



JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 26, 2010

Contact: Laurie Andrews, 307-733-4707 or laurie@jhlandtrust.org

Jackson Hole Land Trust Protects Beloved Trail System and Riparian Area at Base of Snow King

Jackson Hole, Wyoming—The Jackson Hole Land Trust in partnership with the Town of Jackson announced a plan to ensure the permanent protection of 40 acres of land along Flat Creek. The project will ensure that the many trails and trailheads on that portion of Snow King Mountain will remain open for public use, that no additional development can occur along that section of Flat Creek and that the ecological function of a key piece of in-town open space remains intact.

The trails that run through the property are used by mountain bikers, hikers and runners during the summer months and are accessed most readily from Crabtree Lane, Hidden Ranch Lane and Snow King Avenue. The completion of this project will guarantee that these trails can continue to be enjoyed and accessed by the community.

“This project is important to the Land Trust, as it conserves not only important wildlife habitat, but also the access to one of Jackson’s most beloved trail systems. The public access on that part of Flat Creek and Snow King may not have continued if the Land Trust and Town did not step in,” said Laurie Andrews, executive director of the Trust.

Much of the property is classified by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as winter range for moose and mule deer, and half falls into Teton County’s Natural Resource Overlay (NRO). The mile of riparian area conserved will support water quality in Flat Creek and ensure opportunities for trout habitat improvement projects and flooding control measures.

Conservation easements to be held by the trust ensure that no further development will occur on the south side of the creek. This newly protected section expands upon the mile of Flat Creek that runs through Karns Meadow, which was conserved through a similar partnership in 2003. The adjacency of the Karns Meadow and Flat Creek properties will also ensure that the town retains some permeability for wildlife movement.

In order to complete the project the Land Trust is still seeking the necessary funding from private donors. “We are thrilled by the support the community has already shown for this project and are hopeful that their continued support and enthusiasm will help make this project a reality,” said Pete Lawton, board president.

The Jackson Hole Land Trust is a private, non-profit organization that works to protect the scenic, ranching and wildlife values of Jackson Hole. 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.