



# CROSSROADS

FALL 2019

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE** **BARBECUE  
& 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**FOREVER** **ANNIVERSARY**  
COLORADO **AUGUST 8, 2020**

- **YVLT JOINS OUR CONSERVATION FAMILY**
- **2019 SUMMER PROJECT HIGHLIGHT**
  - › **E Lazy S Ranch**
  - › **Hill Family Ranches**

Photo: DJ Glisson



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# YVLT and CCALT Merge

## Two Historic Organizations Join Forces to Conserve Colorado

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**A** shift in season is officially upon us, and as we transition from warm summer nights into crisp fall mornings and the chill of winter, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is also navigating a transition – on October 1, 2019, CCALT completed a merger with the Steamboat Springs-based Yampa Valley Land Trust (YVLT). For nearly 25 years, CCALT and YVLT have worked to conserve Colorado's unique natural resources and rich western heritage. Now, YVLT is joining CCALT to further the essential truth that:

***Colorado isn't just a collection of beautiful landscapes; it's the embodiment of an ideal. Future generations deserve to experience the wonder and adventure of life lived here.***

### Background

Nearly 30 years ago, a group of dedicated citizens from Steamboat Springs established a land trust to serve northwestern Colorado; resulting in the creation of the Yampa Valley Land Trust (YVLT) and the conservation of more than 56,000 acres. YVLT was the only land trust of its kind working specifically in Routt, Moffat, Jackson, and Rio Blanco Counties. Just three short years later, in 1995, CCALT was formed by Steamboat Local, Jay Fetcher, and members of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association. CCALT became the nation's first statewide land trust focused specifically on conserving agricultural land. Today, CCALT has conserved more than 575,000 acres across the state, with more than 102,000 of those acres in northwestern Colorado.

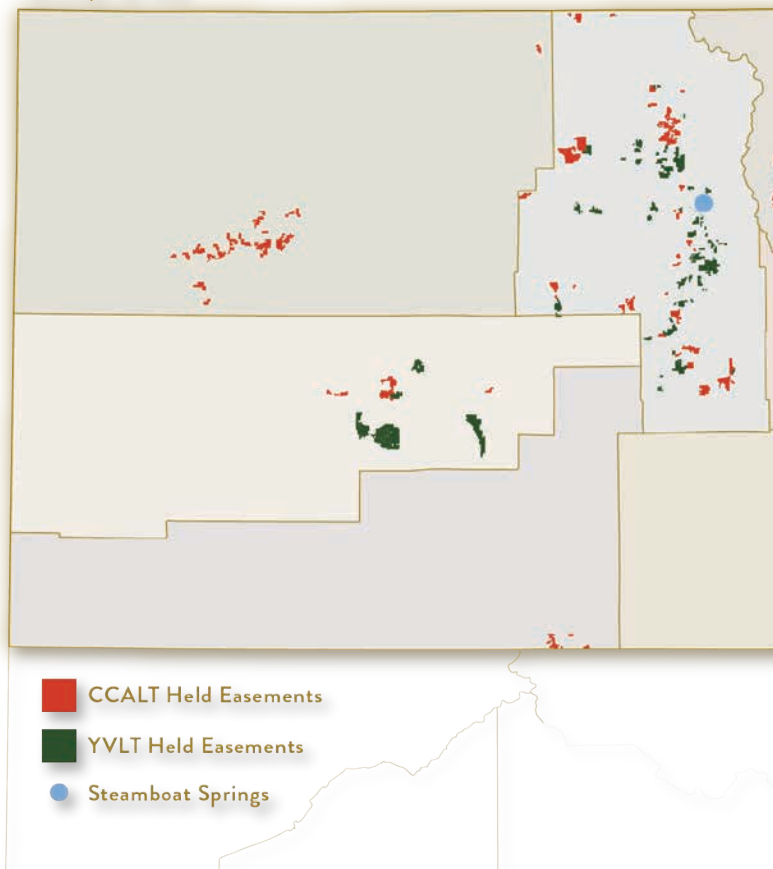
Over the years, both CCALT and YVLT prioritized working with willing landowners to conserve scenic landscapes, river corridors, species-rich wildlife habitat, and productive rangeland; CCALT honed in on the family component of working lands conservation while YVLT worked to deliver a wide variety of conservation solutions to the citizens of northwestern Colorado. Oftentimes, CCALT and YVLT's interests overlapped or interconnected; CCALT and YVLT have shared board members, landowners, partners, and donors throughout their histories.

When YVLT began an exploration into how to best amplify its already successful conservation work and extend its infrastructure to achieve an even greater impact, CCALT presented a natural partnership worth exploring. Our shared long-term commitment to working with ranching and agricultural communities, combined with YVLT's innovative conservation work, made the creation of a unified land trust mutually beneficial to CCALT, YVLT, and the communities we serve.

We're unbelievably excited to have YVLT join our conservation family in support of a mission we've long had in common. With combined resources and under a shared banner we can:

- **Strengthen our shared mission to protect and conserve Colorado's natural resources for current residents and for generations to come**
- **Introduce new conservation efforts in northwestern Colorado**
- **Create a more powerful voice in the conservation community**

\* As of Sept. 30, 2019



## CCALT and YVLT by the Numbers

The past work of both CCALT and YVLT has a perpetual benefit to Colorado and to the northwestern corner of our state. Together, this impact can be felt not only by the people who call Colorado home, but by the millions of people who visit our state annually. A look at the synergy between YVLT and CCALT's conservation work over the past 25 years can be seen on the map below.

	CCALT	YVLT
FOUNDED	1995	1992
STAFF	9	1
BOARD MEMBERS	18	6
COUNTIES SERVED	STATEWIDE	ROUTT, MOFFAT, JACKSON, RIO BLANCO
TOTAL ACRES CONSERVED	575,000+	56,067

## A United Organization

Following the merger, all operations and conservation easement oversight shifted to the management of CCALT. To honor YVLT's significant contributions to conservation in northwest Colorado, CCALT created the Yampa Valley Conservation Partnership (YVCP). The YVCP will operate as a program of CCALT, headquartered in Steamboat Springs. The program will work to further solidify CCALT's and YVLT's shared values and provide an avenue for historical YVLT donors to earmark funds for use in specific projects located in Northwest Colorado. In addition to the establishment of the YVCP, CCALT also created the Yampa Valley Conservation Partnership Advisory Committee, which will be made up of former YVLT board members, conservation supporters, and community members to ensure that Routt, Rio Blanco, Jackson, and Moffat Counties continue to have a powerful voice in conservation efforts in Northwest Colorado. The new committee will advise the CCALT board on regional conservation projects and continue to maintain and expand the local partnerships cultivated by YVLT over the last three decades.

Bryce Hinchman, who had been with YVLT since 2014, joined the CCALT staff and is continuing on in his role as a conservation manager. Hinchman is joined in Steamboat by CCALT's Stewardship Director Megan Knott, and CCALT External Relations Coordinator Amber Pougiales, a Steamboat Springs native. Two members of the YVLT board – Orlando González and Adonna Allen – joined CCALT's board of directors and will be part of the newly established Yampa Valley Conservation Partnership Advisory Committee.

## Moving Forward

We understand that there will be questions regarding this merger and how it will affect CCALT, YVLT, our landowner partners, and the communities that we serve. To learn more about CCALT, YVLT, and our future together, please visit [www.ccalt.org/yvlt/](http://www.ccalt.org/yvlt/).

This proactive and exciting partnership will bring more resources dedicated to safeguarding the scenic landscapes, rushing rivers, trout-filled streams, clean mountain air, and working ranchlands that we cherish. Together, YVLT and CCALT are planting the seeds for a more beautiful, more wondrous, more awe-inspiring Colorado. And that's a future worth working toward together. We hope you will join us in celebrating this news and honoring the legacy and work of the Yampa Valley Land Trust.

## Meet the new board members

**Adonna Allen** – Adonna is the President of Alpine Bank in Steamboat Springs. She has served in this capacity since 2007. Adonna is a Steamboat native and an active member of the Routt County Cattlewomen. Adonna has a Master's Degree in Ag Economics and ranches with her husband in Routt County. Adonna has most recently been serving as the treasurer of the Yampa Valley Land Trust Board.

**Orlando Gonzalez** – Orlando is the President of Milagro Empreendimentos, a company focused primarily on agribusiness related to cattle and sugar cane, as well as real estate ventures, and power sector investments. Orlando and his wife Angela have three children and they split their time between Steamboat Springs and Brazil. Orlando has been involved in the American Quarter Horse Association in Brazil and most recently served as the President of the Yampa Valley Land Trust Board.



# SAVE THE DATE COLORADO GIVES DAY



TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 10, 2019

Visit

[www.coloradogives.org/ccalt](http://www.coloradogives.org/ccalt)  
to schedule your gift today!

# 25K MATCH

This year CCALT has a generous match of \$25,000 for Colorado Gives Day – That means on December 10th every dollar donated will have double the impact!



## 2019 Summer Project Highlight

### E Lazy S Ranch – Ensuring the Future

If you know Lex Collins from Meeker, Colorado you're familiar with how much the E Lazy S Ranch means to him. For years, Lex has stewarded the ranch with former landowners, Tom and Ruth Pearce, and their daughter Denise. The ranch's productive hayfields combined with spectacular scenery and a mile of White River frontage make it easy to understand why Lex cares so deeply about this place. The thought of houses dotting the meadows instead of cattle is enough to make anyone shudder.

This summer, with leadership from Lex and in partnership with the Pearce family and multiple conservation organizations, the E Lazy S Ranch was permanently conserved; solidifying the future of the ranch and ensuring that it will remain undeveloped forever.

Before it was known as the E Lazy S, it was the Pearce Ranch, purchased by Tom and Ruth Pearce in 1961. Tom and Ruth ran a successful agricultural operation raising quality Hereford cattle.





In 2014, after both Tom and Ruth had passed, the ranch was left to their three children: Denise, Hal, and Christine Pearce. Tragically, Denise passed away in 2015, but not before leaving her share of the ranch to Lex Collins. Hal and Christine wanted to honor the legacy of their parents and sister by keeping the ranch intact as a working agricultural operation. Together, they worked with Lex to develop a plan to transfer sole ownership of the ranch to him. A conservation easement enabled the transfer and conserved the ranch in the process.

"Few people have the opportunity to leave a perpetual legacy," said CCALT Conservation Director Molly

Fales, "but that is what Mr. Collins has done here. By conserving the E Lazy S Ranch, he has ensured that the Pearce family's ranching legacy will remain, and he has cemented his own conservation legacy in the valley."

Hal Pearce echoed these sentiments saying:

*"It may no longer have the Pearce name attached to it, but it's still home. In the end it's about the land and is really bigger than any of us."* ©

#### Funders

- Great Outdoors Colorado
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited
- State Tax Credit Program

#### Conservation Values

- Connected to three existing conserved ranches
- Highly visible from the Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway
- Crucial habitat for elk, mule deer, coyote, bald eagle, greater sandhill crane
- CPW designated Sage Grouse range
- The riparian areas along the property contain a box elder-narrowleaf cottonwood/red osier dogwood forest – a forest type unique to the Yampa and White River basins of northwest Colorado.

# 2019 Summer Project Highlight

## Hill Family Ranches – Building a Legacy

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This summer, CCALT once again partnered with the Hill family of Saguache County to conserve six ranches and more than 5,000 acres near Saguache. This project added to the Hill family's incredible conservation legacy in the area, which prior to 2019, included 5,691 acres and seven separate conservation projects. Saguache is in the northern end of the San Luis Valley—one of Colorado's largest and most productive agricultural regions. The conservation project was the culmination of a 20+ year effort to conserve natural resources in the Valley—led

predominantly by the Hill family. Beyond conserving 5,000 acres, the project connected protected private land to hundreds of thousands of acres of public land, forming a permanently protected corridor along Saguache Creek that now encompasses more than 21,000 acres.


Multiple generations of the Hill family are involved in the ownership and operation of the six ranches. While conservation will support the family's overall agricultural operation and keep their land in production, it also protects significant wildlife

habitat and ensures water quality for both humans and wildlife. "By conserving this land, we're not only preserving the Hill Family's legacy and the agricultural heritage of the Saguache Creek Corridor, we're also ensuring that hunters, anglers, hikers, and mountain bikers will continue to have incredible outdoor experiences and will continue to enjoy the scenic nature of this special part of Colorado," said Wade Shelton, Senior Project Manager with the Trust for Public Land, a key partner on the project.



HILL FAMILY RANCHES



After the final conservation papers were signed, the Hill Family didn't celebrate or buy anything new, they did what they do best; they went home and worked their cattle until dark, excited about what would come next for their family and the opportunities that the conservation of their land has given them. When they were driving back home, 10-year-old Rivers Hill had this to say, "You know, it's pretty cool that we preserved the ranch today, and now we can do this forever." 

#### Funders

- The Trust for Public Land
- Great Outdoors Colorado
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- State Tax Credit Program

#### Conservation Values

- Crucial habitat for elk, mule deer, mountain lions, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and pronghorn
- High-priority water rights and water resources for native fish species
- Connectivity to hundreds of thousands of acres of adjacent and nearby public land

*The Hill Family*



## TWO NEW WAYS TO SUPPORT CCALT



### VEHICLE GIVING PROGRAM

CCALT is partnering with Cars Helping Charities (CHC) to launch a new vehicle giving program.

CHC accepts all vehicles – running or not – including cars, trucks, boats, RV's, and more on behalf of CCALT. Should you choose to make a donation, your vehicle will either be sold at auction or sent to an auto recycler and the proceeds will benefit CCALT and ranchland conservation. The process to donate your vehicle is simple and CHC takes care of moving and logistics at no cost to you!



### REAL ESTATE GIVING PROGRAM

CCALT is working with Realty Gift Fund (RGF) to expand our Real Estate Giving Program. RGF helps donors facilitate gifts of real estate to support CCALT's mission of land conservation. RGF takes on the entire closing process and provides the necessary documentation for donors to claim a tax deduction.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN DONATING  
YOUR VEHICLE OR GIFTING REAL ESTATE  
TO CCALT PLEASE CONTACT  
BOB TATE, CCALT SPECIAL PROJECTS  
MANAGER AT 970-443-4503 OR  
BTATE@CCALT.ORG



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Arvada, CO 80002  
303.225.8677 | info@ccalt.org

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*Conserving Colorado's western heritage and working landscapes for the benefit of future generations.*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**BARBECUE & 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**FOREVER COLORADO® ANNIVERSARY**  
**AUGUST 8, 2020**



**“THANK YOU FOR BEING UNDER OUR TENT”**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CCALT AT OUR 2019 FOREVER COLORADO BBQ. THIS EVENT AND THIS WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU!

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Visit us at [www.ccalt.org](http://www.ccalt.org) to learn more or find additional information about the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust.