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FEATURED NEWS

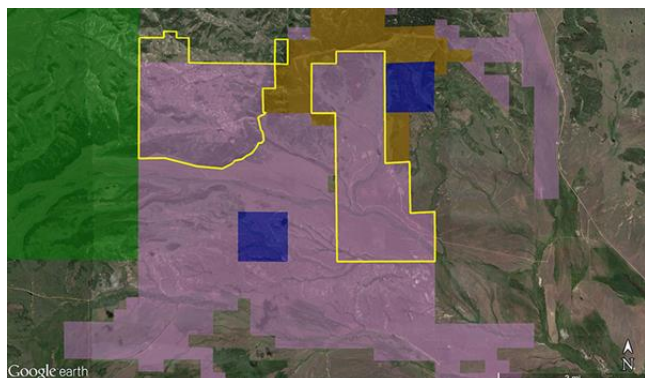
A Conservation Superstar



We deeply mourn the loss of our friend and colleague Luke Lynch, The Conservation Fund's Wyoming State Director, on May 17. Luke was skiing in the backcountry outside of Jackson Hole when an avalanche overwhelmed Luke and his companions. Two of the skiers survived; a third skier, Stephen Adamson, was critically injured and sadly, passed away on May 19.

"Luke was a superstar; with his family, in his community, and with The Conservation Fund. This is an unimaginable tragedy, almost beyond comprehension," said Larry Selzer, president of The Conservation Fund. "Everyone in the Fund family extends their sorrow and sympathy to Luke's wife Kathy, their three sons and his family."

22,000 Acres Protected in the Hoback



This is a map detailing the acreage placed under conservation easement through Lynch. The pink shading is land under easement with several landowners, which totals approximately 22,000 acres within and adjacent to the Rolling Thunder Ranch and the Rim Ranch, which are outlined in yellow. The landowners, Tim and Tina Delaney, worked with Luke to spearhead the process in placing the 3,239-acre Rolling Thunder Ranch under easement with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), and the 4,000-acre Rim

Ranch under easement with the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust (WSGLT). The Delaney's collaborated with Live Water and Broker Terry Fieseler on the purchase of both ranches. Rolling Thunder Ranch was purchased in July of 2010, and the Rim Ranch in December of 2012.

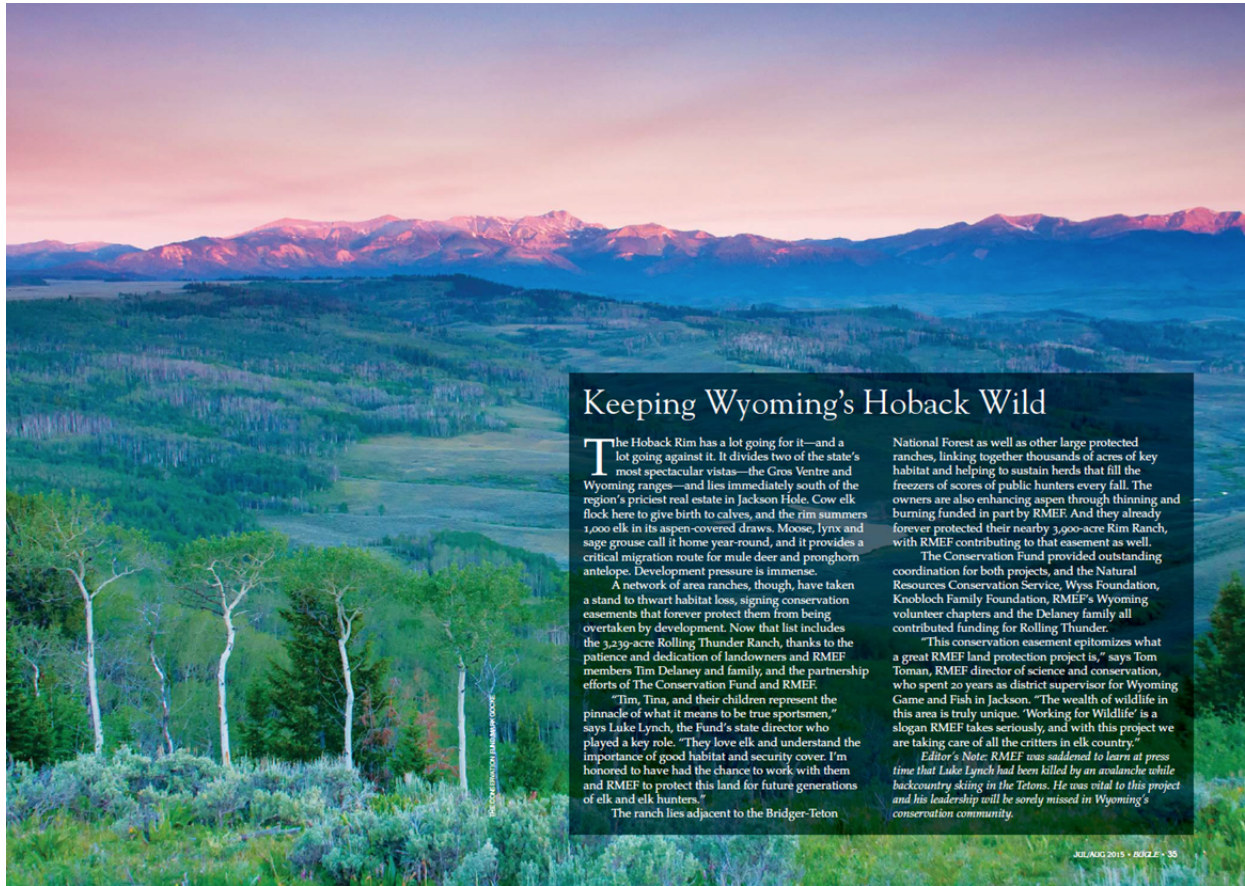
"Having the good fortune of recently completing two conservation easements with Luke, it was his incredible abundance of energy, enthusiasm and passion," recalls Tim Delaney. "Regardless if he was talking about protecting land in the Upper Hoback, discussing pronghorn migration routes or planning our next big game hunt, this passion allowed him to have such a profound impact on so many people, protect thousands of acres and preserve an important wildlife habitat in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Never one to give up, his ability to collaborate with all stakeholders and foster compromise was truly remarkable. He will be forever missed in the conservation community."

Broker Terry Fieseler said, "It was always a pleasure to spend time with Luke. It didn't matter if we were discussing possible easements on a ranch, having lunch in a hunting camp, or tracking down an antelope, Luke was always full of energy and had a smile on his face. He loved his family, being outdoors, the wildlife, protecting the land, and he loved Wyoming!"

The Fund's Chairman, Mike Leonard said, "He had a true passion for the outdoors and for protecting the land. He had energy and dedication and a willingness to work hard, and an irrepressible twinkle in his eye."

Luke opened the Wyoming Office of The Conservation Fund in 2006, focusing his efforts on conservation easement and private land acquisition in cooperation with a host of non-profit, state, and federal partners. He worked to conserve over 150,000 acres of land across Wyoming.

Protected Forever



Keeping Wyoming's Hoback Wild

The Hoback Rim has a lot going for it—and a lot going against it. It divides two of the state's most spectacular vistas—the Gros Ventre and Wyoming ranges—and lies immediately south of the region's priciest real estate in Jackson Hole. Cow elk flock here to give birth to calves, and the rim summers 1,000 elk in its aspen-covered draws. Moose, lynx and sage grouse call it home year-round, and it provides a critical migration route for mule deer and pronghorn antelope. Development pressure is immense.

A network of area ranches, though, have taken a stand to thwart habitat loss, signing conservation easements that forever protect them from being overtaken by development. Now that list includes the 3,239-acre Rolling Thunder Ranch, thanks to the patience and dedication of landowners and RMEF members Tim Delaney and family, and the partnership efforts of The Conservation Fund and RMEF.

"Tim, Tina, and their children represent the pinnacle of what it means to be true sportsmen," says Luke Lynch, the Fund's state director who played a key role. "They love elk and understand the importance of good habitat and security cover. I'm honored to have had the chance to work with them and RMEF to protect this land for future generations of elk and elk hunters."

The ranch lies adjacent to the Bridger-Teton

National Forest as well as other large protected ranches, linking together thousands of acres of key habitat and helping to sustain herds that fill the freezers of scores of public hunters every fall. The owners are also enhancing aspen through thinning and burning funded in part by RMEF. And they already forever protected their nearby 3,900-acre Rim Ranch, with RMEF contributing to that easement as well.

The Conservation Fund provided outstanding coordination for both projects, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wyss Foundation, Knobloch Family Foundation, RMEF's Wyoming volunteer chapters and the Delaney family all contributed funding for Rolling Thunder.

"This conservation easement epitomizes what a great RMEF land protection project is," says Tom Toman, RMEF director of science and conservation, who spent 20 years as district supervisor for Wyoming Game and Fish in Jackson. "The wealth of wildlife in this area is truly unique. 'Working for Wildlife' is a slogan RMEF takes seriously, and with this project we are taking care of all the critters in elk country."

Editor's Note: RMEF was saddened to learn at press time that Luke Lynch had been killed by an avalanche while backcountry skiing in the Tetons. He was vital to this project and his leadership will be sorely missed in Wyoming's conservation community.

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This is an excerpt from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's magazine *Bugle*, July/August 2015 issue. "Tim, Tina, and their children represent the pinnacle of what it means to be true sportsmen," says Luke Lynch, the Fund's state director who played a key role. "They love elk and understand the importance of good habitat and security cover. I'm honored to have had the chance to work with them and RMEF to protect this land for future generations of elk and elk hunters."

At Live Water Properties, we are honored to have worked with Luke on several conservation projects and will sadly miss him personally and professionally. Luke Lynch will be with us forever...as he leaves behind a proud land preservation legacy.



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