

Rally for the Range

Protecting the lands, livelihoods, and legacy of Colo-

Colorado Cattlemen's
Agricultural Land Trust



The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) works to permanently protect Colorado's ranch and farm lands, primarily using an incentive-based tool, the conservation easement. Conservation easements allow the land to be available for agricultural uses and protect the values that we all treasure, including some of our state's most impressive scenic vistas and important wildlife habitat. CCALT is unique as it was created by and for agricultural producers while its benefits are enjoyed by all of Colorado's citizens and our many visitors.

2006 Achievements

The pace of CCALT's conservation work across Colorado continues to increase as more and more landowners use conservation easements to protect their productive agricultural lands. In 2006 alone, CCALT will protect 30,000 acres statewide, bringing our total acreage protected to nearly 250,000 acres in almost 30 counties. This represents an area greater than the entire Colorado State Parks system! The following accomplishments would not have been possible without the generous financial support of all of our individual contributors!



Saguache Creek, Saguache County, San Luis Valley. CCALT and a group of longtime ranchers are working to ensure the protection of a beautiful 30-mile stretch of rangeland along Saguache Creek. The Saguache Creek Corridor is remarkably undeveloped and is part of the longest undeveloped stretch of highway in western Colorado. In 2006, CCALT completed three transactions in this area, adding 2,000 acres to the total of 10,000 protected acres. CCALT received the Starburst Conservation Award from the Colorado Lottery for our work along Saguache Creek which has received significant lottery funding from Great Outdoors Colorado. Four more ranches are already slated for protection in 2007.



Spanish Peaks to Shortgrass Prairie, Huerfano and Las Animas Counties The late Sam Capps triggered a wave of conservation when he protected his 28,000-acre ranch with CCALT five years ago. Over the past three years, more than a dozen of his neighbors have partnered with CCALT and protected a total of 65,000 acres with 16 conservation easements. This area runs from the ponderosa-pine covered slopes of East Spanish Peak, across Interstate 25 and into the most extensive shortgrass prairie in North America. CCALT has many more landowners interested in working with us in 2007. We expect this area will be one of our greatest conservation success stories.

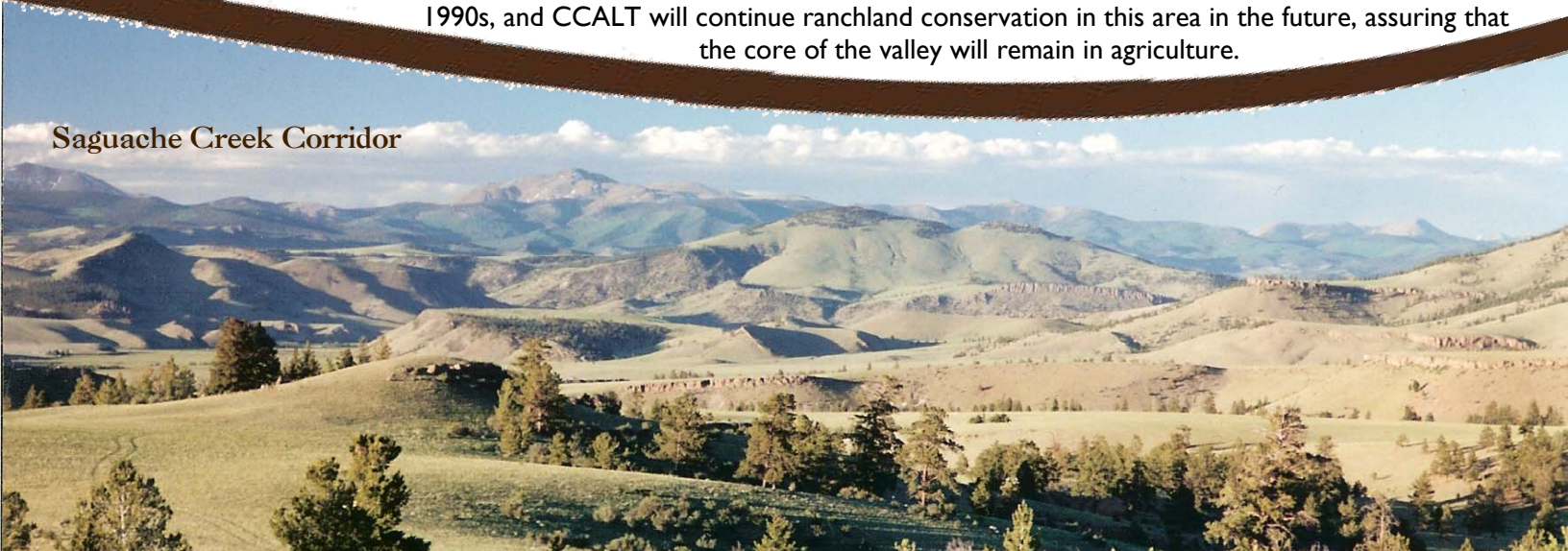


San Miguel County. Continuing its partnership with long time ranchers and an innovative local purchase of development rights program, CCALT added to the existing protection of ranches in the central part of the county by protecting an additional 820 acres on Hamilton Mesa. This program offers traditional landowners an alternative to selling out in the face of high land values driven by the nearby resort area of Telluride.



Upper Elk River Valley, Routt County. More than a century ago, hardy pioneers arrived in this valley and made a living through cattle and sheep ranching along with timber harvesting and mining. Today, recreation and tourism are the mainstays of the local economy—now located on the doorstep of Steamboat Springs resort community. Ranching continues to play a role in the community, due in large part to a new set of pioneers. These modern day ranchers were among the first to embrace easements as an option to protect their land and livelihoods. This effort included a rancher named Jay Fetcher, who went on to found CCALT based on his experience in looking for a conservation group that could understand both land conservation and agriculture. Eight ranches have been protected since the mid-1990s, and CCALT will continue rangeland conservation in this area in the future, assuring that the core of the valley will remain in agriculture.

Saguache Creek Corridor



Why CCALT and why now?



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Colorado's beauty and climate are both a boon and a curse. We are growing rapidly and currently rank third in the nation for the amount of agricultural land lost. More than 1 million acres have been converted to other uses since 1997—the equivalent of a 2,500-acre ranch each week. This growth, coupled with rising estate taxes and land prices, presents significant challenges to agricultural producers wanting to remain in production and pass the land on to the next generation and has serious repercussions for Colorado's landscapes and natural resources.

What is at stake? Farmers and ranchers own and steward more than 80% of the private land in Colorado. In addition to food production, these lands contribute wildlife habitat and scenic open space.

The future of Colorado's landscapes will be determined in part by the options available to landowners. CCALT and conservation easements offer an alternative to selling out and losing the land forever. We are the only land trust in Colorado that exclusively serves farmers and ranchers – placing us in a unique position to serve their needs and protect their land. Conservation easements' appeal has increased with the recent expansion of tax incentives at the federal and state level. The incentives are making conservation more accessible and feasible for a broader spectrum of landowners. Consequently, demand for our services is skyrocketing. By the end of 2007, CCALT expects to have about 300,000 acres of farm and ranch land protected. We will complete more than 30 projects in 2006 – and we already have 30 more in the works and slated to close in 2007. To meet this demand, CCALT must have the staff and other resources secured.

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CCALT's efforts are focused on being able to meet these unprecedented opportunities. We are looking to individuals, businesses and others to step up and contribute to CCALT. These funds will be matched with foundation funds, public funding programs and landowner contributions as part of this \$1,000,000 effort. Individual donors represent the critical component to seeing our vision for Colorado's agricultural landscapes become a reality.

The next few years will dictate what Colorado looks like a generation from now. We are asking you to invest in our efforts to protect Colorado today for tomorrow. Please help us sustain working farms and ranches and their resources and rich heritage.



Investment Levels:

Colorado Pioneer:	\$10,000 +	Team Roper	\$1,000 - \$2,500
Rancher	\$5,000 - \$10,000	Range Rider	\$500 - \$1,000
Homesteader	\$2,500 - \$5,000	Wrangler	\$100 - \$500

