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*The mission of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust is to protect productive agricultural lands and the conservation values they provide by working with ranchers and farmers, thereby preserving Colorado's ranching heritage and rural communities.*

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## Spotlight on Colorado

*Southwest Colorado: a hidden gem and conservation legacy*

There is a special mystique about southwest Colorado. It is a hidden gem that can be enjoyed from the scenic vistas in the San Juan Mountains to the working farms and ranches below. This part of the State should be explored and is an important part of our ranching and conservation legacy. In this "Spotlight on Colorado" we will explore many of the counties in this region of the State and our success in protecting forever the ranching landscapes of these special places.



*El Rancho Pinoso, Archuleta County*

*Photograph by John Fielder from Ranches of Colorado*

If you have never visited Southwest Colorado, then we encourage you to drive down one of the seven scenic and historic byways through the region. If you take one of these drives in the fall, you will see that the aspens produce some of the most brilliant fall colors in the country. You will be amazed by the sheer variance of topography from the depths of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument to the exhilarating vistas from Grand Mesa, the world's largest flattop mountain. This region is also rich in western history and Native American cultures.

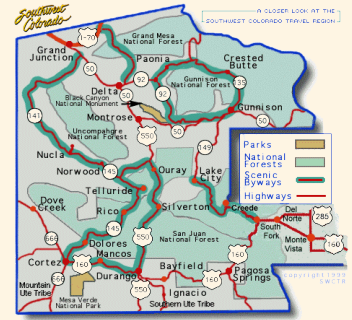
During your visit to this spectacular part of the state, you will see many working ranches and thousands of acres of beautiful and protected land. CCALT has been busy in Southwest Colorado and is proud to have protected over 45,800 acres of working agricultural lands to date. Our project staff has ongoing projects in this region and will be able to preserve several more ranches before the end of the year.

## Spotlight on Colorado *continued*

Approximately half of the 45,800 acres in Southwest Colorado that CCALT has protected can be found in Archuleta County. Known primarily for Pagosa Springs and its hot mineral baths, it is surrounded by the San Juan National Forest and the spectacular Weminuche and South San Juan Wilderness areas. Our conservation work is supplemented by these already-preserved wilderness areas, especially near Chromo and along the Upper Piedra River.

### Counties in Southwest Colorado

Archuleta  
Delta  
Dolores  
Gunnison  
Hinsdale  
La Plata  
Mineral  
Montezuma  
Montrose  
Ouray  
San Juan  
San Miguel



In Gunnison County, 17 ranching families came to CCALT and the Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy (GRCL) to protect their land and place their ranches under conservation easement. Helped along in the 1990's by a multi-year, multi-million dollar commitment of Colorado lottery funds through a Great Outdoors Colorado Legacy Grant, these families were able to preserve these valuable working landscapes for future generations. As a result, over 15 miles of Tomichi Creek along U.S. Highway 50 have been protected.

Two counties that offer rivers, mountains, valleys, orchards, vineyards and more are Delta and Montrose Counties. This diverse region has not only a lot to offer, but is also a tourist's dream. Surrounded by fields, orchards, national forests and other working lands; the drive to Grand Junction and to the Grand Mesa could not be more enjoyable. Many landowners wanting to preserve their heritage have worked with CCALT to allow them to keep their ranch in the family and out of development.

Lastly, but certainly not the least important, are San Miguel and Ouray Counties which provide some of the most spectacular landscapes that you will ever see. Best known for the towns of Telluride, Ouray and Ridgway, this region is arguably one of the hidden jewels in the State. CCALT is lucky to have partnered with the San Miguel County Purchase of Development Rights program and their commitment to ranchland protection. Home to some of CCALT's original easements, this part of the State has a place close to our heart.

We welcome all of you to take the drive through scenic Southwest Colorado. Enjoy the lands that we have protected with your support, and say a special thanks to those landowners who have chosen to protect the land that we love.



Steve Wooten  
CCALT Board Member

### New CCALT Board Member

CCALT would like to welcome Steve Wooten, who joined the board in September. He has an Associate of Science from Lamar Community College and a Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University. Steve has spent the last 35 years in Las Animas County with his family since graduating from college. He has been married to his wife Joy for the past 33 years and has two daughters, Niki and Arin. Steve and Joy have three grandchildren.

Steve and Joy placed a conservation easement on a portion of their property in the Purgatoire River Canyon in 2008 with Colorado Open Lands. Steve has served

on many boards including: Vice President for the National Little Britches Rodeo Association Board, the Colorado State High School Rodeo Association Board, Vice President of the Pinon Canyon Expansion Opposition Coalition, Chair of the Biological Inventory Committee, Co-chair of the Historical, Archeological and Cultural Committee; and is currently serving on the Colorado Cattlemen's Association Board as a Southeast Quarter Representative. He brings many years of ranching expertise to the board and we are lucky to have him join CCALT!



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## *Estate Planning*

*Leaving a legacy for future generations*

Estate planning is a very important step and your decision should be made carefully. Whether you are a concerned rancher or just dedicated to conserving land in Colorado, CCALT hopes that you will keep us in mind while planning for your estate.

### *Include CCALT in Your Will – Charitable Bequests*

Charitable bequests are a common method of giving where an individual can name the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, or any other charity, as the heir to a portion of his or her estate. Making a bequest allows you to make a significant contribution toward protecting Colorado's working farms and ranches for future generations.

Including us in your will or trust gives you the maximum flexibility to continue to use your assets during your lifetime. You can make us the beneficiary of your retirement plan, life insurance plans, bank account, brokerage account, or real estate.

If you plan to make a gift through your will, the language to the right is just one example of what you can use and may be useful to you during your estate planning.

### *Conservation Easements in Estate Planning*

Conservation easements can also be a powerful estate planning tool that may result in significant estate tax savings. Just as every farm or ranch is unique, every family's situation requires special attention. CCALT will work with landowners who are interested in seeing if conservation easements or other options can be a part of a larger estate plan.

We also encourage you to seek the advice of a financial advisor and/or attorney as you consider your estate plans and charitable goals. As beneficiary of any gift; we would like to meet with you to document your future wishes for the gift, to discuss any requests you may have related to privacy and your giving, and to appropriately thank you for your generous support.

If you would like more information or would like to talk with someone about making a planned gift, contact your financial advisor or contact our Development Director Alyssa Street at [Alyssa@ccalt.org](mailto:Alyssa@ccalt.org) or 303-225-8677.

*I give, devise and bequeath to the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust ("CCALT"), a nonprofit corporation under Colorado law with its principal business address of 8833 Ralston Road, Arvada, CO 80002, Tax Identification Number 84-1317592, the [the sum of (\_\_\_ AND XX/100 DOLLARS \$\_\_\_)] OR [insert description of real property] (the "Property") to be used to further CCALT's charitable mission as CCALT's Board of Directors in its sole discretion may deem appropriate.*

CCALT  
Wish List

GPS Vehicle System  
ATV's & a Trailer  
Lightly Used Vehicle



## Sunset BBQ at the Double D Ranch a Success *Land Trust raises funds to support land conservation*

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) held their 5th Annual Sunset BBQ on Saturday, August 21st at the Double D Ranch, just outside of Ridgway.

The BBQ was hosted by Peter and Deedee Decker who were one of the first families to protect their land with a conservation easement with CCALT. Proceeds from the BBQ will be used by the Land Trust to protect additional ranches in the area.

"We were thrilled to have the Sunset BBQ at the Double D Ranch this year. The Uncompahgre Valley has such a rich ranching tradition," said Chris West, CCALT Executive Director.

The annual fundraiser is held at different ranches across Colorado every summer. This is the first time that the Sunset BBQ has been held in Ridgway. Guests celebrated ranchland conservation while listening to a live band and enjoying the beautiful views.



*Bill Fales and Chris West  
at the Double D Ranch*