

Routt County PDR Announces Funding for Five Conservation Easements



Flying Horse Ranch, Routt County Colorado

Routt County, Colo (July 30, 2021) – The Routt County Commissioners voted to approve funding applications for five conservation easements on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 through the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. CCALT secured \$2.8M to complete five conservation easements on more than 8,400 acres of working lands in Routt County, Colorado.

With growing concern for the future of the County and what could happen if growth were to go unchecked, the communities of Routt County rallied around a desire to secure the future of the region's open space and agriculture-based economy. In 1996 voters approved the creation of the Routt County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program. After 10 years, in 2005, Routt County voted to renew the PDR Program through 2025. The PDR Program is a land protection tool in which a property's development rights are purchased from the landowner(s). By purchasing the development rights, Routt County is able to protect certain resources in perpetuity, such as open space, wildlife habitat, agricultural use, scenic vistas, historic landmarks, and more.

The PDR Program has been instrumental in the completion of 65 conservation easements, conserving more than 60,000 acres. CCALT and the Yampa Valley Conservation Partnership have completed 50 conservation easement projects with support from the PDR Program. The PDR program has supported landowners in the completion of conservation projects for 25 years, helping landowners transfer their agricultural operations to the next generation and protecting the rural character of Routt County communities.

"Local funding sources, like the Routt County PDR program, are an incredible asset to the community. The Routt County PDR program has a huge impact on the regional landscape by supporting projects that are important to the community. The program allows landowners and land trusts to leverage the state tax credit program along with other funding sources to accomplish conservation outcomes that benefit the community as a whole" said Molly Fales, Director of Transactions at CCALT.

CCALT thanks the community for their continued support of this invaluable program and looks forward to sharing more about these incredible projects in the coming months.

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About The Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust - [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 conservation projects totaling 60,000 acres in Routt County. For more information please contact Routt County, 970-879-0108.

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