



## JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

Contact: Laurie Andrews, 307-733-4707 or [laurie@jhlandtrust.org](mailto:laurie@jhlandtrust.org)

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### **Jackson Hole Land Trust Annual Picnic Celebrates 34 Years of Open Space Protection**

**Jackson, Wyoming** – The Jackson Hole Land Trust will host the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Land Trust Picnic at the 4 Lazy F Ranch on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. This community celebration and tradition will feature classic barbeque picnic fare, music by Jess Camilla O’Neal & the Neversweat Players, plein air painting demonstrations by View22 artists, children’s activities, and a program highlighting the Land Trust’s open space conservation successes.

“Since last year’s picnic, we’ve protected over 265 new acres and have over a dozen active projects in the works,” said Laurie Andrews, executive director of the Jackson Hole Land Trust. “We look forward to celebrating these accomplishments with the community.”

The speaking program for the evening will highlight recent land conservation successes and current priorities of the Jackson Hole Land Trust, with a focus on the East Gros Ventre Butte Project, an ambitious effort to protect scenic vistas and sage grouse habitat on 400 acres of the butte. The 181-acre first phase of the project, secured in November 2013, forever extinguishes all residential, industrial, and commercial development rights on the property, and was made possible through the support of project partners and donors.

Bert Raynes, author, naturalist and founder of the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund, will be recognized for his many contributions to maintaining the wildlife populations of Jackson Hole, including support of the East Gros Ventre Butte Project.

“We look forward to recognizing the conservation landowners, supporters, and partners that make our work possible,” said Fred Staehr, Jackson Hole Land Trust board president.

The site of this year’s annual picnic is the 281-acre 4 Lazy F Ranch (also known as the Poodle Ranch), which is owned by the Oliver family, a family with ties to the area since the 1920s. The main ranch, located at the southeast end of Highway 22, is adjoined by a parcel to the south that comprises the top 40 acres of High School Butte. Both of these properties are under conservation easements held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust.

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Five artists from the View22 project will be in session to paint the views at the 4 Lazy F Ranch – Jennifer L. Hoffman, Kay Northup, Lee Riddell, Bill Sawczuk, and Travis Walker. View22: *Painting Jackson Hole's Open Spaces* seeks to raise awareness about the role that land conservation has played in shaping Jackson Hole's landscapes by following the artists through an interactive online blog as they paint a Land Trust protected each week this summer and fall.

Cocktails and music by Jess Camilla O'Neal and the Neversweat Players will begin at 4 pm, followed by a picnic buffet at 5pm, a speaking program at 6 pm, and dancing at 6:30. Families are encouraged to attend, and can expect kid-friendly activities, a flighted raptor demo by the Teton Raptor Center, and an art station by the Art Association of Jackson Hole. Land Trust partners, including Rendezvous "R" Park, the TravelStorysGPS smartphone application, and View22 will provide information on collaborative projects, and Wyoming Whiskey will provide tastings of their small batch bourbon.

Last year's picnic at the Bar BC Ranch drew over 700 guests. Tickets are \$50 per adult and free for children 12 and under. Walk-ins are welcome, and pre-registration is available through [www.jhlandtrust.org](http://www.jhlandtrust.org) or by calling 307.733.4707. Guests are encouraged to carpool to the picnic location, and to park in designated parking areas only.

### **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 24,000 acres in and around Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Area. For more information please visit [www.jhlandtrust.org](http://www.jhlandtrust.org).