



JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Legacy of Conservation Continues in Spring Gulch with 380 Additional Acres of Ranch Lands Protected by the Jackson Hole Land Trust and Mead Family

Jackson, Wyoming – The Jackson Hole Land Trust announced today the protection of 380 acres of the Mead Ranch in Spring Gulch on lands that have been ranched by the Mead and Hansen families for four generations. As one of the most iconic and recognized viewsheds in Jackson, land in Spring Gulch has been at the top of the Land Trust’s conservation priority list since 2001 when the organization protected acreage on the Hansen Ranch at the southern end of Spring Gulch closest to Highway 22.

The Mead Ranch is a 1,500-acre ranch north of Highway 22 that encompasses much of the southern half of Spring Gulch – a scenic, pastoral valley that lies between East and West Gros Ventre Buttes, with views of the Cathedral Group of the Tetons to the northwest. The new Spring Gulch Meadows conservation easements cover five parcels to the north and west of the ranch’s headquarters and the turnoff to Spring Creek Ranch Road.

The conservation values protected by the Land Trust’s new easements include the incredible scenic views of Spring Gulch and beyond from Highway 22 and Spring Gulch Road, the ranching heritage of the land, which produces local grass-fed Mead Ranch Natural Beef, and the important wildlife habitat and migration corridors it provides for elk, mule deer, and moose.

“It has been a dream of ours to protect more land in Spring Gulch, together with the ranching families that own the remaining large open spaces that are otherwise vulnerable to development. We are grateful to the Mead family for working with us to make this conservation priority a reality, and look forward to protecting more of the rural lands of Spring Gulch that the community has identified as important for wildlife, open space, and the ranching way of life,” said Laurie Andrews, executive director of the Jackson Hole Land Trust.

The Jackson Hole Land Trust worked closely with landowners Brad Mead, Muffy Mead-Ferro, Governor Matt Mead, and Pete Hansen on the new land deal to conserve additional acreage of the ranch lands first settled by their family in 1918. The 211-acre Hansen Ranch parcels were placed under easement by the Land Trust and Mead and Hansen families in 2001 and 2006.

“The Jackson Hole Land Trust has a long and successful history of permanently protecting valley property. And they do it responsibly, by creating voluntary partnerships with local landowners. Our family has worked with the Land Trust before, and we know they share our commitment to open space, whether it’s used by cattle or wildlife or both. We’re pleased to think that future residents and visitors can look across the meadows in Spring Gulch and see essentially the same views Peter Christofferson Hansen did when he



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settled there almost a century ago. The volunteers and donors at the Land Trust have made that possible,” said Brad Mead, fourth-generation rancher and attorney.

“This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to protect ranch lands in Spring Gulch that are a part of the history and identity of Jackson Hole,” said Jackson businesswoman and longtime valley resident Clarene Law. “It really speaks to the continued importance of the Land Trust’s work in the valley, and the strength of its experience and long-term relationships with ranching families, that a project of this significance could be completed in today’s economy.” Law was actively involved with the Land Trust’s efforts to protect the 211-acre Hansen Ranch parcels in the early 2000s.

“It takes a tremendous amount of vision and resources to complete a project like Spring Gulch Meadows. Every time I drive along Highway 22 and look up that valley, I will be thankful to the Mead family and the generous donors that have made this conservation project possible,” said Fred Staehr, board president of the Jackson Hole Land Trust. “I also wanted to thank the Bank of Jackson Hole for really going above and beyond as a community-based bank to help the Jackson Hole Land Trust complete this land deal.”

Other Jackson Hole Land Trust conservation easements in and around Spring Gulch include an adjacent 247 acres at the Jackson Land & Cattle Equestrian Center, the 507-acre Bar BC Meadow easement further north in Spring Gulch, and 447 acres of easements surrounding the Spring Creek Ranch and Amangani developments.

The Spring Gulch Meadows conservation easement was made possible through the contributions of donors to the Jackson Hole Land Trust’s Forever Our Valley capital campaign and a loan from the Bank of Jackson Hole. Joining the 41-acre Rendezvous Park and 181 acres on East Gros Ventre Butte, Spring Gulch Meadows is the third conservation project funded by the Land Trust’s Forever Our Valley capital campaign. The purpose of the \$35 million campaign, which began in its quiet phase in 2012, is to generate funding that provides the necessary financial resources to secure conservation easements on priority projects like Spring Gulch. Thus far, the Forever Our Valley campaign committee and Land Trust board have worked to secure critical funding from generous leadership donors to protect over 600 acres of high priority conservation land in the valley.

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.