



CS Elk Ranch Conserved

Project protects agriculture, wildlife habitat, and important open space

Steamboat Springs, Colo. – The Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) and the Craig-Scheckman Family are proud to announce the completion of a voluntary and perpetual conservation easement on more than 354 acres of the CS Elk Ranch which is located six miles southwest of Steamboat Springs in the upper Yampa River Valley of Routt County, Colorado. Steamboat Springs is an ever growing and popular winter resort destination. Conserving this ranch is as important as it has ever been with subdivision pressure on rural lands continuing to rise, due to the area’s amenities, outstanding scenic beauty, and access to public lands.

The property exists in a heavily subdivided area near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Private lands, mostly residential, surround the property. Although ranching and agriculture are still important land uses in the vicinity of the property, conversions of large properties to residential subdivisions are threatening to the region’s rural-agricultural character. Approximately sixty percent of the neighboring properties are smaller residential parcels. This development pressure threatens the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat and agricultural viability. Under the conservation easement residential development will be limited, in order to preserve the property’s habitat integrity, agricultural productivity, and scenic beauty. The property adjoins 918 acres of private lands already protected by conservation easements held by CCALT and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Within one mile of the CS Elk Ranch, an additional 1,500 acres of land has been perpetually conserved. The completion of the CS Elk Ranch conservation easement is an important addition to the growing network of conserved private lands in an area with strong development pressure and increasing fragmentation of agricultural lands and wildlife habitat.

The CS Elk Ranch supports a local cattle operation by providing seasonal grazing range. Habitat on the ranch supports a variety of large and small game species. Notably, the property supports habitat for a variety of wildlife including Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, Greater sandhill crane, elk, mule deer, moose, black bear, mountain lion, and several species of neotropical migratory birds.

“CCALT is proud to partner with the Craig-Scheckman family on this important conservation project. Conservation of Colorado’s agricultural and natural resources is dependent on landowners who are committed to ensuring that Colorado continues to be defined by its natural beauty and its heritage of resource stewardship. Sara and Michael embody this commitment” said Erik Glenn, Executive Director of the Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust.

The conservation easement will ensure that this incredible agricultural, ecological, and scenic resource continues for the benefit of current and future generations. The Craig-Scheckman Family takes great pride in being stewards of the land, and they are proud that their commitment to conservation will preserve more of the Upper Yampa River Valley’s rich history.

###

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.”