



LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund

Jorgensen Bar J Ranch Conservation



Description: Located in the heart of Sevier County, the Jorgensen Bar J Ranch holds the best representation of plant and animal communities located in the Utah High Plateaus region of Utah, and is a vital watershed for Lost creek. The conservation easement on the ranch will protect its natural values as well as the historic and traditional agricultural uses of the ranch.

Location: The property is located in the heart of Sevier County. It is accessed via the Gooseberry Road exit off I-70 about five miles east of Salina.

Acreage: 2,463 acres

Grant funding: \$700,000

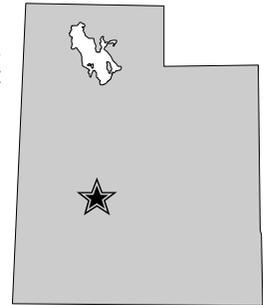
Total Project Cost: \$1,550,000

Grant Awarded: September 2000

Land Ownership: Private

Conservation Easement Held by: Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

Local Support: Rep. Bradley Johnson, Sevier County, Richfield City, Town of Redmond, Snow College



Public Benefits

Wildlife Habitat: The Jorgensen Bar J Ranch possesses some of the most pristine wildlife habitat in all of central Utah. It contains pristine high alpine forests, mature aspen stands, and healthy riparian systems. The Ranch provides winter and summer range for approximately 1,500 head of elk and 2,000 deer. Endangered Bonneville Cutthroat Trout are also found on the Ranch in Lost Creek.

Water Quality: As a watershed for surrounding communities including Richfield and Salina, the Bar J Ranch is critical for protecting central Utah's water quality.

Viewshed/Scenic Quality: Bar J Ranch possesses outstanding aesthetic qualities. It is surrounded by Fish Lake National Forest and due to its pristine condition and large size, it will help preserve Central Utah's scenic quality. In addition, the Ranch is directly visible from a planned scenic road connecting I-70 and Fish Lake.

Agricultural Land: Alfalfa is grown on the lower elevations of the Ranch and has been for many generations. The mid-elevations are used for grazing. These uses will continue on the Ranch.

Historical Significance: The Bar J Ranch has a number of historic buildings that date back to the late 1800s when cattle ranching was at its peak across the west.

Recreation: Bar J Ranch is part of the Division of Wildlife Resource's Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit program. A small number of elk are harvested from the Ranch each year.

To view other projects funded by the LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund, please visit our website: www.governor.state.ut.us/quality

For further information, contact: Mark Bedel (801) 538-1571 or email: mbedel@gov.state.ut.us