

# INFORMATION ABOUT THE TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST

## FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPLICANTS

### ABOUT THE TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST

The Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT) is a community-based conservation organization based in Driggs, Idaho and focused on protecting Idaho's Upper Snake River Watershed. TRLT works with willing private landowners and partners to protect important agricultural lands and fish and wildlife habitat within our service area, which roughly conforms to the Idaho portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). TRLT was formed in 1990. It is recognized as a leader in regional conservation and was Idaho's first accredited land trust. TRLT was reaccredited in 2020 by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. TRLT has received numerous local, regional, and national conservation awards. TRLT consists of an 11-person professional staff; a diverse, committed Board of Directors; a volunteer base of 193 individuals; and an involved membership of over 500 households.



TRLT's service area lies within one of the fastest growing regions of the country, posing significant threats to the persistence of family farms and the ecological integrity of the GYE. Given the remarkable resources and mounting threats in the region, TRLT uses multiple-scale conservation planning, targeted land protection, and comprehensive long-term stewardship to maximize conservation impacts. In the last 30 years, TRLT has partnered with over 130 families to help protect over 37,000 acres in key sections of our service area. This strategic protection conserves prime farmland, priority lands along the Henry's Fork, South Fork and Teton Rivers (54 miles of river frontage), and important habitats for birds, native trout, and big game. TRLT has also partnered with conservation easement landowners to restore or enhance approximately 1,800 acres of fish and wildlife habitat.



*Teton Valley Idaho with the Teton Mountains to the East*

## **OUR MISSION**

Teton Regional Land Trust’s mission is to conserve working farms and ranches, fish and wildlife habitat, and scenic open spaces in Eastern Idaho for this and future generations.

TRLT is well-respected as a proactive, strategic, and broadly supported regional land trust. Landowners of many backgrounds, representatives of governmental agencies and conservation groups, and land-use planners look to TRLT as a trusted, professional and effective land conservation partner. TRLT projects have protected extensive priority natural and agricultural areas and the ecologically and economically important corridors that link them. TRLT has positively changed how people interact with the land through outreach, education, and stewardship programs.



*Annual Crane Festival with Hispanic Resource Center Dancers*

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES**

- Integrity: We are committed to transparency and accountability.
- Respect: We work in partnership with willing landowners, many with legacies based on multiple generations of land stewardship.
- Community: We celebrate the multi-faceted connection that both landowners and the community have with the Eastern Idaho landscape. We understand that open space and agricultural land provide important ecological, economic, educational, and recreational benefits to our region.
- Commitment to Mission: We support a professional staff and diverse Board of Directors

dedicated to excellence and accountability. We strive to meet and to exceed the Standards and Practices as set forth by the Land Trust Alliance.

- Fiscal Responsibility: We are focused on financial sustainability and ensuring our long-term stewardship obligations.
- Political Neutrality: We are an apolitical organization.

## **PROGRAM SUMMARY**

TRLT's 11-person staff primarily supports land protection, stewardship, development, outreach, and operations activities. The annual operating budget averages about \$930,000 exclusive of expenditures for easement acquisition and restoration projects. TRLT also maintains quasi-endowments for operations and stewardship/legal defense. TRLT hosts outreach events geared toward engaging existing members and expanding membership.

Sources of program funding for land/easement acquisition, stewardship, and restoration include the North American Wetland Conservation Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, USDA's ACEP-ALE program, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and private foundations. Operational funding is provided primarily by major donors and grassroots members, private and community foundations, and some program funding.

TRLT has a strategic land protection program that targets focal areas within our service area. TRLT has a comprehensive stewardship program comprising core and strategic activities and currently stewards over 150 conservation easements. TRLT owns four properties (236 acres), which are managed by staff for natural resource protection, and several have limited public access.

TRLT works with numerous local and regional partners including the Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts and the Heart of the Rockies Initiative, a network of 26 land trusts working together to have a collective land conservation impact across the large landscape of the Intermountain West.

TRLT is a member of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) and has comprehensive policies that conform to ethical and technical guidelines outlined by LTA Standards and Practices (2017). TRLT has a well-established stewardship quasi endowment and maintains membership through TerraFirma Risk Retention Group.



*Teton Valley hosts one of the largest pre-migration staging areas for Sandhill Cranes in the Greater Yellowstone area.*



## **CURRENT GOALS**

For three decades we have focused on the strategic and purposeful protection of land in the face of persistent subdivision and development pressure. The need to act has not disappeared: there remain many tracts of important, even iconic lands that are unprotected. With every year of success, our challenge grows: we must provide responsible stewardship for each new acre under our protection to ensure that these lands are kept vital and healthy for years and years to come.

The Land Trust is committed to facing the new challenges. Recognizing our responsibility for generations of conservation, our current Strategic Plan focuses on a campaign to invest in greater capacity, sustainability, and flexibility to meet the continuing and emerging challenges our region faces:



**Permanently conserving the most vital and treasured private lands in eastern Idaho**

**Ensuring the permanent health of the special places under our stewardship**

**Further strengthening our place in the community as a community institution and conservation leader**

## **EXPECTATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Executive Director (ED) is charged with overall administration of the land trust and the annual operating budget. The ED is expected to provide professional oversight of the organization, ensuring that the land trust is organized and managed in a manner that will allow the most effective attainment of the mission. As the lead fundraiser for the organization, the ED is expected to spend a significant amount of their time cultivating individual donors and foundation representatives as well as executing fundraising campaigns. The ED is expected to be a strong leader, motivator and team builder, and to uphold the highest ethical standards. The ED is the face of the land trust and must be an excellent communicator and relationship builder, with an understanding of the need for strong relationships with our members, easement donors, financial supporters, government officials and agency and foundation partners. To effectively communicate with our partners, they are expected to have a working knowledge of landscape and ecological issues and challenges as they relate to fulfilling the land trust mission.

The successful candidate will work with the Board of Directors and staff to articulate and effectively convey a vision for the future of the TRLT. Specifically, the ED will work with the Board of Directors to identify and develop sustainable growth opportunities to increase TRLT's conservation impact and to realize our regional focus more fully.



## **ABOUT OUR REGION**

The Teton Regional Land Trust's offices are based in Driggs, Idaho, in a recreation mecca. Teton Valley, home to Driggs, is surrounded on three sides by national forest; Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and several wilderness areas are nearby. Several world-class fishing rivers are within close proximity, as are three ski areas, Grand Targhee, Snow King, and Jackson Hole. The town of Jackson, WY is 45 minutes away.



*The South Fork of the Snake River*



