

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.

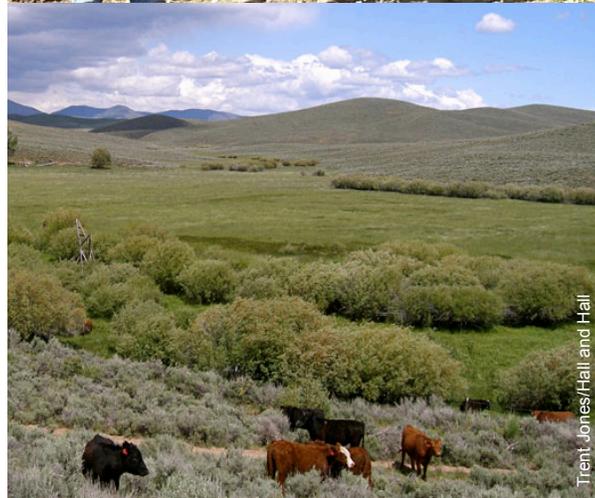
In the 1980s Rock Creek private lands were consolidated under the sole ownership of the Rinker Family, who wished to preserve the land so that future generations would be able to realize its ranching, wildlife, recreation, and habitat conservation value. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Wood River Land 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.



Lisa Elbert/TNC



John Finnell



Trent Jones/Hall and Hall

partners

University of Idaho



ROCK CREEK RANCH

THE FUTURE.

Rock Creek has an eye on Idaho's future. Collaborative learning on Idaho's iconic rangelands will include on-the-ground applied research on the diverse issues that face rangelands today, to provide solutions for tomorrow. Stream and riparian area restoration projects have begun, water quality enhancements have begun, cattle are grazing the property, vegetation and fire studies are in progress, and land is open for outdoor enthusiasts.

This outdoor laboratory will provide valuable insight into how to conserve rangelands, improve economic return, enhance wildlife habitat, and sustainably meet the needs of diverse users. The research will be applied to advance the quality of life on the land, leading to new approaches for resource conservation, land management practices, public policy, and collaborative relationships. Students will be able to learn about "real world" natural resource and livestock industry issues on this working ranch. Outdoor education courses for older students will instill critical thinking and teach valuable skills such as scientific inquiry, oral communication, and teamwork. "Learning by doing" will arouse creative connections with the outdoors for youth, especially when families from local communities experience rangelands in exciting and innovative ways, such as at Rock Creek's Sagebrush Saturday events.

AND YOU.

Explore learning at Rock Creek! Lend your hands to volunteer opportunities, and your dollars if you are able, which will make a lasting impact on Idaho's rangelands and those who live, work, and recreate in those open spaces.

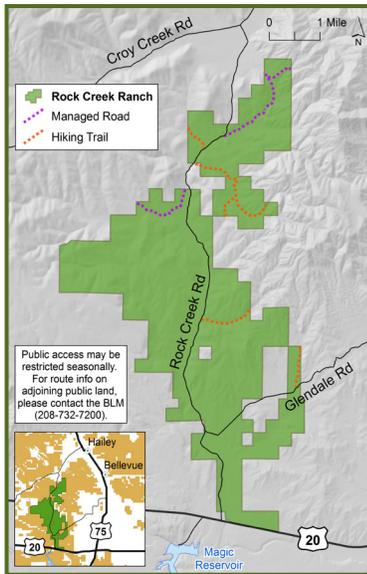


John Finnell



US Fish and Wildlife Service

John Finnell



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](#)