

JH Land Trust secured 388 acres in 2015

Trust says large and small parcels are both valuable in conservation efforts.

By Melissa Cassutt

The Jackson Hole Land Trust conserved 388 acres over the past year, adding to the 25,000 acres in and around Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Area that the nonprofit has protected with conservation easements since it began 35 years ago.

“Some pieces are a keystone piece,” said Laurie Andrews, executive director of the Land Trust, “and some pieces are just really complementing what’s already been completed.”

The three parcels added to the inventory included 380 acres of the Mead Ranch in Spring Gulch, which runs along Highway 22 and Spring Gulch Road. The easement protects the scenic views along the thoroughfare and plays an important role as a migration corridor and habitat for elk, mule deer and moose.

Being a large parcel, the easement creates “a habitat in and of itself,” Andrews said.

The two smaller pieces, a 7-acre easement in the Skyline Ranch subdivision and a half-acre parcel along the south side of Flat Creek, play just as important roles in conservation, Andrews said, as they link to other conserved properties.

The 7-acre parcel, donated by Dr. Alice Richter, is bordered by three other conservation easements, one held by the trust and two held by the Nature Conservancy.

“In addition to being highly visible from Highway 22 along the Skyline Ridge hillside, the easement protects an ecological transition zone that pro-



DAVID STUBBS / COURTESY PHOTO

In partnership with the Mead Ranch, the Jackson Hole Land Trust conserved 380 acres in Spring Gulch along Highway 22 and Spring Gulch Road. The easement protects wildlife habitat and migration corridors for elk, mule deer and moose.

vides important habitat and connectivity for wildlife,” Andrews wrote in a press release.

The half-acre easement, donated by the Sobieski family, borders a 38-acre conservation property at the base of Snow King Mountain. The property, protected for wildlife habitat, flood migration and public access, is held in partnership between the Land Trust

and the town.

“It’s really about complementing,” Andrews said. “All the puzzle pieces make sense, even though they’re different shapes and sizes.”

Coming into 2016, Andrews said, the trust is looking into “high-priority properties” around the valley, including several pieces along Spring Gulch, in South Park and along the Snake River.

“For us, we’re continuing to look at those pieces that complement and are really pivotal to the habitat and the migration corridors that are in the valley,” Andrews said. “We’re fortunate to live where we do in that every acre does matter.”

Contact Melissa Cassutt at 732-7076 or county@jhnewsandguide.com.

Thank you, Jackson Hole, for 10

The care during this stay was excellent. The doctors and staff were wonderful. The atmosphere is calming and staff never appeared rushed, were always considerate • Great. Very impressive • The food service this hospital is exceptional. I would and will recommend it to everyone! • I received excellent care and courtesy • I told them I wished that I lived closer, so if I got sick, I'd come back to this hospital + staff!!! • Outstanding • Overall, it was a really good experience. I just wanted to also make sure to recognize the nurse in lactation and thank her for all of her help! She really was a low cost overnight housing available to my husband • My MRI tech was very nice. I really appreciated that he explained everything thoroughly. He was great! • Efficient, friendly, people beautiful • Excellent care, I always recommend St John's and the physicians to everyone • I received very professional care and feel confident about the results • Amazing staff and facility! • My care was excellent • The efficiency of the hospital staff, particularly regarding the information given me concerning my surgery and what to expect • My experience at the hospital was amazing! The staff took excellent care • The knee replacement program is exceptional. My recovery has been better than my last replacement. Great work!! • The doctor is my #1 doctor and his staff wonderful. Would not think of going anywhere else • Making the end of my life as good as it can be • All excellent. Thank so much!!! • All staff + doctors were very friendly, helpful + knowledgeable • St John's is a major asset to our community! Thank you to everyone. Thanks • I received very good care • Our trip to ER was an emergency. The doctor was wonderful. He was attentive and we instantly felt comfortable with the treatment he provided • The staff was just as helpful • Great experience! I would highly recommend! Thank you! • Awesome • Help me as much as possible • Thank you! • The office personnel are simply the best I have ever encountered • The doctors and staff • I appreciate the kindness shown by my nurse. She helped to put me at ease. Thanks a bunch. I highly recommend St. John's as my choice of hospitals based on the care and cost • The best ER room experience I've ever had. Great doc, great personnel, great facility. I thank everyone immensely it was wonderful • The doctor, nurse and the office staff are the best! • I was fully satisfied • St John's is the best!! • Great! • I love them. They took such good care of me. I will miss them. They are the best • Great job updating. It looks great! Can't wait to see lab • The ortho program is excellent • prompt, courteous, kind and professional. Also knowledgeable. I would see him again • If a hospital experience can be described as "superb" this was • It was as pleasant as surgery and post-surgery • my life. Thank you so much to all involved! • The care I received from nurses and CNA's was wonderful. Food was delicious. Staff, esp PT, OT, RT and housekeeping were all wonderful • Always appreciate all the attention given me • The lab, OR, admitting, OB staff were fantastic. I recommend SJMC to everyone. The massage was extra nice touch! • Best hospital ever! I received excellent care • She does her job professionally and she is very helpful and empathetic. I like her a lot! • Everyone was great. All treated you as a human being! With the utmost respect! • I was hoping that I would be one of the best. She will respond to things unknown to medicine until she gets answers that help her patients • Very good provider Professional - honestly cares • Great care and service as always • a lot in the last few years. And this was one of the best • We were very impressed with the quality of care we received during our stay. The doctors and nurses were knowledgeable and personable. The care was excellent. They were also very helpful to my family when they arrived. Thank you so much! • It was excellent. I would recommend SJMC to anyone. All staff were friendly, helpful and respectful •

“Very compassionate and caring doctors and staff.”

100 patient comments received
October 23, 2015- December 5, 2015

