



## JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Wind River Program of the Jackson Hole Land Trust Hires New Program Director to Focus on Fremont County Conservation Projects**

**October 14, 2016-** The Wind River Program of the Jackson Hole Land Trust (JHLT) is excited to announce the hiring of Butch Parks as the Program Director of the Dubois-based conservation program. The Wind River Program was established in 2007 by the Jackson Hole Land Trust in an effort to focus on the broader conservation landscape in Western Wyoming out of recognition of the ecological connectivity of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Butch began his tenure as the Program Director of the Wind River Program this September and is fully committed to maintaining the momentum of the program by identifying and executing priority conservation projects in Fremont and Park Counties.

Born in Texas, Butch graduated from the University of Houston after serving in the Marine Corps. He relocated to Fremont County in 1982 and has been tied to the Wyoming landscape ever since, raising his family here while owning and managing a variety of businesses in ranching, aviation, veterinary medicine, construction, renewable energy, and real estate. Butch comes to the Wind River Program from his position as the Commercial Property Manager for State Lands and then as the Land Administration Supervisor for Wyoming Game and Fish.

“The land is the main reason I came to and stayed in Wyoming,” said Butch. “I am passionate about the connections and resources that the Wyoming landscape provides for our wildlife, our waterways, our agriculture, and our communities. I’m excited to be working in Dubois for the Wind River Program on preserving these lands that I love and are important to the soul and integrity of our state.”

The Wind River Program is an important part of the Jackson Hole Land Trust’s regional strategy, which most recently includes the unification of the Green River Valley Land Trust with JHLT and subsequent launch of the Green River Valley Program based in Pinedale. The Jackson Hole Land Trust’s regional offices, staff members, and advisory committees are an integral part of the organizations’ overall conservation strategy as they provide insight and feedback on local priorities, concerns, and initiatives that help shape the programs and ensure the protection work being done is relevant and valuable to each community, as well as the region.

“We are so excited to have Butch in the Program Director position over in Dubois,” said Laurie Andrews, President of the Jackson Hole Land Trust. “Butch’s motivation for conservation is his pure enthusiasm for nature and his desire to keep Wyoming an incredible place to live. We anticipate an increase in conservation activity under his leadership and are looking forward to diving deeper into significant, impactful projects in Fremont County.”

The Wind River Program has protected over 2,750 acres since its inception in 2007. Cornerstone protection projects like the Three Spear Ranch, Ring Lake Ranch, the Torrey Lake Ranch, and the Long Ridge property provide a solid foundation for continued conservation work in the area and demonstrate proven examples of strong relationships between the Land Trust and landowners.

Butch is located at the Dubois Wind River Program office at 202 East Ramshorn Street and can be reached via email at [butch@jhlandtrust.org](mailto:butch@jhlandtrust.org).

### **About the Jackson Hole Land Trust**

The Jackson Hole Land Trust is a private, non-profit organization that was established in 1980 to preserve open space and the critical wildlife habitat, magnificent scenic vistas, and historic ranching heritage of Jackson Hole. By working cooperatively with the owners of the area’s privately owned open lands, the Jackson Hole Land Trust has ensured the permanent protection of over 57,000 acres in and around Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Area including Fremont and Sublette counties.

### **About the Wind River Program of the Jackson Hole Land Trust:**

The Wind River Program is the Dubois office of the Jackson Hole Land Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the open space, agricultural, scenic, and wildlife values in and around Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Area. The community-oriented Wind River Program was initiated in 2007 to protect the unique character and conservation values of the Wind River watershed. To date, over 2,750 acres have been protected in this area.