

2007

Colorado Cattlemen's  
Agricultural Land Trust



# Annual Report





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*Photographs on the front and back cover are of Piney Peak Ranch.*

Colorado Cattlemen's  
Agricultural Land Trust



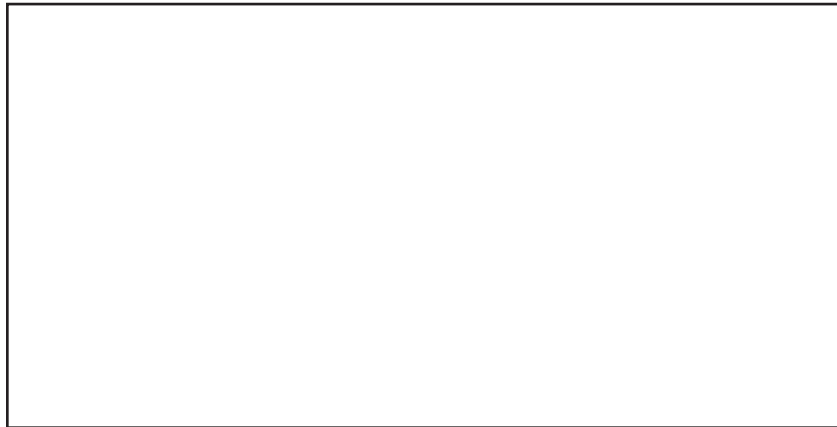
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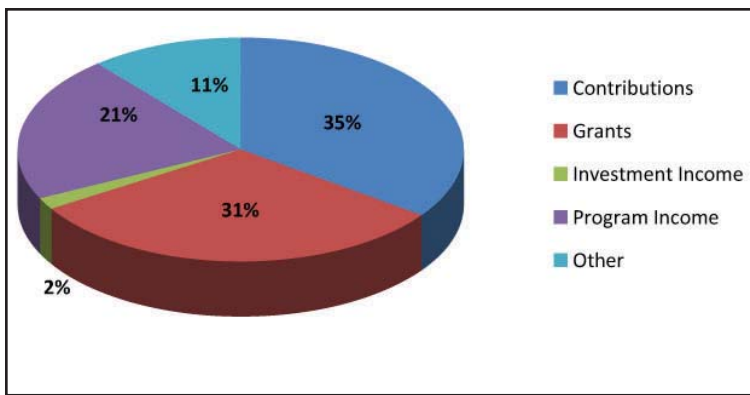
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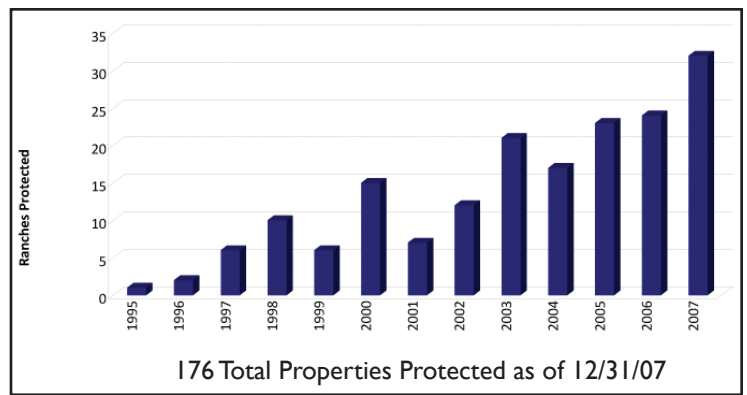
# 2007 Financial Overview

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust takes pride in our 13-year record of fiscal responsibility and organizational growth. In 2007, CCALT accepted conservation easements valued at \$41,230,690. CCALT was able to raise funding for \$4,345,391 in easement value and landowners donated an astounding \$36,885,299. CCALT established the dedicated Conservation Easement Stewardship Fund to provide for the long-term monitoring and enforcement of our conservation easements. As of December 31, 2007 the fund balance was \$1,517,261.

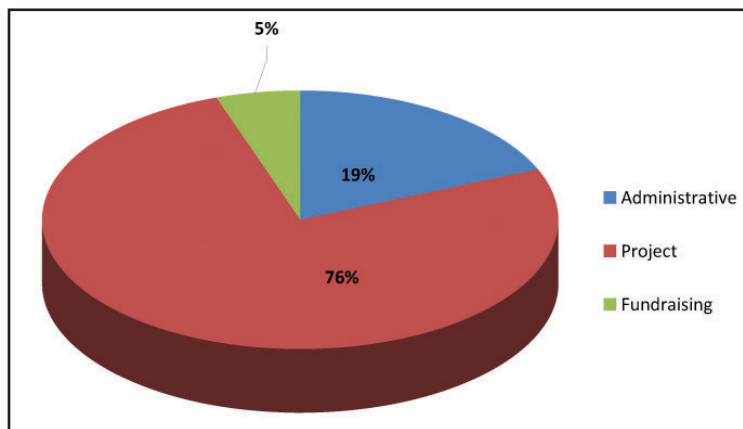
## Operating Revenue



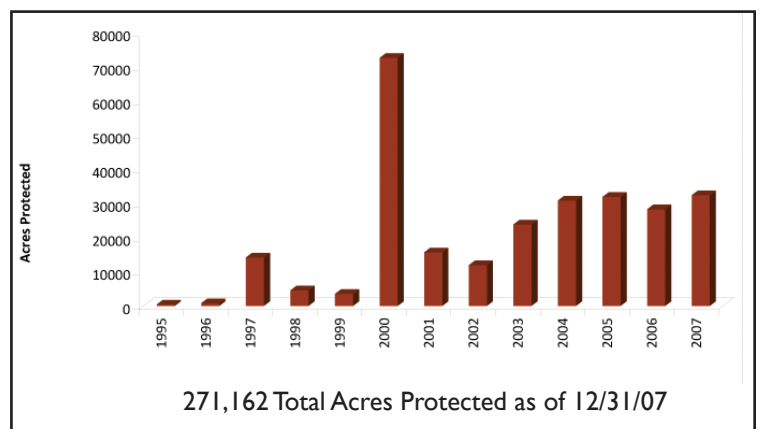
## Ranches Protected



## Operating Expenses



## Acres Protected





Dear Friends,

When the membership of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association formed the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), it was certainly a unique idea and many wondered why ranchers were getting into the conservation easement business. We thought that CCALT would be of service to a few ranchers and farmers every year. A dozen years later, no one could have envisioned the impact and success of this unique land trust.

While we are proud of the more than 285,000 acres of land in conservation easements and the nearly 180 ranches and farms protected by CCALT, we are very encouraged by the marked shift in attitude from environmental groups and everyday citizens who increasingly realize the benefits of agriculture on Colorado's landscapes. We are now working together to protect these lands for future generations. Increasing numbers of farmers and ranchers are embracing the conservation easement tool and CCALT continues to enjoy our role as a key player in the protection of Colorado's working landscapes. We encourage you to look through this report and read more about our successes in 2007.

In 2007, CCALT was proud to partner with landowners in the protection of more than 32,000 acres of productive farm and rangeland across the state. This included ground-breaking conservation work in places like Chaffee County, along the Rio Grande River and in a study of the astounding biological resources found on working ranches in Southeast Colorado. We are proud to continue our relationships with funders including Great Outdoors Colorado, Colorado Conservation Trust, U.S. Department of Agriculture and several local county open space programs as well as corporate donors including EnCana Oil and Gas and Arrow Electronics.

The past year also presented some major challenges, including the U.S. Army's plans to expand the Pinon Canyon Maneuvers Site by condemning multi-generational ranches. Also, the news of a few cases of abuse of Colorado's innovative conservation easement tax credit program by a few bad actors came to light in 2007, putting a cloud on this important financial incentive. CCALT is addressing these challenges head on to ensure that Colorado's landowners have the best incentives in the country to protect their properties. In the last legislative session, CCALT played a key role in a new state law that increases the oversight and accountability of the program, ensuring the integrity and legitimacy of future easement transactions.

As we write this in the summer of 2008, CCALT has already protected four ranches covering over 15,000 acres. In the next few months, we should complete the protection of more than 30 more ranches covering more than 25,000 acres. Looking forward, we are encouraged by new conservation initiatives in northwest Colorado, including North Park, the Upper Elk River, the Little Snake River and the White River Valleys as well as our ongoing efforts along Saguache Creek, in the Wet Mountain Valley and on the shortgrass prairies of the eastern plains.



Landowners are the reason we are here, to preserve not only their lands, but their heritage and the lifeblood of our rural communities. Our success is not possible without the devotion of the ranching families that we have the honor of working with every day. The dedication of the CCALT Board of Directors and the professional expertise of our energetic staff allow us to protect more land than most organizations of our size and modest operating budget. Finally, those who support CCALT make all of our success possible. Thank you for joining us in protecting Colorado's agricultural lands.

*William S. Fales*

Bill Fales  
Board President

*Chris West*

Chris West  
Executive Director

# Successes and Highlights

Rural communities and agriculture are the heart of our country. Without landowners we would not have what many of us take for granted. Food on our table, clothes on our back, and beautiful vistas and mountain valleys are all things that the agricultural community provides the general public. The CCALT Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank all of those landowners who have placed conservation easements on their land, protecting their farms and ranches for future generations. CCALT protected 32 ranches and added acreage to 11 existing conservation easements totalling over 32,000 acres in 2007.

## ***Largest Acreage Protected in 2007***

The Lindner Family's Piney Peak Ranch is tucked into the spectacular Sheephorn Creek Valley in Colorado's central mountains. It is the first ranch that we have protected in Eagle County and was the largest conservation easement accepted by CCALT in 2007. In August 2008, the family completed an additional easement on over 1,000 acres of neighboring land.



Post Office Ranch

## ***Southeast Biological Inventory***

Ranchers, researchers, and the land trust banded together in southeastern Colorado to conduct an inventory of the animals, plants, and habitats in this unique corner of the state. The area is home to the largest intact working shortgrass prairie landscape in North America. The results of the study provided both sound scientific information and a strong case for maintaining the area in private land ownership and not as a military installation. The results also proved the need for more research. Phase II of the inventory is set to begin in the Fall of 2008.



Biological Inventory at JE Canyon Ranch

## ***A Continuing Partnership with Great Outdoors Colorado***

CCALT receives funding from a wide variety of sources to purchase conservation easements on select properties. One of our most important funders is Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) which distributes some of the proceeds from the Colorado Lottery for open space projects. GOCO's ongoing commitment to agricultural lands is impressive. In 2007 alone, CCALT and GOCO partnered on ten projects including the protection of four ranches in the Saguache Creek Corridor, the Post Office Ranch in Chaffee County, the Southeast Colorado Biological Inventory, the Jerome Park Ranch in conjunction with Pitkin County, as well as projects in Archuleta, Gunnison and San Miguel Counties. One of the projects in the Saguache area that received GOCO support was the Sutherland Ranch. Owned by Virginia and Lynn Sutherland, this mother/daughter team has made this historic working cattle ranch a success. The ranch stretches over a mile along Cross Creek where the rare Rio Grande cutthroat trout resides in harmony with traditional agricultural uses.

# 2007 Donors

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust would like to express our sincere thanks to those individuals, businesses, and organizations that have partnered in CCALT's unique vision. **We particularly want to thank the 43 landowners who contributed easements in 2007.**

## Colorado Pioneer \$10,000 +

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*in honor of Jay Fetcher*

## Rancher \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Kenny Rogers  
Steamboat Ski Company

Please accept our sincere apologies for any unintentional mistakes or names that have been omitted.

We have listed only donations that were received in our office by 12/31/2007. Any year-end donations that arrived in January will be listed in our 2008 report.