



Featured Friend

Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

Conservation in the Heart of Wyoming Sage Grouse Habitat

To view breathtaking sage grouse habitat, go no farther than the Grindstone Cattle Co. and the Sommers Ranch, outside of Pinedale, Wyoming in Sublette County. Working closely with the Sage Grouse Initiative, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust helped two ranch families conserve 18,000 acres of highly productive rangeland located entirely in the Daniel Sage Grouse Core Area. The Sommers Grindstone project also provided five miles of public fishing access to the Green River.

“Ranching is a tough way to make a living...our reward is to be able to work in a landscape like this,” says Maggie Miller, Grindstone Cattle Company in a SGI YouTube video.

The Stock Growers Land Trust’s success in conserving sage grouse habitat in Sublette County continues. In late 2014, the Land Trust completed the Martin Place project, adding another 840 acres of productive rangeland for a tally of 14 conservation easements covering more than 39,000 acres.

“The key to our success is trust and building lasting relationships with our partners through the completion of landowner-driven agreements. We tailor every conservation easement to meet the rancher’s goals – for enhancing the productivity of their working land and preserving their family’s legacy.” ~ Pam Dewell, Executive Director, WSGALT



Maggie Miller, Grindstone Cattle Company. Photos by Conservation Media.

Meet the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust

About

The Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust is dedicated to conserving Wyoming’s working family ranches and farms, and the wide-open spaces, natural habitats, and rural communities they support. As of early 2015, the Stock Growers Land Trust has worked with 57 families to complete 77 conservation easements totaling more than 204,000 acres of productive ranch land. Almost half of these acres are within sage grouse core areas. The Stock Growers Land Trust is currently working to complete more than a dozen new projects; eight of them will conserve an additional 24,000 acres in sage grouse core areas.

Role with Sage Grouse Initiative

The Stock Growers Land Trust partners with the Sage Grouse Initiative to protect working ranches in a state that harbors the highest remaining population of sage grouse in the world. The nonprofit leverages dollars from SGI that originate via the Natural Resources Conservation Service to come up with a multi-partner approach to funding conservation easements that keep working ranches working and protect sage grouse habitat. The Land Trust plays the key role of holding the easements that are key to keeping the sagebrush-steppe intact for sage grouse and ranching alike.

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