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The mission of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust is to help Colorado's ranchers and farmers protect their agricultural lands and encourage continuing agricultural production for the benefit of themselves, their families and all of Colorado's citizens.

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Cattlemen's Land Trust Protects North Park Ranch

The Iva Mae Michigan River Ranch represents one of the first private land conservation opportunities with a traditional ranch family in North Park, the last intact mountain ranching community in Colorado. Conservation partners Great Outdoors Colorado, Keep It Colorado, the Gates Family Foundation and Arrow Electronics, Inc. teamed up to protect the ranch in September. The Iva Mae Ranch, owned by the Holsinger family for more than 80 years, contains significant productive agricultural land, water rights, more than a mile of the Michigan River, and provides a natural buffer to the neighboring Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge.

The ranch is one of the few properties in North Park with unobstructed 360-degree views of the Medicine Bow mountains, including the Rawah Wilderness to the East. The willow lined Michigan River attracts abundant wildlife including Colorado's largest moose herd. Mule deer, white-tailed deer and elk are dependent upon the habitat on the ranch for winter range.



Iva Mae Ranch

"North Park is exceptional with its distinctive and irreplaceable working landscape and the Iva Mae Ranch is an important part of that landscape, said Bill Fales, President of the CCALT Board of Directors. "Following the lead of the local ranchers, there is a great opportunity to preserve the agricultural productivity and heritage of Jackson County. We hope that this is the first of many conservation projects in North Park."

The primary threat to the Iva Mae Ranch was subdivision and the conversion of the property to residential or second home development. The Michigan River which runs through the ranch will continue to serve the needs of the ranchers and towns by providing important riparian habitat.

The Holsingers have been intrigued by conservation easements for years. They believe that it is a way for them to protect not only their land, but the ranching way of life. "That's why we deal with CCALT...because they understand agriculture and ranches. The Colorado Cattlemen's Association has been around for over 140 years and has always been an organization you can trust," said Debbie Holsinger.

A Unique Land Trust

We are often asked what makes CCALT different from other land trusts. Why should donors and landowners choose to support our land trust? The answer is simple: The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust was created with the primary interests of the landowner in mind. It is a land trust of landowners, by landowners, and for landowners.

CCALT was formed in 1995 by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) to help Colorado's ranchers and farmers protect their agricultural lands and encourage the continuation of agricultural production for the benefit of themselves, their families and all of Colorado's citizens. The CCA was the first state livestock association in the nation to form a land trust.

More than 30 land trusts operate in Colorado. Until CCALT's founding, none of the land trusts exclusively served the needs of the agricultural community. The land trust partners in protection with willing landowners on productive agricultural acres across the state. Our land trust is different because we do not solicit landowners. If landowners have an interest in protecting their property, they initiate contact with us. CCALT's primary emphasis is to increase awareness among

farmers and ranchers about the use of easements. Staff will travel across the state to speak at local livestock associations, and community group meetings. We also hold several regional workshops for interested landowners and training for industry professionals.

CCALT has protected almost 300,000 acres of land across the state for future generations. Please choose CCALT for future support and help us to further our mission.



Saguache Creek Flows Through the Flying X Ranch in Saguache County

CCALT Wish List

GPS Vehicle System
Fireproof Filing Cabinet
Natural Resource Reference Library

Gas Cards
Cell Phone
Lightly Used Pickup/SUV

Meet Erik Glenn



**CCALT Project Manager
Erik Glenn**

Erik started working with CCALT in September of 2008. Prior to joining the CCALT staff, Erik worked for the Colorado State University Alumni Association. Erik attended CSU where he got his degree in Natural Resource Management.

While a student at CSU, Erik served as Student Body Vice President and was active in his fraternity. He earned a Masters of Resource Law Studies from the University of Denver Sturm School of Law in the spring of 2006. Erik's graduate work at DU focused on water and energy policy.

Erik has a strong connection to Colorado and agriculture. Family members pioneered in Colorado and settled in the Arkansas River valley near Salida. His parents, along with his grandfather, operate a 300 acre dryland farming operation in southern Nebraska where the primary crops are wheat, beans, and corn. Erik grew up in Wyoming and has family in Chaffee County. He will assist in project development, writing Baseline Inventory Reports, draft easements and project grants.

Have you Donated Yet?

The success of our organization depends on our donors. Have you made your annual donation? Please take time to fill out the enclosed envelope, or visit our website at www.ccalt.org to make an online donation. We would like to thank everyone who has supported our organization this year. We couldn't do our work without your help! Please don't forget to consider us in your estate planning as well.

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Farm Bill Incentives for Colorado Landowners

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) has been working on the protection of our agricultural lands since 1995. Our most valuable tool has been conservation easements on working ranchlands. Demand for funding for the purchase of conservation easements has always been much greater than we can accommodate so we are always looking for sources of funds for our landowners.



Recently, the new Farm Bill passed by Congress has extended important federal conservation easement tax incentives for ranchers for two more years. Two easement purchase programs were also reauthorized and improved. CCALT worked alongside CCA, NCBA and national conservation groups for many of these improvements, which will help safeguard our ranching heritage. We wish to extend a thank you to Representatives John Salazar and Marilyn Musgrave as well for their work. We have summarized the increased deductions for conservation easements as well as the improvements to easement programs below.

Increased Deductions for Conservation Easements

The 2008 Farm Bill raises the tax deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation easement from 30 percent of his or her adjusted gross income to 50 percent. Additionally, it allows qualified ranchers who receive more than 50 percent of his or her income from ranching to deduct 100 percent of their adjusted gross income. This provision also applies to ranchers who are organized as C corporations. For an easement to qualify for this provision, it must include language restricting the land use to "available for agriculture." As further incentive, the

remaining tax deduction value may be carried forward for a period of 15 years to more fully realize the tax benefits. This is a significant increase from the previous allotment of 5 years. The incentive currently applies only to easements donated between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2009. We are working towards making this incentive permanent.

Improvements to Easement Programs

In addition to the increased tax incentives, legislative changes have been made to the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program. Among the main changes is the program purpose, moving from a focus on topsoil to restricting nonagricultural uses on qualified land. There are now provisions for forest land, land that contributes to the success of an agricultural operation, or land that serves as a buffer to development. A key change in the bill is that the USDA is not acquiring a federal property interest. This means that the USDA will be a funder, not a co-holder of these easements. Additionally, the legislation allows land trusts to use their own easement terms and conditions, as long as they meet the guidelines of the program. A substantial increase in funding for the program is scheduled as well.

The Farm Bill also improved the Grassland Reserve Program, a voluntary program for landowners and operators to protect, restore, and enhance rangeland. This program directly applies to much of eastern Colorado's prairie as well as sagebrush and grassland areas of the Western Slope. Easements may now be acquired by land trusts that are committed to conserving ranchland, agricultural land, or grassland for grazing and conservation purposes.

CCALT is committed to providing ranchers with the information they need to make an educated decision about conservation easements. Please visit our website at www.ccalt.org for more information.



Sunset BBQ on the Rocks a Success!

Bill and Joanne Sinclair hosted CCALT's 2008 Summer BBQ at the Rocks on Saturday, July 12th. The BBQ took place at one of Colorado's oldest ranches, the Sinclair-Brooks Ranch in Sedalia. The BBQ and auction benefited the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust and over 120 guests attended.

The Sinclair-Brooks Ranch is one of the most scenic, privately owned properties on the Front Range. Joanne and Bill reside on the original 1860 homestead site of the T Ranch. Their



Joanne and Bill Sinclair



Joanne and Bill Sinclair

daughter, co-host Catherine Sinclair Brooks, owns the land beneath the spectacular red rocks where the event was held. It has been protected by a conservation easement held by CCALT since 1998.

A strong supporter of protecting endangered ranch and farm lands, Joanne Sinclair said "We must come forward to preserve a way of life and maintain open space on the Front Range and in our whole state." The Sunset BBQ on the Rocks helped CCALT to support this goal.

Photographs from the event can be seen at www.ccalt.org.