



Maintaining the Range

❧ Fall 2019 Newsletter ❧



A Letter from our Leadership



Dear Friends and Partners,

After four years in a variety of roles, I am excited to be leading the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust (WSGLT) as the Executive Director. This organization means so much to me, as I am sure it does to you as well. I am thrilled to tell you more about what we've done so far this year and where we're going in the coming years.

To date, your support and investments have completed 101 conservation easement projects, conserving over 278,000 acres across Wyoming with 76 families. These conserved working agricultural lands sustain our economy, provide food and fiber, and provide open space and habitat for fish and wildlife to prosper. In 2019, I'm happy to share that the WSGLT has completed three conservation easement projects on approximately 10,000 acres. We also recently received news that four new easement projects were backed by our funding partners. We will move these projects forward while also looking to develop three or more additional conservation easement projects by this time next year.

I am also pleased to tell you that the 2019 annual fundraiser barbeque in Cody was a success. All of us at the WSGLT extend a sincere thank you to all of you who came out to support our mission and work. At our 2020 annual barbeque, we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary, and we will announce the location soon. We hope to see you there next year!

Because of our partners, staff, and board of directors, the WSGLT is as strong as it has ever been. The WSGLT is an extraordinary organization with strong support from folks like you to help keep it this way. Thank you for your commitment to our mission. I look forward to earning your support as we continue to operate in excellence.

Sincerely,



Eric Schacht
Executive Director



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Robert Rust, Stewardship Coordinator
Andrew Coulter, Development Director

Board Vacancies

The Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust is seeking new board members. If you feel that you, or someone you know, is a good candidate, please contact Eric Schacht at 307-772-8751 or eric@wsgalt.org

Welcome to the Team



Wayne Fahsholtz
Board of Directors



Wayne is a rancher from Dayton, Wyoming, and the owner of Ag Win Group, a ranch consulting firm. Wayne previously worked for the Padlock Ranch company as President/CEO and he is a member of the Wyoming Beef Council, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and part of the delegation to the Federation of State Beef Councils. Wayne has been the regional winner of the Environmental Stewardship Award and the 2013 Leopold Conservation Award. Wayne joined the Board of the WSGLT in June 2019.

Joe Thomas
Board of Directors



Joe is the General Manager and Vice President of Turnell Cattle Company in Meteteetse, Wyoming. He is a past Board of Trustee member of Northwest College-Powell, and a past President of the Meeteetse Museum. Joe also served as Vice President of the Wyoming Board of Ag and Chairman of the Wyoming Livestock Board, as well as serving on the Governor's Brucellosis Task Force. Joe is a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. Joe joined the Board of the WSGLT in June 2019.

Robert Rust
Stewardship Coordinator



Robert earned his B.A. in Biology with a concentration in Ecology at St. Mary's College of Maryland, and recently received his Master's Degree in Geography from the University of Wyoming. With experience as an educator, research assistant, biological technician, property manager, fishing guide, and long-time manager of a ski shop in Jackson Hole, Robert brings a diverse skill set and renewed enthusiasm to help the Land Trust be a continued leader in conservation across Wyoming. Rob joined the WSGLT in April 2019.

Andrew Coulter
Development Director



Andrew has more than 25 years of experience working to protect Wyoming's open lands. He received his B.A. in English from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a fundraiser, he has extensive experience in membership development, major-gift fundraising, planned-gift fundraising, and campaign development. He also has comprehensive experience in designing and executing conservation-oriented land transactions. Andrew joined the WSGLT in August 2019.

Projects



Since January of this year, the WSGLT has conserved ranches in Albany, Carbon, and Sublette counties. These projects protect working agricultural lands that provide open spaces, fish and wildlife habitat, and other environmental benefits.

A Carbon County Ranch: The Peryam Ranch is located on the banks of the Encampment River in the Upper North Platte River, and is one of the oldest ranches on which we hold an easement. The river systems in this area are a Wyoming treasure, and this easement ensures the integrity of the riparian area and crucial habitats for big game. The Encampment River is classified a Blue Ribbon Stream by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

A Sublette County Ranch: This conservation easement project, which was transferred to the WSGLT from The Conservation Fund in February, is a wonderful example of two conservation organizations working in the best interest of ranching families and Wyoming. Ranching heritage for future generations has been conserved, as well as crucial habitat for sage grouse and large ungulates. This ranch marked our 100th conservation easement in Wyoming.

An Albany County Ranch: A conservation easement project was completed in the Centennial Valley that connects and provides unfragmented open space, agricultural land, and fish and wildlife habitat between the Medicine Bow National Forest and the Little Laramie River. It's within view from State Highway 130 and I-80, which means that travelers will not be gazing at the Snowy Range with rural subdivisions in the foreground.



Stewardship



Statistics

- 101 conservation easements monitored
 - Over 10,000 miles traveled
 - 35 days on the road

The 2019 monitoring season has wrapped up, and what a great season it has been! An abnormally wet spring was witnessed all across the state, with hay meadows, grazing grounds, and leased lands staying green well into August. As the inaugural monitoring season for myself, under the diligent guidance of our outgoing Stewardship Coordinator, Travis Brammer, we took pride in continuing to build upon our longstanding relationships with WSGLT easement holders. Moreover, we were excited to allow new connections to blossom with prospective landowners across Wyoming. From Cheyenne to Cody and Evanston to Aladdin, there was nary a road in Wyoming left untraveled. We look forward to keeping the communication lines open and strive for both trust and transparency with all of our landowner partners. Best of luck staying warm this winter, we look forward to seeing everyone again in the summer of 2020! --Robert Rust, Stewardship Coordinator

Thank You to Fremont Motors!

Fremont Motors donates a reliable truck for use during our monitoring season every year.



Happy Trails!

We wish our former Stewardship Coordinator Travis Brammer the very best of luck at UW law school.



18th Annual Roundup Fundraiser and Barbeque



The evening of August 24th saw the gathering of friends in the hay field of the Rambling M Ranch in Cody, Wyoming. The 18th Annual Roundup Fundraiser and Barbeque brought almost 150 attendees together to celebrate the conservation of Wyoming's working landscapes. Karen Seyfert, her brother Philip Morehead, and his wife Kathy were kind to host this event on their beloved ranch. The Rambling M was put under conservation easement in 2010 and is used by Ken Hahn and his wife, Glenda, for their agricultural operation.

Newly appointed Executive Director Eric Schacht welcomed everyone to the event and spoke about what conservation in Wyoming meant to him and the impact we have as an organization. Landowner Philip Morehead then spoke about why they chose the WSGLT for their easement, saying, "Wyoming's tradition of independence and neighborly assistance, and a great love and respect for the land are hallmarks of the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust. This is what convinced us to choose them for the conservation easement on our ranch in the Southfork Valley after our father died in 2009. We love having Wyoming folks looking after Wyoming land. After all, who could be better?"

The 2019 Kurt Bucholz Award was presented to Albert Sommers of Pinedale. Albert was nominated by his sister Jonita Sommers, Jim Magagna of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and Jennifer Hayward of the Wyoming NRCS. Jennifer introduced Albert and spoke of his outstanding contributions to conservation in Wyoming, which include the 19,000 acre conservation easement project implemented on the Sommers ranch and the neighboring Grindstone Cattle Company property in Sublette County in 2010. Albert spoke about receiving the award, saying, "Some may think that conservation just happens, but it takes really hard work from really dedicated people."

The live and silent auctions were both successes, with several unique items in both, including a Paint with Gunpowder piece that was created at the event. Other highlights included a stay at Brush Creek Ranch in Saratoga, a private flight over Yellowstone National Park, an adorable silver lab puppy, and a handmade rawhide bosal.

Our Annual BBQ serves not only as a fundraiser for our organization, it serves as a celebration of the conservation accomplishments over the last year and a chance for friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues to enjoy an evening out together, to catch up and make new connections.

The WSGLT Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank everyone who was in attendance, made a donation to, or sponsored this event. Without your support, our conservation efforts would not be possible.

We hope you will join us next year to celebrate the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust's 20th Anniversary!



Where are you from?

2019 BBQ Welcome Speech by Karen Seyfert, Rambling M Owner



We welcome you to the Ramblin' M Ranch. It is great to share this beautiful property with you for an afternoon. But actually, how can I, a woman from New York State, and my brother, a man from Texas, welcome you, who are Real Wyoming Ranchers, to our little spread in Cody?

How did our family end up here? It all started when our father, Tennessee businessman George Morehead, went elk hunting up the Southfork and into the Thoroughfare. He got to know this country and some of its people. For years he dreamed of having a ranch in Wyoming. Finally, when he was in his early 60s, at an age when most people are thinking about retirement, he bought this property and started his new career as a rancher. With his new John Deere and some canvas dams, he started growing hay. Before long he had a herd of Hereford heifers bred to Simmental. The only problem was that the Simmental cattle are larger animals known for having bigger calves. The next spring, in 1968, he and the vet had to pull nearly every one of those big calves. Dad stuck with it, learned do artificial insemination, and patiently bred up his herd to purebred Simmental. He wore his cowboy hat everywhere, and when asked where he was from, would say, "Wyoming and Tennessee."

I have been thinking lately of how I might answer that question: "Where are you from?"

How does one know that she belongs in a place? Does it have something to do with how many funerals you have attended there, or how many weddings? Can your belonging be indicated by the number of people around your table at Thanksgiving dinner? Is it that you know every rise and every low spot on the land? Is it how many times you have sat in the local hospital fighting back anxiety, or tears? Does it have to do with how many times you have walked or ridden the fence lines? Or is it how many times you have changed the sheets for out-of-town company? Is it how many hard winters you have managed to get through, or how many times you have prayed for no rain during haying season? Maybe it is how many times the family has jumped up from the dinner table to look out the window at the sunset light on the mountain.

Perhaps for me, the best answer is that of my 11-year-old granddaughter, who has spent every summer here since she was one. When the rodeo announcer asks, "Is there anybody here from New York State?" she waves her arms and shouts, "Yea!!!!" A few minutes later, when he says, "Who is here from Wyoming?" she is just as loud and animated shouting, "Me, Yea, Hurrah!"

I guess, like my granddaughter and my father, I can belong in two places.

Planned Giving



The majority of the gifts that help the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust maintain its impressive pace of conservation of important agricultural lands come in the form of cash. These contributions are essential to allow us to maintain our day-to-day operations and reach our long-term goals. Planned gifts are a means by which supporters may both advance WSGLT's efforts and achieve their own goals for tax management, lifetime income, and estate planning.

- Gifts of Appreciated Assets may include stocks or other securities, mutual fund shares, or real estate. Such gifted assets will be sold and the proceeds used as donors direct. No capital-gains tax liability is realized on the gift of appreciated assets if they have been held for a year or more, and donors may generate an income tax deduction on the current, full-fair-market value of the gift.

- Bequests through your will, revocable trust, or retirement plan also may be made from financial assets, real-estate, or other property. Donors may specify a specific asset or sum of money, a percentage of an asset or of their entire estate, or a residual amount after other heirs have been taken care of. Though donors generally do not receive income tax benefits during their lifetimes by making a bequest, they retain the flexibility of changing their bequests as their needs (and the needs of their heirs) change, and their bequests will pass to WSGLT free of estate taxes.

- IRA Rollover Gifts of up to \$100,000 are allowed this year for donors who are at least 70.5 years old. No capital-gains or income tax liability is incurred. In addition, such gifts may reduce future Required Minimum Distributions that would be subject to federal income tax liability.

- Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs) allow WSGLT supporters to make gifts of securities, real estate, cash, or other assets, yet retain the right to earn income (expressed as a percentage of the corpus of the CRT as it is valued each year) from those assets for a period of years or for life. Donors to CRTs incur no capital-gains liability and may receive an income tax deduction for the “remainder value” of the gift—the fair-market value of the gift less the value of receiving income from the CRT for the expected term of the trust. Donors receive professional management of the CRT assets, and the income distributions may receive favorable tax treatment.

Donors of gifts such as those described here may, of course, specify how they want the proceeds of their gifts to be used to help WSGLT achieve its mission of preserving productive agricultural lands and the many wildlife and open-space benefits these lands provide.

For more information, please contact Andrew Coulter, Development Director, at (307) 349-7510 or andrew@wsgalt.org.

Thank You



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**Donor lists reflect donations received July 1, 2018 through October 1, 2019.*

We apologize for any mistakes or omissions.

Please contact us with any corrections so we can update our records and thank you more appropriately.

Thank You



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