

**Date: December 31, 2011**

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### **Jackson Hole Land Trust Protects Three Noteworthy Properties, Welcomes New Board Members in 2011**

**Jackson, Wyoming** – The Jackson Hole Land Trust announced today the acceptance of a 19-acre conservation easement along the Snake River north of Jackson, adding yet another success to a banner year for strategic land conservation in the Jackson Hole area.

The easement is the fourth contiguous parcel to be placed under permanent protection at the River Rock Ranch by owners John and Karin McQuillan, and consists of high-quality riparian habitat, shaded by cottonwood and spruce trees, that is home to a multitude of wildlife species including Snake River fine-spotted cutthroat trout, bald eagles, black bear, trumpeter swans, and boreal toads. A spring creek also flows through the property, supporting a population of cutthroat trout and their spawning grounds.

“The River Rock Ranch easements protect an amazing diversity of wildlife and provide connectivity for elk migrating between Grand Teton National Park and the National Elk Refuge,” said Laurie Andrews, Jackson Hole Land Trust executive director. “What a tremendous success for our native wildlife species.”

The River Rock Ranch easement is the second property with Snake River frontage conserved by the Jackson Hole Land Trust in 2011 – closing on the same day as the high-profile River Springs Project, a 40-acre property in Wilson acquired by the Land Trust and The LOR Foundation that is expected to become a centerpiece for community recreation and access.

The second phase of the Flat Creek Corridor Project also closed this December, a 2-acre parcel along Flat Creek that is part of a larger collaboration with the Town of Jackson to conserve about 40 acres of prime wildlife habitat and recreational trails in the heart of town. “This has been an exciting month at the Land Trust,” said Pete Lawton, board president. “It’s been great to close on projects that we’ve been working all year to protect.” In total, the Jackson Hole Land Trust permanently protected over 60 acres of strategic properties in the past year.

The Jackson Hole Land Trust also welcomed five new members to the Board of Directors in 2011: Jill Baldauf, R. Jason Snider, Karen Parent, Jeff Milton, and Robert Strawbridge. These community members bring a host of professional and personal experiences to the board, and share a commitment to protecting the stunning views, critical wildlife habitat, and legacy of agriculture that make the Jackson Hole area special.

JACKSON HOLE



LAND TRUST

## JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **About the Jackson Hole Land Trust**

The Jackson Hole Land Trust is a private, non-profit organization that works to protect the scenic, ranching and wildlife values of Teton County and the surrounding areas. Since its inception in 1980, the Jackson Hole Land Trust has protected over 22,000 acres of open lands in and around Jackson Hole. For more information please visit [www.jhlandtrust.org](http://www.jhlandtrust.org)