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Visit view22.jhlandtrust.org for more information.

Cover photo by David Stubbs.

Keep up with our work and sign up for our email list at jhlandtrust.org

We look forward to celebrating with you at this year’s Land Trust Annual Picnic at the 4 Lazy F Ranch (also known as the Poodle Ranch) off of Highway 22. This family friendly event will highlight the year’s conservation successes and feature classic barbeque fare, booths by community partners, children’s activities, and music by Jessica Camilla O’Neal and the Neversweat Players.

Look for your personal invitation and reply card in late June or visit jhlandtrust.org/events for registration information.
Depending on how you look at it, East Gros Ventre Butte can seem like either the most visible land feature seen from the Town of Jackson – or the most invisible. Rising along U.S. Highway 26/89/191 just north and west of Town, across the road from the National Elk Refuge, it is a major component of the signature view towards the Tetons, reaching from the Highway 22 junction to Grand Teton National Park lands. Together with Snow King Mountain, Crystal Butte, and Miller Butte, it forms the little valley in which the Town of Jackson is nestled. For much of the year, it is a hilly expanse of sagebrush and yellow grass, familiar to the mind’s eye but not always noticed because it is for the most part free of human placemakers like buildings, roads, and trails.

When executive director Laurie Andrews first considered East Gros Ventre Butte as a potential land protection project in 2010, she recognized that “it was almost so close that we here at the Land Trust, like so many, had taken it for granted.” It wasn’t until a multi-agency, multi-organization working group for sage grouse began mapping Core Areas for the species in Jackson Hole – and found that East Gros Ventre Butte was one of only two priority areas found on private lands in all of Teton County – that the East Gros Ventre Butte Project emerged as a conservation priority for the Jackson Hole Land Trust. “We started to take a different view on the very prominent set of properties that make up the butte,” says Andrews.

The wheels started turning at the Land Trust, and staff and board set their sights on an ambitious goal to conserve over 400 acres on the butte, taking steps to make the East Gros Ventre Butte Project a reality. Much of the acreage on the butte, aside from a few small parcels owned by the National Elk Refuge, is under private ownership, and the risk of development into large-lot residential homesites that would have severely compromised the wildlife values of the butte and marred a signature scenic gateway to Grand Teton National Park had been known to the Land Trust for quite some time. However, because of shifts in land ownership and a price reduction of one of the key properties in 2011, the development of the butte seemed all the more imminent, and the project was shifted into high gear.
The East Gros Ventre Butte project area involves several different landowners, each requiring their own personal conversations, negotiations, and easements. This, alongside the scope of the project’s fundraising goals through grants and private donations, added to its complexity as well as its impact. After years of effort, last November, 181 acres on the northeastern end of the butte previously owned by Gerry, Helen, and Michael Halpin of the Jackson Hole Preserve, LLC were conserved as part of the project’s “keystone” first phase. The newly secured conservation easement forever extinguishes all residential, industrial, and commercial development rights on the parcel—in particular, 5 potential homesites and associated access roads that could have zig-zagged up the east face of the butte—ensuring that its prime wildlife and scenic conservation values will stay intact.

Project partners on this phase included the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT), a state entity that provides funding to projects that improve wildlife habitat and natural resource values in Wyoming, and The Conservation Fund’s (TCF) Wyoming Sage Grouse Conservation Campaign, which seeks to protect critical sage grouse habitat throughout Wyoming by working with land trusts and visionary private funders. These partners rallied behind the project’s clear conservation benefit to Jackson Hole’s sage grouse. “We had an opportunity to do something for sage grouse and other wildlife species in an area that sees a lot of development— to me, this project is particularly about sage grouse habitat,” reflects Bob Budd, executive director of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust. “The fact that we were able to get this project done speaks incredibly well to the partners and people involved, and to Wyoming’s ability to take care of ourselves, our wildlife, and our communities.” The conservation easement on the property was purchased by the Jackson Hole Land Trust with significant support from the Pike H. Sullivan, Jr. Revocable Living Trust, the Meg and Bert Raynes Family Trust, several anonymous donors, grant funding from the WWNRT, TCF and the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, and a neighbor that is the new landowner of the conservation property.

The ultimate goal of the Land Trust’s East Gros Ventre Butte Project is to conserve more than 400 acres of land on the butte, and the Land Trust is currently working on a 70-acre second phase of the project. “We could not have completed the first phase of the project without the incredible generosity of several committed individuals, the steadfast support of our partners, and the willingness of the previous and new landowners,” said Fred Staehr, board president of the Jackson Hole Land Trust. “We look forward to additional conservation successes on East Gros Ventre Butte in the future.”
Bert Raynes will tell you with a hint of glee and a sparkle in his eye that he’s a curmudgeon. He’ll also tell you that he doesn’t think of himself as the kind of person who has a “conservation legacy”, saying with a raised eyebrow, “if people want to talk well about me in that way, I’m glad, but that’s not why Meg and I did it”. It’s hard to know what to make of these statements, especially from someone who understands the art of wielding words and categories as the beloved weekly wildlife columnist of the Jackson Hole News and Guide and author of several locally-based books. One thing is for certain, however – Bert keeps tabs on Jackson Hole’s wildlife better than most of us keep up with our friends.

Anyone who’s read his columns will notice the friendly and inquisitive way in which he describes wildlife and their comings and goings, chronicling them in a seasonal roll call that greets them and also includes snippets of wildlife biology, ecology, and community announcements. Nowadays, although it’s harder for Bert to get outside and get around, he still has plenty to report – other wildlife biologists, naturalists, bird club members and friends in the community phone in their observations, most likely dialing his number by heart, and vice versa.

Bert didn’t always have such a deep knowledge of wildlife and nature’s rhythms. Growing up in Jersey City, New Jersey, he “didn’t know a grasshopper from a shrike” when he met his future wife Meg, a small-town girl who had grown up surrounded by farms and open spaces. She introduced him to the outdoors, and together they embarked on a lifelong exploration of wild places, open spaces, and the wildlife that inhabit them, at first in New York and Ohio, where Bert had a successful career as a chemical engineer, and then further afield. In Bert’s spare time, he cultivated his knowledge of birds and bird watching, serving as president of the Cleveland Audubon Society – and completing his transition from city slicker to naturalist.

Meg and Bert discovered Jackson Hole in the 1950s on their first trip out West, and kept returning to visit until they retired here in 1972. “The place kinda grabs you,” Bert says. As they dug in to the community, they also found a passion and calling for wildlife conservation. “Our hope was to fit in with the people and just be good citizens. Eventually, we became convinced that some parts of the valley needed to be conserved if people were going to be able to coexist with the wildlife, so we got involved with some of the activities aimed in that direction.” They gave their time, expertise, and support to numerous community organizations and non-profits, including the Jackson Hole Bird Club, which they founded in 1976. After Meg passed away, inspired by their conversations about the part they could play to give back to Jackson Hole’s wildlife, Bert created the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund.
Bert sees being exposed to the outdoors, getting to know our fellow wild creatures, and forming a special connection to places and landscapes as a natural progression that leads to a desire to “give back” through conservation – one that he and many others have followed. He encourages us all to make time for quiet observation in nature, and to learn about who and what we’re seeing—especially the vital link between the health of wildlife populations in the valley and the expanses of wildlife habitat protected by the Jackson Hole Land Trust. “People don’t automatically make the connection between wildlife and the Land Trust,” says Bert. “I wish more would.” Last fall, Bert gave a significant gift to the Land Trust through the Meg and Bert Raynes Trust Fund, an essential piece to the successful completion of the East Gros Ventre Butte Project’s 181-acre first phase. Although the gift had not been specifically dedicated to the project, it could not have been a more perfect connection.

When Bert speaks about this piece of land, he brings it to life with stories rooted in a deep sense of place. From a birder’s perspective, he holds East Gros Ventre Butte in high regard, right up there with some of his other favorite spots on the shores of Jenny Lake and in the Leigh Lake woods. Bert explains that in Jackson Hole, because the habitats – from river bottom, to forested mountainside, to sage brush steppe – are all distinct, it’s not easy to see a range of diverse bird species from any one location. East Gros Ventre Butte, viewed from the vantage point of the National Museum of Wildlife Art (which it surrounds on three sides), is an exception. “A person sitting in the parking lot at appropriate times of year would have a chance to see so many of our wild creatures. It’s an unusual spot in that regard, and I’m glad it’s being preserved.” In addition to the majority of the checklist of local birds, Bert’s seen a lone black wolf and adult mule deer playing out a prolonged drama on the ridgetop, what he considers to be the happiest marmots in the valley, bears, and yes, sage grouse. When asked about sage grouse, he shares this tidbit: they are strong flyers. If they want to go from Spring Gulch up to the Gros Ventre River, they can go 60 miles in an hour and half.

Looking out from the Museum towards the elk refuge, near where wintertime sleigh rides take visitors to see elk, there are a few young cottonwoods on an otherwise nearly-treeless National Elk Refuge. These are “Meg’s trees.” In true Meg and Bert fashion, there’s a story there. In the 90s, they had noticed that only one tall, old cottonwood remained on the Refuge’s southern portion (elk like to browse on young cottonwood shoots). They wondered, what would happen to the eagles that loved to nest in the tree when it finally toppled? They reached out to Mike Hedrick, the Refuge manager at the time, and a grove of 10 trees were planted at their suggestion. Only two have survived, protected by an exclosure that also fosters a nest of long-billed curlews and native plants that would otherwise get eaten. It’s hard not to imagine that they represent Meg and Bert. In the fall, they stand out in bright orange against an expansive tan background.

Looking out from the Museum, in all directions, you can sense the incredible contributions that Meg and Bert have made to this corner of the valley alone. The 181-acre Land Trust easement that Bert helped to conserve rises above the Museum, a wildlife art institution to which they are closely tied. Meg’s trees, growing taller each year, are a landmark on the Elk Refuge for which they created the birder’s checklist. And just a short way down the road, “Bert’s walk”, north of the visitor center, provides a fine perch for viewing waterfowl and other birds along Flat Creek through the Refuge. Across time and space, and on so many different levels, they are connected to this special place. So, it’s easy to agree with Bert about one thing: what he’s given back to this place is something that feels more wild and dynamic than the words, “conservation legacy.” And that’s probably why they did it.

“I think that any bit of land we can preserve at this point must be if at all possible”

-Bert Raynes
SAGE GROUSE

**Core areas:** intact sagebrush habitats near “leks” or breeding grounds

**Winter forage:** leaves, small branches, and buds of shrubs

**Seek shelter in:** open beds in willows or spruce forest

Timothy C. Mayo
**MOOSE**

*Crucial habitat:* river bottoms, nearby forested areas

*Winter forage:* leaves, small branches, and buds of shrubs

*Seek shelter in:* open beds in willows or spruce forest

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**MULE DEER**

*Crucial habitat:* south-facing sagebrush slopes

*Winter forage:* shrubs and dried wildflowers

*Seek shelter in:* spruce and juniper stands, inversion layers
REMEMBERING PIKE SULLIVAN:

*International fly fisherman, Teton Legacy Society member*

Pike Sullivan valued open space. A seasoned international traveler when he came to Jackson Hole, he knew right away that this place was one of a kind. As he saw more and more people moving to the area, he recognized that land conservation was important to keep the valley as he knew and loved it, so he made a purposeful, designated planned gift to support the work of the Jackson Hole Land Trust. Upon his passing last spring, the Land Trust was notified of Pike’s designation to the Land Trust in his will – and his thoughtful planning has since made a significant impact on the Land Trust’s ability to move forward with priority protection projects.

Pike grew up in New Jersey and went to college in Rhode Island, embarking on a life-long career on Wall Street from the time he graduated until retirement. He discovered the joys of fishing out West on a fly fishing trip to Montana about 7 or 8 years before he retired. Amazed by the fishing, upon his return, he suggested to his wife Sue that they should take a week each September to spend time in Montana and Wyoming – and that’s how it all got started. Pike and Sue soon met many great friends on their trips to Jackson Hole, and eventually left New York to move here permanently. Their home is adjacent to two easement-protected properties – Crescent H Ranch and Teal Trace.

A spring creek that flows in to Crescent H went through their backyard, and Pike was enthralled by the fishing opportunities afforded to...
him on and around their property. He also enjoyed the abundance of wildlife on the property. Before he passed, Pike recalled to us a memory of one afternoon in October, when Sue called to Pike to look out at the backyard. There were about 300 head of elk, and Pike and Sue watched as they got closer and closer to the lawn, and even got on the back deck to eat Sue’s flowers.

Throughout his years in Jackson, Pike observed that many people “were coming to the conclusion that Jackson Hole, Wyoming, was a very good place to be”. He was passionate about the open spaces that initially drew him to the area, and knew they needed to be protected in order for Jackson to maintain its beauty and wildness. He became dedicated to land conservation here, and took action to specifically include the Land Trust in his estate planning. Pike’s legacy will now live forever in Jackson. His planned gift had a powerful impact on our land conservation efforts in the past year, and most notably resulted in a gift that helped to preserve over 181 acres of pristine wildlife habitat and migratory corridors on East Gros Ventre Butte. We are grateful for Pike’s foresight and are so honored to remember him as a member of the Teton Legacy Society.

For more information on the Teton Legacy Society as well as information on how make a legacy commitment to the Jackson Hole Land Trust, please visit: jhlandtrust.org/support-our-work/planned-giving/.

Multi-Year Flat Creek Corridor Complete

Last November, the Jackson Hole Land Trust completed the fourth and final phase of the Flat Creek Corridor Protection project, a multi-year collaboration with the Town of Jackson begun in 2010 to protect land on the northwestern side of Snow King Mountain.

The Flat Creek Corridor Protection Project permanently protects 38 acres especially important to wildlife. The project area acts as a buffer between the US Forest Service’s lands on Snow King Mountain, the adjacent 41-acre Karns Meadow protected property (another project completed in partnership with the Town of Jackson), and highly-developed urban areas in Town. Approximately one mile of Flat Creek, an important tributary to the Snake River and its native cutthroat trout, flows through the property, enabling continued water quality and flood control improvements and supporting riparian-dependent wildlife species. About half of the property lies within Teton County’s Natural Resource Overlay, indicating elevated ecological function, and beavers, river otters, red fox, songbirds, raptors and black bears are known to inhabit or frequent the property. It provides crucial winter habitat for mule deer as well as moose—the importance of which has been underscored by a recent study by the Conservation Research Center of the Teton Science Schools, which found that areas in and near Town are hotspots for everyday winter movements by mule deer as they move between crucial habitat.

The conservation easements placed on the property eliminate residential development and subdivision while allowing public recreation and pathway access. It is home to a well-loved network of trails regularly used by mountain bikers, hikers and runners, including Josie’s Ridge and Sink or Swim, and also provides access to Russ Garaman Park and the Flat Creek fishery. The completion of the project guarantees that its habitat and outdoor recreation values will continue to provide benefits to the valley’s wildlife and community in perpetuity.

“The Flat Creek Corridor project has so many clear benefits for our community—important winter habitat for mule deer and moose, watershed health, and trails that we all know and love, all right in the heart of Jackson,” says Laurie Andrews, executive director. “We are glad to have had the opportunity to work with the Town of Jackson to protect these incredible resources.”
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 23,000 acres in and around Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Area. For more information please visit jhlandtrust.org.

**Staff**
- Laurie Andrews: Executive Director
- Pam Case: Development Officer
- Greer Freed: Major Gifts Officer
- Steffan Freeman: Land Steward
- Liz Long: Director of Conservation
- Holly McKoy: Executive Assistant
- Derek Schaefer: Chief Financial Officer
- Tom Segerstrom: Land Steward & Staff Biologist
- Leslie Steen: Communications Manager
- Ellen Vanuga: Wind River Program Director
- Jenny Wolfrom: Director of Development and Communications

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Wildlife is woven into the very landscape around us in Jackson Hole—part of our everyday experience and identity that continues to provide wonder to visitors and seasoned residents alike. I feel incredibly fortunate to experience interactions with wildlife throughout the year in Jackson Hole—a chance encounter with a moose while trail running, a bear sighting on my way to the park, or discovering an eagle’s nest while fishing on the Snake River. Observing wildlife and wild places lies at the very root of land conservation, and this is reflected in our community’s passion and commitment to protecting wildlife in our valley.

This issue, “Connections for Wildlife,” celebrates the Land Trust’s work to protect wildlife habitat found on private lands in and around Jackson—work that is incredibly important and effective for sustaining our valley’s wildlife populations. Sagebrush on East Gros Ventre Butte harbors wintering sage grouse, and riparian habitat along Flat Creek supports a diversity of species right at the interface between wilderness and Town. Mule deer and other iconic game species use Land Trust protected properties like these, some of the most ecologically rich areas of the valley, as haven and as corridors connecting them with other key habitats.

Another type of connection that this issue celebrates is the journey that so many of us take from outdoor recreationalist, to wildlife observer and naturalist, to conservationist. Bert Raynes found this connection through an in-depth knowledge of birds and other wildlife, and Pike Sullivan found this through fishing the spring creeks and rivers of the valley. Each of our supporters, board members, Open Space Council members, and staff no doubt had a similar moment when they graduated from appreciating wildlife to working to protect it. So I encourage you to take time to seek out adventure and wild places, and get to know our local flora and fauna and their seasonal rhythms. I hope that these experiences will inspire you to join us in conserving our valley’s extraordinary wildlife habitat.

– Laurie Andrews
Welcome New Board Members

Tom Evans moved to Jackson in 1978 and first started in the real estate brokerage business in 1986. In 1996, he became a partner and shareholder at Jackson Hole Realty, later also serving as board member. Tom is currently an associate broker with Sotheby’s International Realty, which purchased Jackson Hole Realty in 2003. He serves on the boards of many organizations within the Jackson Hole community, including Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Teton Area and the 3 Creek Ranch Resort. Tom and his wife Andrea have two children, Ashley and Alicia. The Evans clan enjoys spending time in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park, camping, fishing and rejuvenating their love for the valley.

Jennifer Sparks is a Senior Portfolio Manager and Partner at Friess Associates, managers to the Brandywine Mutual Funds. After graduating from the University of Vermont in 1989 and travelling West, Jennifer thought she would stay in Jackson Hole for just one year. She fell in love with the Valley and has been here ever since. She has worked at Friess Associates for over 15 years. She has been an active member on Teton County Search and Rescue for 16 years and has dedicated her time to serve on numerous boards of directors. Jennifer and her family brave the wilds of Town living and she enjoys fishing, trail running and winter activities.

Ken Taylor is a partner of Century Farm, LLC and former President and CEO of Taylor Industries, Taylor Packing Co., and Taylor By-Products in Wyalusing, PA. Ken is an active community member in Jackson Hole and in Wyalusing, PA, and serves on the boards of the Jackson Hole Land Trust, St. John’s Medical Center Foundation, Crescent H Association of Homeowners, Guthrie Healthcare System, and PS Bank. Ken and his wife Caroline have had a home in Jackson since 1995 and are residents, spending summer and winter months in the valley. They are conservation easement landowners with the Jackson Hole Land Trust and North Branch Land Trust of northeastern Pennsylvania. Ken is an avid fisherman, bird hunter and skier.

Open Space Council

The Jackson Hole Land Trust’s Open Space Council is a group that serves as ambassadors of the Land Trust’s work, creating deeper outreach and engagement within the community. Over the past winter, Open Space Council members joined us for several fun and informative events exploring wildlife and open space in Jackson Hole: a Jackson Hole conservation history presentation by staff biologist Tom Segerstrom, a ski day at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort where we looked out at the over 20 easements visible from the top of the Gondola, and a cross-country ski day along the Snake River south of Wilson. Council members also made important contributions to the Land Trust by playing a prominent role in the View22 project, helping us expand our social media presence, and connecting us with new supporters and opportunities. We are grateful to our Council members for their time and interest in our work, and to Bob Peters, OSC chair, for making our winter events possible.

* = new members

Bob Peters, Open Space Council chair
Clayton Andrews
Teresa Binning*
Petie Black*
T.A. Brooks
Bonnie Burgess
Andy Calder
Rani Clasquin
John Copeland
Judy Cox*
Mike Daus

Chris Denny
A.J. DeRosa
Mary Gerty
David Gonzales
Sabrina Gracias
Barbara Haas*
Ann Harvey
Christopher Hawks
Lynn Hitschler
Jean Hocker
Beedee Ladd
David Larson

Gretchen Long
Carli Lyon*
Ben Mackay*
Neal Manne
Holly McAllister-Swett
Porgy McClelland
Susan McDowell
Brad Mead
Mack Mendenhall
Tom Muller
Alex Muromciew
Charlotte Oliver

Trina Overlock
Lewis Parker
Aaron Pruzan
Carolyn Rippis*
Jon Rotenstreich
Ben Roth*
Missy Ryan
Veronica Silberberg
Roger Smith
Sammie Smith
James Speyer
Amy Staehr

Andy Stepanian
David Stubbs*
Brian Taylor
Georgene Tozzi
Stan Trachtenberg
Kathryn Turner
Dan Visosky*
Darrick Walker
David Walsh
Hal Wheeler*
Kirby Williams
Adam Wolfensohn

* = new members

Board Members

Fred Staehr
First Vice President
Rod Moorhead
Second Vice President
Scott Pierson
Secretary
Jacqueline Erdman
Treasurer
Bill Adams
Jill Baldauf
Budd Betts
Tania Evans
Tom Evans
Ann Frame
Pete Lawton
Mandy Mahoney
Jeff Milton
Karen Parent
Joel Revill
Jason Snider
Jennifer Sparks
Bob Strawbridge
Anna Sullivan
Ken Taylor

Emeritus Board Members

Bill Ashley
Vince Lee
Gil Ordway
Allan Tessler
Mike Wardell
View22 in 2014

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Visit view22.jhlandtrust.org for more information.

Save the Date - 34th Annual Land Trust Picnic

Sun, Aug 10th
4:00 PM
4 Lazy F Ranch

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