



*Ohlman Ranch, Douglas County*

## **Conservation Easement Protects Front Range Ranch from Development**

DOUGLAS COUNTY- In 1955, George and Elaine Ohlman moved their young family to a ranching community south of Denver. It was George's childhood dream to own land, ride horses, and run cattle. Today, Gary Ohlman, George's son, shares his father's same passion for ranching and has worked hard to solidify his family's ranching legacy in Douglas County.

In the last 60 years, the community dynamics of Douglas County have changed drastically as the area has faced increased development pressure from the Front Range's continued growth. In order to keep the Ohlman family legacy intact, Gary and his wife, Michele, chose to conserve the land they had inherited from George and Elaine Ohlman. They found the solution they were looking for through the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT). **Working with CCALT, Gary and Michele placed 419 acres of the ranch into a conservation easement, permanently protecting the land from development and ensuring that the ranch will remain a significant benefit to the public for years to come.**

The Ohlman Ranch is made up of shortgrass prairie and mountain shrubland habitats that are quickly disappearing from many areas of the Front Range. In a region taken over by housing subdivisions and strip malls, the scenic character and natural textures of the ranch are a welcomed contrast for locals and visitors alike. The rolling hills and native grasses also provide valuable open space that supports the habitat needs of migratory raptors and songbirds, small mammals, and big game like elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and black bears.

Still in agricultural operation, the Ohlman Ranch contributes to the local and regional working landscape. Native rangeland provides excellent grazing for the Red Angus cow-calf herd and the horses kept on the ranch. The property also exists within the Cherry Creek drainage and is an important part of the regional watershed.

“As Colorado continues to grow and expand, it is critical that the remaining working landscapes be protected for the benefit of future generations. Conservation of the Ohlman Ranch adds to the 23,000

acres already conserved in this area, and we are grateful to Gary and Michele Ohlman for protecting another a vital piece of ranchland along the Front Range,” said CCALT Executive Director, Erik Glenn.

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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.”*