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WYOMING STOCK GROWERS LAND TRUST FINALIZES ACQUISITION OF C-BAR-B CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Buffalo--The Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust (WSGLT) finalized its acquisition of the C-Bar-B conservation easement today in Buffalo, from the Board of County Commissioners of Johnson County. The conservation easement, which originally closed in 1993, conserves 1,043 acres of important agricultural land, wide-open spaces, and yearlong habitat for wildlife in the area. With the transfer, WSGLT will hold and steward the conservation easement. WSGLT now holds five conservation easements in Johnson County, and the ranch adds to the 233,946 acres of working landscapes that the organization has conserved in the State.

"The original intentions behind the Johnson County Commission were well intentioned when they received the C-Bar-B conservation easement. However, Johnson County Government does not have the capacity or resources to manage a conservation easement. Today's transfer to the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust is the appropriate action for the taxpayers of Johnson County and the greater commitment to ensuring open spaces, perpetuity of agriculture and abundance of wildlife," said Johnson County Board of Commissioners Chairman Bill Novotny.

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"It has been a pleasure an honor to work with the Gose family, the staff at Stock Growers Land Trust, Deputy Attorney Crago and Bob Berger over the past year and half to achieve closure on this matter," added Commissioner Novotny.

Marty and Steve Gose owners of the C-BAR-B Ranch, said "We are proud to be a part of WSGLT, having known several of directors and members gives us a comfortable feeling, for they face the same problems as we do in owning a cattle and farming operation as we do in Wyoming, and will help us solve them as we move along."

The ranch, located northeast of Buffalo, is situated along Clear Creek, and offers outstanding views of the Bighorn Mountain Range, along with recognizable points such as Cloud Peak and Black Tooth.

Bo Alley, Executive Director of WSGLT stated, "The ranch produces some of the best alfalfa in the region, and the property is home to a variety of wildlife. The conservation easement fits well with WSGLT's mission, and the transaction is the result of hard work, dedication, and great cooperation between the Johnson County Board of Commissioners, the Gose Family, and the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust."

The C-Bar-B Ranch will be the site of WSGLT's Annual Roundup Barbeque on August 27th.

About the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

The 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 ranch families, the Stock Growers Land Trust holds and stewards conservation easements on more than 223,946 acres of land on ranches and farms throughout Wyoming. Founded in 2000 by the 140-year-old Wyoming Stock Growers Association, it is one of the largest among the 1,659 regional land trusts in the United States. For more information, visit <u>www.wsgalt.org</u>.