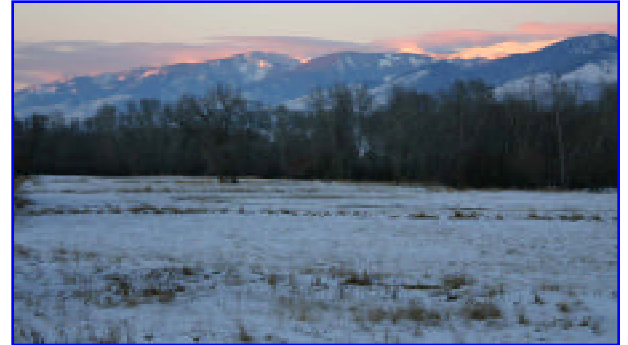


## County Comp Plan Update Moves Ahead

It's not every day that your elected officials ask you to imagine the kind of place you'd like Lemhi County to be in coming years. In fact, the last time they did was 1996. For 11 years, the county's comprehensive plan has served as a blueprint for things like what kind of economic development should be emphasized in Lemhi County; what kinds of community assets should be protected from encroaching developments; and how we might strategically avoid damage from natural disasters, like floods.

The State of Idaho recommends that counties update their plans at least once every 10 years because population and economic conditions change. Teri Ottens, a consultant from southern Idaho, is helping Lemhi County with the comprehensive plan update. She kicked off the process with a meeting on February 8, and on March 1 led a work session focusing on natural resources, hazardous areas, public facilities and community design.

County Commissioners Bob Cope and newly elected Brett Barsalou have indicated they want to hear what residents have to say. For the March 1 Recorder Herald, Barsalou told Leslie Shumate, "The most important aspect of this Comp Plan is public involvement. This is not a commissioners' plan. This is a public comment generated plan." Cope agrees, but cautions interested citizens that input is not the same as



a vote. "It's not a popularity contest."

Next up are work sessions on **March 28** (Schools, Economic Development, Private Property Rights) and **March 29** (Recreation, Housing, Land Use). The meetings are at the County Commissioners' Annex on Neyman Street and start at 5 pm. You can receive an electronic copy of any and all draft sections and provide written comments by contacting Teri Ottens at [ams@cableone.net](mailto:ams@cableone.net) or 208-321-2389.

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What about the **Lemhi County – Our Home, Our Future Surveys**? Barbara Miller, Anita Andrus and a cadre of volunteers have finished tallying the results and are in the process of summarizing the results for distribution. More than 300 people responded to the questionnaire. What a terrific way to get more people involved in imagining Lemhi County's future! Thank you Barb, Anita, and all those who helped!

# On the SVS Plate

Salmon Valley Stewardship is filling a unique role in this valley. Our organization is helping people work together to overcome conflict and move past old models of strife and disagreement. Want some examples?

The **County's Comprehensive Plan** update is a chance to dream about the future. But the dream needs to include a broad section of our community. SVS is reaching out to let as many people as possible know about the process, to identify what they care about in Lemhi County so that when and if the area grows, our leaders understand what we value.

The Governor's Lewis and Clark Committee provided funds for the City of Salmon to design a master plan for the **Sacajawea Center**. SVS is working with the primary consultant for the project, Laurel York-Odell, to help assess our community's perspective of the Center and desires for future operations. We're committed to finding solutions and offering viable options to the City with help from community members. I'll be notifying you of an open house this summer that introduces these options and ideas and gives you a chance to share yours, too.

In our January newsletter, we told you about the work we've been doing to help coordinate the **Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group**. Just last week, we gave Bill Wood, the Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor, a formal recommendation concerning an approximately 13,000 acre project in the Hughes Creek area. Over the course of six months, our group that included environmentalists and loggers, elected officials and residents, wrestled with tough



issues like old growth, roads, commercial timber, even weeds. It was never easy, but an attitude of respect prevailed and we came to the conclusion that we did have some common ground. On Tuesday, April 10, we're going to listen to our members explain why old growth forest issues are resulting in the appeal of many Salmon-Challis National Forest projects.

When you support Salmon Valley Stewardship, you support the idea that in the Salmon Valley a healthy environment means a strong economy, that working together is more productive than taking sides.

Best Regards,

Gina Knudson, Executive Director

*(Gina became the executive director earlier this year. Former director Adrienne Blausen is still a part-time staffer but very full-time mother to 6-month-old Paola).*

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