

2,489 Acres Conserved in Sheridan County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2024 - The Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust, in partnership with David and Terri Kane, placed a conservation easement on 2,489 acres of the HN Ranch near Ranchester, Wyoming. The Kane family's drive to conserve the property rests in the agricultural and wildlife values inherent to the ranch, and a desire to prevent division for development purposes, ensuring the land remains intact for their children and grandchildren.

This agricultural conservation easement will protect wildlife habitat for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, sharp-tailed grouse and 180 different avian species. Burrowing owls, bald and golden eagles and yellow-billed cuckoo are just a few species that can be found utilizing a variety of habitats found on the HN Ranch throughout the year. The ranch also boasts riparian habitat along Wolf Creek, which promotes amphibian breeding habitat and provides important resources for livestock, wildlife and avian species.

"Conservation easements such as the one on the HN Ranch ensure that working lands and our agricultural heritage will continue to thrive in Wyoming while also protecting critical wetland and grassland habitats that are important for biodiversity," says Edyn Jessup, Wyoming Director of Land Strategies for The Nature Conservancy. "Adding a conservation easement to their ranch is economically important and helps protect some of Wyoming's most significant connected landscapes, including the Tongue River watershed and the Bighorn Foothills. We're proud to partner with the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust to support the SR Cattle Company in caring for this landscape, now and into the future."

The conservation easement was funded in part by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, the Tucker Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

"Congratulations to the Kane family and Land Trust on accomplishing this milestone. This is a historic ranch in the heart of some of the best wildlife habitat in northern Wyoming. The family has a long history of conservation and exemplary stewardship, and maybe even more importantly, this retains the opportunity for the local ranching and farming economy to thrive for decades to come. It is another example of the compatibility between conservation and agriculture, both fundamental to all of us who love Wyoming." - Bob Budd, Executive Director, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust

"Wyoming NRCS is pleased to continue our partnership with Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust and our Sheridan County landowners to conserve our State's agricultural heritage, wildlife and scenic lands. NRCS takes great pride in assisting Wyoming landowners and our partners with enrolling eligible working lands into Agricultural Land Easements thereby protecting crucial habitats for generations to come. This project will ensure continued agricultural use providing forage for cattle and other livestock and will also benefit big game animals, Greater sage-grouse and protect crucial aquatic habitats." – Jackie Byam, Wyoming NRCS State Conservationist

There are many characteristics that make Wyoming special, and working, private lands are one of them. The completion of this project brings the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust's number of protected

acres to 300,736 acres statewide. We are grateful for our trusted partners and landowners who make these projects possible!



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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 300,000 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 wsglt.org