



JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2009

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Jackson Hole Land Trust Earns National Recognition

Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

Jackson Hole, Wyoming – The Jackson Hole Land Trust has become one of 82 land trusts, out of more than 1,600 in the country, to receive the distinction of accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for permanently protecting important natural places and working lands. The first land trusts were awarded accreditation in fall of 2008.

“The accreditation seal lets the public know that the accredited land trust has undergone an extensive, external review of the governance and management of its organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect land,” said commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. “Accreditation provides the public with an assurance that land trusts meet high standards for quality and that their conservation work is permanent.”

“We are proud to receive this honor, as it is a testament to our strong land conservation practices and ability to protect the open spaces of this valley,” said Laurie Andrews, executive director of the Jackson Hole Land Trust.

Land trusts applying for accreditation undergo a rigorous review process. The commission examines each application, interviews the land trust and evaluates multiple sources of information, including comments from the public.

“It is always productive to look at the procedures and policies your organization has in place. Going through the accreditation process allowed us to evaluate ourselves against not only the best practices of a non-profit organization but against our specific mission area,” said Jackson Hole Land Trust Board President, Pete Lawton.

Since its inception in 1980, the Jackson Hole Land Trust has protected over 21,000 acres of open lands in and around Jackson Hole. The easements on these properties protect over 5,360 acres of crucial moose winter range, 2,700 acres of crucial mule deer habitat, 760 acres of crucial elk winter range, over 420 acres of crucial bighorn



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sheep winter range, eight active bald eagle nests, 11 miles of Snake River frontage and immeasurable awe-inspiring scenic vistas.

The Jackson Hole Land Trust is a non-profit organization that works to protect the scenic, ranching and wildlife values of Teton County and the surrounding areas. For more information please visit www.jhlandtrust.org.