



October 7th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Meeting took place at the Meadows Valley Community Center with a total of 35 virtual/ in-person participants. Captured minutes are from small group discussions and breakout rooms. Recorded presentations by the Payette Land Trust and the Idaho Department of Lands are available on our website.

Participants formed two in-person and two virtual groups to answer the following questions.

What do you see as the goals for the LSRW Collaborative?

- Meeting people/stakeholders involved with LSRWC and building trust
- Balance development and conservation
- Ensure the collaborative has access to all information for success
- Produce sustainable and affordable action plans
- Safe drinking water
- 10 positive actions or benefits to the land, water, natural resources, and those who live in the area
- Preserve land and water rights for people and livestock
- Raise the water table in response to climate change
- Reduce Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for temperature
- Return wild fish populations to sustainable/harvestable levels
 - Assess possibility of extending anadromous fish species upstream of the falls
- Reduce sediment loads
- Reduce invasive weeds/grasses
- Identify opportunities to join resources between stakeholders
- Increase economic diversity of Meadows Valley
- Address E. coli concerns
- Identify true effects the hot springs have on water temperature

What concerns do you have about this process?

- Transparency - in the past one thing might be said, then was followed with a conflicting action, which led to mistrust
- Making false promises
- Livestock level reduction - how suggested solutions might affect business models
- Limited operating capacity to complete projects (mastication, prescribed burning, hand thinning/planting)
- Increased growth may strain equitable water use
- Infringements on private property rights and water rights
- Losing access to public streams from riparian restoration projects
- Continued reductions of ground water due to irrigation change
- Negative impact on restoring salmon to the valley
- The collaborative will be a redundancy to previous efforts and provide no further solutions
- Disconnect between rural and urban planning and zoning actions

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What do you see as the next steps?

- Review the results from the last Watershed Advisory Group
- Work toward consensus on actions
- Identify current resource use and underuse
- View census of usage along the Little Salmon River
- Identify potential funding sources for projects
- Create a sustainable collaborative model that succeeds after the initial two years

What are the potential opportunities?

- Being a helping hand
- Local groups and individuals congregating to voice shared experiences and opinions in a respectful manner
- Identifying an entrance distribution system
- Increased use from population growth and possible waste
- Pulling together resources from multiple stakeholders to create a shared vision of how the LSR could look in its most productive state
- Using The Nature Conservancy or Idaho Conservation Corps to aid in land treatment plans

Who should we hear from next?

- Water users
- Friends of the Teton River
- Someone to speak about the projected growth in Treasure Valley
- The hatcher
- Water masters/Ditch masters

What resources do we need to progress?

- Little Salmon River Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan
 - Trend reports
 - Previous watershed advisory group records
 - Department of Environmental Quality reports
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Presentations

Full recording of presentations available at <https://littlesalmonriverwatershedcollaborative.com>

Payette Land Trust - Craig Utter

- PLT aims to balance open landscapes and development through private land conservation in West Central Idaho
- Four main program areas: land donation or acquisition, conservation easement ownerships, perpetual land stewardship, and community conservation and education
- In the Payette River Basin, goals are to increase agricultural land conservation acres and to create 3 sustainable public access points along the river

Idaho Department of Lands - Lynn Oliver and Ara Andrea

- IDL promotes shared stewardship for cross-boundary preservation and restoration with many types of partners
- Potential expansion of projects could include granting shared stewardship funds to Adams County for a new forester, partnering with utilities for funding opportunities, and contracting with The Nature Conservancy for prescribed fire modules
- Highway 95 Project Area: Address hazardous fuel conditions in a critical fire shed along the H95 corridor
 - Vegetative management plans under development or in progress through the Bureau of Land Management, Payette National Forest, and the IDL Payette Lakes Field Area
- Results from a survey by private landowners identified 196 parcels along the corridor with 126 landowners
- Five parcels were identified for demonstration sites to hopefully influence private landowners to treat their forest land
- IDL has grant programs in the following areas: Community Forest Program Grant, Forest Legacy Program, Western State Fire Managers, Hazard Fuels Reduction, and Landscape Scale Restoration Grant.
 - More information about these programs is available at [Idaho Department of Lands Grants Webpage](#)
- The Little Salmon River Watershed Collaborative stakeholders may want to apply for the Landscape Restoration Grant which is a competitive grant program where funds are spent on non-federal lands delivering cross-boundary benefits to national forests including watershed restoration. There are two projects in Teton County using this funding to restore the Teton River

Funding Opportunities:

Government based funding opportunities:

1. US Bureau of Reclamation Cooperative Watershed Management Program
2. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Stewardship Program
3. NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program
4. NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program
5. Environmental Protection Agency Non-point Source Management 319 Grant

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6. US Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Improvement Program

Public/Private-based Funding Opportunities

1. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Bring Back the Natives
2. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - 5Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program
3. Charlotte Martin Foundation - Wildlife and Habitat Program
4. National Forest Foundation - Matching Awards Program

Resources shared in the chat:

- Idaho Shared Stewardship: noboundariesforestry.idaho.gov
- [Landscape Scale Restoration Projects ArcGIS Map](#)
- [Teton River Restoration Project](#)
- [Landscape Scale Restoration Forestry Grant Proposals](#)

Parking Lot (issues requiring follow-up):

Many people are not able to attend meetings during regular work hours. Gary will send a survey out to determine best meeting times for all shareholders to meet- including options for evenings and weekends.

During the group activity, multiple groups brought up the importance of having access to all past Little Salmon WAG information. Gary will create a link on the website to access past planning documents.

The next Little Salmon River Watershed Collaborative meeting is **November 9th 11am -3pm MST** at the **Meadows Valley Community Center**, 102 N Commercial Ave. An agenda for this meeting will follow.