



## JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Jackson Hole Land Trust Celebrates Regional Conservation in 2016, Protects 106 Acres in Teton County and Safeguards Additional 32,000 Acres in Sublette County through New Green River Program**

**Jackson, Wyoming** – The Jackson Hole Land Trust (JHLT) has protected 106 acres of land in Teton County in 2016, rounding out another successful year of conservation in Western Wyoming.

Two properties totaling 62-acres of scenic open space and crucial wildlife habitat were protected on the iconic and highly visible East Gros Ventre Butte in 2016. The properties add to the existing 181 acres of conserved land on the butte, which were initially protected in 2013 through JHLT’s Forever Our Valley campaign. East Gros Ventre Butte is adjacent to the National Elk Refuge, Grand Teton National Park, and Spring Gulch, situated above the National Museum of Wildlife Art and Highway 26/89/191. The conservation easements eliminate all development rights on the property for the sake of robust protection for wildlife, in particular wintering sage grouse and mule deer.

“This year’s East Gros Ventre Butte easements protect important, high-quality habitat and connectivity for wildlife in Teton County,” said Laurie Andrews, Jackson Hole Land Trust President. “We are grateful for the exemplary efforts of the involved partners and families to protect winter habitats on a landscape-scale in our backyard.”

In June 2016, an additional 44-acre tract of undeveloped land was protected through a donated conservation easement from a private landowner north of town in the Snake River riparian corridor. The property features key habitat for elk, mule deer, moose, bears, mountain lions, and cutthroat trout, and is surrounded by Jackson Hole Land Trust protected properties and Grand Teton National Park.

In October, the Green River Valley Land Trust (GRVLT) merged with the Jackson Hole Land Trust. The merger brings an additional 58 conservation easements totaling 32,000 acres to the JHLT. The easements are now held by the JHLT under the organization’s new Green River Valley Program, which was established on October 1, 2016.

Successful collaboration with local, regional, and national partners allowed the Land Trust to engage in exemplary land conservation efforts in 2016. In December, the Jackson Hole Land Trust helped the Grand Teton National Park Foundation protect a 640-acre tract of land on the Antelope Flats, with the support of local and national organizations and a match by the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In October, in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Wyoming Fish and Game Department, the Land Trust supported the conservation of 44 acres of critical habitat for elk and other wildlife near Alta, Wyoming. The Land Trust also transferred 28 acres of scenic, undeveloped open land at Hatchet Meadows located in the Buffalo Fork River Valley to the U.S. Forest Service earlier this fall.

In August, the Land Trust released the findings from the Community Assessment, which readdressed the 2010 study measuring the general public's awareness of the Jackson Hole Land Trust and the community's current conservation priorities. The information gleaned from the assessment motivates the Land Trust to engage more with the community to bring forward completed and potential projects that will add quality to the lives of Jackson's residents.

Paired with a year of exceptional regional conservation efforts, the Jackson Hole Land Trust engaged in community outreach through strong and sustainable partnerships. The popular FoundSpace artmaking project brought Jackson Hole Public Art and Rendezvous Park in collaboration with the Land Trust. The 2016 View22: Open Studio project linked 19 local artists to land conservation in Teton County. Green flags highlighted highly-visible conservation properties throughout the valley in the summer, in the weeks preceding the Land Trust's Annual Picnic in August at Fish Creek Ranch.

With the launch of the new Green River Valley Program, Mindi Crabb was hired full-time as GRVP Program Director, based out of Pinedale, Wyoming. Additionally, the Wind River Program of JHLT hired Butch Parks as Program Director of the Dubois-based conservation program.

The Jackson Hole Land Trust welcomed six new members to the Board of Directors in 2016: Joe Albracht, Kelly Davis, Brad Nielson, JJ Healy, Mike Fenn, and Rob Wallace. Joe Albracht is the co-founder and former Chief Operating Officer of Mobius Management Systems Inc., and lives with his wife in Teton Village. Kelly Davis is an avid equestrian and owner of Old Oak Farm, LLC, an international show jumping stable. Brad Neilson recently retired from Royal Dutch Shell as General Counsel and is currently a board member of several non-profit organizations involved in Wyoming natural resource conservation. Rob Wallace is the Chief Regulatory Officer of i2 Capital, as well as the Co-Founder and Partner of the Upper Green River Conservancy. JJ Healy founded Healy Capitol and joins the JHLT from the merger with the Green River Valley Land Trust. Mike Fenn also joins us from the

GRVLT Board, and is an avid outdoorsman from Pinedale with over 30 years of construction management and energy industry experience.

The Land Trust welcomed Sally Brin, Randy DePree, Chad Driewer, Lori Fields, Caitlin Keys, Fiorella Lazarte, Cody Lockhart, Elisabeth Rohrbach, Michael Schrotz, Eric Seymour, John Stennis, Bobby Thomson, and Katie Wilson 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 57,000 acres in and around Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Area including Fremont and Sublette counties.