Merrill Beyeler is honored for stewardship work

By CINDY SALO
For Farm & Ranch

LEADORE — Rancher Merrill Beyeler is honored in September for his work to improve habitat for salmon and steelhead in the Lemhi River.

Beyeler received the Bureau of Land Management Range-Restoration Award from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission annual award for his work.

Beyeler and his wife, Shari, purchased 5,000 acres in the area. When sons Bryant, Curtis and Doug wanted to bring up their own children on the home ranch, the family needed more land.

In 2010 a 25-year agreement was reached with the Nature Conservancy, the Beyelers purchased the Cotton Ranch north of Leadore and placed conservation easements on both ranches.

Conservation easements are legal agreements that maintain private lands in perpetuity, control ranching and restrict future development. The Beyelers’ easements cover more than 6,000 acres on the Lemhi River and its tributaries. Their agreement with the Nature Conservancy outlined projects to improve fish habitat on their private lands.

“It just made sense,” Beyeler adds. “If you look at the land, it’s the rivers and streams that make it valuable. When you maintain those things, your ranch is more valuable. And it’s more fun to work in a setting like that.”

“People don’t walk away. We stay at it until we achieve what we want. There’s a commitment on both sides to make these things work.”

The work involved many ranchers, but Ron Troy of the Nature Conservancy called Beyeler’s leadership a key ingredient.

“He pull people from both sides of the table together,” said Troy.

Projects in the Lemhi Valley brought work for local excavators and cost millions. Most of the work was funded by the Columbia Basin Water Trans-

From left, ranch-
err Merrill Beyel-
er and Doug DiLuccia, a fish-
ery biologist with the Idaho
Department of Fish and Game, discuss the final
excavation work
on an irrigated pas-
ture on the Lemhi River
north of Leadore on
Sept. 27. The
ditch was
restored to its
historic, winding channel through the pasture.

“Without the program, I can
pay fines or serve time in jail. So, “bee” aware
laws may be in a sticky mess. They may be
required to follow the directions of
Idaho Fish and Game, reflected on the past
discussion of bees.

In 2012 more than 147 million pounds of
honey were produced in the United States. It is
an important agricultural product in the state
of Idaho, and elsewhere.

The Idaho Department of Agriculture is
authorized by statute to protect Idaho’s bee
industry. The department provides a
fee and apply for a permit and have been
beehive to beekeepers.

Any person who violates Idaho’s beekeeping
laws may be in a sticky mess. They may be
charged with a misdemeanor and could have to
pay fines or serve time in jail. So, “bee” aware
of the law on bees

‘Bee’ aware of the law on bees

There are an estimated 115,000 to 125,000
beekeepers in the United States.

Most beekeepers are hobbyists with
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Commercial beekeeping operations are often
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Lance J. Schuster

Code § 22-2504). All owners or keepers of bees are required by law to follow the directions of the department in regard to removing or destroying diseased hives (Idaho Code § 22-
2505). The director may enter the premises of any keeper or operator so as to inspect hives or equip-
ment. (Idaho Code § 22-2506.)

Idaho law additionally requires all beekeep-
ners to post their names, addresses, and tele-
phone numbers on apiaries (i.e. a collection of
beehives).

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The Idaho Department of Agriculture is authorized by statute to protect Idaho’s bee industry. The department provides a qualified inspection service for certifying bees for trans-
port into other states for pollination, and works to minimize disease and bee pests within the state.

Every beekeeper maintaining colonies with-
in Idaho — except for hobbyists — is required by statute to pay an annual registration fee of $10, and 10 cents per colony for every colony over 50 colonies. (Idaho Code § 2501) Bee-
keepers who wish to move colonies into Idaho temporarily for pollination purposes must pay a fee.

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