



Oak Creek Mountain Park – CONSERVED

First successful project completed under newly formed Yampa Valley Conservation Partnership – a program of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust

ROUTT COUNTY – The Yampa Valley Conservation Partnership, a program of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), the Town of Oak Creek, and Routt County's Purchase of Development Rights ("PDR") Program are excited to announce the completion of the 140-acre "Oak Creek Mountain Park" conservation project. Oak Creek Mountain Park has an existing 4.5-mile trail network and was recently acquired by the Town of Oak Creek. With a conservation easement in place, the property will remain as open space with dedicated public access for low-impact recreation including hiking, biking, and horseback riding into the future.

"Oak Creek Mountain Park" is situated on a prominent open hillside that is visible from Colorado Highway 131, Routt County Road 14, and virtually anywhere within the Town of Oak Creek. The property is also bordered on two sides by other protected lands, creating a synergy effect that provides immense value from a scenic and wildlife perspective. Located within walking distance of downtown Oak Creek, the park affords residents and visitors alike a convenient opportunity to get outdoors and recreate in a spectacular setting.

Conservation of Oak Creek Mountain Park was made possible by Russ and Clay Garrity, the previous owners of the property who spent years creating its intricate and extensive trail network. The Town of Oak Creek recently acquired the property with the specific intent to conserve it and establish dedicated public access. CCALT thanks the Town for their vision and specifically, Mary Alice Page-Allen, who was instrumental in bringing this community project together. Routt County's voter-approved Purchase of Development Rights program provided the necessary funding to acquire the conservation easement and Alpine Bank provided financial support for the development of the project. CCALT also recognizes the substantial work put into this project by the Yampa Valley Land Trust (YVLT). In October, YVLT merged with CCALT.

"I've been involved in the Oak Creek Mountain project since it was first brought to YVLT in 2017. Having spent many hours exploring the trail network at Emerald Mountain Park, I knew what a boon to the South Routt community it would be to permanently conserve this open space and associated trail system. Beyond the fact that it is extremely rewarding to have been a part of this project from start to

finish, it is exciting to see the first official Yampa Valley Conservation Partnership project completed under CCALT. As a staff, we will continue to be on the lookout for unique community projects such as this to complement our work in conserving productive agricultural lands and open space in the Yampa Valley and throughout Colorado,” said Bryce Hinchman, CCALT Conservation Manager.

CCALT and Routt County’s PDR program have a storied history of working to preserve Northwest Colorado’s deep-rooted agricultural legacy, spectacular wide open space landscapes, and critical wildlife habitat through strategic land conservation efforts. CCALT would like to thank everyone who makes land conservation possible in northwestern Colorado. Oak Creek Mountain Park is a unique community asset that will be treasured for generations to come.

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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.”

About the Routt County PDR Program

To date, PDR has completed 66 conservation projects totaling 49,510 acres. For more information, please contact Kendra Alfieri at Routt County, 970-879-0108.