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For Immediate Release:

Easement on Clark Country Ranch Conserves Important Agricultural Land and Wildlife Habitat

Traveling out of Cokeville east on State Highway 232, approximately 13 miles from Cokeville you follow the Smith's Fork River and then pass the 320 acres under easement.

The Property is located in Button Flat and surrounded by Private, State, and BLM land. A subirrigated meadow along the Smith's Fork River dominates the middle of the portion with willow-lined riparian areas transitioning to a mixed-sagebrush grassland on the upper benches and a small cottonwood galley in the northern portion of the Property.

In late August, the Clark family placed a conservation easement on 320 acres conserving the irrigated pasture they use for grazing and haying. In addition to serving an important agricultural function for the Clark's the Property serves as important habitat for many species of animals and fishes.

The Clark's received this portion of the ranch in 1977 as part of a land trade. The Property had been homesteaded around 1885 and was settled by the Button Family. Later Frank Malone acquired the Property in approximately 1905 and completed the water rights and required deeds. The Property passed through many hands before becoming part of the Clark Country Ranch in 1977.

The Property contains approximately 160 acres of irrigated ground surrounding Smith's Fork River that is utilized for hay while the native rangeland is grazed during the growing season. The Smith's Fork River flows across the Property entering on the northern portion and flowing to the southwest. There are a number of small oxbows along the River in the western portion of the Property.

The project was funded through grants from the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, and the Governor's Big Game License Coalition.

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About the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

The Stock Growers Land Trust is dedicated to conservation through ranching and holds more than 171,000 acres of working lands under easement. Founded in 2000 by the 140-year old Wyoming Stock Growers Association, the Stock Growers Land Trust is the 9th largest conservation holder of 1,659 regional land trusts in the United States.