

Newsletter for the Jackson Hole Land Trust's Conservation Easement Donors and Owners & Managers of Protected Properties



## Native vegetation integral to conservation values

The animals of northwest Wyoming that are so beloved by residents and visitors alike are dependent on native plant communities for their forage and cover. A large part of what makes Jackson Hole and the vast matrix of surrounding federal lands so conducive to supporting a complete suite of native wildlife is the complex, largely unaltered vegetative habitats. Being that the integrity of the scenic vistas and wildlife habitats in the vicinity are largely dependent on native vegetation, many of our conservation easements have language that pertains to the maintenance and planting of native species.

The intent of writing native vegetation language into an easement is to underscore the importance and fundamental link between native plants and the conservation values that our agreements are meant to uphold. The Land Trust's baseline inventories document the condition of a property when the conservation easement goes into effect. One of the purposes of these inventories is to capture the status of the vegetative communities, because they are an initial barometer of the habitat quality, which is largely indicative of the animal life that will utilize the land.

Many conservation easement landowners have taken an interest in maintaining and promoting native vegetation, whether controlling weeds, planting local native plant stock, or working with groups such as the Teton Science Schools and the Teton Conservation District to establish native seed plots that will provide local ecotype seed for restoration and revegetation uses.

If you are planning a project and will need plants or seed, would like to revegetate disturbed ground, or are thinking about landscaping, please keep

in mind the vegetation language of your easement.

The Teton County Native Species List can be found at: [http://www.tetonconservation.org/index.cfm?id=native\\_plant\\_species](http://www.tetonconservation.org/index.cfm?id=native_plant_species)

The following native seed and plant stock providers can provide the native plants and seeds for your project:

### Native Seed Suppliers

Wind River Seed  
3075 Lane 51 1/2  
Manderson, WY 82432  
Phone: 307-568-3361  
Fax: 307-568-3364  
[www.windriverseed.com](http://www.windriverseed.com)

Cedera Seed Inc.  
114 State Highway 31  
Swan Valley, ID 83449  
Phone: 208-483-3683  
[www.yourseedsupplier.com](http://www.yourseedsupplier.com)

### Wetland Stock

Pawnee Buttes Seed, Inc.  
PO Box 100, 605 25th St.  
Greeley, CO 80632  
Phone: 800-782-5947  
[www.pawneebutteseed.com](http://www.pawneebutteseed.com)

North Fork Native Plants  
1499 S. 6000 W.  
Rexburg, ID 83440  
Phone: 877-444-6996  
Fax: 208-247-0941  
[www.northforknativeplants.com](http://www.northforknativeplants.com)



Native vegetation community on East Gros Ventre Butte with the NER wetland complex

# Weed abatement cost-share continues in 2012

Once again in 2012, the Teton Conservation District (TCD) will be offering their cost-share incentive program to assist landowners in controlling noxious and invasive weeds on private land. The cost-share program, underway for nearly a decade now, has helped landowners make great strides to control weeds, limit their spread, and, in the case of some new invaders, extirpate populations before they have the opportunity to become established in Jackson Hole. Participation of approximately 300 landowners and HOA's, accounting for nearly 1/3 of the private land acreage in the valley, has made TCD's program wildly successful. This year the program will be coordinated by Teton County Weed & Pest District.

The cost-share rate for 2012 will be 25%, an identical rate to last year. Along with the financial reimbursement incentive are the services and expertise that enrollment provides; membership has its privileges with weed mapping, site evaluations, post-treatment follow-ups, and seasoned advice to strategically assist your treatment activity.

Surrounding areas in Idaho, Utah, Montana, and other places in Wyoming have lost significant agricultural productivity and functional wildlife habitat to noxious and invasive weeds. The Jackson Hole Land Trust encourages all landowners to continue to treat noxious weeds and capitalize on

Teton County's expertise and mapping to maintain the wonderful natural habitat that northwest Wyoming is known for. Time and again this community and specifically conservation-minded landowners have made the commitment to sustain and improve the things that capture the special character of the place: it has happened with crucial wildlife habitat, it has happened with fishery improvement, and it continues to occur with respect to weeds. Thanks to all of you for your dedication and perseverance in implementing your strategic weed control efforts.

As in previous years, the annual enrollment period will last from April through the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. Follow-up inspection visits will take place thereafter and conclude in October, when the reimbursement checks will be sent to landowners.

Mark Daluge of the Teton County Weed & Pest District will be coordinating properties this year. If you have any questions about the program, Mark can be reached at [mdaluge@tcweed.org](mailto:mdaluge@tcweed.org), 733-8419, or you can give the Land Trust a call.

The 2012 TCD cost-share application is available online at [www.tcweed.org](http://www.tcweed.org) or [www.tetonconservation.org](http://www.tetonconservation.org)

You can also ask the Land Trust staff to provide an application during the annual conservation easement monitoring visit or find it at [www.jhlandtrust.org/stewardship/landowner.htm](http://www.jhlandtrust.org/stewardship/landowner.htm).

Black henbane



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 3: 169 & 177.

Yellow toadflax



## August picnic - celebrate conservation success



Last years event on the Parker place in South Park

Continuing the long tradition of celebrating private land conservation in the valley, the Land Trust's annual picnic is again slated for the second Sunday of August. Taking an afternoon to recognize the efforts of conservation easement donors past and present and acknowledging the commitment of landowners and managers of protected properties is something we relish. August 12<sup>th</sup> will be a special day to convene to mark this community's conservation accomplishments. We'll showcase the progress that has been made and the opportunities that lie ahead to conserve more of the beautiful acreage that makes Jackson Hole truly unique. The Land Trust's board and staff look forward to sharing conversation, food and music with you on August 12<sup>th</sup>, as we envision real conservation goals for the coming years.

# NOTIFICATIONS AND APPROVALS

**Communicating with the Land Trust about your plans prior to implementation helps head off complications**

Most conservation easements include requirements that the landowner notify or obtain approval from the Land Trust prior to undertaking certain activities. These requirements typically apply to activities which have the potential to negatively impact the property's conservation values.

The types of activities that often require the notification or approval of the Land Trust:

- Vegetation removals, tree cutting and other plant alterations
- Creation, maintenance and alteration of pond, stream, and riparian habitats
- Extensive clean-up activity of dead and downed woody debris
- Site preparation for construction that extends beyond the designated building envelope, or onto the easement from unencumbered land
- Habitat enhancements

Our goal at the Land Trust is to respond to notifications and approval requests in a timely and straightforward way. By keeping each other informed, the Land Trust and landowners can best accomplish our mutual goal of protecting the conservation values of your land.

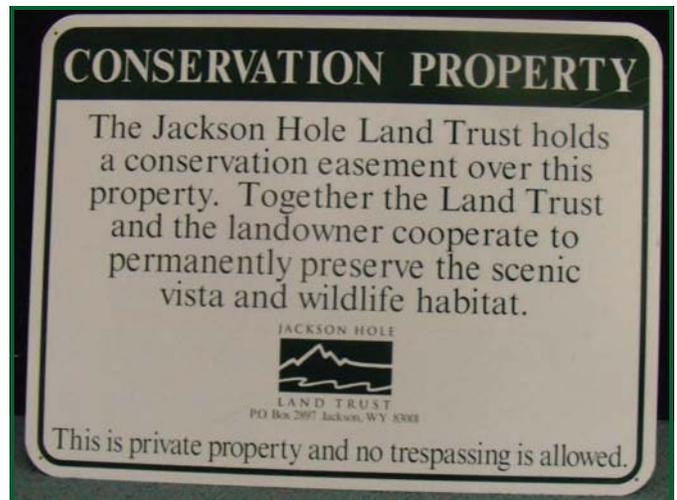
**This spring, please consider taking some time to review the conservation easement on your property to ensure you're aware of any notification or approval requirements it may contain. And if you're ever considering a project and are not sure whether a requirement exists or not, give us a call and we would be more than happy to review the conservation easement with you for any pertinent provisions.**

## Sign of commitment

Driving around Jackson Hole, they even inform passersby one of the things a person might that conservation is not an notice is the green and white signs invitation to trespass and identifying properties conserved that in most cases these with the Jackson Hole Land lands remain in a landown-Trust. Like security company er's private ownership.

placards on homes, these signs Sometimes when we indicate that the property behind visit conservation proper- them is protected. In this case, ties during the summer, that protection comes in the form landowners and property of the mutually agreed upon con- managers let us know that servation easement representing they have a worn out or damaged the commitment by the landown- sign or would like an additional- er and the Land Trust to ensuring one for a new gate or section of that the scenic, wildlife, agricultur- fence. We're more than happy to- al, and other important conserva- pick up damaged or unwanted- tion values of the property will be signs and to provide additional or- protected in perpetuity. replacement signs as we are able,

These signs are emblems of a so please ask. We're proud of the landowner's commitment to con- message they send about our part- servation, they remind one's nership with you in upholding the neighbors that these lands are conservation values of your land, serving an important purpose, and and we hope you feel the same!



**Will you be out of town periodically this summer? Would you like to prearrange your monitoring visit?**

**Just let us know what dates best fit for your schedule. We look forward to seeing you!**

**307-733-4707**

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P.O. Box 2897  
Jackson, WY 83001  
Phone: 307-733-4707  
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## Our Mission

The Jackson Hole Land Trust is a private nonprofit that was established in 1980. We work to preserve open space and the scenic, ranching and wildlife values of Jackson Hole by assisting landowners who wish to protect their land in perpetuity.

## Stewardship Staff

Director of Conservation: John Shepard - john@jhlandtrust.org  
Staff Biologist & Land Steward: Tom Segerstrom - tom@jhlandtrust.org  
Land Steward: Steffan Freeman - steffan@jhlandtrust.org  
Wind River Program Director: Ellen Vanuga - ellen@jhlandtrust.org

## Continue to check out stories from the field

The stewardship staff continues to file "Field Notes" on the Land Trust's website at [www.jhlandtrust.org](http://www.jhlandtrust.org). We're relaying reports and stories of the things that we have been witnessing in the great outdoors. Check out Ellen's recent posting about netting bighorn sheep in Fremont County's Torrey Creek Valley!



Also keep up with the latest happenings, field trip and event announcements, and become a Fan of the Jackson Hole Land Trust on Facebook!



# Accreditation: What it means for you and its meaning for JHLT

The Land Trust received accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, in the fall of 2009. At the time the Land Trust was in only the second cohort to go through the accreditation process, and this brought the distinction of being one of 82 accredited land trusts out of more than 1,600 groups nationwide.

Accreditation is a mechanism that provides public recognition of land trusts that are committed to land protection – for the long term and with the public interest in conservation values of the land at the forefront.

In order to receive accreditation, our governance, management policies, and the systems we use to protect and steward land were scrutinized and our documentation vetted to ensure that the Land Trust is fulfilling our obligations and fully capable of stewarding and protecting our conservation-easement lands in perpetuity. This examination helped strengthen our policies and procedures while giving us the unique opportunity to gauge our organization's best practices within the greater private-land conservation community.

## What does accreditation mean for our landowner partners?

**Trust** – While the Land Trust holds in trust the rights that are contained in the easement documents, accreditation means landowners and conservation easement donors can have faith in this organization that we have the skills, knowledge, and capacity to uphold the conservation values through time.

**Permanence** – Our easements run with the land, meaning that the wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, and open agricultural working land values that are enjoyed today will be conserved for future generations of conservation property owners and the public.

**Adaptation** – Accreditation is continuing process and the Land Trust will be completing a follow-up review every five years. This continual review will ensure that we are employing the latest standards and practices in our stewardship and protection activities, and that the Land Trust's board of directors continues to integrate governance and management policies that ensure perpetual conservation on the land.

**Fiscal stability** – The accreditation review examined our stewardship-related reserves. These are the funds that are meant to ensure our obligations of upholding the conservation values on the land over time. The follow-up review process for retaining accredited status will continue to scrutinize the level of our stewardship reserves so that, year after year, we are adequately endowing our perpetual commitment to the land and its conservation values.

We have a special commitment to the stewarding of lands in perpetuity, which was reinforced by the commission's view of our stewardship practices. We place emphasis on being responsive and a resource to our landowner partners and on working with the conservation values of each easement in mind as we carry out our stewardship obligations. As we approach our five-year accreditation follow-up review, landowners, conservation easement donors, and the public can rest assured that this organization will continue to pursue excellence while protecting the scenic and open space values, agricultural lands, and wildlife habitats of northwest Wyoming.

The accreditation seal found on the cover of this newsletter is a mark of distinction that we are proud to uphold. When you see this seal emblazoned on our materials you know you can count on the Land Trust to do its part to ensure the conservation values of your property are defended in perpetuity.