



JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 12, 2015

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Jackson Hole Land Trust Earns Continued National Recognition

Renewed Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

Jackson, Wyoming – The Jackson Hole Land Trust has achieved renewed land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

“We are pleased to once again achieve this national recognition which demonstrates our continued commitment to land conservation, accomplished through strategic, effective, and trustworthy practices,” said Laurie Andrews, Jackson Hole Land Trust executive director and Land Trust Alliance board member. “We are a stronger organization today having gone through the rigorous accreditation renewal process.”

The Jackson Hole Land Trust was established in 1980 by community leaders that saw private land conservation as an essential means to preserving the wildlife habitat, scenic views, ranching heritage, and community character of Jackson Hole. The Land Trust has since grown to become a leader in the national land trust community, and was one of the first land trusts to gain accreditation in 2009. The honor of continued accreditation follows a community-wide celebration of the Land Trust’s 35th anniversary and the protection of 380 additional acres of the Mead Ranch in Spring Gulch in May 2015.

The Jackson Hole Land Trust submitted extensive documentation and underwent a rigorous review in order to be awarded renewed accreditation this August. It is one of 317 land trusts now accredited across the country. Accredited land trusts are authorized to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent – a mark of distinction in land conservation.

“The Jackson Hole Land Trust is one of the first land trusts to achieve renewed accreditation, a significant achievement for the land trust and major milestone for the accreditation program. They are an important member of the accredited land trust community that protects more than three quarters of the over 20 million acres currently owned or protected by a land trust,” said Land Trust Accreditation Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. “Accreditation renewal, which must be completed every five years, provides the public with an assurance that accredited land trusts continue to meet exceedingly high standards for quality and verifies their operations continue to be effective, strategic and in accordance with strict requirements.

According to the Land Trust Alliance, the national umbrella organization of land trusts, conserving land helps ensure clean air and drinking water; safe, healthy food; scenic landscapes



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and views; recreational places; and habitat for the diversity of life on earth. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.

The Jackson Hole Land Trust will celebrate this achievement together with Rand Wentworth, President of the Land Trust Alliance for the past 14 years, who will visit Jackson Hole this September. The Land Trust will host a special reception on Wednesday, September 16 from 5:30 to 7:30, at which Wentworth will share his perspective on the land conservation movement over the past decade and an interpretation of what the future looks like for land trusts and community-focused conservation.

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. For more information please visit www.jhlandtrust.org.

About the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. See a complete list of all recently accredited land trusts online at <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/land-trust-locator>. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission's website, www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

About The Land Trust Alliance

Founded in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance is a national land conservation organization that works to save the place people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents 1,200 member land trusts supported by more than 5 million members nationwide. The Alliance is based in Washington, D.C., and operated several regional offices. More information about the Alliance is available at www.landtrustalliance.org.