



JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS
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Jackson Hole Land Trust Protects 191 Acres in Teton County in 2018

Jackson, Wyoming – The Jackson Hole Land Trust (JHLT) has protected 191 acres of land in Teton County in 2018, rounding out another successful year of conservation in Northwest Wyoming.

Three properties totaling 191 acres were protected throughout Teton County over the past year, with conservation gains for wildlife habitat, migration corridors and ranching heritage. This acreage adds to the existing 55,000 acres of Land Trust protected conservation easements across Northwest Wyoming.

This year's protected properties aim to conserve wildlife habitat, safeguard vital water sources, and link together existing conservation areas. Together these projects protect 112 acres for elk, 40 for moose, 35 for mule deer and sage grouse, 103 acres of elk calving habitat, and 1.5 acres of wetlands.

"We are excited about the exemplary habitat protected through this year's easements," said Jason Snider, Jackson Hole Land Trust Board Chair. "With an additional 191 acres under protection, we are moving into 2019 with greater space for wildlife to roam and greater connectivity of parcels in the landscape-scale patchwork of protection in Teton County."

In April, the third and final phase of the 300-acre East Gros Ventre Butte project was completed, rounding out the project with 35 acres on the hilltop protecting wildlife and scenic values. This undisturbed land within a Sage-Grouse Core Area also provides essential winter refuge for mule deer. During other times of the year, elk and moose may be found on the land as they move between their summer and winter habitats. Birds find haven on the property – with nesting strata for prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks, mountain bluebirds, western meadowlarks, and Brewer's sparrows. The property is bordered to the north by 40 acres owned by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, to the west by a Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust easement, and to the south and east by two JHLT protected properties.

In August, 44 acres were protected in Crescent H, featuring Wyoming Game and Fish Department designated habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, moose, and mountain goat. Located along the forested slopes of the eastern front of the Snake River Mountain Range, and in close proximity to the Snake River and Fish Creek aquatic and riparian corridors, the parcel features highly elevated biodiversity in composition, structure and function. It borders the Bridger-Teton National Forest to the west and south and borders at Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust easement to the east.

In December, 112 acres further south off of Fall Creek Road were protected preserving winter-long habitat for moose, in addition to seasonal habitat for elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and mule deer. The property is located on the west side of South Fall Creek Road, sharing a border with Bridger-Teton National Forest and the Snake River Riparian Corridor.

Regionally, the JHLT Green River Valley Program secured \$935,000 in public funding for three properties totaling 1605 acres. The Wind River Program secured \$240,000 in public funding for one 70 acre property. JHLT looks forward to moving these projects towards closing in 2019.

In total, the JHLT monitored 314 easement properties in 2018. In partnership with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, over 5 miles of fencing has been removed or modified to wildlife-friendly on JHLT fee-simple and easement properties. At Hardeman North in Wilson, WY, the JHLT and partners removed approximately 1830 feet of fencing and modified 2400 feet of fencing to designs that are more wildlife-friendly than traditional four-strand barbed wire.

Outside of land protection projects, 2018 at the Land Trust also served as the commencement year of a new five-year strategic plan. The Jackson Hole Land Trust Board of Directors ratified a new mission and vision for the organization which reflects our commitment to our regional work. The new mission is to protect and steward the treasured landscapes of Northwest Wyoming. Our revisited vision is a legacy of protected open spaces, wildlife habitat, working lands and community spaces across Northwest Wyoming that inspire current and future generations. Alongside the updated mission and vision comes a complete rebranding to reflect regional growth and inclusion of Community Conservation into our daily work.

In the spring of 2018, the Land Trust worked with Lower Valley Energy in partnership with Shooting Star and the Snake River Ranch to bury the overhead utility lines along Highway 390 on the Snake River Ranch. This pilot initiative extended LVE's existing plans to bury utility lines from the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort south to the ranch for an additional 2,700 feet. The section of the buried lines included the poles which failed in a large snowstorm in February 2017, which caused the resort and local community millions of dollars in damage and losses.

In November, the Land Trust moved into a new permanent home at 690 S Highway 89, Suite 101. The offices occupy the former Pizza Artisan space, and were renovated with a bright, open floor plan. Since fall 2013, the Land Trust had occupied 185 East Hansen Avenue, a historic building dating back to the 1920s, owned and managed by the Lockhart Family.

In December, the Land Trust hosted the 2018 WyoView Art Exhibition, a project which featured 18 local and regional artists on 18 JHLT easement-protected properties. Formerly branded as View22, the Land Trust updated the project name to WyoView to reflect to the organization's conservation work across Northwest Wyoming. This year, each WyoView artists was paired with a JHLT-protected property and prompted artists to paint one piece per season, showcasing the seasonal changes on one property over the course of an entire year.

Over the course of 2018, R Park continued construction on various park amenities, in partnership with the Jackson Hole Land Trust and the LOR Foundation. This includes a permanent restroom, a small office, and a caretaker's unit, to better service our community, visitors, and neighbors. Construction is on schedule to be completed by summer 2019.

JHLT also worked with the Town of Jackson to sponsor an Environmental Assessment for Karns Meadow in an effort to move forward on the original intent of the property to be a low-impact public space with pathways.

New board members as of October 2018 include Jan Davis, Cody Lockhart, and Michael Schrotz. Three staff joined the team in 2018: Amy Hemenway, Betsy Neal, and Kathryn Tolley.

Four new members joined the Open Space Council: Max Ludington, Meghan Bell Lori, Mary McCarthy, and Charlie Moyer.

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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.