



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



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.

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!

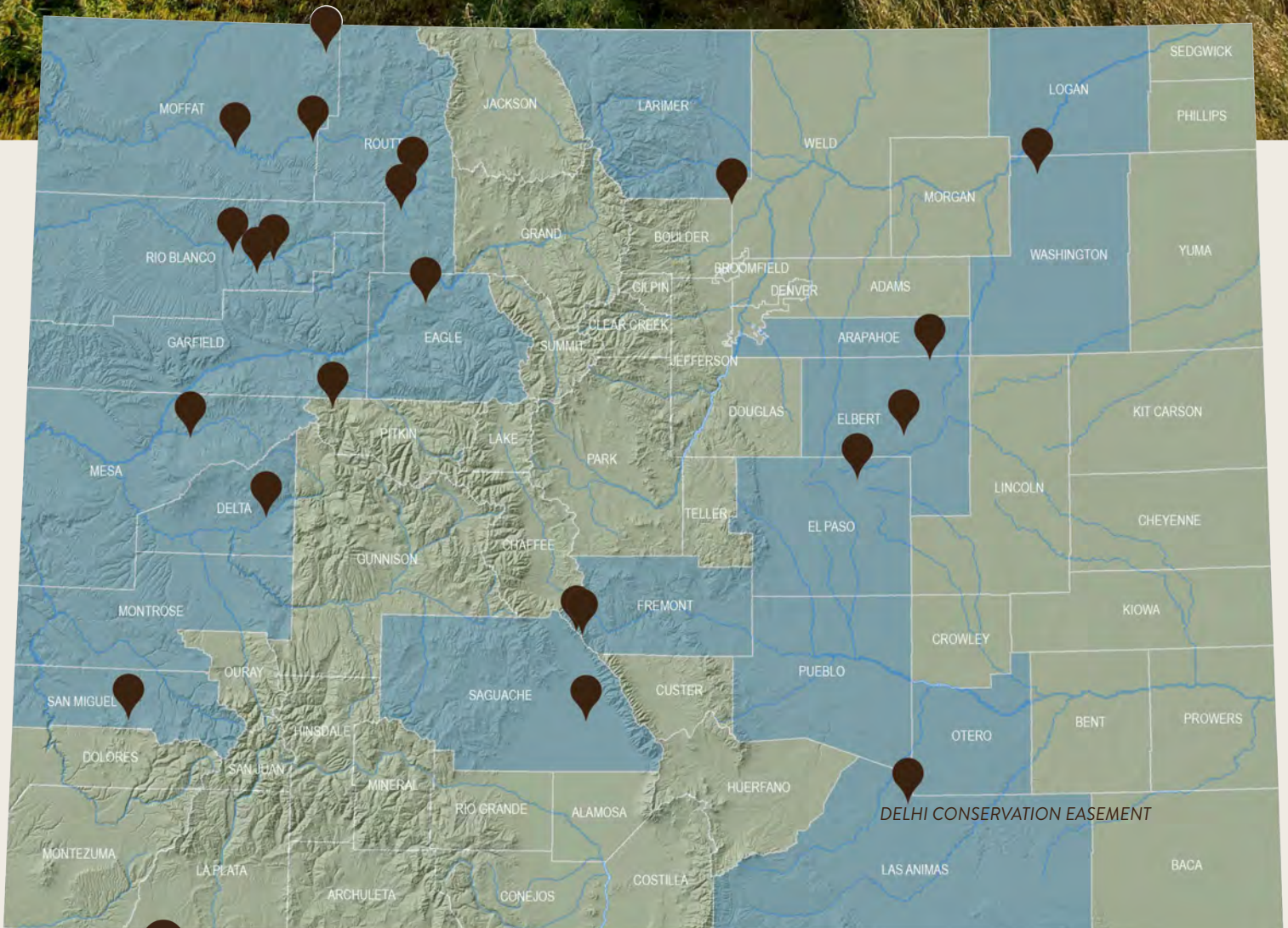
Steve and Adonna have agreed to continue to serve CCALT in other capacities. We are grateful for their service to the Board, and their continual support of CCALT and its mission.

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 CCAAL. 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

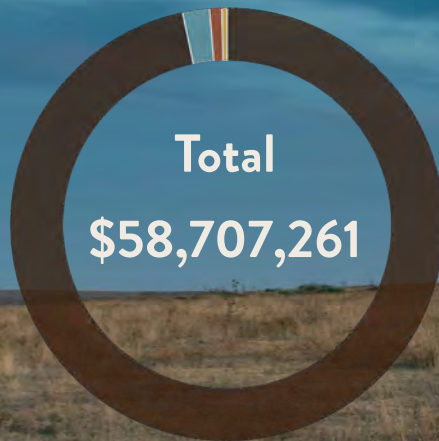
Below is a financial performance summary from the most recent fiscal year. We have also provided a three-year snapshot to show the progress we have made in ensuring CCALT's financial future.

FY 2022/2023 SUPPORT AND REVENUE



Contributions of Conservation Easements	78%	\$45,840,050
Grants for the Purchase of Conservation Easements	19%	\$10,918,750
Contributions, Grants, and Special Events	3%	\$1,750,276
Program and Other Revenue	0.7%	\$437,857

FY 2022/2023 EXPENSES



Conservation Easements	97%	\$56,758,800
Other Conservation Expense	2%	\$1,183,753
Management and General	0.9%	\$538,719
Fundraising	0.4%	\$225,989

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

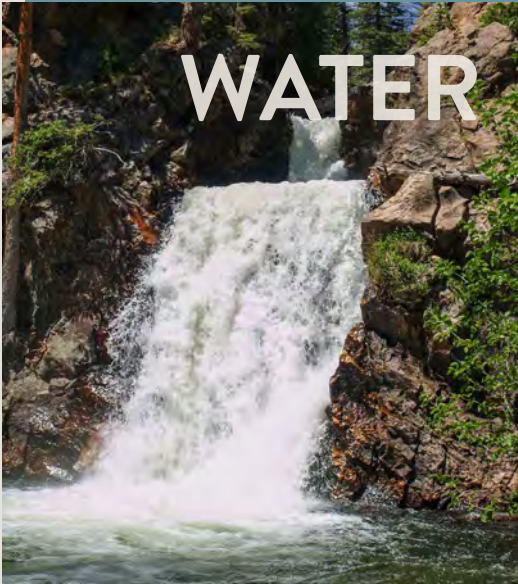
ASSETS	2021	2022	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,273,700	\$1,493,423	\$1,612,374
Contributions and grants receivable	\$42,250	\$253,950	\$129,788
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$50,946	\$57,139	\$126,246
Loans receivable	\$0	\$76,167	\$8,000
Investments	\$10,427,682	\$9,273,858	\$10,576,989
Property and equipment, net of depreciation	\$630,181	\$614,002	\$602,796
Operating lease right-of-use asset	\$0	\$0	\$94,169
TOTAL ASSETS	\$12,424,759	\$11,768,539	\$13,150,362
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
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$305,098	\$472,416	\$647,114
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
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$12,119,661	\$11,296,123	\$12,503,248
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$12,424,759	\$11,768,539	\$13,150,362

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
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$26,217,082	\$40,503,932	\$58,946,933
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
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,042,159	\$39,956,845	\$58,707,261
Investment return	\$2,202,290	(\$1,370,625)	\$967,453
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$2,377,213	(\$823,538)	\$1,207,125

CCALT'S audited financial statements provide additional financial information and are available online at calt.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.

22 NEW MILES

Along major waterways and tributary creeks conserved

18 DIFFERENT STREAMS

flow through 2022/2023 conserved properties

3,895 ACRES IRRIGATED

On twelve different ranches



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



7,095
MOOSE



15,405
PRONGHORN



31,311
MULE DEER



19,825
BEAR



1,251
BIG HORN SHEEP



25,136
ELK



21,093
BALD EAGLE



187
RIVER OTTER
STREAM MILES



14,018
SANDHILL CRANE



11,770
GREATER AND GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE



7,752
GRASSLAND/
SHORTGRASS PRAIRIE



670
WETLAND/
RIPARIAN



6,371
SAGEBRUSH



5,435
FOREST



5,252
PRIME SOILS

Acres of Notable Habitat



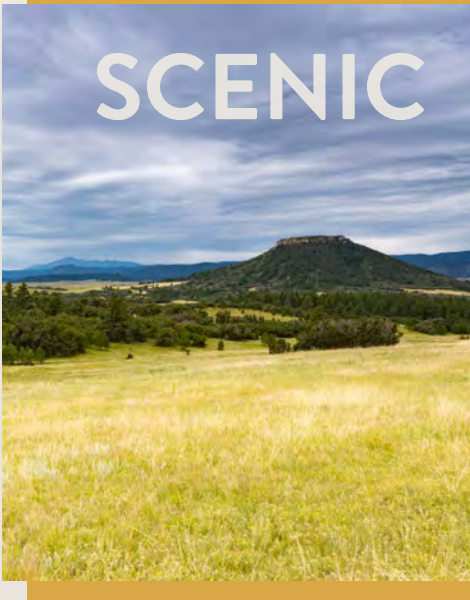
Conserving western heritage and working landscapes means keeping working hands on working lands. Working lands conservation supports the resilience of rural economies, supports generational transfer of ranches and farms, and provides a future for the next generation of producers.

29 FAMILIES INVOLVED

With conserving working lands in 2022/2023

11 INTER-GENERATION RANCHES

With two or more generations currently working on the ranch



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

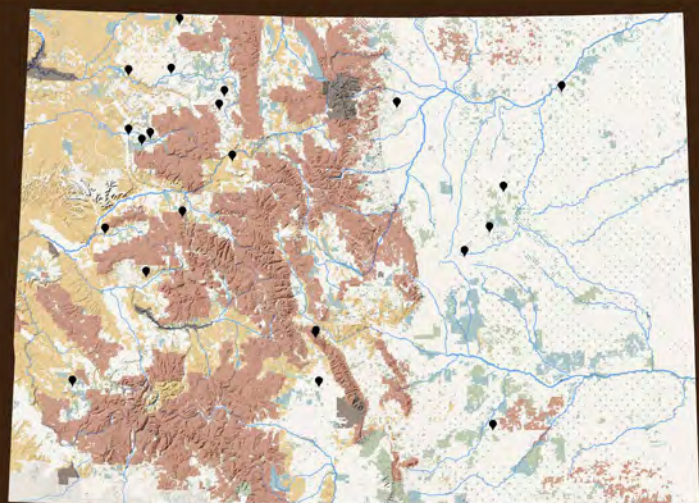
The Flat Tops and Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byways are visible from 2022/2023 conserved lands.

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

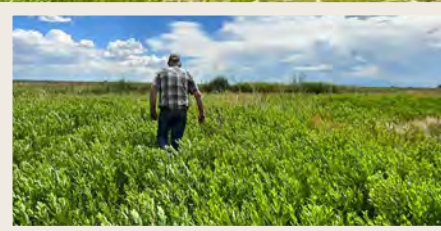


Photo credits: Dawn Reeder

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 CCALT 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 number 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.



“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



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 or contact
Owen Yager at 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 rangeland 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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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>



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



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A partnership with Sand County Foundation and the Colorado Cattlemen's Association