ROCK CREEK RANCH

a sustainable rangeland research and education facility in the heart of Idaho where ranching, recreation and conservation intersect.

THE RANCH.

Rock Creek Ranch is located near Bellevue, Idaho. It encompasses nearly the entire Rock Creek watershed, a northern tributary of Magic Reservoir: 10,400 acres of private land adjacent to an additional 11,000 acres of public land, with grazing leases held by the ranch. The watershed has supported ranching families who have lived and worked on Idaho’s rangelands for over a hundred years. It is also home to a rich abundance of wildlife, including sage-grouse, pronghorn, swans, elk, moose, pygmy rabbits, bear, eagles and other raptors, beaver, and song birds.

THE VISION.

In the 1980s Rock Creek private lands were consolidated under the sole ownership of the Rinker Family, who wished to preserve the land so that future generations would be able to realize its ranching, wildlife, recreation, and habitat conservation value. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Wood River Land Trust (WRLT) acquired Rock Creek in 2014, and the University of Idaho (UI) joined the effort as a third partner to expand educational value by adding research, education, and public outreach components to the project. In 2016, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established a collaborative approach to landscape-scale conservation and ranching practices. While providing for public access and recreation, Rock Creek will serve as an outdoor laboratory for conserving fish and wildlife habitat, enhancing livestock production, and conducting scientific research to increase awareness of and develop solutions to issues critical to Idaho’s rangelands.
Learn more about Rock Creek Ranch on these websites: University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources-Rangeland Center, The Nature Conservancy- Idaho, and Wood River Land Trust