



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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C Brands Ranch Conserved – Family sees the future after more than a century in the business



Photo: Courtesy of CCALT Staff

The Tomichi Creek Corridor has long stood as one of Colorado’s most visible and impressive conservation successes. Today, the Taramarcaz Family, the Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy (GRCL), and the Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) announce the completion of the 333-acre C Brands Land and Cattle conservation easement, adding to the conserved landscape of Tomichi Creek. The Taramarcaz Family has ranched in Colorado for more than 120 years, completing their first conservation easement with CCALT in 2000.

“Once again, we are thrilled to partner with CCALT, GRCL, and NRCS to bring this project to fruition. This conservation easement is vital to allowing our cattle operation to continue for generations to come,” said Sharon Taramarcaz. “We will be able to increase the size of our herd, expand our privately held ground as well as increase our access to Public Lands; all combined this will increase our viability and sustainability. We value being able to continue the tradition of a family-owned and operated company. Truly we are so blessed to be able to work side-by-side with family and do so on a pristine landscape.”

The ranch operates as a cow/calf and hay operation, supported by federal grazing permits with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) where cattle spend the better part of the growing season. Hay raised on the ranch is fed back to cattle grown on the ranch. Notable for the intact landscape, the C Brands Land and Cattle operation is entirely surrounded by federally-owned and privately-conserved lands. The original Taramarcaz Ranch conservation easement was completed by Paul’s father in the early 2000s. Today, Paul owns and manages the majority of that ranch.



The conservation of the C Brands Land and Cattle property adds to the scenic character of the Tomichi Creek Valley and maintains the local rural landscape. The region has seen growing pressure from residential development, as nearby lands are subdivided for second homes and vacation properties.

“The NRCS is proud of the long standing partnership it holds with the Tamarcaz Family,” said Bronson Smart, Acting NRCS State Conservationist in Colorado. “We joined forces over 20 years ago to protect prime working agricultural lands within the Tomichi Creek Valley, and to see the culmination of those efforts realized through this conservation easement is an important moment of the community and the natural resources it will protect.”

The ranch possesses immense conservation value. These parcels are a combination of both irrigated hay meadow and critical sagebrush habitat. The property includes a small stream that feeds Tomichi Creek. This project protects local agriculture and high-quality wildlife habitat, while also supporting a generational ranching operation that has operated for five generations. Project funding for this conservation easement was provided by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Gunnison Valley Land Protection Fund.

Molly Fales, CCALT’s Staff Attorney noted that the “Gunnison ranching community has a strong conservation ethic that is exemplified by the significant conservation corridor along Tomichi Creek. The Tamarcaz family has exemplified this dedication to the conservation of land and water for generations and continues to build on the legacy with the conservation of this ranch. CCALT is thrilled to have partnered with three generations of the family.”

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 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. The Agency prioritizes conservation planning and uses conservation programs in the Farm Bill to implement most of its efforts including the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program which is designed to protect the agricultural viability, grazing uses and related conservation values of prime agricultural land by limiting nonagricultural uses of that land.

About the Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy

Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy (GRCL) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization working on behalf of conservation-minded landowners to place conservation easements. Since 1995, GRCL has assisted landowners in placing more than 50,000 acres under conservation easement in the Gunnison Basin.

About the Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund

Established in 1998, the Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund (“Fund”) has been assisting local land trusts with conservation easement projects throughout Gunnison County. The Fund was originally established by voters in 1997 and was then reauthorized in 2012 by voters with an overwhelming majority.