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Salmon Valley Stewardship

WINTER 2009

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Lisa & Dan Mudd, Salmon Valley Honey,
Recipients of the 2008 Sustainability Award.



Local food prepared by "The Kitchen."

Celebrating Local Harvest

Salmon Valley Stewardship's first annual harvest celebration attracted more than 80 lively participants. We bestowed our first ever sustainability award on Dan and Lisa Mudd's Salmon Valley Honey. For next year's award, SVS is designing criteria for recognizing a business, individual or organization whose actions and/or products enable

our community to "flourish and to continue without lessening" (our favorite definition of sustainability) and we will be making a call for nominations. The organization netted about \$1,500 from the event and SVS has dedicated those funds to supporting local food networks in our community. We'll keep you posted on events and innovations.

Breaking News:

The Salmon-Challis National Forest released the Hughes Creek Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Environmental Assessment on January 15.

The project is the first tackled by the Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group and addresses community wildfire protection and ecological needs.

Work on the project could begin as soon as this summer.

See www.salmonvalley.org to find out more.

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Your Investment Gains

First of all, I want to thank all of you who supported Salmon Valley Stewardship throughout 2008 with your time, your talents, and your treasure. The best news is — your investment gained in 2008 and all indications are that the Salmon River Region will continue to experience a bull market, as far as conservation goes, in 2009.

At SVS, we're following national trends in conservation that hold promise for issues we hold dear, like forest restoration, renewable energy, and a Farm Bill that rewards farmers and ranchers who steward the land (and our food). We're working to advocate for policies that will



Micro-hydro system, a renewable energy system.

benefit not only the Country with a big C, but the country with a little c -- places like Lemhi County.

We believe strongly that local workers should benefit from local natural resource projects.

Not only are we working to

connect local workers with forest restoration projects, we're also working to connect local consumers with people who produce food, fiber and other goods in our area.

When we do these things, we are really connecting neighbor to neighbor, and recognizing that this valley is the opposite of poor — it is abundant.

Thank you for making it even more so.

Gina Knudson
Executive Director
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Thank You 2008 Contributors



Benefactor (\$1,000 and up)

Titcomb Family Trust

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Foundation & Grant Support

The Brainerd Foundation ◇ National Forest Foundation ◇ Idaho Wild Rivers License Plate Fund ◇ Idaho Governor's Lewis & Clark Trail Committee

Federal Partnership Agreements

Bureau of Land Management, Salmon Field Office ◇ Salmon Challis National Forest

Catch of the Day, Intern Amy Tonsmeire



Amy, SVS intern, caught her first steelhead this fall.

Amy Tonsmeire joined SVS as our winter intern in an effort to create local interest in areas that help create social, economic and environmental wealth in our area.

One of her primary tasks is to establish a presence within the community that both educates and serves the community by targeting the way in which we act as consumers and the way in which we treat waste.

"Living in Salmon presents a unique challenge. Here we have incredibly rich resources but are so isolated that it takes a lot of creativity and ingenuity to accomplish certain objectives. For example, recycling.

In the future I hope we can capitalize on the strengths of our rural community in both the environmental

aspect but also in creating a healthy local economy. Sustainable living practices can improve the quality of life for us all."

Amy grew up in the Salmon River valley rafting, snowboarding and working on her parent's Hayden Creek Ranch. After receiving her BA in graphic design and a minor in business from Montana State University in 2003, she moved to Portland, Oregon where inspiration for living sustainably was everywhere.

Since then she has found renewable energy and sustainable living to be both a passion and a worthy challenge.

"Seeing positive change happen in a place I grew up makes our success that much sweeter."

Energy Efficiency and Money in Your Pocket

Now more than ever it's important to all of us to save money in our everyday lives. The following tips can make your winter more comfortable in your living room and in your wallet.

Given our location, (in the Salmon region), and our available resources, wood heat makes a lot of sense. Wood has a higher BTU capacity than gas, and wood is a renewable resource.

When you burn wood, consider the energy capacity of the tree species.

- Douglas Fir = 20.6 million BTUs/cord
- Lodge pole pine = 15.2 million BTUs/cord
- Ponderosa pine = 14.3 million BTUs/cord
- Birch = 20.3 million BTUs/cord

If you have a 10-year-old **wood stove** you may not be using your fuel efficiently or effectively. New models have improved combustion, thermal efficiency, and are cleaner by utilizing a higher temperature and reburning exhaust smoke. On average, advanced EPA certified stoves are about one-third more efficient than older models. The extra cost of advanced technology is about \$200 per stove. Over just two seasons of wood burning your new stove will more than compensate for the initial investment.

If you have **propane or electric** heat, lowering the temperature even five degrees can take 10% off your energy bill. You can significantly reduce your heating bill by installing a programmable thermostat. These cost up to \$100, but can save the average American household up to \$170 or more in a winter. With an average lifespan of fifteen years, net savings could easily exceed \$3000.



Consider re-blowing insulation and make sure you **calk/seal all cracks** around your windows and doors. The **3M Window Insulator Kit** (\$17) helps seal older windows, especially large picture windows. You can apply this treatment to multiple windows in minutes and reduce your heat loss by up to 90%.

Supplemental infrared heating units work like the sun, in that they heat the floor and surrounding objects instead of just heating the air which rises quickly to the ceiling. Models range from \$297 to \$479, and these portable heaters could reduce your electric and propane use by 35-50%.

Installing only 6 **compact fluorescent light bulbs** will save the average American family \$60 per year. Compact fluorescent uses 25% as much electricity as an incandescent bulb and lasts 10 times longer.

Federal tax credits and Idaho state deductions for energy efficiency available in 2009

Improved tax credits will be available for the next tax year so keep track now. You need to take advantage of the savings available to you, from upgrades in windows and insulation to geothermal heat pumps, and efficient wood stoves and solar systems. Visit www.irs.gov and read Form 5695 or visit your local tax professional.

We hope this information is helpful in saving you money and making 2009 that much better.



Informed Consumer / Active Recycler

Salmon River Recycling (SRR) is a community based group dedicated to reducing landfill waste, improving recycling efforts and providing related educational resources to the Salmon River valley. We believe reducing, reusing and recycling creates a sustainable way of living. It makes a statement about being aware of our actions as consumers, taking responsibility for the waste we create and capitalizing on creative ways to divert materials from the landfill.

We are reconvening in January to discuss the new economics of recycling in our area given the market for recyclables. We will also be identifying how we can improve our presence and service in the community as well as how we can best work with our local government agencies to achieve our goals.

Earth Day Community Festival is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22 at Cavaness Park. After a successful event last year we are sizing up the opportunity for an event that is larger and more inclusive to local schools, businesses and organizations.

Don't miss the opportunity to be involved!

Check us out on the web @
salmonrecycles.blogspot.com
salmonvalley.org/Recycling.html



Earth Day Celebration 2008:

For information on Earth Day 2009 plans or to get involved email us at salmonriverrecycling@gmail.com or call us at SVS 756-1686.

Salmon Valley Stewardship
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SVS works to promote a sustainable economy and a healthy environment in the Salmon River Region.

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For your online contribution,
visit our website:
www.salmonvalley.org

Please recycle
this publication.

FALL 2008