



Stan Galley with his father, John (Buck), and his three children on the Galley Ranch.

Multi Generation Ranch near National Forest Conserved

Project completes local ranching family's conservation goals

Nucla, Colorado. – Stan and Misty Galley are no new-comers to conservation. They recently conserved a third phase and 684 additional acres of their ranch near Nucla, Colorado. This conservation represents the capstone to their 1,160 acre family legacy of conserved ranchland in the area. The Galley family first started partnering with the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) to protect their land in 2012, and this recent project was made possible with support from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Perhaps what makes the Galley Ranch so unusual is its location and proximity to the Uncompahgre National Forest. The ranch's irrigated hay meadows, sagebrush pastures, shrubland, and ponderosa pine forests are surrounded almost entirely by public land. The ranch itself can be hard to access, but the views are worth the drive. Travelers headed west from Montrose on Highway 90 parallel the property and are offered breathtaking views of the ranch as the dirt road descends from the ridgeline into the valley. Today, the Galley family uses the property to raise hay and cattle, and their current management of the ranch fits nicely with the surrounding public land managed by the Norwood District of the United States Forest Service.

If spectacular views of the San Juan Mountains and the La Salle Mountain Range are the backdrop to the Galley Ranch, Stan and Misty's three children are the main act. Lantry (age 9), Locklyn (age 5), and Loudyn (age 3) are the fourth generation of Galleys to be involved in the ranching operation. This next generation is never far behind their grandpa Buck (92) and their dad and mom, moving cows or fixing fence.

“Conserving our ranch allows our family to continue a way of life that has been passed down to me and that I am now passing down to my children. A conservation easement also means knowing that this land will stay in agriculture and remain the same way it has been since my dad and grandparents first purchased the property almost 75 years ago,” said Stan Galley.

Each piece of conserved ground tells its own story and offers its own benefits to Colorado, but this piece of secluded property is unlike most. The Galley Ranch represents the West in its truest form: private land coexisting with public land in an ocean of open space. The picturesque property is a sanctuary for local wildlife, iconic western views, and Colorado's longstanding ranching culture. Conservation of the Galley Ranch will ensure that those values and this unique ranch and family will remain intact into the future.

"GOCO is a proud contributor to this land conservation effort, made possible by our partners at CCALT and of course by the Galley family who have the vision and generosity to help protect our state's wildlife, scenic views, and way of life into the future," said GOCO Executive Director Chris Castilian.

"Over the past decade, more than 100,000 acres of prime farm and ranch lands have been protected across Colorado through NRCS easement programs", said Tim Macklin, Acting NRCS State Conservationist in Colorado. "The Galley operation and the partnership forged to conserve it epitomizes the reason for the Agency's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. ACEP was designed to protect prime working agricultural lands."

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About The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust

The [Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust](#) (CCALT) is a nonprofit land conservation organization whose mission is to "...conserve Colorado's western heritage and working landscapes for the benefit of future generations."

About Great Outdoors Colorado

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO's independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts, and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a Constitutional Amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,000 projects in urban and rural areas in all 64 counties without any tax dollar support. Visit GOCO.org for more information.

About The Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the primary federal agency that works with private landowners to help them conserve, maintain and improve their natural resources. The Agency emphasizes voluntary, science-based conservation; technical assistance; partnerships; incentive-based programs; and cooperative problem solving at the community level.