



Name: **North Rim of the Grand Canyon**
Location: **Greater Grand Canyon Region, Arizona**
Grantee: **The Conservation Fund**

The Greater Grand Canyon is a region of high forested plateaus, deep redrock canyons, spectacular vistas, and an enormous diversity of wildlife habitat and cultural resources. To help maintain the ecological and scenic integrity of this magnificent landscape, The Conservation Fund, with support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Wal-Mart, will purchase two private ranches, totaling 1,200 acres, on the north side of the Grand Canyon. The Fund and its local partner, the Grand Canyon Trust, will then work with the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and other government agencies and stakeholders to ensure ecologically appropriate management of 850,000 acres of public land grazing allotments associated with the ranches.

The two ranches lie in the heart of a vast system of conservation lands. Their grazing allotments, which share a 100-mile boundary with Grand Canyon National Park, stretch from Marble Canyon and the Paria River on the east to Kanab Creek on the west, and from the Grand Canyon on the south to Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument on the north. They encompass most of the Kaibab Plateau, which is home to the largest stands of old growth ponderosa pines and the largest population of imperiled northern goshawk in the Southwest, and the world's only population of the endemic Kaibab squirrel. North Canyon, which cuts across the Saddle Mountain Wilderness and drops to the Colorado River, has the purest remaining strain of endangered Apache trout. The Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, also included within the grazing allotments associated with the ranches, is the center of reintroduction efforts for the endangered California condor in Arizona.



Acquisition of the ranches by The Conservation Fund will prevent their fragmentation for commercial development and will place them in the hands of owners whose first priority is maintaining the health of the land, the water, and the wildlife. The ranches will be managed as an important ecological link tying together three national monuments, five wilderness areas, two national recreation areas, and the Grand Canyon National Park.

Livestock grazing is a longstanding historic use of the area, and the new owners will work cooperatively with federal land managers and local citizens to ensure that grazing is managed so

that the scenic and ecological integrity of these extraordinary lands can be restored and maintained.

Project partners include the Grand Canyon Trust, the U.S. Forest Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Bureau of Land Management.

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“The project that we are completing in Arizona is one of the largest and most significant projects in the history of the modern conservation movement. Almost a million acres in Arizona representing a hundred mile border with the Grand Canyon, this project represents an outstanding opportunity to integrate economic and environmental objectives by protecting a working ranch and restoring significant dessert and ponderosa pine habitat.”

Larry Selzer, President of The Conservation Fund

ABOUT THE CONSERVATION FUND

The Conservation Fund forges partnerships to preserve our nation's outdoor heritage -- America's legacy of wildlife habitat, working landscapes and community open-space. Pioneering a unique brand of conservation driven by Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Environmental and Economic Balance, the Fund produces unsurpassed results. Since 1985, The Conservation Fund, through its partnership-driven approach, has protected more than 4 million acres of America's outdoor heritage -- leading other organizations in leverage and effectiveness.

“The Grand Canyon Trust congratulates The Conservation Fund on the successful completion of its acquisition efforts for these ranches. We look forward to fulfilling our end of the bargain by working with the federal agencies and applying the best available science to restore these lands to their original ecological integrity and preserve their beauty for future generations.”

Bill Hedden, Executive Director of the Grand Canyon Trust

ABOUT THE GRAND CANYON TRUST

The mission of the Grand Canyon Trust is to protect and restore the Colorado Plateau – its spectacular landscapes, flowing rivers, clean air, diversity of plants and animals, and areas of beauty and solitude.

