



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Gregory Ranch Conserved – Generational Ranch Adds to Growing Conserved Landscape**



OAK CREEK, Colo. - The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is proud to have partnered with the Gregory Family to conserve the 393-acre Gregory Ranch (the "Property") located south of Oak Creek in Routt County, Colorado. Colorado has seen a dramatic increase in population growth, combined with an influx of interest in areas with low population densities, increasing property values across the board, including large, rural parcels that could be subdivided and sold for profit. The Gregory Family has watched the area grow and sees the mounting pressure on agricultural lands, including the Gregory Ranch, and wanted it to remain intact for the next generation. Lorraine Gregory, the 86-year-old matriarch of the Gregory Ranch, began the partnership with the CCALT to protect the Gregory Family's legacy through a conservation easement on the family ranch. Lorraine passed away in the summer of 2021, but her son, Tom Gregory, and his two children, Jody Gregory and Julie Gregory, have followed through on Lorraine's wish to see this land conserved.

This conservation easement is an important addition to the growing conserved landscape surrounding the communities of Oak Creek and Phippsburg. It exists in an area of vibrant agricultural operations and abundant wildlife habitat. The property has been utilized to support cattle, sheep, and horse grazing and a small haying operation. The Property offers outstanding scenic values that are highly visible to the public and that embody the rural, largely undeveloped nature of Southern Routt County.

The Property features natural riparian, deciduous forest, shrublands, agricultural fields, and irrigated meadows. With the Yampa River along the southeastern boundary, the variety of relatively natural habitat provided is important as food, shelter, and breeding grounds for a variety of wildlife, including mule deer, elk, black bear, moose, mountain lion, and snowshoe hare. The Property supports Colorado State Special Concern birds such as Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sandhill crane, and bald eagle. In addition to habitat, the Property also supports linkage areas for greater sage-grouse, and breeding habitat for a variety of songbirds and raptors.

"This place is so special to us as a family" said Julie Gregory, "I am just so thankful we are able protect it for my grandmother".



The Gregory Ranch is northeast of the Flattops Mountains and northwest of Gore Pass, both part of the Routt National Forest, and is west of Stagecoach State Park. The Yampa River corridor extends through the Property and the Yampa River itself serves as the southeast border of the Property.

“Routt County’s PDR program has been critical in conserving these amazing conservation corridors”, said Megan Knott, Director of Stewardship for CCALT. “The protection of the Property will link six contiguous conservation easements, forming a conserved landscape of 2,686 acres and protecting over seven miles of the Yampa River. Routt County has funded all 6 of these ranches”.

The purchase of the Gregory Ranch Conservation Easement has been supported by the Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Program.

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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 conservation projects totaling more than 60,000 acres in Routt County. For more information, please contact Jennifer Parent at Routt County, 970-879-0108.*