



JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 5, 2016

Contact: Laurie Andrews, 307-733-4707, laurie@jhlandtrust.org

Jackson Hole Land Trust and Green River Valley Land Trust Unite to Protect a Combined 57,000 Acres of Conservation Land in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

The Jackson Hole Land Trust has officially launched the Green River Valley Program as a Sublette County focused program which will guarantee the stewardship of important conservation lands in perpetuity.

October 5, 2016 – The Jackson Hole Land Trust (JHLT) is excited to announce today the official launch of the new Green River Valley Program. After a decision to merge back in August 2016, JHLT and the Green River Valley Land Trust (GRVLT) have been working together to transfer 58 easements totaling 32,000 acres from GRVLT to JHLT. These easements are now held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust under the organization’s new Green River Valley Program, which was established on October 1, 2016. The creation of a Sublette County-focused program and procurement of GRVLT’s 58 easements by JHLT secures the conservation values of important protected private lands.

The Jackson Hole Land Trust was a critical partner in the founding and creation of the GRVLT and has since been a resource and ally in land protection. Over the last 36 years, JHLT has helped over 220 landowners conserve more than 25,000 acres in Teton County and through the Wind River Program in Fremont County. Founded in 2000, GRVLT has been responsible for securing over 32,000 acres of easement-protected property in partnership with 44 landowners.

Following an announcement in 2013 that GRVLT would be transferring its easements to other conservation organizations, JHLT and GRVLT began discussing the most efficient and effective approach to safeguarding existing conservation easements and the land protected under them in Sublette County. After careful consideration, the Board of Directors of both organizations agreed that the solution for ensuring sustainable stewardship of existing Sublette County conservation easements and for gaining the resources necessary to move forward on additional land protection opportunities in the region was to have JHLT take ownership of all GRVLT easements and manage conservation in the area under a designated program with a local office and staff in Sublette County.

“After our work with the landowners, board members, and the community in Sublette County, we are more excited than ever to launch the Green River Valley Program of the

Jackson Hole Land Trust. We have worked carefully to create a stewardship and conservation plan that is specific to the unique and valuable lands of Sublette County. The historically strong leadership and financial security of the Jackson Hole Land Trust will bring stability to an incredibly important conservation area in Wyoming,” said Pete Lawton, JHLT Board Chair.

While the GRVLT has officially concluded its separate operations, a new Sublette County based office for the Green River Valley Program of JHLT has opened in Pinedale at 7 West Pine Street. Moving forward, the staff of JHLT will work with the Pinedale-based staff to ensure that partner landowners, and new potential conservation landowners, have a quality experience as they work to protect a critical portion of the Wyoming landscape. Sublette County representatives will have two spots on the Jackson Hole Land Trust Board of Directors and JHLT has begun working on establishing an Advisory Committee comprised of former GRVLT board members, conservation supporters, and community members from the Sublette County area.

“It is clear that the Jackson Hole Land Trust recognizes the big picture of conservation in Wyoming and has dedicated an immense amount of time to understanding the history and dynamics of our land protection efforts and goals here in the Green River Valley,” said Brian Gray, former GRVLT Board President. “We are grateful to all those that have worked so hard to get us to this point so that we can continue our local presence, strengthen our relationships with landowners, and look forward to doing further important protection work in Sublette County.”

For more information about the merger, and how to get involved, visit www.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 25,000 acres in and around Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Area.

About the Green River Valley Program of the Jackson Hole Land Trust

The Green River Program is the Pinedale 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 Sublette County Program was launched in 2016 as a result of a unification between the Jackson Hole Land Trust and the Green River Valley Land Trust. The goal of the Green

River Valley Program is to steward existing conservation easements and identify priority conservation projects that will further protect the unique character and conservation values of Sublette County. To date, over 32,000 acres of land have been protected in the area through 58 conservation easements.