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(Wyo)-Easment To Preserve Ranch Where Last Black-Footed Ferrets Were Found

By: John Axtell Posted at: 08/09/2019 10:50 PM

MEETEETSE, Wyo. (AP) - The ranch in northern Wyoming where black-footed ferrets were discovered in the 1980s when the species was thought to be extinct is being preserved.

The Nature Conservancy has reached a conservation easement agreement with the owners of the 2,300-acre Lazy BV Ranch near Meeteetse that will keep it from being subdivided or developed.

Jim Luchsinger of The Nature Conservancy tells Wyoming Public Radio that it had been a dream of the ranch owners to protect the ranch and bring ferrets back. The protected land is also home to greater sage-grouse, mule deer, antelope and Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

The black-footed ferrets found on the Lazy BV Ranch and other nearby land in 1981 were used to start a captive-breeding program that has restored the species in Wyoming, South Dakota and other western states.