



JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 31, 2014

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

Jackson Hole Land Trust Rings Out 2014 With 562 New Acres Conserved

Jackson, Wyoming – The Jackson Hole Land Trust has protected three new properties in Teton County in the last week of December, wrapping up another notable year for land conservation by the organization. In total, the Land Trust conserved 562 acres on 8 properties in 2014.

“We’ve had a very successful and active year, thanks to the conservation landowners, partners, and supporters that we work with,” said Fred Staehr, board president of the Jackson Hole Land Trust. “It is great to send off the year with 562 new acres protected, and know that there are more exciting projects on the horizon for 2015.”

Earlier in 2014, 393 acres were protected by the Land Trust and private landowners, beginning in May with an easement on a scenic 3-acre parcel in the Skyline Ranch subdivision. In July, a 37-acre easement within the Snake River corridor at the Bar B Bar Ranch subdivision was accepted by the Land Trust through a PRD transaction. A pristine 38-acre property with Snake River frontage, bordering Grand Teton National Park, was protected in September by a donated easement that eliminated all development rights for the benefit of fish and wildlife habitat. In October, the Land Trust’s Wind River Program protected a 79-acre property along the Wind River at the base of the colorful Dubois Badlands.

The Munger Mountain Corridor Project, a first of its kind partnership between the Jackson Hole Land Trust, U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Wyoming State Forestry Division, Wyoming Wildlife & Natural Resource Trust, and the Snake River Ranch, was completed in early December after many years of planning and collaboration. The 236-acre project was the first to receive Forest Legacy Program funds in Wyoming and secured the permanent protection of an important northwestern Wyoming elk migration corridor, as well as bald eagle nesting areas and other important wildlife habitat.

A new 35-acre easement was donated at the close of 2014 on a property located north of Jackson along the Snake River on Queens Lane. The parcel consists of intact cottonwood and spruce riparian habitat that provides ecological connectivity, forage, and cover for a host of wildlife species, including a known migration corridor for elk traveling between the National Elk Refuge and Grand Teton National Park and spawning habitat for cutthroat trout.

Two additional conservation easements finalized at the end of December are located in the Snake River riparian corridor east of Fall Creek Road, in the Taylor Creek area. Landowners David O’Connor and Lona Williams simultaneously donated an easement on an 88-acre parcel and protected an adjacent 46-acre parcel through a Planned Residential Development (PRD) transaction with Teton County. The acreage, made up of open waters and river bottom of the Snake River, provides crucial habitat for moose and trumpeter swans as well as habitat for many riparian species.



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“Land conservation in the Snake River riparian corridor protects key habitat and migration corridors for an incredible diversity of wildlife species, as well as scenic views for river users,” said Laurie Andrews, Jackson Hole Land Trust executive director. “We are grateful for the opportunity to work with landowners in this high-priority area for conservation.”

In addition to the newly-protected acreage, the Land Trust accepted two transfers of conservation easements from the Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust and one transfer from the Green River Valley Land Trust, totaling 496 acres.

Bob Peters, partner at North 40 Realty and part-time adult private ski instructor, joined the Land Trust’s Board of Directors in 2014. Bob is also chair of the Open Space Council, a group that serves as ambassadors of the Land Trust’s work in the community. Bob and his wife Ruthie spent the first of what has now been 40 winters skiing at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in 1974, and moved to the valley full-time in 2002. Bob is active in the community and serves on the boards of the Community Resource Center of Jackson Hole, Friends of Fish Creek, and the Snake River Fund.

John L. Vogelstein, former President of Warburg Pincus and a Senior Advisor of Warburg Pincus, also joined the Land Trust’s Board of Directors in 2014. John holds positions on many boards including chairman emeritus of the New York City Ballet; chairman emeritus of Prep for Prep; chairman of Third Way; vice chairman of the board of overseers of The Leonard N. Stern School of Business at New York University; trustee of New York University; trustee of Temple Emanu-El; and chairman emeritus and life trustee of The Jewish Museum. John first visited Jackson in 1978 and returned many times over subsequent years. He and his wife, Barbara, have enjoyed living in Jackson since 2003.

The Land Trust welcomed Linda Aurelio, Orion Bellorado, Anna Cole, Ben Mackay, Shawn Smith, and David Stubbs to the Open Space Council this year.

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.