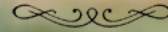




WYOMING

**STOCK GROWERS
LAND TRUST**



Maintaining The Range
- Fall 2022 Newsletter -

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Stewardship Associate

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Conservation Director

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A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

I recently had an opportunity to spend a day horseback on the plains of Wyoming, gathering and sorting steers to take to market. While the day was busy, there was ample opportunity to reflect on the qualities that make this state special. From good help and (mostly) good horses, to open spaces and solitude, to the sound of birds trilling in the morning light, one day spent outdoors in Wyoming is truly transformational. For me, it was a reminder of why the work of the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust is so important. Healthy agricultural lands are integrally intertwined with our food system, water quantity and quality, wildlife and fisheries habitats, rural economies, and customs and culture. Now, more than ever, it is necessary to keep ecosystems that support these necessary and desired benefits intact.

This newsletter provides updates on recent and upcoming community events across the state, insight into why supporters and partners engage in our work, and a wrap up from our incredible 2022 Annual Roundup Fundraiser and BBQ hosted by the Berger Ranch. It also provides information on recent conservation easement closings and the values landowners are protecting when they preserve their private lands. Throughout the newsletter you will recognize a common theme – the authentic love that landowners, supporters, interns, and partners have for Wyoming and their desire to protect its open spaces and agricultural lands for future generations.

I hope the stories and information contained within inspires you to continue supporting the important work of conserving Wyoming’s agricultural lands. **Together, we are keeping Wyoming, Wyoming!**

Jessica L. Crowder
Executive Director



Mission:

The Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust is dedicated to conserving Wyoming’s working agricultural lands, which also provide open space, wildlife habitat, and other environmental benefits for future generations.

BOARD PROFILE: Kelly Lockhart

Kelly Lockhart has served as a member of the Board of Directors for 5 years. Having been involved in agriculture his entire life, Kelly is a firm believer that land use matters, and that agriculture is an integral part of the landscape. Both play a role in making Wyoming the special place it is. We asked Kelly to share a bit about why he serves on the Board of Directors for the Land Trust:



“I have been a supporter of conservation easements as a voluntary tool for farmers and ranchers to accomplish goals and keep their land in production for a long time.” Kelly stated. “The Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust assists families in staying on the land which is one of the reasons I am excited to serve on the Board of Directors.”

“The Board and staff of the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust are a dedicated group of individuals. **The work we are doing is important not only to the families involved in agriculture, but for the state, contributing to clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and viewsheds that we all cherish.** The organization is making a difference, making Wyoming a better place, and I am humbled to be a small part of it.”



22
Years

113
Easements

80
Families

292,938
Acres of Land Conserved

Board of Directors

Wayne Fahsholtz, Chairman
Dayton, WY

Keith Geis, Vice Chair
Wheatland, WY

Kelly Lockhart, Secretary
Jackson, WY

Janet Marschner, Treasurer
Cheyenne, WY

Diana Berger
Saratoga, WY

Laurie Boner
Glenrock, WY

Steve Duerr
Jackson, WY

Heath Hunter
Wheatland, WY

Jim Magagna
Cheyenne, WY

Reg Phillips
Dubois, WY

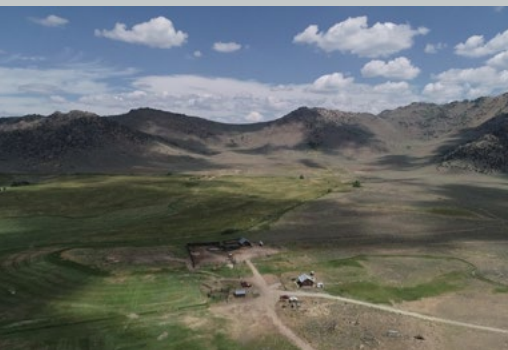
Steve Sharkey
Jackson, WY

Jared Souza
Wheatland, WY

Marissa Taylor
Lonetree, WY

Joe Thomas
Meeteetse, WY

CONSERVATION UPDATES



Richie Ranch Link & Muddy Place | 2,683 Acres | Sublette County

Conservation Values:

Agriculture
Big Game and Non-game Wildlife Habitat
Landscape Continuity

Funding Partners:

Knobloch Family Foundation
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust



Dunham Ranch | 2,004 Acres | Sublette County

Conservation Values:

Agriculture
Big Game and Non-game Wildlife Habitat
Landscape Continuity
Visual Resources
Water Resources

Funding Partners:

Knobloch Family Foundation
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust



Richie Ranch Home Place | 1,042 Acres | Sublette County

Conservation Values:

Agriculture
Big Game and Non-game Wildlife Habitat
Landscape Continuity
Visual Resources

Funding Partners:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
ConocoPhillips Spirit of Conservation Program through National Fish and Wildlife Federation
Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust



Waliser Ranch | 1,421 Acres | Carbon County

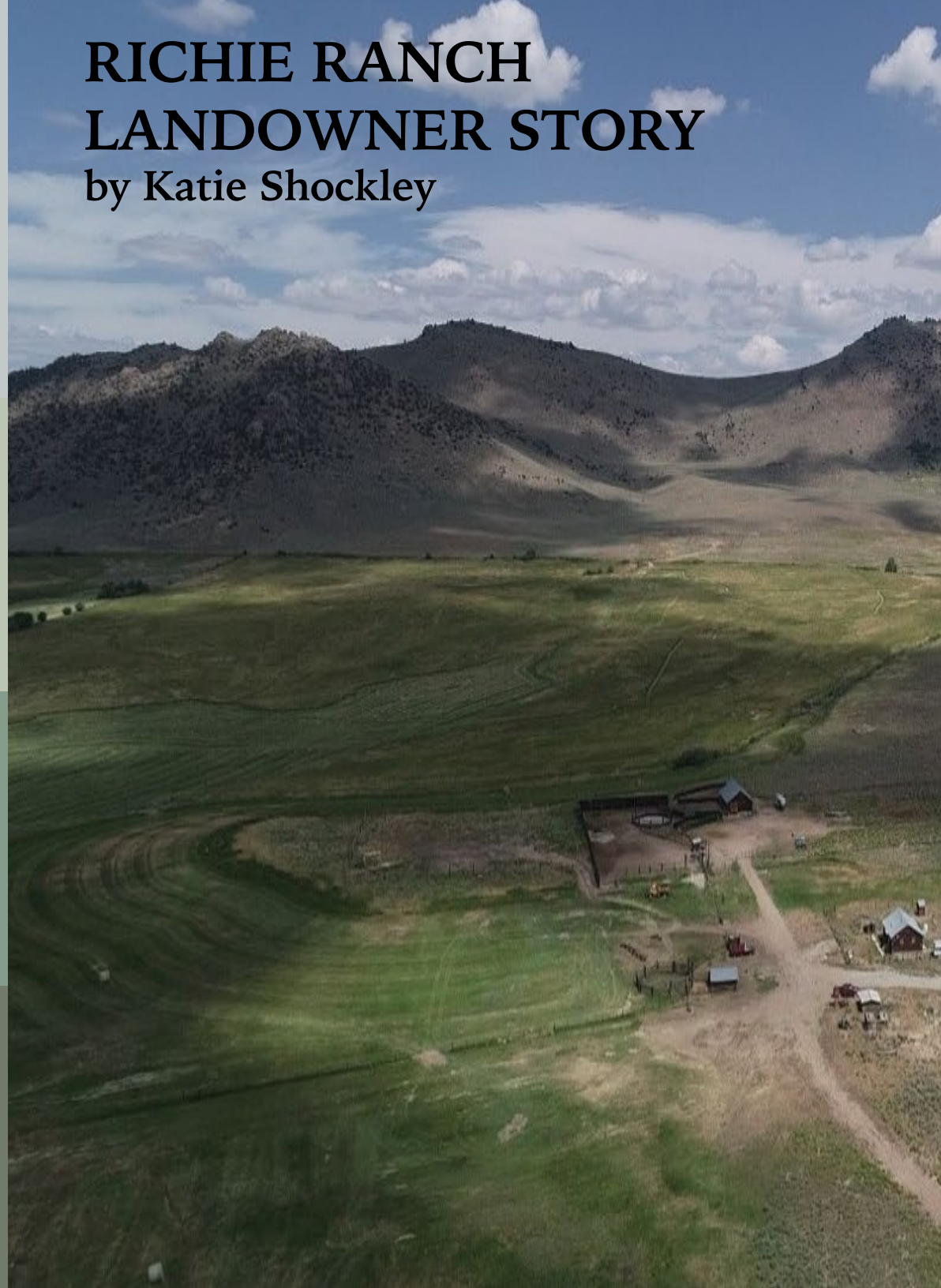
Conservation Values:

Agriculture
Avian Habitat
Big Game Wildlife Habitat
Landscape Continuity
Visual Resources

Funding Partners:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
ConocoPhillips Spirit of Conservation Program through National Fish and Wildlife Federation
Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust

RICHIE RANCH LANDOWNER STORY by Katie Shockley



What started as a dream over 100 years ago led to the accumulation of a long-lasting family legacy that will withstand the test of time.

Everett Jehu “Ebb” Richie envisioned a future of owning a ranch in Wyoming after spending the summer there in 1910. This dream took shape three short years later when Ebb purchased what is known as the Muddy Place located outside Boulder, Wyo. in Sublette County.

Over the years, the Richie family grew in both people, livestock and land. Ebb married Ellen Williams in 1923 and together they had three children: Verla Maud, Jephtha “Jep” Everett, and Norman Henry.

The family holdings expanded to include the Eastfork Home place in 1937, the Link Place in 1941, the Powder River’s Place in 1955 and the Vible Place on the New Fork in 1957. A drive by the Richie estate still showcases the trademark rust-brown and white of Hereford cattle the family is known for.

“Dad told me that the English breeds, mainly Hereford and Angus, have been here for 100 years, and will be here for the next 100 years. Lots of the other breeds have come and gone like fads,” shared Ep, son of Jep.

The continued growth of the operation required the family to think seriously about how they would preserve their legacy for generations to come.

“Throughout the generations our family has made a living from this ranch they worked so hard for,” shared Carole Richie, daughter of Jep. “We believe in a conservative approach of maintaining and improving the resources the ranch provides. The hay meadows, pastures, water, and the abundance of wildlife are what make this ranch so special.”

The first conservation easement was established with the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust in 2012 on the Vible Place to conserve 1,291 acres which included the ranch headquarters, ponds, wetlands and riparian corridors, which water extensive hay ground and pastures.

The family continues to forge a path of conservation. 1,042 acres of the Richie Ranch Home Place and 2,683 acres of the Richie Ranch Link and Muddy Places were placed in an agricultural conservation easement with the land trust in the spring and summer of 2022.

“These easements, along with the support of the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust, will help to maintain our family ranching goals,” shared Carole.

Much like the longstanding reign of the English cattle breeds, the Richie family legacy will continue for generations to come.

DONOR PROFILE: Heather Johnson and Brad Andres

Brad and Heather are dedicated to the conservation of private agricultural lands in Wyoming and the West. Recently, Heather provided insight into what drives their passion for private land conservation.



Congratulations on your retirement! You recently moved to Wyoming – tell us a bit about your love for the state.

I was born and raised in Laramie, Wyoming. After graduation, I left home for a summer job in Dubois. That summer job was the first of many amazing positions and experiences I had in agriculture and conservation, which led me to different states, all with their own beauty and charm. I was blessed to have an incredible career that gave me tremendous opportunities to participate in and facilitate collaborative conservation and partnerships across the nation. **Although I got to live and work in amazing places, my heart remained in Wyoming. I love the wide-open spaces and abundant wildlife, and that Wyoming has so many multi-generational ranching families that take care of the land and their animals.** I love the mountains and beautiful

rivers and the ability to go hiking and fishing, often without seeing a soul. It is amazing that we can get to places and look out for 360 degrees and see nothing but grass, rivers, wet meadows and sage. Most of all, I love the people – those that love the wide-open spaces and wildlife as much as I do – are independent, resourceful, passionate and kind. Wyomingites know how to neighbor-up, partner-up and cowboy/cowgirl-up! I hope to continue working with landowners, conservation partners and others to maintain the wonderful character of Wyoming.

Brad grew up in Pennsylvania and always loved to be outdoors. He earned his undergraduate degree in biology with an emphasis on wildlife. In pursuing his graduate degrees, he had the opportunity to work in remote areas of Alaska, where he studied migratory shorebirds. This work eventually led to a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) where Brad spent his entire career building partnerships to tackle conservation challenges. With responsibility for migratory birds, this collaborative work took him to South America, Mexico, and Asia. **During his time with USFWS, Brad recognized the importance of working with human communities to achieve conservation outcomes.**

Heather and Brad recently retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They both spent over 30 years with the agency — most recently, Heather as the Mountain-Prairie Regional Chief of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and Brad as the National Coordinator of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership in the Migratory Bird Program. While they both enjoyed extensive travel and working on a wide variety of collaborative partnerships, they are excited to use their knowledge to support private land conservation with the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust.

What initially got you interested in the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust (WSGLT) and prompted you to become a supporter in 2006?

For the past 18 years, I was the USFWS representative for the NCBA Environmental Stewardship Award Program and was keen to support these ranchers who are great stewards of the land. **The voluntary conservation easements facilitated by WSGLT provide some cash flow and keep the ranch intact for future generations.** Maintaining large, intact working landscapes is key to many wildlife species and is the essence of many westerners' souls, including ours.

How are you impacted by the work the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust does?

We have been following the work of WSGLT for years and have observed that this is one of the best agricultural land trusts in the nation. The number of easements and acres protected are impressive. And, behind those numbers are the incredible families that are doing all they can to restore, enhance and protect the land for their livestock operations and for fish and wildlife. The staff and Board are truly a dream team — It is all about people! We are so proud to be involved with WSGLT and are excited to bring our skills to this team. **One of the biggest dreams I have for retirement is doing all I can to keep the beautiful state of Wyoming green side up, in perpetuity.** We hope we can help achieve this through working with and supporting WSGLT.



SUPPORTING THE WYOMING STOCK GROWERS LAND TRUST

Gifts to the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust directly support the conservation of Wyoming's working land and wide-open spaces.

We could not do this work without you!

All gifts, no matter the size or frequency, help to safeguard these values and ensure that together we can keep Wyoming, Wyoming.

A note from Heather and Brad:

The Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust is the only Wyoming-based agricultural land trust in the state. The board of directors is composed of producers who bring first-hand experiences of the challenges of operating working lands and negotiating the process of securing easements. **There is a high level of trust and commitment because producers are directly involved in the management and delivery of the Land Trust programs.** As one of the first rangeland trusts (and a member of the Partnership of Rangeland Trusts), the Land Trust has experienced significant growth and is a key contributor to conserving the working landscapes of the West. Community-based approaches, as exemplified by the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust, are clearly a cornerstone for achieving conservation of wildlife and natural resources now and into the future.



Scan with phone camera to donate
or visit wsglt.org/support

COMMUNITY-LED DISCUSSIONS ON CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Over the last year we have hosted two community led discussions in Shell and Cody, drawing in a diverse group of landowners, community members, news outlets, supporters and partners.

Each event was hosted by well-respected groups and individuals. Thank you Stan and Mary Flitner, Press Stephens, the Big Horn County Citizens for Economic Development, the East Yellowstone Collaborative, and the Cody Country CattleWomen for hosting!

These community-led discussions have prompted many questions surrounding conservation easements – what an easement is, the process, pros and cons, goals and end results, common misconceptions, easements as a resource – and much more, leading to productive conversation and beneficial information sharing between all present.

Be sure to keep an eye out for a discussion happening in a community near you. If you would like to see a discussion held in your area, please reach out to Sarah Kauer at 307.772.8751 or sarah@wsglt.org

A NOTE FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP INTERN

I slogged through a boggy trail to the Ford in a cloud of mosquitos. The Big Horn Mountains were at my back, as was the four-wheeler I had just bottomed out in a pool of black mud. Tate and Omar were waiting for me when I returned in defeat; it was my first monitoring trip on the first property I was independently assigned, and things had not gone as smoothly as I anticipated. Tate, ready for all things, pulled the four-wheeler out of the stinky mud as I sat on the bank of the creek. “This is way better than law school,” I laughed at my luck. From that first trip, I fell in love with Wyoming. No two locations were the same, but the uniting feature in each place was an overwhelming awe for the land. I realized there is a cultural understanding in Wyoming that land is your inheritance, just as your father’s and grandfather’s in many cases. **There is a recognition that we must take care of the land.**



It was a privilege to be welcomed by many landowners who kindly took time to show me the beautiful ranches they steward. I would like to thank Kevin and Judy Lund for dinner after I traversed the Powder River with their ranch hand, Dex. The victory off-roading, the triumphant tacos, and the conversation had never been sweeter before that afternoon. This fall, Ken and Teeka Robertson shared a lemonade, a beautiful afternoon, and a chance for me to breathe as my second year of law school started to get the better of me.

The Wyoming Stock Grower’s Land Trust staff welcomed me onto their team and kept me there even after I managed to get almost every vehicle stuck over the course of the summer. Waking up to black bears climbing in the tree above you, gourmet pasta meals prepared with a propane camping burner after jumping into lakes, and meeting photogenic garter snakes are the moments that motivate me to continue to focus my education toward being an advocate for farmers and ranchers across Wyoming. I’m looking forward to serving Wyoming in different ways for years to come. Thanks for an amazing summer, WSGLT.



MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The board and staff of the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust would like to thank each of you for joining us during the 2022 Annual Roundup BBQ & Fundraiser in Saratoga, WY at the Berger Ranch.

We couldn’t have asked for a more beautiful backdrop to celebrate the conservation of working agricultural lands, our Kurt Bucholz Conservation Award Recipient, Todd Heward, or the wonderful community of partners and supporters that we have.

We are looking forward to gathering with you again in 2023!

Thank you to our wonderful hosts, Jack and Diana Berger, and to the sponsors who made this event possible:

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