

# A NEW SEASON



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Meet our new Executive Director, Chairman, and find out what we're up to!



**Bear River**  
**LAND CONSERVANCY**

*Our New Executive Director -*

**CASEY  
SNIDER**

**Bear River Land Conservancy is proud to announce Casey Snider as our first Executive Director.**

The Bear River Land Conservancy (BRLC) was founded as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit land trust in 2011 with the mission to, “conserve and enhance private lands for wildlife habitat, working farms and ranches, land and trails of recreational or historical significance, watersheds, and critical vistas, using education, conservation easements and sound management, to benefit the people of northern Utah, today and in perpetuity.”

Until now, Bear River Land Conservancy has been mostly operated by a volunteer board, with one staff brought on in 2016 to do fundraising and outreach. In 2017, we brought on Casey Snider as the first ever BRLC Executive Director. The move marks a major landmark in our organization’s 7-year history. Having spent most of the first 5 years gaining the technical proficiency required to operate as a land trust, we then spent 2016 and 2017 on outreach and fundraising.

Steve Daniels, who was named Chairman of the Board at the 2018 Annual Meeting, says, “We are thrilled to have Casey as the first Executive Director of BRLC. He brings a deep understanding of northern Utah and a commitment to sustaining both agriculture and critical



lands in Box Elder, Cache, and Rich counties. Transitioning from being an all-volunteer organization to having professional staff will allow the BRLC to be more engaged in local conversations that seek to balance development with ensuring a legacy of open spaces and healthy waterways for future generations.”

Mark Brunson, a former board member and professor of Casey's from USU is also excited about BRLC's future, "I've known Casey since his freshman year at USU, and I have always been in awe of his enthusiasm. I feel confident he'll bring his passion for public lands to BRLC, and I feel we're lucky to bring him on board."

The community response to BRLC's increased outreach has been generous, and attitudes regarding land conservation are overwhelmingly positive throughout the area. People realize that working farms and ranches are disappearing at an alarming rate, along with habitat and recreation opportunities on private ground.

When asked why land conservation in Northern Utah matters, Casey summed up the topic by saying, "As we continue to grow and develop as a community, it's worth taking note of the places and values that have defined us. As our current Chair has so eloquently stated, 'Change is inevitable, but legacy is a choice.' I look forward to ensuring those landscapes that have defined us are around in the future for our children and grandchildren to enjoy."

Casey Snider was raised in Liberty, Utah, surrounded by ranching and farming, and says he would rather be on the Bear River in Northern Utah than anywhere else in the world. He owns a 200-acre farm in the northern part of Cache Valley, where he raises hay and cattle.

An active outdoorsman and sportsman, Casey came to Bear River Land Conservancy from Tread Lightly!, a nonprofit education group working nationally to educate sportsmen of all walks to use public grounds responsibly. Casey earned a Bachelor's degree from Utah State University in Conservation and Restoration Ecology and Law and Constitutional Studies, along with a Master's Degree from Johns Hopkins University in Environmental Science and Policy. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Forestry from Utah State University. Casey lives in Paradise, Utah, with his wife and daughter.





# SEPTEMBER 13TH

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*Come help support us!*

*Meet Local Landowners*

WHERE: Mount Naomi Farms  
6-8PM

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*Come to our first*  
**AUTUMN  
FEST!**



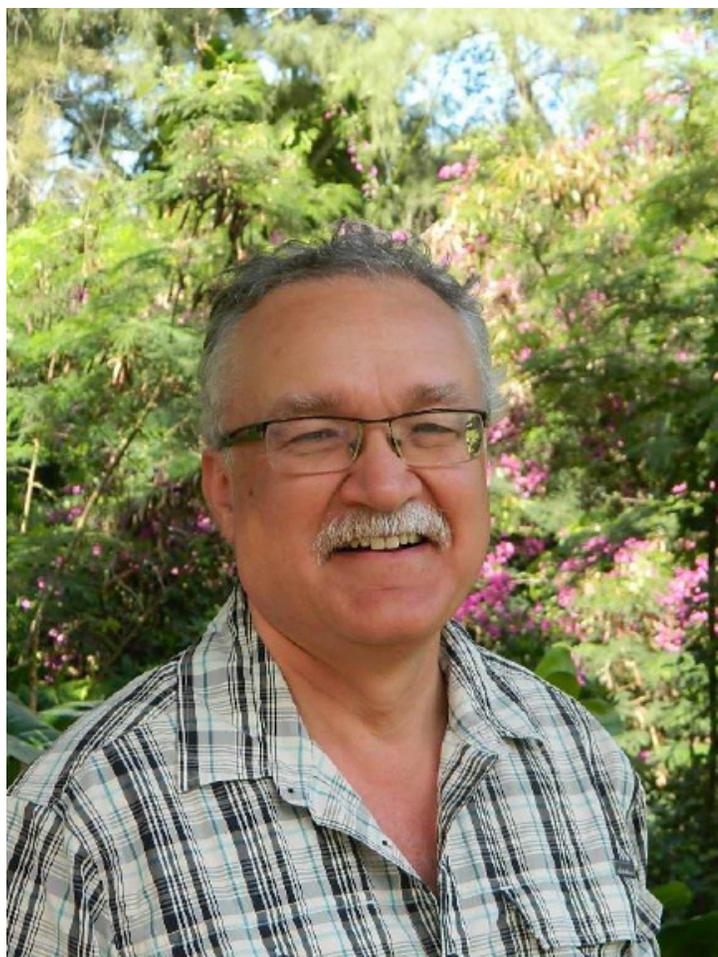
Steve Daniels is pleased to serve as the Chair of the Board of BLRC, having assumed that role in early 2018.

Steve was born in St. George, but spent many of his formative years in Montana. He moved to Logan the first time in 1986 to take a faculty position at USU, and then spent the 1990s in Oregon. He and his family moved back to Cache Valley in 1999 and has been here ever since.

The faculty position he holds at USU is split between Extension and the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology. Much of Steve's career has focused on multi-party collaborative natural resource management, where he serves as a facilitator/designer of processes more often than as a researcher/observer.

## *New Chairman Spotlight -*

# STEVE DANIELS



Steve is grateful for all the work the previous board of BLRC was able to accomplish prior to him accepting the role of chairman.

“The Board is deeply indebted to the first generation of BLRC leadership for the foundation they laid. The organization is on sound footing-- legally, technically, and financially.”

He is deeply committed to finding ways that BLRC promote dialogue around growth and our ability to protect both ecologically significant lands as well as agriculturally important lands.

# New Projects: *Scheiss Farm*

*This is the first story in what we hope to be a series:*

## MEET A LANDOWNER: BOYD & SHERRI SCHIESS

The Schiess family is a third generation farm and ranching family based in Nibley, UT. Over the years they've raised everything from cattle to angora goats, "I'm a big knitter!" says Sherri, "I like to knit and give it away."



Besides raising animals, they also used to run a riding program for children and adults with disabilities called "Giddyup Go!", which helped many people ride a horse for the first time in their life and involved overseeing hundreds of volunteers. "It was pretty labor intensive, but it was wonderful," said Boyd.

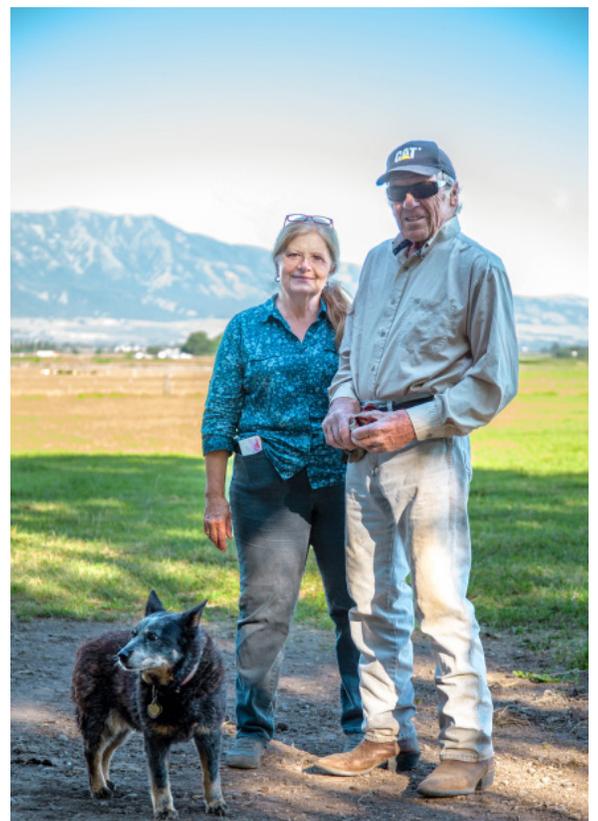
As Cache Valley continues to grow and develop, Boyd and Sherri decided they'd like to preserve some of their most beautiful land for future generations. They are seeking a conservation easement on 25.5 of their acres that runs along the train tracks in Nibley, and is adjacent to a beautiful stream. "It's been lots of paperwork to get it to this point," said Sherri. "It's choice ground... so, I'd hate to see it anything but just hay out there, you know?" said Boyd.



After talking about potential development that could occur around their property, there was discussion about the role BRLC would

help play in pursuing the conservation easement, and helping oversee it through future generations.

"We'd like to keep this green. We might be the last little green piece. and it's so beautiful, there's not a prettier view."



The Bear River Land Conservancy was able to spend many hours in classrooms across Cache Valley this spring talking about the value of protected landscapes in our area.

Students got a real world lesson on the need to preserve wetlands and flood plains as our communities grow and develop, for the benefit of people and wildlife.

## Other News: *Classroom Presentations*



These in class discussions were followed up with field trips to the Bear River Bottoms, where high school students were able to see for themselves the lessons taught in their schools. We hope to continue to expand this opportunity. If you know of educators or students who would benefit from these types of experiences, please contact us.



Teresa Prendusi, U.S. Forest Service

## Upcoming Projects:

### Volunteer at Mendon Meadows!

BRLC manages a beautiful property in Mendon that has quite a few Ute Lady Tresses on it. The Ute Lady Tresses is a beautiful and threatened species whose lifecycle is still not fully understood. Mark Brunson from USU is trying to understand it better, and needs help doing research. **Volunteers are needed end of July through August**

**To volunteer, email Mark Brunson at  
MARK.BRUNSON@USU.EDU**



**Bear River**  
**LAND CONSERVANCY**

# Become a Friend of the Land, today!

Dear Northern Utah Neighbor,

The past few months have been full of changes at Bear River Land Conservancy (BRLC). As the population continues to grow in Box Elder, Rich and Cache counties, our mission to, *“conserve and enhance private lands for wildlife habitat, working farms and ranches, land and trails of recreational or historical significance, watersheds, and critical vistas, using education, conservation easements and sound management, to benefit the people of northern Utah, today and in perpetuity.”* is more critical than ever.

With our new board and Executive Director, we here at BRLC have big plans for the future that we can't do without generous support from donors and citizens like you. It's people like you who give us the ability to sustain our critical work.

If you feel the work BRLC is doing is important, please consider becoming an annual “Friend of the Land” member today.

Thank you, and happy trails!

*- Casey Snider and the BRLC Team*

## Donation & Membership Sign-up Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, CITY, STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$2,500+ Steward of the Land
- \$1000 Land Benefactor
- \$500 Land Patron
- \$250 Land Sustainer
- \$100 Land Saver
- <\$100 Land Friend
  
- (Membership \$20+)

Please send your payment to:

PO Box 4565  
Logan, UT 84323-4565

Or pay online at  
[BearRiverLandConservancy.org/donate](https://www.BearRiverLandConservancy.org/donate)