

Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

Project Completion Report

FY 2007

Gallatin National Forest
Royal Teton Ranch (RTR) Geothermal/Hydrothermal Conservation Easement
Project Description: As one component of the RTR Land Conservation Project (1999) involving the Church Universal and Triumphant, Inc. (Church), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and Forest Service, the Church agreed to grant a permanent Conservation Easement (CE) to prohibit development of geothermal and hydrothermal resources on its private lands.
GYCC Funding Received: \$4,000 Partner Funding/In-Kind Received: During the past seven years, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Church both contributed substantial time and resources (staff and legal assistance) to help complete this conservation easement and other elements of the RTR project.
Status of the Project: In FY 2007 (November 20, 2006), the Church granted the Geothermal Conservation Easement to RMEF, and RMEF assigned it to the United States. The CE provides for permanent protection of geothermal and hydrothermal resources on all RTR lands, except for the rights held by the Church to use the surface water at LaDuke Springs. The Church will cap and seal its geothermal well in 2008. The Forest Service administers this CE with RMEF.
Products that can be shared across the GYA: (GIS data layers, maps, new protocols and methods) This geothermal conservation easement may serve as a useful model to other units across the GYA, to protect threatened geothermal resources on private lands. For more information, or for copies of the RTR easement, please contact the Gallatin NF, SO Lands.
Project results: (Information worth sharing on methods, results, partnerships, etc) This unique Geothermal Conservation Easement will help protect forever the geothermal and hydrothermal resources of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem by prohibiting the development and exploitation of those resources underlying the Royal Teton Ranch lands. Development of the geothermal/hydrothermal resources on private lands could adversely impact the resources of Yellowstone National Park and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Key factors in successfully completing this complex project were: (1) the strong working relationship established with the landowner (2) the shared goal of protecting geothermal resources, (3) the partnership with RMEF and (4) the persistence and dedication by all involved.
Project contacts: Bob Dennee, Lands Staff, 406-587-6914, rdennee@fs.fed.us Ken Britton, Gardiner District Ranger, 406- 848-7375, kbritton@fs.fed.us .
Report Date: January 31, 2008
Submit to Virginia Kelly: vkelly@fs.fed.us 406-587-6704. Contact Virginia with questions.

Note: You may expand and reduce size of blocks.