



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust Earns Continued National Recognition

Renewed Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

Denver, CO – The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) has achieved renewed accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

“Our accreditation renewal is a reflection on all of the high-quality conservation work that we do,” said Chris West, CCALT Executive Director. “When we were founded, this was the expectation that was placed on CCALT the agricultural community in Colorado.

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust was founded in 1995 and serves ranchers and farmers across the state. The Land Trust has worked with more than 270 conservation-minded landowners to protect more than 425,000 acres of working ranches and farms.

Accredited land trusts are authorized to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

“CCALT is one of the first land trusts to receive renewed accreditation, a significant achievement for the land trust and a major milestone for the accreditation program. CCALT is an important member of the 280 accredited land trusts that protect more than half of the 20,645,165 acres currently owned in fee or protected by a conservation easement,” said Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. “Accreditation renewal, which must be completed every five years, provides the public with an assurance that accredited land trusts continue to meet exceedingly high standards for quality.”

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Each land trust that achieved renewed accreditation submitted extensive documentation and underwent a rigorous review. “Through accreditation renewal land trusts are part of an important evaluation and improvement process that verifies their operations continue to be effective, strategic and in accordance with strict requirements,” said Van Ryn. “Accredited organizations have engaged citizen conservation leaders and improved systems for ensuring that their conservation work is permanent.”

Land conservation helps ensure clean air and drinking water; safe, healthy food; scenic landscapes and views; recreational places and habitat for wildlife. In addition to health and food benefits, conserved land increases property values near greenbelts, saves tax dollars by encouraging more efficient development, and reduces the need for expensive water filtration facilities. Across the country, local citizens and communities have come together to form more than 1,700 land trusts to save the places they love.

Community leaders in land trusts throughout the country have worked with willing landowners to save over 47 million acres of farms, forests, parks and other areas people value, including land transferred to public agencies and protected via other means. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.

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Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust protects Colorado's agricultural land, heritage and families for future generations by conserving working rural landscapes. For more information visit www.ccalt.org.

About the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., inspires excellence, promotes public trust and ensures permanence in the conservation of open lands by recognizing land trust organizations that meet rigorous quality standards and that strive for continuous improvement. The Commission, established in 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. See a complete list of all recently accredited land trusts online at <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/newsroom/press-releases>. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission's website, www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

About The Land Trust Alliance

The Land Trust Alliance, of which CCALT is a member, is a national conservation group that works to save the places people love by strengthening conservation throughout America. It works to increase the pace and quality of conservation by advocating favorable tax policies, training land trusts in best practices and working to ensure the permanence of conservation in the face of continuing threats. The Alliance publishes Land Trust Standards and Practices and provides financial and administrative support to the Commission. It has established an endowment to help ensure the success of the accreditation program and keep it affordable for land trusts of all sizes to participate in accreditation. More information can be found at www.landtrustalliance.org.