

Friends of the Green River Valley Land Trust

A GREEN RIVER VALLEY LAND TRUST
NEW S L E T T E R

SAVE THE DATES—

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE
UPCOMING FIELD TRIP
BROCHURE

GRVLT ANNUAL DONOR
APPRECIATION PICNIC—8/25/07

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IT'S MONITORING SEASON AGAIN

You hear from us that conservation easements are perpetual. But, what does that really mean? What happens to conservation easement-protected properties after the easement document is signed?

Acquiring a conservation easement is just the beginning of the GRVLT's relationship with the landowner and the conserved property. After the excitement of accepting a new easement, the ongoing responsibility of monitoring (and, if necessary, defending) the easement begins. Maintaining a good working relationship with each conserved property landowner, visiting each property annually, and documenting property condition is essential.

As landowners continue to work with the GRVLT to conserve more land, these stewardship duties will grow, and they remain the responsibility of the GRVLT forever. In fact, these responsibilities are included in the obligations we must uphold as members of the Land Trust Alliance. The Land Trust Alliance—or LTA—is the national umbrella organization under which nearly 1,700 land trusts exist. As members of LTA, we agree to abide by a set of *Standards and Practices* that LTA has established to serve as guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust, which is run legally, ethically, and in the public interest and conducts a sound program of land transactions and stewardship. The Land Trust Alliance originally developed the *Standards* in 1989 at the urging of land trusts, who believe a strong land trust community depends on the credibility and effectiveness of all its members. They were revised in 2004.

The newly formed Land Trust Accreditation Commission—an *Independent Program of the Land Trust Alliance*—will provide independent verification of the 42 indicator practices from *Land Trust Standards and Practices* that show a land trust's ability to operate in an ethical, legal and technically sound manner and ensure the long-term protection of land in the public interest. See page 4 for more information on how the GRVLT is undergoing a review of its implementation of *Standards and Practices* in a process known as Accreditation.

We currently hold 38 conservation easements on nearly 20,000 acres. We correspond and work with nearly 40 families. As stewards of these conservation easements, it is our pleasure to visit each property each summer, meet with the landowners and/or property managers, and talk to them about their properties.

We would welcome your participation in this effort—volunteers are a vital part of our work. To learn more about our stewardship efforts, or to join us to monitor a conservation easement-protected property, please call Jordan Vana—Land Program Director—or Laura Davenport—Program Assistant at 367-7007.

John Wayne Commemorative Saddle Celebrates 100 years of “The Duke”

Limited edition
and numbered
Circle Y Saddle
valued at
\$10,000

Only 150 tickets
will be sold

**Proceeds benefit
the Murdocks’
Double Bar E
Ranch Project**



Winning ticket
will be drawn at
the John Wayne
Film Festival
May 26 at the
Pinedale High
School
Auditorium

Your raffle
ticket gets you
free admission
to the Film
Festival

ON DISPLAY AT THE COWBOY SHOP

Raffle Tickets \$100 Each... *and going fast!*

The saddle raffle and the John Wayne Film Festival are being offered by the Green River Valley Land Trust. Watch for more details about the Film Festival or contact Sarah Dreizler at 367.7007.

GRVLT SEEKS LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION

As you may know, the Land Trust Alliance is national convener, strategist and representative of more than 1,700 land trusts across America.

The Land Trust Alliance exists to:

- Dramatically expand the pace of land conservation (through tax incentives);
- Build strong land trusts;
- Defend the permanence of conservation easements; and
- Ensure that the work of land trusts is as strategically directed as possible.

The Land Trust Alliance is best known for pioneering the use of [conservation easements](#) to conserve private land and for the development of [Land Trust Standards and Practices](#), the guidelines for ethical performance by land trusts. The Green River Valley Land Trust is a member of the Land Trust Alliance.

Recently, the Land Trust Alliance created an Accreditation Commission which selected 22 land conservation organizations from 19 states to test a new national land trust accreditation program. The new land trust accreditation program will recognize land trusts that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

The GRVLT was selected to participate and has completed the Pilot Accreditation process. Our application is now under review.

The GRVLT sees accreditation as an important step in ensuring the GRVLT's accountability to the public in working with landowners to complete strong and lasting land conservation efforts.

As part of the application process, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission will accept signed, written comments from the public on pending applications. Comments must relate to the GRVLT's compliance with accreditation indicator practices. These practices address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of indicator practices, see www.lta.org/accreditation/practices.htm.

To learn more about the accreditation program and/or to submit a signed, written comment on the GRVLT's application, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission:

ATTN: Public Comments

Fax:

518-587-3183

Mail:

112 Spring Street, Suite 204
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Comments on the GRVLT's application will be most useful by July 1, 2007.

Thanks for your help!

B A B Y A N I M A L S Q U I Z



Fill in the blank with the name of the corresponding baby animal...

Let's start with some easy ones:

Cow _____

Sheep _____

Deer _____

Pig _____

Horse _____

Chicken _____

Cat _____

Duck _____

Dog _____

Bear _____

Now, a little more challenging:

Goat _____

Skunk _____

Swan _____

Antelope _____

Frog _____

Rabbit _____

Fox _____

Goose _____

Eagle _____

Beaver _____

For extra credit:

Hawk _____

The first person to email with **all correct answers** will be **entered into the John Wayne Saddle Raffle** (one raffle ticket will be submitted in their name — see previous page). Please email your answers to: sarah@grvlandtrust.org.

Good luck!

FOCUS ON: CONSERVATION STATS AND FACTS

As of April 2007, the GRVLT has worked with nearly 40 families to conserve nearly 20,000 acres of key lands in Sublette County.

Conservation of those lands has resulted in the following:

34 miles of rivers and streams conserved...

9,962 acres of moose summer range conserved...

10,112 acres of moose crucial winter range conserved...

18,312 acres of mule deer summer range conserved..

4,276 acres of mule deer crucial winter range conserved...

18,257 acres of pronghorn summer range conserved...

12,061 acres of elk summer range conserved...

46 areas within 2 miles of a sage grouse lek conserved...

23 miles of moose migration route conserved...

11+ miles of mule deer migration route conserved...

More than **4** miles of elk migration route conserved...

7+ miles of pronghorn migration route conserved...

PERMANENTLY



WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.GRVLANDTRUST.ORG



A GREEN RIVER
VALLEY LAND
TRUST
NEWSLETTER

Green River Valley Land Trust
131 South Jackson Avenue
P.O. Box 1580
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

Phone: 307-367-7007
Fax: 307-367-7207
E-mail: info@grvlandtrust.org



**ACROSS THE
FENCE POST...**

48 days left to contribute to the GRVLT's purchase of a conservation easement on the Murdock Double Bar E Ranch.

Thanks to those of you who have participated. If you would like to become a supporter, we've enclosed an envelope for your convenience.

We now have more than 90 gifts for the project that range from \$10.00 to \$400,000.00. Join the donors who recognize the importance of this key property!

We would like to welcome **Brian Espenscheid, Gordon Johnston** and **Patty Washburn** as new members of the GRVLT Board of Directors. We're very grateful for their willingness to serve.

We would like to welcome **David Carlin** to the GRVLT Advisory Board. David and his wife Lisa are GRVLT easement donors, and we look forward to his perspective and participation!

Between Fences—a Smithsonian traveling exhibit—will be at the Sublette County Library in Pinedale 9/22/07—11/10/07. Watch for an associated GRVLT event!