



# Annual Impact Report

## FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023



FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 FINANCIAL RECAP  
CONSERVATION IMPACT  
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Dear Friends,

As valued partners of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), We are excited to share with you a summary of our successes over the past twelve months and our future plans. CCALT's mission is, "to conserve Colorado's western heritage and working landscapes for the benefit of future generations." The year saw CCALT advance this mission and deliver impactful conservation across the state. CCALT's continued success is made possible by the dedication and hard work of a devoted staff and board of directors, and the passion and generosity of landowners, donors, and partners.



*Erik Glenn and Koger Propst at the Greenland Ranch*

## 2022/2023 Successes

- 22 new conservation easements comprising more than 58,700 acres of working and productive lands. Since 1995, CCALT has partnered with more than 420 landowners to conserve more than 760,000 acres of productive agricultural land.
- Successfully launched a tax credit brokerage program that directs additional financial resources to our landowner partners.
- Launched the Emery-Wilhelm Family Agricultural Resiliency Fund, enabling CCALT to leverage our financial resources to benefit our landowner partners in completing additional conservation projects on their conserved lands.

## Looking Forward

The American Farmland Trust predicts that Colorado will lose more than 400,000 acres of productive agricultural land to development by 2040 (25,000 acres per year). This rate of ag land loss is alarming for many reasons including added stress and strain on water resources, infrastructure, and the industries and businesses that support our agriculture producers. CCALT works every day to counter these trends and ensure that our most productive agricultural lands remain available to grow food and fiber. As of this report, CCALT is actively working on 26 conservation projects across the state. These projects comprise an opportunity to conserve more than 60,000 additional acres of land that produce food, fiber, energy, scenic vistas, and critical wildlife habitat. CCALT is also working to expand its additive conservation work and the Emery-Wilhelm Family Agricultural Resiliency Fund to provide more conservation opportunities to our landowner partners. To better connect people to our work and the urgency around the conservation of working lands and production agriculture, we will be rolling out new communications strategies over the next year and opening an office in the San Luis Valley.

None of our success would be possible without the power of partnership. We are immensely grateful for the collaboration and support we receive from other conservation organizations, federal and state agencies, private foundations, individual donors, and most of all our landowner partners. It is these partnerships that allow us to undertake extraordinary conservation projects that have an impact on the ground and across the state.

Your contributions are instrumental in the success of CCALT, and we invite you to join us as we continue to conserve Colorado's working lands and secure a bright future for generations to come.

Forever Colorado,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erik L. Glenn".

Erik L. Glenn  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Koger Propst".

Koger Propst  
President



# CCALT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Officers

Koger Propst	President
Tawny Halandras	Secretary/Treasurer
Stacy Kourlis Guillon	Vice President
Rye Austin	Vice President
Orlando González	Vice President
Tom Stoever	Vice President

John Braly	Sandi Turecek
Jay Fetcher	Sara Shields
Jen Livsey	Billy Gascoigne
Chancy Love	Jeff Pyatt
Ken Mirr	Lee Rooks
Ben Rogers	Ben Duke
	Kenny Rogers

## Ex-Officio Members

Erin Karney  
Larry Kueter

## CCALT STAFF

Erik Glenn	Executive Director
Anne Rogers	Controller
Molly Fales	Staff Attorney
Maggie Hanna	Director of External Relations
Megan Knott	Director of Stewardship
Brendan Boepple	Director of Additive Conservation
John Gioia	Director of Transactions
Dan Skeeters	Stewardship Manager
Courtney Bennett	Senior Conservation Manager
Scott Wappes	GIS Manager
Karina Puikkonen	Communications and Design Manager
Owen Yager	Regional Manager of External Relations
Kai Miranda	Data, Grants, and Administrative Manager
Jocelyn Catterson	Conservation and Outreach Manager
Monica Garcia	Conservation Coordinator
Britney Filter	CCALT Additive Conservation Fellow



## THANK YOU TO STEVE WOOTEN AND ADONNA ALLEN

The governance of nonprofit organizations rests with a board of directors comprised of unpaid volunteers. CCALT has been governed by an exceptional board of directors for nearly thirty years, and many people have dedicated immense time and talent to leading this organization. CCALT would like to thank and recognize two individuals who recently concluded their time on the CCALT board of directors after providing many years of combined service. We also welcome Ben Duke and Kenny Rogers back to the Board!

### Steve Wooten 2010-2023

Steve joined the CCALT Board in September of 2010. In addition to his service to CCALT, Steve served the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) simultaneously, including two terms as President of CCA. The time investment to travel around the state, be engaged in both boards, and rise to leadership in both organizations is no small feat. We owe special thanks to Steve's family who kept things moving along at the Beatty Canyon Ranch while Steve served the industry and worked tirelessly to help shape conservation tools in a way that works for Colorado's working lands and the landowners that steward our State's precious resources. Steve's contributions and commitment to CCALT are immense, for which we are forever grateful.

### Adonna Allen 2019-2023

Adonna joined the CCALT Board of Directors in 2019 as part of the merger with the Yampa Valley Land Trust (YVLT). Adonna played an instrumental role in the success of the merger. Adonna has deep roots in Routt County agriculture. Adonna's family has ranched in the Steamboat Springs area since the early 1900s. With a commitment to working lands in her blood and a professional background in both ranching and banking, Adonna provided CCALT with valuable insight into landowners' needs and financial trends.

Steve and Adonna have agreed to continue to serve CCALT in other capacities. We are grateful for their service to the Board, and their continual support of CCALT and its mission.

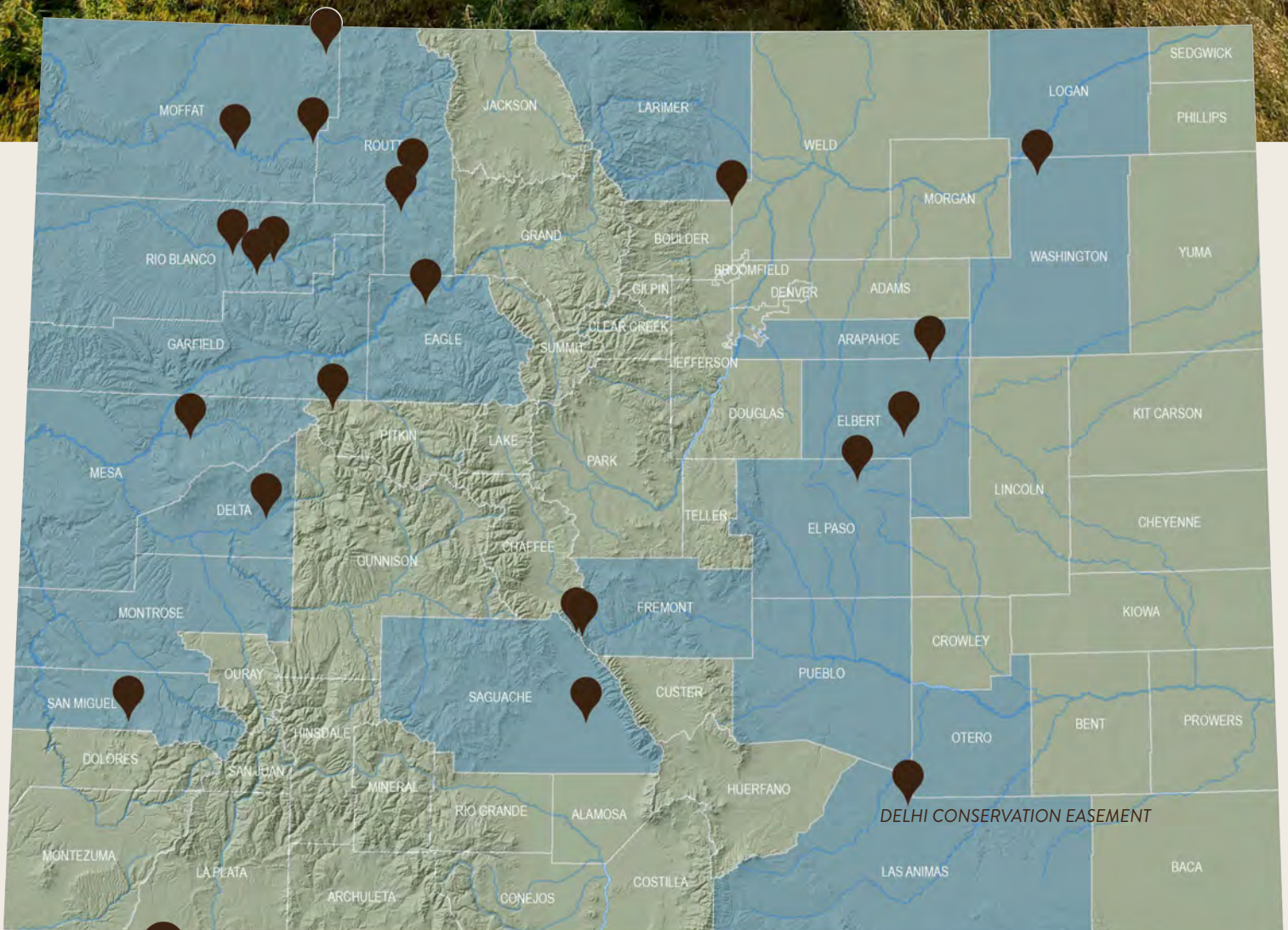


# 2022/2023 IMPACT

Photo credit: Lee Rooks

Conserved lands offer significant economic value that has been highlighted in recent years. In 2018, Colorado State University (CSU) released a study quantifying the return on investment (ROI) of conservation easements in Colorado. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program at CSU also developed a Colorado Conservation Data Explorer (CODEX) map system that can quantify the ROI of ecosystem services such as water purification, air pollution removal, wildlife habitat, and soil retention at smaller scales.

For the 22 properties CCALT helped to conserve during its 2022/2023 fiscal year, CODEX determined that the agriculture, forest, vegetation, and water systems within these lands provide a ROI of at least \$10.4 million and up to \$30 million for the state. The Delhi Ranch conservation easement is the third largest in CCALT's portfolio. This easement across the UE and Iron Springs Ranches comprises over 27,000 acres in the Southeast corner of Colorado with an individual ROI of at least \$2.6 million and up to \$6.3 million alone.





# the elk calf

BY: AARON ABEYTA

i am looking for scattered sheep in the wilderness  
the herder has fallen ill i am on foot the horse  
is in the wind the horse is smoke the horse is pollen  
the horse is ghost and the dogs have no loyalty to me

i am walking the meadows of rincon bonito  
the old men call the spruce at the meadow's edge  
los brazos translated the name means arms but  
the ancient meaning is shadow and silence

i must enter the spruce my abuelito's  
voice tells me i must get the count we must  
know how many have died how many will not  
return to the llanos south of home we must  
know how much of our winter work  
has been lost here in this late june

i will not find every sheep  
it has been too long the herder  
sick for five days i am only eleven  
but i know what death is i have  
seen the violence of what  
dogs can do the neck wounds that  
only coyotes make

i imagine the calf female  
weigh her with my eyes  
forty pounds i tell myself  
the clearing is small no grass  
small bits of bark twigs dark as morning dark  
spruce needles the gold of dying things  
cling to the still wet animal her amniotic sac  
a yellow shawl on her shoulders ears wet  
the placenta and cord at her nose  
i pray to God silently  
that i am allowed to witness this  
pray that the cow elk  
is only at the spruce edge of the forest  
her large and sleek body somehow brought  
into the safety of a shadow  
human eyes cannot penetrate  
i pray because that is what my abuelita  
has taught me to do  
pray that my being here this accident  
will not mean the death of this animal

i dare not touch what  
my touch will doom for having touched

as a man i carry this anger it is  
untraceable yet i know my father taught it to me  
with his blood with his stories he loved  
all of us enough to teach us not to trust  
even so his eyes have in them the dark well of mercy  
this vine of flower is watered by fire and it is my life

beyond the newborn elk calf  
the spruce drop down a slight slope  
light enters in razors of dust pillars of gold

at the edge of the clearing there are  
six sheep buried in the duff their bodies  
bloated bellies green and blue  
necks broken

i am eleven the horse is  
in the wind and the dogs  
have no loyalty there are  
two ravens at the edge  
of the trees the invisible  
magpies are crying into the day

i look back toward the elk calf  
i do not know what to do i  
am alone i pray because that  
is what i have been taught to do

i pray for myself i pray  
for the count and perhaps i  
pray that too much death will  
not enter into my life i must  
have prayed for something like that

o dear and brutal day  
do not seep into my young heart

dear Lord and dear st. Francis  
look over the newborn elk calf  
may her mother hear her chirp  
may her mother lift her head and  
run toward the sound and may  
all living things that have not  
yet done so dear Lord  
may they suckle

o dear and brutal day  
whose light is pillars through dark  
arms of spruce may the horse  
return to camp and may the dogs  
always be loyal

o dear and brutal day  
here where i stand at the edge of  
death and birth protect me

o small voice that was me  
a thousand years ago tell me  
which way the bear has gone and  
lead me away toward safety  
and living sheep small voice  
that was me so long ago let me  
sing later let me not know too  
much anger let me sing forgiveness

remind me o small voice  
that my father has sent me here alone  
because he loves me and understands  
that men must know their fear  
if they are ever to love

dear and brutal day  
heal the herder and lead  
the horse home lead too  
the mother elk to her calf  
lead her to lick the newborn clean  
lead her to eat placenta and cord  
lead her to swallow the danger  
the scent of these things brings

my abuelita has taught me to pray  
she tells me our faith is made of  
three pillars prayer penance  
and action that there are eight  
types of literature in the bible  
this is one of them she has  
taught me to pray

i would give away most anything  
to hear her voice again i would  
give away words and anger  
i would give away fear and joy  
i would give away this abyss between  
life and death i would  
give away this spruce and  
every wilderness to  
have her lead me in prayer  
just one more time

i am just a boy  
she died the winter before

i ask her to ask God to  
save the elk calf i did  
not dare touch i ask her  
to walk me back to the  
open meadow and i ask  
that the count not grow  
too high or too heavy  
for my young body to bear

Aaron Abeyta is a long-time partner of CCALT. In these verses, the vast landscape and the rawness of nature converges with the toil of the land steward. As the cradle of artistry, open lands beckon poets to find rhythm in the everyday dance of conservation, ranching, and nature.

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a financial performance summary from the most recent fiscal year. We have also provided a three-year snapshot to show the progress we have made in ensuring CCALT's financial future.

## FY 2022/2023 SUPPORT AND REVENUE



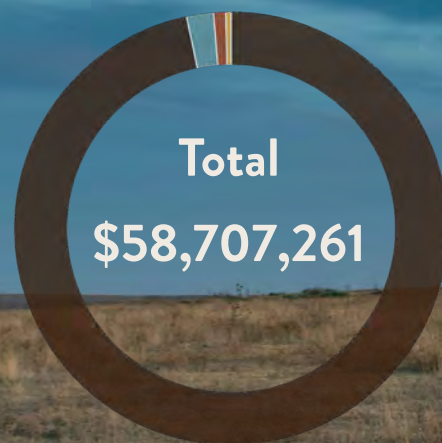
Contributions of Conservation Easements	<b>78%</b>	<b>\$45,840,050</b>
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Grants for the Purchase of Conservation Easements	<b>19%</b>	<b>\$10,918,750</b>
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Contributions, Grants, and Special Events	<b>3%</b>	<b>\$1,750,276</b>
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Program and Other Revenue	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>\$437,857</b>
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## FY 2022/2023 EXPENSES



Conservation Easements	<b>97%</b>	<b>\$56,758,800</b>
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Other Conservation Expense	<b>2%</b>	<b>\$1,183,753</b>
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Management and General	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>\$538,719</b>
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Fundraising	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>\$225,989</b>
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## CORE ENDOWMENTS AND LEGAL DEFENSE FUND (AS OF JUNE 30, 2021, 2022, 2023)

	2021	2022	2023
Stewardship Endowment	\$6,428,365	\$5,767,161	\$6,584,091
Operating Endowment	\$1,459,252	\$1,208,872	\$1,350,138
Legal Defense Fund	\$1,088,962	\$1,255,813	\$1,389,338

Our core endowments and legal defense fund are donor restricted and board designated funds established and managed for the purpose of supporting operations and ensuring that our easements will be maintained and supported in perpetuity.



## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF JUNE 30, 2021, 2022, AND 2023

ASSETS	2021	2022	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,273,700	\$1,493,423	\$1,612,374
Contributions and grants receivable	\$42,250	\$253,950	\$129,788
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$50,946	\$57,139	\$126,246
Loans receivable	\$0	\$76,167	\$8,000
Investments	\$10,427,682	\$9,273,858	\$10,576,989
Property and equipment, net of depreciation	\$630,181	\$614,002	\$602,796
Operating lease right-of-use asset	\$0	\$0	\$94,169
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$12,424,759</b>	<b>\$11,768,539</b>	<b>\$13,150,362</b>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$171,938	\$279,749	\$275,674
Deferred revenue and refundable advances	\$133,160	\$192,667	\$269,060
Operating lease liability	\$0	\$0	\$102,380
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$305,098</b>	<b>\$472,416</b>	<b>\$647,114</b>
NET ASSETS			
Without donor restrictions	\$1,569,882	\$2,069,692	\$2,350,347
With donor restrictions	\$10,549,779	\$9,226,431	\$10,152,901
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$12,119,661</b>	<b>\$11,296,123</b>	<b>\$12,503,248</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$12,424,759</b>	<b>\$11,768,539</b>	<b>\$13,150,362</b>

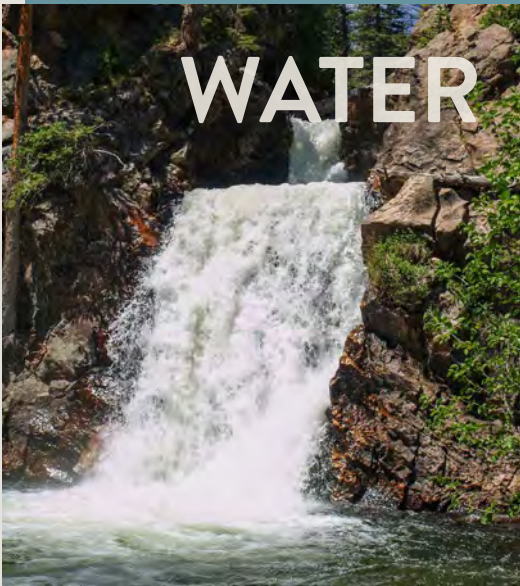
## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 2021, 2022, 2023

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2021	2022	2023
Contributions of conservation easements	\$19,990,459	\$34,093,457	\$45,840,050
Grants for the purchase of conservation easements	\$4,506,741	\$4,135,143	\$10,918,750
Contributions, grants, and special events	\$1,357,486	\$1,498,263	\$1,750,276
Program and other revenue	\$233,396	\$777,069	\$437,857
Forgiveness of Paycheck Protection Program loan	\$129,000	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$26,217,082</b>	<b>\$40,503,932</b>	<b>\$58,946,933</b>
EXPENSES			
Donated conservation easements	\$19,990,459	\$34,093,457	\$45,840,050
Purchase of conservation easements	\$4,506,741	\$4,135,143	\$10,918,750
Other conservation expense	\$932,039	\$1,046,640	\$1,183,753
Management and general expense	\$424,875	\$508,431	\$538,719
Fundraising expense	\$188,045	\$173,174	\$225,989
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$26,042,159</b>	<b>\$39,956,845</b>	<b>\$58,707,261</b>
Investment return	\$2,202,290	(\$1,370,625)	\$967,453
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,377,213</b>	<b>(\$823,538)</b>	<b>\$1,207,125</b>

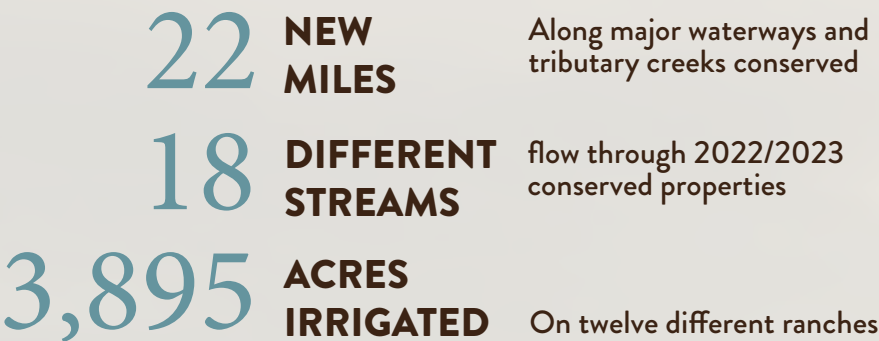
CCALT'S audited financial statements provide additional financial information and are available online at [ccalt.org](http://ccalt.org)



# CONSERVATION IMPACT 2022 2023

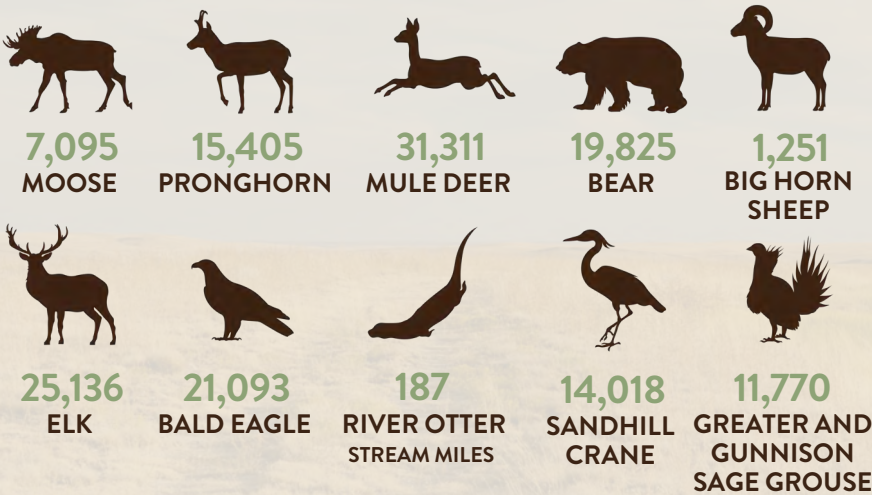


Last winter’s abundance of snow and the statewide drought this past summer have been a stark reminder that water is the lifeblood of the American West. CCALT is dedicated to helping our landowners conserve water resources, ensuring that both productive lands and larger watersheds remain healthy throughout cycles of moisture and drought.

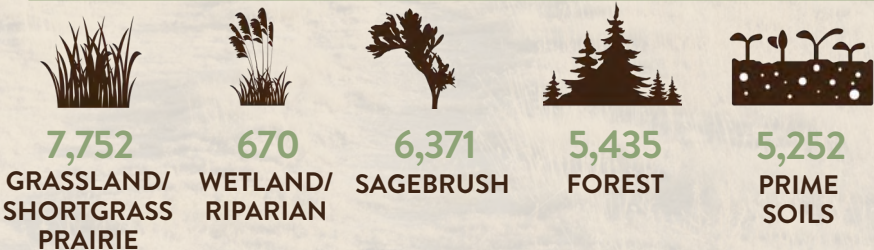


Habitat loss, fragmentation, and land conversions are among the leading threats to our natural world. Permanent land conservation ensures that habitat continues to provide plant communities, soil structure, migratory routes, and other resources that support Colorado’s variety of life. This year, CCALT’s landowner partners helped CCALT conserve large tracts of lands important to the following animals.

## Acres of Wildlife Habitat Conserved



## Acres of Notable Habitat





# CULTURE



Conserving western heritage and working landscapes means keeping working hands on working lands. Working lands conservation supports the resilience of rural economies, supports generational transfer of ranches and farms, and provides a future for the next generation of producers.

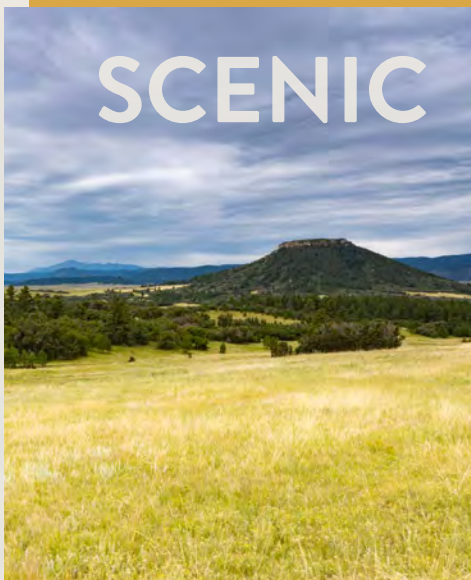
**29 FAMILIES INVOLVED**

With conserving working lands in 2022/2023

**11 INTER-GENERATION RANCHES**

With two or more generations currently working on the ranch

# SCENIC



Conserved ranches and farms are the visual gateways to the prairie of Colorado's eastern plains, the rugged Rocky Mountains along our state's spine, the high deserts of the Western Slope, and the grassland meadows and river valleys found throughout. Ensuring these views remain will support rural communities that contribute to the Centennial State.

**2 SCENIC BYWAYS**

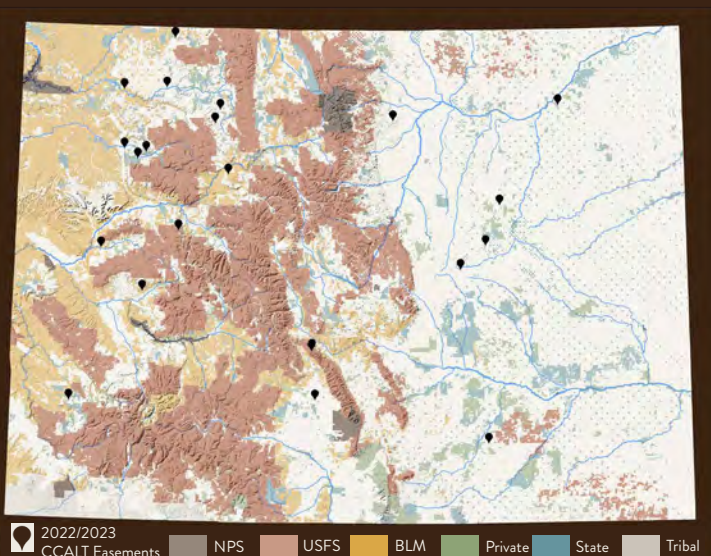
The Flat Tops and Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byways are visible from 2022/2023 conserved lands.

**18 MOUNTAIN RANGES**

Including the Flat Tops in the Northwest, Sangre de Cristos in the Southeast, the Front Range, and the Sneffles Range of the Southwest are visible from 2022/2023 conserved lands.

## THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION CONNECTION

Nature doesn't observe borders. While private lands do have boundaries, the landowners within them understand the interconnected nature of their lands to the greater landscapes and ecosystems that surround them. Their stewardship protects natural waterways and wildlife habitats above and below adjoining public lands managed by the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), State land, and Tribal lands, as well as other privately conserved lands.



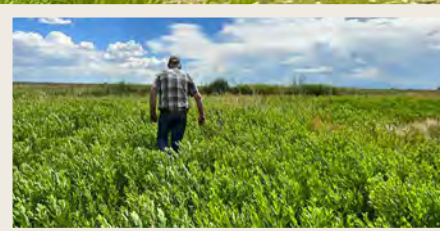
2022/2023 CCALT Easements NPS USFS BLM Private State Tribal



# RITO ALTO & SAN LUIS RANCHES



Photo credits: Dawn Reeder



The most valuable partnerships in private lands conservation happen within the family. For more than 40 years, cousins John Albert and Martin Shellabarger, along with their families, have carried on a family agricultural tradition on the Rito Alto and San Luis Ranches that began over 150 years ago.

The Shellabargers homesteaded Rito Alto Creek in the San Luis Valley around 1870. At the beginning of the 20th century, portions of the property were sold to eastern farmers, who quickly abandoned the drier lands they were unaccustomed to farming. Family matriarch Abigail Shellabarger reacquired the divided properties during the Great Depression era to create the current ranches' boundaries. Albert and Shellabarger have kept their ranches together amidst fluctuating cattle markets, and growing pressures on land and water resources in what everyone just calls the Valley. The mutual family decision to place the two

ranches into a 2,710-acre conservation easement with CCCALT ensures their legacy of land stewardship along the Rito Alto Creek corridor continues for generations.

*"The conservation ethic of the Alberts and Shellabargers epitomizes the commitment of Saguache County's ranching families to protect and steward the San Luis Valley's land and water resources."*

- BRENDAN BOEPPLE

CCALT Director of Additive Conservation

Keeping working hands on working lands is a goal many CCALT partners want to help Colorado ranching and farming families achieve. A network of conservation partners came together to help keep the Alberts and Shellabargers on lands that still provide for their livelihoods and contribute to their greater community.

Continuing a decades-long partnership, CCALT and the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust collaborated to gather private and state funders who also saw the importance of these ranches to the local agricultural economy and landscape conservation. With the support of the Gates Family Foundation and the Trinchera Blanca Foundation, funders who have made substantial long-term investments in the Valley, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the costs for Albert and Shellabarger to complete the easement project were greatly reduced. Our partners' conservation commitment to the future of the San Luis Valley helped these important historical ranches remain part of this unique Colorado landscape.



FROM LEFT: BRENDAN BOEPPLE,  
MARTIN SHELLABARGER, JOHN ALBERT



# X7 RANCH



Photo credits: Dawn Reeder

Three current generations of the Hettinger family have been dedicated land stewards of the X7 Ranch and generous conservation partners to the Northeast Colorado community.

The first Hettingers settled in Colorado during the World War I era. Howard Hettinger's grandfather purchased the ranch's original acres in 1951. Since then, each generation of the family has farmed, ranched, leased, and purchased land to grow their farming and cattle operation to what it is today: a large, diverse working farm and cattle ranch with a beef cattle operation, seasonal livestock grazing, and dryland and irrigated cropland production. This large operation is managed by Howard, his wife Julie, his son Michael, and his grandson Jake, the fifth-generation rancher in the family.

*"The way I think of it, we're safeguarding something of great value and investing in making this ranch a more sustainable operation going forward. We're keeping it whole. I'm nearly 100% certain my ancestors would feel the same way."*

- HOWARD HETTINGER

The Hettinger family has been dedicated conservation partners to their community. They own the X7 Ranch, and recently purchased the Bar 3 Ranch, one of the oldest single-family owned and operated ranches in Colorado. The Bar 3 Ranch became a conserved property under CCALT in 2020. A conservation easement became the tool that would also keep the X7 Ranch together. The Hettinger's agricultural

ventures on the X7 Ranch involve their community's youth. Local high school students have enjoyed hands-on demonstrations of the latest machinery and techniques the Hettinger family uses for planting and harvesting large crop fields.

Conserving 2,693 acres on the X7 Ranch with CCALT offers significant contributions to their corner of Colorado. The X7 and Bar 3 Ranches protect a stretch along the South Platte River that adjoins a mixture of conserved lands managed by the State of Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and other private landowners. Their high-quality habitat and water resources provide forage, cover, breeding grounds, production areas, and migration corridors for the wide variety of wildlife in the region. The X7 Ranch is the latest in this growing drive for conservation in a quickly developing region of the state.



FROM LEFT: DAN SKEETERS, HOWARD HETTINGER, JULIE HETTINGER





# BRAY RANCHES

## MULTIPLE RANCHES - ONE FAMILY

The Bray family currently manages one of the largest cattle operations in San Miguel County as a single family partnership with century deep roots.

*"Transitioning a ranch to the next generation is one the most challenging and most rewarding things facing family ranches. We are trying to blend old proven ways with more modern, technological ways in the face of drought and other challenges. Leaving the land intact is the one constant."*

- ROBERT BRAY

Lance, Zandon, and Chayden, and their growing families.

The last five years have tested the Bray family. Facing historically dry conditions in 2018, they had to sell 80% of their herd. The Brays rested

In 1919, Robert Bray's grandfather purchased the Cone Ranch to establish a sheep ranch. Looking back, the family has had to withstand drought, unstable commodity markets, inflated costs, and changing family dynamics to transition and extend cattle and haying operations to what they have today. The Brays began conserving land with CCALT on their Sandy's Fort parcel in 2006. They acquired additional land in the last 15 years that Robert Bray owns and manages alongside his sons

the land for a year and made improvements so they could reinvest in livestock and utilize a rotational grazing system to benefit forage and habitat for their herd and wildlife populations in the long-term.

Placing 9,257 acres from five more large parcels into another conservation easement with CCALT became an ideal long-term solution that would allow their agricultural operations to continue with the ability to continue transferring these lands down to future generations.



FROM LEFT: MOLLY FALES, ROBERT BRAY, ZANDON BRAY, LANCE BRAY, CHAYDEN BRAY, JANET KASK from San Miguel Open Space



## CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

The scale of conserving five ranches required CCALT to secure funding partnerships at the national, state, regional, and county levels. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) provided conservation easement funding. NRCS funded the conservation easement through its Agricultural Land Easement Program designed to help conserve agricultural lands across the country. CPW partnered with the Brays to help accomplish statewide conservation goals such as conservation of big game winter range and extending public access for hunting and fishing. As part of its funding agreement, the Bray family allows public access for big game hunting in the fall for a limited numbers of hunters and days annually for a period of 10 years. San Miguel County and the Muley Fanatic Foundation from Green River, Wyoming supported transaction costs. Both entities saw the ranch's ability to protect open space, agriculture, wildlife habitat, migration corridors, and the natural beauty which is so vital to the regional economy.



**CONE RANCH | EPPERSON RANCH  
| TAYLOR RANCH | BASIN RANCH |  
HAMILTON POINT RANCH**

*Photo credit: Bray Family*

*"Bray Ranches has grown significantly over the last century. The Bray family has recommitted to their operation and community by conserving five of their ranches in perpetuity. CCALT is thrilled to have partnered with the Bray's to build upon their conservation legacy and give the operation a chance to exist for another 100 years."*

– MOLLY FALES, CCALT Staff Attorney



*Photo credit: Bray Family*

## LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

The Bray Ranches conservation easement consists of the Cone, Epperson, Taylor, Basin, and Hamilton Point Ranches. They provide varying elevations and terrains that provide year-round grazing in addition to hay production, and excellent wildlife habitat. The Bray's cattle can walk between the ranches freely, utilizing the higher elevations in summer, and the lower elevations in winter. No trucks required!

The remote, undeveloped character of these properties and their proximities to other undeveloped private and protected public lands provide high-quality habitat and connectivity that is vital to the conservation of big game and other wildlife populations that depend on them for seasonal migrations, natural behaviors, and resilience to climate change. The properties are neighbors to large public lands including Dry Creek Basin State Wildlife Area and extensive Bureau of Land Management terrain that extends into the Uncompaghre National Forest.





# MOVING THE NEEDLE

## Conservation Partnerships

From its inception, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) has utilized unique partnerships to enhance its conservation services to landowners.

Partnerships are rooted in CCALT's history from the very beginning, when a group of members of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) forged a partnership with the American Farmland Trust and Great Outdoors Colorado to create CCALT and a new and innovative conservation model which placed the landowner at the center.

Such was the model's success it inspired similar initiatives in multiple western states. Today, there are seven other agriculture-focused land trusts that have been established based on the CCALT model. These organizations work together through the Partnership of Rangeland Trusts (PORT) to advance conservation policy and share best practices for delivering conservation services that work for working agricultural operations. As a testament to its impact, PORT members have partnered with more than 1,200 farm and ranch families to conserve more than three million acres of working lands across twelve states.

Partnerships have also helped make Colorado's innovative transferable Conservation Easement Tax Credit program work. This tax incentive has become the main driver of working lands conservation in Colorado. It has also helped

drive economic growth in rural communities. By allowing landowners to sell earned tax credits, Colorado's program provides landowners with access to much-needed capital that they can use to pay down debt, make investments in equipment or infrastructure, or expand their operations. Buyers of tax credits use them to reduce state income tax liabilities. Last year CCALT began to directly broker tax credits on behalf of its landowner partners. To do this effectively, CCALT has developed new partnerships with several corporations that see the value in supporting working lands conservation.

Every conservation easement at CCALT epitomizes the power of collaboration. These collaborations come in different forms depending on the project. Collaborations may include partnerships to raise funding to purchase an easement or support transaction costs incurred by the landowners. They can also include partnerships with groups like the Intermountain West Joint Venture and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program that help CCALT to showcase the important impacts to society that these projects have through a scientific lens.

At CCALT, we believe real impact and change flourish through lasting relationships. We're deeply grateful to all our partners who amplify our mission, benefiting both our landowner partners and their communities.



POLICYMAKERS



COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION



PARTNERSHIP OF  
RANGELAND TRUSTS



# SAVE THE DATE



## FOREVER COLORADO BBQ

August 10, 2024

Flying Horse Ranch  
Oak Creek, CO

Visit [ccalt.org](http://ccalt.org) or contact  
Owen Yager at [owen@ccalt.org](mailto:owen@ccalt.org)  
or 720-557-8269 to learn more

# 2023 FOREVER COLORADO BBQ

CCALT hosted the 2023 Forever Colorado BBQ at the Greenland Ranch in Douglas County. The Greenland Ranch provided a spectacular venue to celebrate ranchland conservation, unique partnerships that make it happen, and the people who all care deeply about these landscapes. Together we raised more than \$217,000. Special thanks to Harmony Land and Cattle for hosting a picturesque evening. CCALT's efforts would not be possible without the support and commitment of our landowner partners, sponsors, friends, and supporters.



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# HELP US CONSERVE COLORADO!

## COLORADO GIVES DAY DECEMBER 5, 2023

We're committed to keeping the spirit of the west alive through conservation of Colorado's natural resources. Help us continue that mission.

Together, we can ensure Colorado stays Colorado, Forever.

Get Involved!

<https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/ccalt>



303.225.8677 | [info@ccalt.org](mailto:info@ccalt.org) | [ccalt.org](http://ccalt.org)

Conserving Colorado's  
Western Heritage and  
Working Landscapes  
for the Benefit of  
Future Generations

Photography by CCALT unless otherwise indicated  
Cover Photo by DJ Glisson: The Livingston Ranch, 2019 Leopold Conservation Award  
A partnership with Sand County Foundation and the Colorado Cattlemen's Association