



WYOMING

**STOCK GROWERS
LAND TRUST**



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2019

A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership! Our continued success is possible because of partners like you. Fiscal year 2019 was filled with exciting changes and great accomplishments for the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust (WSGLT).

Our volunteer Board of Directors added two new members – Wayne Fahsholtz and Joe Thomas. We also said goodbye to WSGLT's former Executive Director, Bo Alley. While leadership changes, our mission and drive to conserve Wyoming's working agricultural lands does not.

The WSGLT added seven new working land conservation easements on over 23,000 acres, including our 100th project, during this fiscal year. In addition to agricultural values, these projects protect significant open space and fish and wildlife habitat. These projects were completed with our landowner partners and a host of others including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Conservation Fund, and The Nature Conservancy.

There continues to be a strong demand for purchased conservation easement projects in Wyoming. Currently, WSGLT staff are moving forward with sixteen new projects in FY 2020. This work is not easy, but we are continually collaborating with Wyoming ranchers, government agencies, and non-profits to conserve Wyoming's working agricultural lands.

Thank you for supporting our work, investing in our mission, and trusting that we utilize your investment wisely.

Sincerely,



Eric Schacht
Executive Director



Heath Hunter
Board Chairman



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jared Souza

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Executive Director

Tate Smith
Conservation Director

Kaylee Madigan
Office Manager



We would like to thank Fremont Motors of Casper for donating the use of a Dodge truck for the last 10 years! Fremont supports our team with dependable trucks that are ready for the back roads of Wyoming.

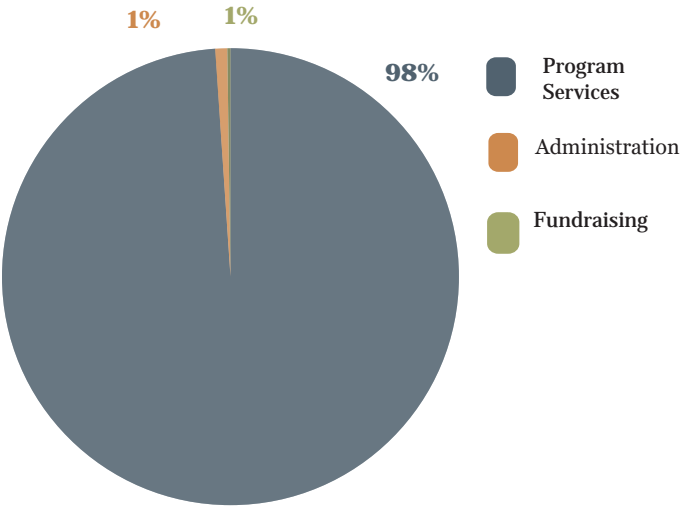
Our Mission

Conserving Wyoming's working agricultural lands, which also provide open space, wildlife habitat, and other environmental benefits for future generations.

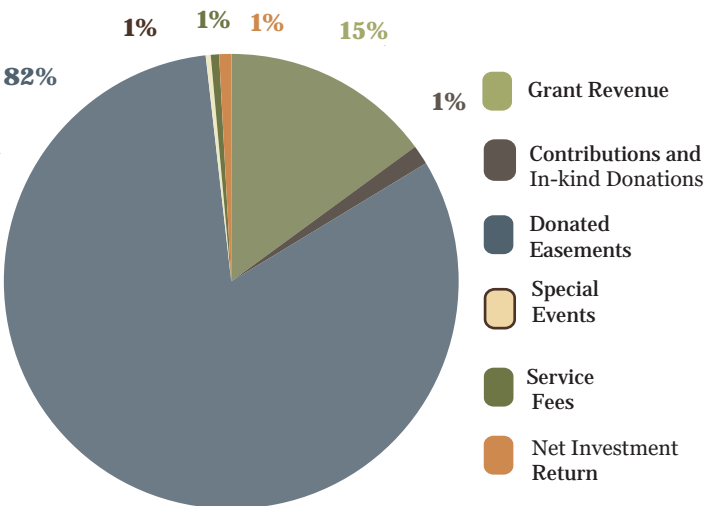


FISCAL YEAR 2019

EXPENSES



REVENUES



ASSETS

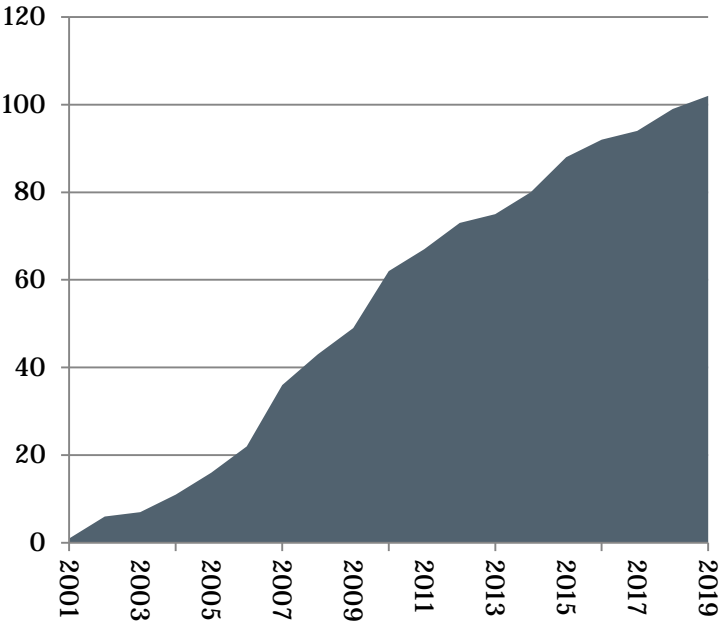
Current Assets	
- cash/cash equivalents.....	\$124,200
Contributions receivable	
- current portion	\$120,000
Furniture & equipment,	
net depreciation	\$969
Endowment net asset	\$641,587
Investments	\$2,498,590
Contributions receivable,	
net current portion	\$105,943
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,491,289

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

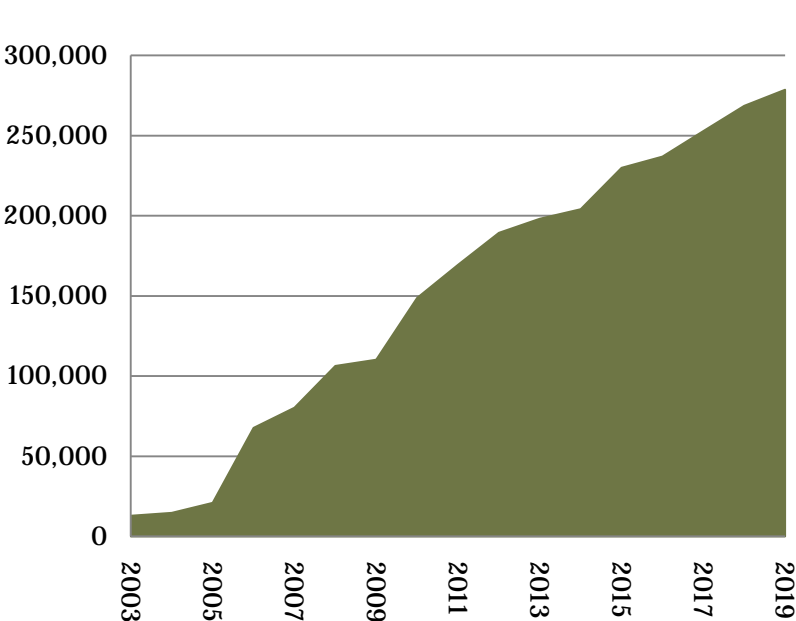
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$19,982
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$728,261
With Donor Restrictions.....	\$2,742,346
TOTAL NET ASSETS.....	\$3,471,307
TOTAL LIABILITIES	
& NET ASSETS	\$3,491,289

As of June 30, 2019

RANCHES CONSERVED



ACRES CONSERVED



FISCAL YEAR 2019

98%

Revenue directly utilized for
land conservation
and stewardship

\$25,212,707

Total support and revenue

\$25

Cost to conserve 1 acre
of agricultural land in
Wyoming

175

Acres lost to
development per hour
in the U.S.*

*American Farmland Trust “Farms Under Threat”

Current Projects

The Upper Green River and Upper North Platte River Valleys are two incredibly iconic landscapes in Wyoming; sagebrush steppe, meandering waterways, and the majesty of the Wyoming, Sierra Madre, and Snowy mountain ranges as backdrops. Both valleys have rich agricultural legacies that are built upon the verdant riparian meadows and hardy upland ranges. The ecology that has made agriculture so successful in these locations also hosts a wide array of Wyoming's most important wildlife. Two key mule deer migration corridors, blue ribbon trout streams, and sage grouse core areas are found throughout these landscapes.

Upper Green River Valley
70,000 acres conserved to date
5 pending projects
11,000 acres pending permanent protection

Upper North Platte River Valley 17,000 acres
conserved to date
2 pending projects
5,400 acres pending permanent protection

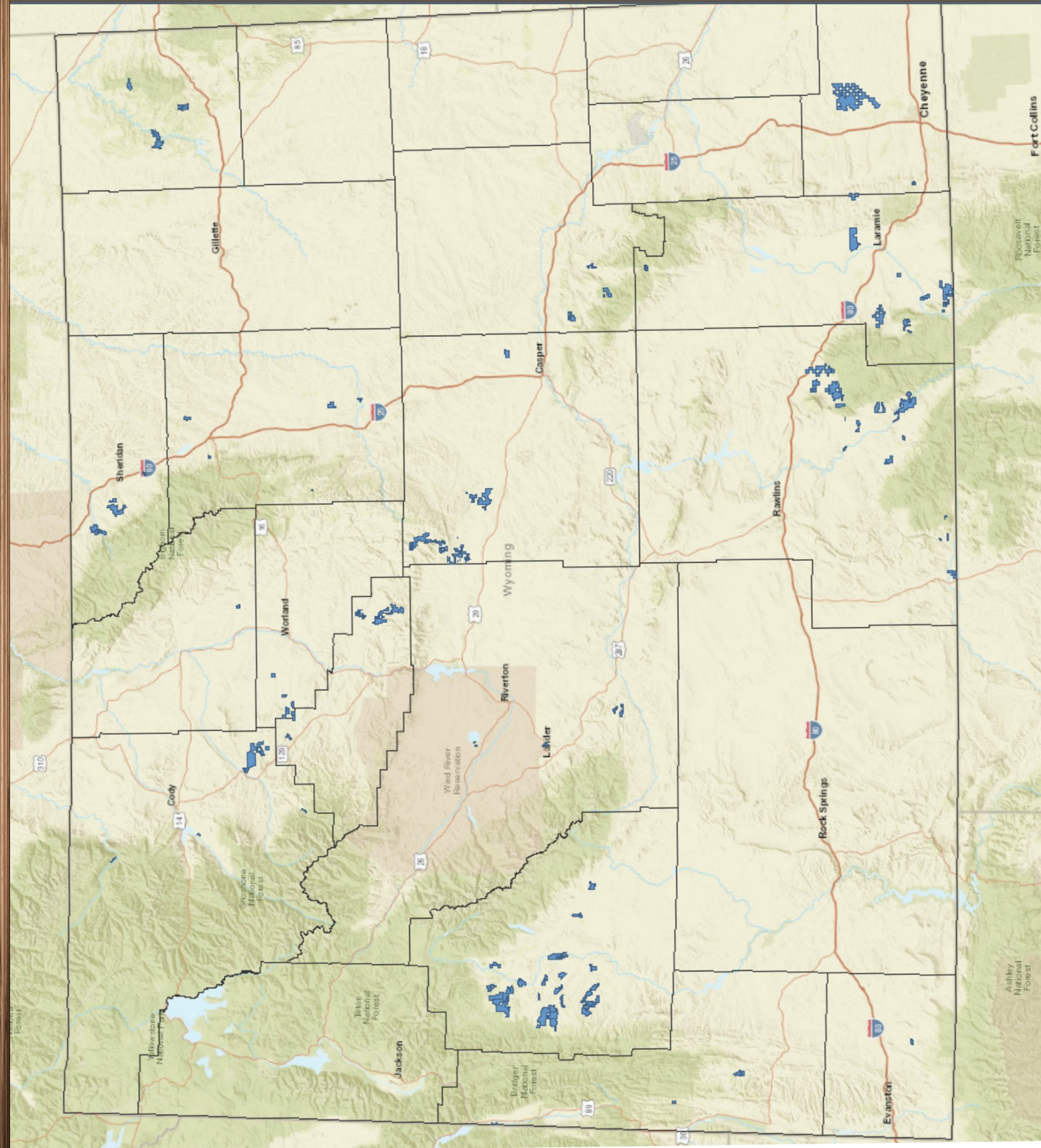
The special natural resources that make the Upper Green River and Upper North Platte River Valleys also attract development as people flock to live in such a wonderful place, threatening the very scenic values that brought them there. Through traditional and creative funding and conservation strategies, WSGLT is partnering with landowners to permanently protect the open space, wildlife habitat, and agricultural values of these two important watersheds.

102
Projects

278k
Acres

77
Families

19
Years



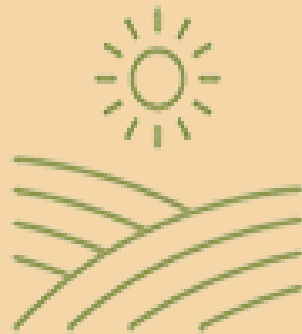


**"I don't know what Wyoming is without its open spaces."
-Annaliese Weiderspahn, A Wyoming Business Owner**

In fiscal year 2019 we conserved...



23,383
Acres



7
Ranches



PURPLE SAGE RANCH
Carbon County

Working Lands Work For Wildlife

The motto above is not cliché, but an absolute truth in conserving Wyoming’s working agricultural landscapes. The positive relationship between wildlife and agriculture is embodied in the successful completion of conservation easements on the K-Diamond Ranch and the Purple Sage Ranch in Sublette and Carbon Counties, respectively. Collectively, these ranches comprise over 3,700 acres of key wildlife habitat, upland rangelands, and hay meadow resources. These conservation easements were supported by funding grants from the Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Located within sage grouse core area, as well as elk, mule deer, and antelope crucial ranges these ranches support an abundant and diverse population of wildlife. Notably, Purple Sage Ranch was funded from the NFWF’s Wyoming Bald and Golden Eagle Fund, a grant specifically dedicated to conserving and enhancing Wyoming’s eagle habitat. With these conservation easements in place, the ranches will continue to provide the products of agricultural working lands and rich habitat resources for a wide array of Wyoming’s iconic species. Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust is thankful for the landowner and funding partners to these projects and their dedication to furthering WSGLT’s mission.



K DIAMOND RANCH
Sublette County

A scenic view of a river flowing through a lush green forest. The river is dark blue and reflects the sky. The banks are covered in dense green trees and shrubs. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

PERYAM RANCH Carbon County

Upper North Platte River Valley Conservation

The beginning of 2019 saw two more ranches conserved in the Upper North Platte River Valley: Peryam Ranch and Sanger Ranch. Between these two ranches, an additional 10,700 acres have been permanently conserved. The Upper North Platte River Valley, including the Encampment River and North Platte River, lies between the Snowy and Sierra Madre mountain ranges. The Valley is a shining example of the pivotal relationship between sustainable agriculture, wildlife, and conservation. Both the Sanger Ranch and Peryam Ranch were settled in the 1800s, their founders carving a livelihood from the productive rivers, meadows, forests, and rangelands found throughout the valley. Sanger and Peryam Ranches are still under agricultural production today and serve as models for successfully conserved, working agricultural lands.

Though each ranch has a rich agricultural history, they are also critical to Wyoming's wildlife. The Upper North Platte River Valley is world-renowned for its big game hunting and blue ribbon streams. Situated along the Encampment and North Platte Rivers, Sanger and Peryam Ranches feature some of the most pristine trout streams in the world. They also host a wide variety of Wyoming's terrestrial species; elk, mule deer, moose, antelope, and sage grouse. The Upper North Platte River Valley is host to key aquatic habitat, crucial ranges, and core areas for these species, and the Sanger and Peryam Ranches are no exception. The continued conservation efforts of the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust, landowner partners, funding partners, and other conservation organizations are so important for the treasured wildlife and agricultural values of the Upper North Platte River Valley.

A scenic view of a river flowing through a lush green forest. The river is dark blue and reflects the sky. The banks are covered in dense green trees and shrubs. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

SANGER RANCH Carbon County

An aerial view of a winding river in a valley. The river is light brown and flows through a green landscape. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue.

"Land health is the capacity for self-renewal in the soils, waters, plants, and animals that collectively comprise the land." - Aldo Leopold

In fiscal year 2019 we conserved...



13.7
Miles of rivers



8,520
Acres of Wetlands



9
Miles of Blue
Ribbon Streams



14,856
Acres of Aquatic
Crucial Habitat



“We don’t own the planet Earth, we belong to it.
And we must share it with our wildlife.”
- Steve Irwin

In fiscal year 2019 we conserved...



12,228
Acres of
Moose and Elk
Crucial Range



26,060
Acres of
Pronghorn and Mule
Deer Crucial Range



13,262
Acres of Sage
Grouse Core Area



DEVILS TOWER RANCH
Crook County

Results of Our Partnerships: Conserving Iconic Wyoming Viewsheds
and Completing WSGLT’s 100th Project

Partnerships between conservation organizations are key to successfully conserving agricultural lands in Wyoming and across the nation. In 2019, this partnership displayed a significant event when the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust (WSGLT) completed its 100th conservation project in partnership with The Conservation Fund (TCF). In 2018, a key Wyoming viewshed (along the approach to the Devils Tower National Monument) was permanently protected in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Bear Lodge Cattle Company.

The Thomas Trust project in Sublette County was transferred to WSGLT by TCF and is a wonderful example of two conservation organizations working in the best interest of ranching families and the Wyoming landscape. Projects like this highlight the benefits of partnerships. TCF is driven to make conservation work for America by creating solutions that make environmental and economic sense, including acquiring conservation easements that preserve both habitat and ranching traditions. The organization then transfers the easements to local land trusts to hold and steward going into the future. The WSGLT has been a trusted partner of the Fund for over ten years and has worked on over 20 projects with the organization.

The Bear Lodge Cattle Company is a long term supporter and conservation partner of WSGLT and identified an opportunity to achieve multiple private, state, and land trust goals with a multi-partner project. Bear Lodge completed an exchange of lands with the State of Wyoming, acquiring 80 acres along highway 24, just outside the entrance to Devils Tower National Monument. Following the transaction, a conservation easement was placed on the property. The easement served to help protect the iconic landscape surrounding Devils Tower and the scenic views along the Highway and entrance roads to the monument. TNC was a key funding partner in the project and contributed 100% of the easement purchase price. Bear Lodge Cattle Company was instrumental in coordinating the completion of the conservation easement, but also orchestrating the complex land transaction that made the conservation easement possible.

The Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust has developed strong partnerships in both the agricultural and conservation communities. The Devils Tower and Thomas Trust conservation easement projects are a testament to those efforts. WSGLT is proud to work with Wyoming’s agricultural families and conservation partners like The Conservation Fund and The Nature Conservancy. The future will bring new conservation challenges and opportunities, WSGLT is excited to face that future with our current and future partners in conservation.

Bear Lodge Cattle Company has reserved the opportunity to place an informational kiosk on the property, in support of the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust and its conservation mission. Any entities interested in supporting the kiosk project are encouraged to contact our office for more information.




AN ALBANY COUNTY RANCH

A Centennial Ranch Conserved

The Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust (WSGLT) partnered with a family in the Centennial Valley to conserve a Centennial Ranch. The conservation easement project was made possible with funding from the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The Centennial Ranch (owned by the same family for 100 years) was first settled in 1917. Visible to most of the Laramie Plains, the ranch is situated on the eastern slopes of the Snowy Mountain Range and is part a contiguous block of open space that is comprised of private, state, and federal lands. Located near an increasingly popular recreation destination (Medicine Bow National Forest), this part of Albany County is under significant development pressure. The ranch pursued a conservation easement to ensure that it would remain in agriculture, and undivided, forever.

In addition to open space and viewshed values, the ranch is located within moose, mule deer, elk, and antelope crucial ranges. The ranch is within a key watershed for the crucial aquatic habitat in the Little Laramie River, a portion of which flows through the ranch. The natural resources that make the ranch a critical property for wildlife also provide the resources necessary to sustain agricultural use. The ranch has rich tradition of livestock and hay production. This conservation easement, along with the continued stewardship of the family, will ensure that the ranch forever remains as it is: an important resource for wildlife, livestock, and people.



“This place is not for us to sell. These generations before... you can’t sell that. You can’t sell what they did... We wouldn’t have any idea how hard that was.”
- Brian Espenscheid, Rancher

In fiscal year 2019 we conserved...



730+
Years of history and
lore of the land

Each farm or ranch we conserve tells a story beyond the agricultural operation that is important to what the Cowboy State stands for. These places are home to history, tradition, and multi-generational families. The cultural value that these landscapes hold is irreplaceable and we are proud to play a role in the continuation of their stories.



Leaving a Legacy of Conservation

A legacy is a beautiful and powerful thing that can have a tremendous impact on the mission of the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust.

Through the process of planned giving you have the opportunity to direct your legacy in ways that conserve Wyoming's agricultural landscapes, open space, waterways, wildlife habitat, and culture. Plans made today will help define your legacy and ensure that your philanthropic wishes are carried out.

There are several ways to leave a legacy of conservation and our staff is happy to support you and your family through this decision. Planned gifts have a tremendous impact on our organization, and we are happy to discuss how your gift will be put to work on Wyoming's landscapes. Please contact your tax, legal, or financial advisor to plan for a gift that best fits your needs.

For more information, please contact our staff at 307-772-8751.

Benefits of Planned Giving



Leaving a legacy on the Wyoming landscape



Some planned giving donations may also work as income for the donor



Planned giving donations offer tax benefits to the donor

PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

GIFTS OF APPRECIATED ASSETS

These 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

Bequests through your will, revocable trust, or retirement plan also may be made from financial assets, real-estate, or other property. Donors may specify an asset or sum of money, a percentage of an asset or of their entire estate, or a residual amount after all estate distributions are completed. 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 those of their heirs) change, and their bequests will pass to WSGLT free of estate taxes.

IRA ROLLOVER GIFTS

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 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. Donors receive professional management of the CRT assets, and the income distributions may receive favorable tax treatment.

LEGACY SOCIETY

Our Legacy Society includes individuals and families who have left the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust as a beneficiary in their will or trust. If you would like more information about the Legacy Society please contact our office.

LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Pam Dewell - Jackie Griffith - Fred and Catherine Kusel
Dr. John and Susie Lunt - Carrol and Chris Machan
Georgene Lebar Charitable Trust - Marcia Gladstone

Thank you to our fiscal year 2019 donors!

\$1 TO \$999

R&R Traders Pewter
Sweet Marie's Mercantile
Bent Willow Furnishings
G&S Outdoor Living
Western Art & Wildlife
Fremont Stoneworx
Danni Jo Designs
Montana Silversmiths
Wild Rags by Lois
Tina Willis- Bootique West
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Nathan and Lisa Parra
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Jim Roscoe
Terrie Springman
Dennis and Peggy Sun
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\$100 TO \$999

Jenkins Creek Ranch
Old West Cedarmill
Mountain Khakis
Elitch Gardens
CFD Old West Museum
Mesquite Wood Gallery
Orvis
Ranch Management Consultants
Paint with Gunpowder
Trader Barb's Gallery
Grand Targhee Resort
Glen Powell Artworks
Chris West Originals
The Cowboy Shop
John Lush
Louisville Mega Caverns
Wyoming Natural Beef
Samsville Gallery
Wyoming Downs, LLC
Crow Creek Kennels
Grand Teton Fly Fishing
Cancun Cards
Range Magazine
Platte River Labradors
Ty Cattle Co.
Clark Country Ranch
Hovendick Ranch
Antler Motel
Lou Taubert Ranch Outfitters
Hellyer Limited Partnership
Resources First Group, LLC
Amos Eno
J/N Mercantile
Wyoming Wildlife Federation
Hall, Noble & Associates
Mocroft Ranch
Anton, Collins, Mitchell LLP
Ellis Sheep Company
Wyoming Natural Resource Fdn.
The Brooks Foundation
Admiral Beverages Corp.
C.H. Brown Co.
Rock Springs National Bank

\$100 TO \$999 CONTINUED

Bousman Livestock, Inc.
Ballinger Rocking R Ranch, LP
Cora Valley Angus Ranch
White Rabbit Ranch, LLC
Vible Ranch
Hotel Wolf
Torrington Livestock Markets
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Land Trust Alliance
Rocking Chair Foundation
Dan and Jeanne Scott Foundation
Broken R Ranch
TE Ranch
Mountain Vet Supply
Thaler Land & Livestock
Pathfinder Ranches
Allied Investment Advisors, LLC
New Frontier Ranches
Sims Cattle Company
Devon Energy Corp.
Cloud Peak Energy Resources
Western United Realty
Halladay Motors Auto Group
Warehouse Twenty One
Lonabuagh & Riggs, LLP
Sundance State Bank
S-A Cattle
Sundance State Bank
Davis & Cannon
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Lee and Ellen Alley
Bo and Tara Alley
Leron and Rosalyn Allred
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Sean and Lisa Stoughton
Garland and Rhonda Swain
Stanley and Betty Jo Thompson
John and Mary Kay Turner
Michael and Maggie Von Flatern
Kevin Voyles
Rob and Celia Wallace
Miriam Walsh
Jerry Webb
Robert and Susan Wilson

Donor lists reflect donations received July 1, 2018 through June 30, 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.

\$1,000 AND UP

FOUNDING SUPPORTERS

Gunwerks, LLC
Fremont Motors
Farm Credit Services of America
Life Management Advisors
Cottonwood Ranches
The Fanwood Foundation
Anonymous
Exxon Mobil Corporation
DSH Ventures
D.A. Davidson
Wyoming Livestock Roundup
Murdock Cattle Company
King Ranch
IXL Ranch
Grindstone Cattle Company
Hall and Hall
Sommers Herefords
USDA-NRCS
Bear Lodge Cattle Co.
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Grainger Charitable Fund
SCR Wyoming
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Wolf Creek Charitable Foundation
The Betts Foundation
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The Conservation Fund

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Archie and Grace Berry Foundation
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Wayland and Marian Cato- Cato Ranch
Centennial Retreiver Club
Liz Flaiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation
Story Clark and Bill Resor- Snake River Ranch
Kelly Clay- Fremont Beverages, Inc.
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Hal Corbett and Katie Curtiss
Lane Coulston- American Conservation Real Estate
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Stan and Donna Devore
Diamond King Ranch
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Mark and Trudy Eisele- King Ranch Company
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Ann King- King Ranch Company
L. Patton Kline
John and Gigi Leman
Carl and Jessica Lindstrom
Tim Lindstrom
Little Deer Creek Ranch
Paul Lowham- Fiddle Back Ranch
Patty Lufkin- 5N Ranch
Cynthia Lummis and Al Wiederspahn

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We apologize for any mistakes or omissions. Please contact us with any corrections so we can update
our records and thank you more appropriately.

Founding Supporters List as Reflected on Plaque in WSGLT Office

FOUNDING SUPPORTERS CONTINUED

John and Susannah Lunt- Highline Ranch	Bart and Liz Rea
Luke Lynch	Randy and Chris Reed
Gary and Darlene Lyons	James Rinehart- Western United Realty
Mr. and Mrs. Lou Mack	Roma Rouse- One Bar Eleven Ranch
Jim Magagna	Marietta Schumacher- Brush Creek Ranch
Bill and Carol Maloney	David Schumacher- Brush Creek Ranch
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Ron and Marie Pfister	Wolf Creek Charitable Foundation
Platte Valley Foods, LLC	Wyoming Community Foundation
Platte Valley Medical Clinic, P.C.	
Ed and Nancy Prosser	
Rawlins National Bank	

Founding Supporters List as Reflected on Plaque in WSGLT Office

Photo courtesy of Padlock Ranch
Credit: Wayne Fahsholtz

Kurt Bucholz Conservation Award
2019 Awardee: Albert Sommers

The Kurt Bucholz Conservation Award is given in memory of the late Dr. Kurt Bucholz DVM, a rancher from Carbon County, and founding supporter of the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust. The Bucholz Award winner encompasses the values and stewardship goals that Kurt exemplified in his life. Kurt had a unique understanding of water and land issues and worked to protect the historic water rights that are fundamental to the North Platte Valley. Each year, our organization partners with Kurt’s wife, Laura, to present the award to a deserving individual or family at the Annual Roundup Fundraiser and Barbeque.

Albert Sommers was presented with the custom-made Jerry Palen bronze at the 2019 BBQ held at the Rambling M Ranch in Cody, Wyoming, on August 22nd. Albert is an active participant and advocate for Wyoming agriculture, wildlife, and conservation, representing them in the Wyoming Legislature and on many boards, working groups, and panels regionally and nationally.

Albert was nominated by Jennifer Hayward of the Wyoming NRCS, Jim Magagna with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and his sister Jonita Sommers. He spoke about receiving the award, saying, “Agriculture is becoming less and less a priority when it has to produce more and more. The value in this award is recognizing conservation on working lands. Some may think that conservation just happens, but it takes really hard work from really dedicated people.”

The Sommers family, in partnership with Maggie Miller and the WSGLT, protected 19,000 acres of agricultural land and wildlife habitat with the Sommers-Grindstone Conservation Project in 2010. This project represents one of the largest habitat and public access projects accomplished in Wyoming and is only part of why Albert was chosen to receive the Kurt Bucholz Conservation Award.



Photo Credit: Kevin Madigan
Description: Laura Bucholz and Jennifer Hayward present the award to Albert at the Annual Roundup Fundraiser and Barbeque.

- The WSGLT is seeking nominations for the 2020 Kurt Bucholz Conservation Award**
Individuals eligible for nomination will have a connection to one or more of the following criteria:
- An advocate for conserving Wyoming’s farms and ranches
 - A land steward or agricultural advocate who has been a participant in state, regional, or national natural resource discussions
 - A defender of the importance of water conservation and the significance of protecting Wyoming’s traditional water rights
 - A proponent of hunting and wildlife protection, and a personal commitment to habitat conservation
 - Has implemented land or resource conservation practices on their property with the WSGLT or a similar organization

To nominate someone, visit www.wsgalt.org/bucholz-award or email Tate Smith at tate@wsgalt.org. Submissions are due by May 1st.



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Save The Date
20th Anniversary Roundup Barbeque
The Farm at Brush Creek Ranch
Saratoga, Wyoming
August 22, 2020

Photo courtesy of Brush Creek Luxury Ranch Collection