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Sid Johnson

Objective

To invest and support the use of conservation watershed management in traditional ranching and agriculture properties and to assist in educating communities on the importance of healthy and sustainable watersheds to our future generations.

Professional Accomplishments

Environmentally Sensitive Land and Watershed Management

- Restored wetlands and riparian habitat, including 3.5 miles along Squaw Valley Creek in the Mt. Shasta area using geomorphic restoration methods.
- Created and maintained shaded, erosion resistant fuel breaks to protect 5,000 acre property from forest fires.
- Created and maintained over thirty miles of erosion proof trails.
- Restored over two miles of Monture Creek, a tributary of the Big Blackfoot River in Montana to improve spawning habitat for the endangered Western Bull Trout while maintaining a profitable cattle operation.
- Became a founding member of “The Blackfoot Challenge” in 1993, an exemplary successful coalition advocating for water conservation in the Big Blackfoot Valley of Montana.
- Improved riparian corridors along the Big Blackfoot River through fencing operations, decreasing erosion and improving fisheries and grasslands.
- Initiated and became a founding member of the McCloud Watershed Council in McCloud, CA to oppose a huge water bottling facility (Nestle) and to educate and advocate for water conservation.

Livestock Management

- On Trapper Peak Ranch in Darby, MT profitably managed a 400 head commercial Angus herd.
- On Elk Mt. Ranch in Elk Mt., Wyoming designed and installed a working corral facility for Bison and started a Bison program that eventually grew to 1200 head.
- Cared for and trained 25 horses including working ranch and draft horses.
- Managed 5,000 acre, 800 head natural beef cow calf operation in Ovando, MT.
- On Heart Bar Heart Ranch in Ovando, Mt. I annually put up over 2,000 tons of alfalfa on 700 irrigated acres

- Practiced crop rotation and management including planting, harvesting and reseeded
- In 1985 completed Alan Savory's Holistic Resource Management program.
- A member of the Quivira Coalition of New Mexico, a coalition of Ranchers for sustainable ranching practices.

Staff Supervision and Administration

- Oversaw small and large crews (up to 25 employees) to manage property in general as well as to execute specific projects, such as hay production (including replanting alfalfa, oats, and barley), which was integral with rotational grazing management.
- Managed operation budgets of up to \$1,000,000.
- In 1999 created a GIS (geographic information system) for Willow Creek Ranch in McCloud, CA

Guest Services

- Served as liaison between staff and ranch guest.
- Led Rocky Mountain horse packing trips in Gros Ventre and Bob Marshall Wildernesses.
- Served as fly fishing guide in Northwest and Northern Rocky Mt. states.
- Led upland bird hunting trips using English Pointers and Setters
- Guided waterfowl hunting.

Present Job Description

Trout Unlimited: Upper Green River Project Manager Lander, WY – March,2009 - present

- Organize and lead a year-long dialog with non-governmental organizations, industry, and government agencies to map out a long-term, multi-faceted plan to maintain, improve, and increase critical fish and wildlife habitat in the Upper Green River basin.
- Identify targeted places and stream reaches for protection and restoration.
- Secure funding for, and oversee initial on-the-ground projects.
- Develop working relationships with private and public landowners for successful partnerships in conservation.

Employment History

- 1997 - March 2009: Ranch Manager, Willow Creek Ranch, McCloud, CA: Employed by Robert D. Haas, CEO of Levi Strauss & Co. Willow Creek Ranch

is a former working cattle ranch that underwent severe conservation problems due to poor grazing and logging practices. I was hired to, among other things, remedy these problems. My responsibilities included: Managing a staff of up to 25 employees in the Summer months to restore environmental damage to Squaw Valley Creek left over from poor grazing practices; Erosion proofing over 30 miles of mountain trails using corrugated culverts and water bars in sensitive soil landscapes; Designed, organized and implemented irrigation systems from Creek diversion to wheel lines and gated pipe; Performed geomorphic stream restoration on 3.5 miles of Squaw Valley Creek; Created GIS system for Ranch property; Protected early 1914 water rights by co founding the McCloud Watershed Council which successfully countered a threat from Nestle Corporation to install a water bottling facility on headwaters of Squaw Valley Creek; Worked in cooperation with Trout Unlimited and California Trout to form the Protect Our Waters Coalition to oppose Nestle Project.

- 1995 – 1997: Ranch Manager, Elk Mt. Ranch, Elk Mt. WY: Employed by Peter Theriot to start and manage a 1200 head buffalo herd, designing corrals and creating balanced native pastures on 120,000 acre parcel of Elk Mt. Wyoming.
- 1989 – 1995: Ranch Manager, Heart Bar Heart Ranch, Ovando, MT. Employed by Derek Craighead of Missoula, MT to manage an 800 head commercial cow/calf operation, to restore a degraded Monture Creek, a tributary to the Big Blackfoot River, and address severe Leafy Spurge and Knapweed infestations throughout the Ranch property. This is a traditional Montana Ranch property with 5,000 deeded acres, a 45,000 acre USFS permit and growing grass alfalfa for winter use. During this period I became a cofounder of the Blackfoot Challenge, a coalition of ranchers, loggers, NGOs and government agencies advocating for conservation issues along the Blackfoot River.
- 1986 – 1989: Ranch Manager, Trapper Peak Ranch, Darby, MT. Employed by Steve Roth of San Jose, CA to manage 400 head commercial Angus cow/calf operation selling registered bulls and heifers. Following my advice the owner completed a conservation easement on this property with the Montana Land Reliance.
- 1979 – 1981: Ranch Manager, Red Canyon Ranch, Lander, WY: Employed by Henry Slingerland of Lander, WY. As a young man and my first management job I ran a cross-bred herd of 1200 mother cows on a contiguous USFS permit on South Pass, WY. This ranch had incredible grandfather water rights and was my first introduction to the importance of water conservation. I was instrumental in helping to acquire a conservation easement on this ranch to keep it from being developed.