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### **2,423 acres conserved in Johnson County**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2, 2022 - In 1921, Ellis Patch staked his claim in Johnson County and started a legacy. His hard work and perseverance would lay the foundation for the future success of his family. Just over 100 years later, this legacy on the Patchwork Ranch is preserved forever.

The McPhee and Jacob families have partnered with the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust to place the entire Patchwork Ranch under four separate conservation easements, totaling 2,423 acres. The preservation of this ranch was a complex project, and its success is a result of the concerted efforts of multiple families and landowning entities. All four easements were fully donated, a testament to the family's determination to see their legacy and agricultural opportunities for future generations protected.

*"We are so pleased to have our ranch protected by a conservation easement. This land was homesteaded and ranched by Ellis Patch, and several other Patch relatives, more than 100 years ago. Their goal was to preserve the land as open space, providing habitat for the wildlife they loved, and providing an opportunity for their descendants to have a glimpse of this Centennial Wyoming ranch in its natural beauty in perpetuity. We are grateful to the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust for making this goal a reality." - Members of the McPhee and Jacob Families*

The Patchwork Ranch is situated along the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains south of Buffalo, Wyoming. Comprised of mixed rangeland and irrigated hay meadows, the ranch has always been a cow-calf operation, maintaining a herd sufficient to provide a living for Ellis and Nellie Patch and their descendants. The future of this ranch is now more certain in a rapidly changing landscape. Confronted by rural residential development, the family identified the need to permanently ensure that the ranch would forever remain as it is: whole. The four conservation easements, though owned separately by family members, will ensure the entire property remains agricultural.

To make the project feasible, the Land Trust secured funding to support the landowner's cost of completing the project. Financial support for the project was kindly provided by the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, the Homer and Mildred Scott Foundation, the Tucker Foundation, and the Purdy Family Foundation. These funding partners were instrumental in the success of the project.

Working private lands are a big part of what makes Wyoming such a special place. Conservation successes on ranches like the Patchwork Ranch provide countless public benefits. The Land Trust is grateful to the McPhee and Jacob families for their commitment to protecting their family's legacy, open space, wildlife habitat, and opportunity for future agriculturalists.

The completion of this project brings the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust's number of protected acres to 295,361 acres statewide. This would not be possible without our trusted partners and landowners!



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### ***About the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust***

*The Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust is dedicated to conservation through ranching. Based in Cheyenne, the non-profit organization serves the entire state and is Wyoming's only agricultural land trust. Through partnerships with families, the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust holds and stewards agricultural conservation easements on more than 290,000 acres of land throughout Wyoming. Founded in 2000 by the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, it is one of the largest regional land trusts in the United States.*

*For more information, visit <https://wsglt.org>*