

August 13, 2026

Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

Kendra Mitchell, Administrative & Communications Manager

307.772.8751

kendra@wsgmt.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Maggie Miller, of Grindstone Cattle Company, Named 2026 Kurt Bucholz Award Recipient

Cheyenne, Wyo., August 13, 2026 – The Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust (Land Trust) is pleased to announce Maggie Miller, of Grindstone Cattle Company, as the recipient of the 2026 Kurt Bucholz Conservation Award. Miller will be recognized at the Land Trust’s 2026 Legacy of the Land celebration on Saturday, August 22, at the Barn at Elk Hollow on the Silver Spur Ranch in Carbon County, where she will be presented with a bronze commemorating the award.

Given in memory of Carbon County rancher, DVM, and early Land Trust supporter Kurt Bucholz, the award recognizes leaders who advocate for agriculture, defend Wyoming water rights, support wildlife habitat, and implement conservation practices on working lands.

Miller’s dedication to conservation and land stewardship spans decades and reflects her commitment to preserving the ranching and agricultural traditions of Wyoming’s Upper Green River Basin. Her ranching

operation is guided by a commitment to ensuring the land continues to support both livestock and wildlife, while honoring the legacy of previous generations.

Grindstone Cattle Company encompasses 17,000 acres of a 19,000-acre conservation easement project completed in 2012, one of the largest conservation easement enrollments in Wyoming. The Sommers-Grindstone partnership brought together two families committed to protecting their ranching heritage and agricultural legacies, with assistance from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust and other funding partners. Following the passing of her husband, Jim Miller, Maggie continued that commitment to the landscape they called home. Proceeds from the easement allowed her to acquire an adjacent property and place an additional 840 acres under permanent conservation protection.

Miller's conservation leadership extends beyond her own ranch. She earned national recognition as a landowner spokesperson for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Sage Grouse Initiative and served as an advocate for landowners and agricultural interests within the Sublette Mule Deer Migration Corridor. She also worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to implement a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for sage-grouse on her property.

In 2008, Miller partnered with a neighbor to implement NRCS's first fence conversion project in Sublette County, an effort that helped spark landscape-scale changes throughout the region. Today, more than 750 miles of fencing have been converted to wildlife-friendly standards, including more than 33 miles on Grindstone Cattle Company to provide big game passage.

Miller has continued to collaborate with the WGFD and NRCS on a variety of conservation efforts, including river habitat improvements, irrigation structures, prescribed grazing, wildlife-friendly fencing, cheatgrass control, grazing management, wildlife research and habitat projects. In 2011, she was honored with the WGFD's Landowner of the Year award for her ongoing commitment to Wyoming's wildlife.

"Maggie Miller represents something at the heart of why conservation matters in Wyoming — not simply protecting land, but caring for a place deeply enough to make sure it remains whole for the people, wildlife and generations that come after us," said Christine Adams, Land Trust Executive Director. "What I admire most about Maggie is that her commitment to conservation has never been about recognition. It has been woven into the way she has lived, ranched and cared for the Upper Green River Basin for decades. After Jim's passing, Maggie could have simply carried on. Instead, she continued to strengthen the legacy they built together, conserving additional acres and championing wildlife and working lands beyond her own fence line. She has been a trusted voice for ranchers, a thoughtful partner to conservation organizations and agencies, and a fierce steward of the land she calls home.

It is especially meaningful to honor Maggie with an award bearing Kurt Bucholz's name. Kurt understood that some of Wyoming's greatest conservationists are the people quietly doing the work every day — ranching, raising families, solving problems and finding ways for agriculture and wildlife to thrive

together. Maggie embodies that same spirit. We are incredibly proud to recognize her and grateful for the example she has set for all of us.”