

S A V I N G land

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SUMMER 2014
www.landtrustalliance.org VOL. 33 NO. 3

WHY ADVOCACY *Matters*

**Building Relationships
Conservation Development**

Advocacy at its Best

If there is any doubt as to why advocacy matters to land conservation, just ask the Hutchinsons, whose ranch was saved by a mix of funding, including the Farm Bill.

"The conservation of the Hutchinson Ranch would not have been possible without the previous Farm Bill, and we are pleased that these conservation provisions remain as part of the newly passed legislation," said rancher Art Hutchinson.

More than 150 years of Colorado ranching history and a part of its future were preserved in December when the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), in partnership with the Trust for Public Land, completed the protection of 650 acres of the Hutchinson Ranch in Chaffee County. Funding came from Great Outdoors Colorado, Chaffee County and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which administers the applicable Farm Bill funding.

Originally homesteaded in the 1860s by Joseph Hutchinson, the ranch has been passed down through six generations, making it the oldest family-owned ranch in the Upper Arkansas Valley.

The Hutchinson family worked to permanently protect nearly the entire ranch. The easement will allow them to transfer the operation of the ranch to the sixth generation of the family and will provide them with the financial resources they need to continue to work the land. Abby Hutchinson, granddaughter of the family's patriarch, Wendell "Doc" Hutchinson, will continue to manage the ranch.

"We are excited to see the completion of this important project and to have been a part of helping the Hutchinson family achieve their conservation goals, including providing Abby with an opportunity to carry on the family's rich ranching heritage," said Chris West, CCALT executive director. "The project truly embodies the



Art, Wendell and Abby Hutchinson

mission of CCALT, which is to protect Colorado's agricultural land, heritage and families for future generations by conserving working rural landscapes."

West praised the leadership of Senator Michael Bennet (CO), "who has been extraordinary in making the conservation programs in the Farm Bill work for ranchers and farmers," he said. "Senator Bennet toured the ranch in 2012, and that experience helped him to understand how a conservation easement can be such a benefit to the land, a family and a community." 🌱

Overheard

... at the Land Trust Alliance Southeast Assembly of Land Trusts in March:

"The Assembly was a great experience for the staff of the Land Trust for Tennessee. As a firm believer in the power of telling your story as the fastest way to gain supporters, the 'Telling Your Land Trust's Story and Measuring Its Impact' seminar had me coming back to our team with confidence, new ideas and excitement. And I fell in love with other land trusts as I felt the connection with their breakthroughs and successfully delivered missions."

—Caitlin Mello, Communications Manager
Land Trust for Tennessee

Ear to the Ground

Wesley Ward has stepped down from his post as vice president of land and community conservation at The Trustees of Reservations in Massachusetts, capping off three decades of accomplishments. As a legacy, The Trustees has established the Wesley T. Ward Fund, to be used when projects are just forming and in their most fragile state. The Trustees welcomes **Robert Warren** as managing director for conservation. Warren was most recently the director of protection and policy for the Massachusetts chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Marie Bostick has become the executive director of the Land Trust of North Alabama in Huntsville.

Colorado Open Lands welcomed new Community Outreach Director **Brandy Bertram**, who was named a Top 5 Young Professional in Colorado by *CoBiz Magazine* and one of *Denver Business Journal's* 40 Under 40.