



## Featured Friend

# The Conservation Fund

### Permanent Conservation Supports Longevity For Both Ranchers and Birds

**T**he Conservation Fund plays a significant role in some of the largest landscape conservation projects for sage grouse. In partnership with the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI), the Fund works with private landowners and regional partners to implement easements that forever conserve native range, and protects the future for ranching families. In Wyoming, Idaho and Colorado, the Fund has protected over 100,000 acres of sage grouse habitat.

The Fund established the Wyoming Sage Grouse Conservation Campaign, which has conserved 15 properties totaling more than 58,500 acres. The Espenscheid Family's ranch in Wyoming's Green River Valley is one of those properties. This ranch's conservation easement permanently protects thousands of acres of crucial wintering range and migration corridors for pronghorn, mule deer, moose and elk as well as important sagebrush and wetland habitats for sage grouse, songbirds, shorebirds and numerous aquatic species. Their ranch is one of the oldest operating ranches held by one family in the area.



*Espenscheid Ranch. Photo: Mark Gocke.*

*“Wyoming hosts such a large proportion of the world’s sage grouse population, thanks in part to its working landscapes. I am thrilled to work with great partners like The Conservation Fund to conserve these working lands.”*

*~Bo Alley, Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust*



*A conservation easement permanently protects the natural resources of more than 10,000 acres across two homestead Wyoming ranches owned by the Espenscheid Family. Photo: Mark Gocke.*

## Meet The Conservation Fund

### About

The Conservation Fund is a national nonprofit organization that focuses on solutions that make environmental and economic sense. The Fund works with both the private and public sectors, from businesses and landowners to federal, state and local agencies. This organization puts on average 96 cents of every dollar raised into its mission, making it the leanest environmental organization in America.

### Role With Sage Grouse Initiative

The Conservation Fund has efficiently established easements that benefit sage grouse habitat, and is continuing to do so throughout the bird's range. Key funding for these easements are USDA Farm Bill programs, particularly the NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. SGI staff and partners work closely with the Fund to leverage and establish win-win solutions for both the bird and the herd.

### Contact

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