



**JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Celebrating Underground Power and Conserved Viewsheds**

*Community Partners to Memorialize Powerline Solution on May 15 as "Last" Aerial Pole is Decommissioned. Project Praised for Innovative Collaboration, Conservation, Energy Security and Being Under Budget Estimates.*

**Teton Village, WY** - What a difference a year makes when the hardworking team of Lower Valley Energy and a partnership of landowners, businesses and the Jackson Hole Land Trust (JHLT) set their minds to improve power reliability as well as enhance the signature viewshed of the conservation easement-protected Snake River Ranch along Highway 390 leading to Teton Village and Grand Teton National Park.

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the boards and staff of Lower Valley Energy, Jackson Hole Land Trust, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Teton Village Association, Shooting Star and Snake River Ranch will gather to celebrate the innovative solution all worked so hard to achieve over the last year. The event will take place at 11:30 AM across from Teton Village, and the community is invited to witness the 'last' power pole being decommissioned.

In an epic February 2017 weather event, downed powerlines caused energy service disruption and spotlighted an opportunity to create energy reliability through undergrounding the Crystal Springs line that serves Teton Village and the Jackson Hole Airport. TVA, JHMR, the Airport, and Shooting Star helped champion the project, and the Snake River Ranch donated the easements for undergrounding the lines on private property as well as extensive project staging. JHLT joined the partnership as part of its larger vision to work with LVE in the future on additional line burial projects located on conservation easement properties that directly impact the community and the scenic values of the land. This pilot project provided an opportunity to extend the buried lines 2700 feet farther south, which removed all of the powerlines from the highly visible and scenic Snake River Ranch meadowlands and into tree cover. JHLT funded this extension through open space transfer fees at Shooting Star.

Lower Valley Energy CEO Jim Webb said, "Lower Valley Energy is a member-focused cooperative and is always looking for opportunities to work with our members to provide the best service possible while maintaining competitive rates. We appreciate the efforts of all of our local partners to make this project a reality along with the help we received from FEMA."

Laurie Andrews, JHLT President, said, "We are excited to be a partner in this community-oriented collaboration. We know that powerline burial is a priority for residents and we are looking forward to identifying and completing more projects like this on other conservation properties in the Valley. The open spaces of the Snake River Ranch are some of the most iconic in Jackson Hole and we were honored to be part of a solution to further preserving its character."

An additional aspect of the project is a positive outcome for wildlife – a raptor perch will be placed per Wyoming Game and Fish instructions off of Highway 390 for bird safety and near trout-filled

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water at Shooting Star and the Snake River Ranch to help a resident raptor thrive. Birds had perched on the upper Highway 390 powerlines occasionally. LVE is donating that raptor perch.

Media is invited to attend the event on May 15th. Call JHLT for more information and to RSVP.

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### **About the Jackson Hole Land Trust**

The Jackson Hole Land Trust is a private, non-profit organization that was established in 1980 to protect and steward the treasured landscapes of Northwest Wyoming including Fremont and Sublette counties. With over 55,000 acres protected, our vision is a legacy of protected open spaces, wildlife habitat, working lands and community spaces that inspire current and future generations. For more information, please visit [jhlandtrust.org](http://jhlandtrust.org)

### **About Lower Valley Energy**

Lower Valley Energy is a cooperative and the local energy provider. We serve up to Flagg Ranch in Yellowstone, down to Smoot past Afton, over to Wayan in Idaho past Freedom, and east to Kendall and Cora. We are focused on exceptional customer service, reliability, and low rates. We serve electricity, natural gas, and propane and have offices in Afton and Jackson.

### **About Snake River Ranch**

Snake River Ranch is a family-owned cattle ranch. We raise natural yearling cattle on the banks of the Snake River in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Our mission at Snake River Ranch is to enhance our land and improvements, while operating profitably.

### **About Shooting Star**

Where the Old West meets the New West, at Shooting Star in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, you will find the most recently and critically acclaimed golf club in the Western United States. Set between the Snake River Ranch, a working cattle operation since the 1930s, and the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Shooting Star has one foot in Jackson Hole's rich ranching heritage and another in its newer incarnation as a world-class skiing and outdoor recreation area. Waterways dot the landscape, including Fish Creek, a Class I trout stream. With 1,300 acres of lands protected by conservation easements and views of three mountain ranges, including the world renowned Tetons, Shooting Star is a place where you feel one with nature, and yet is a short drive to the galleries, shops and restaurants of downtown Jackson.

### **About Teton Village Association**

Bordering Grand Teton National Park and a mere fifty miles from Yellowstone National Park, Teton Village is the perfect gateway for those visiting the National Parks, the Town of Jackson, and Teton County. Whether it's summer or winter, there's so much to do in this quaint mountain setting. From the state-of-the-art Aerial Tram and world famous skiing, to multitudes of hiking and biking trails, to fine dining, entertainment, and shopping there is something for everyone in Teton Village.

### **About Jackson Hole Mountain Resort**

Jackson Hole continues to famously deliver legendary powder snow, 4,136 continuous vertical feet, 2500 acres of the best beginner, intermediate and expert skiing and snowboarding and a genuine "Last of the Old West" atmosphere. Neighboring the legacy U.S National Parks of Yellowstone and Grand Teton and operating in Bridger Teton National Forest, there is no more spectacular setting for

a destination resort in the world. Jackson Hole Mountain Resort is the home of the Aerial Tram, the longest continuous lift in North America that takes you to the top of the Tetons. A year round adventure outpost with an amazing array of summer activities, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, has adventures for everyone: experience the Grand Adventure Park, downhill mountain biking, access hundreds of miles of hiking trails, or try or try the NEW Via Ferrata, tandem paragliding, horseback riding, guided rock climbing, kids programs, free outdoor concerts and more. With a great variety of dining and shopping options, we hope you come for a Tram ride and stay for the day. [www.jacksonhole.com](http://www.jacksonhole.com) | Twitter @jhski | Instagram @jacksonhole #jacksonhole #jhdreaming