

Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy

[www.gunnisonlegacy.org](http://www.gunnisonlegacy.org)

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Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy

*Upper Gunnison River Basin*

*Colorado*

# Progress Report 1995-2015



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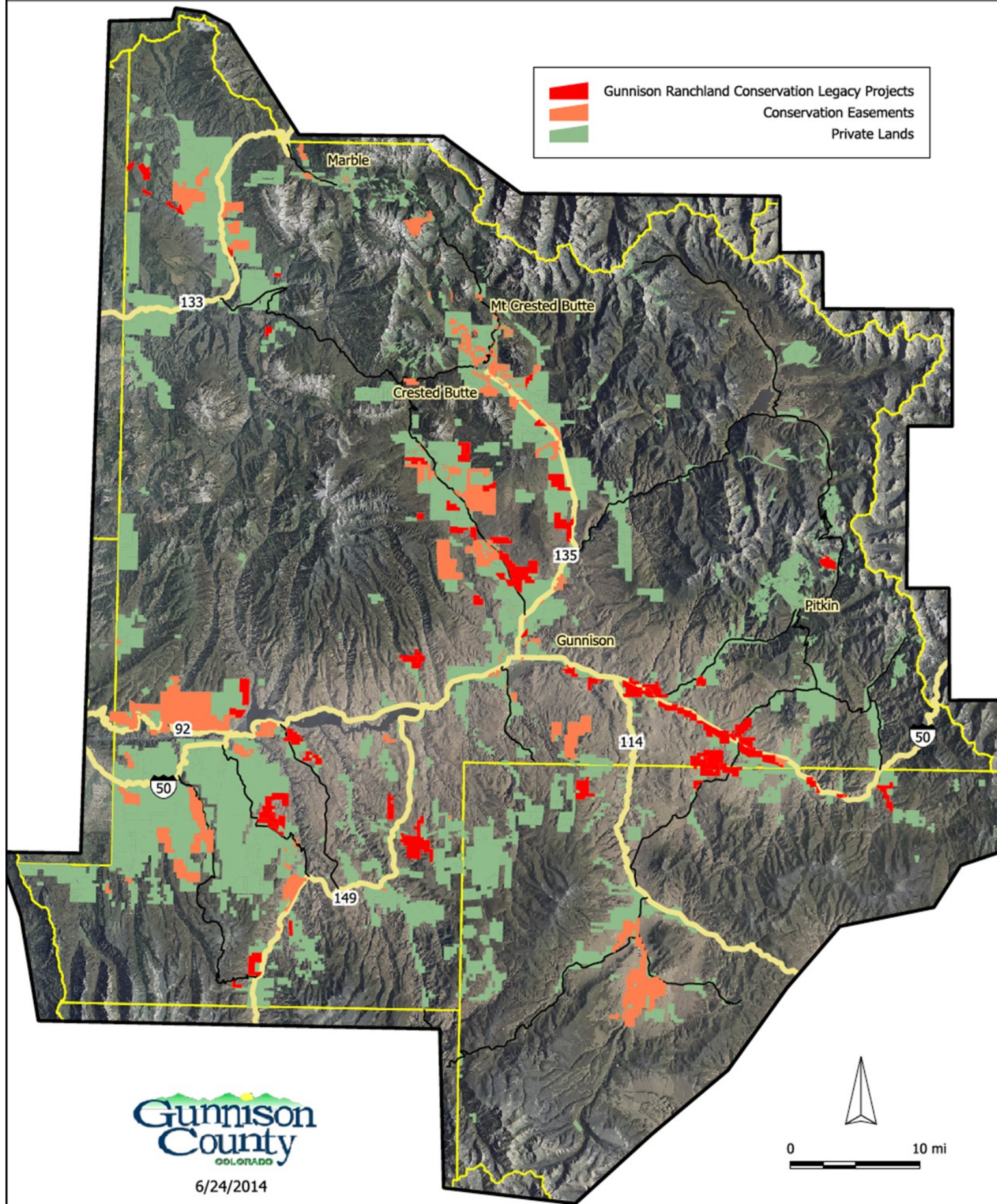
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# Gunnison County & Basin

# Private Protected Lands

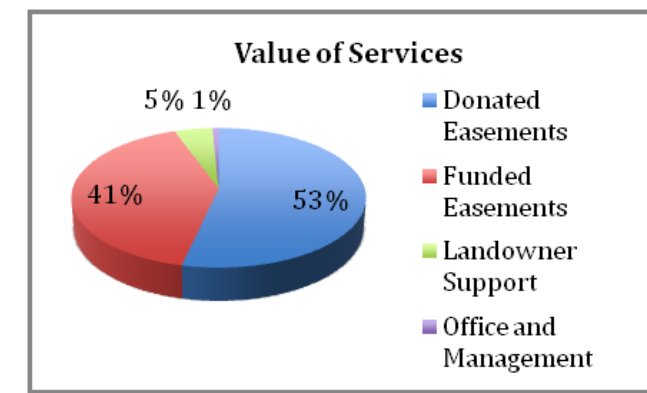
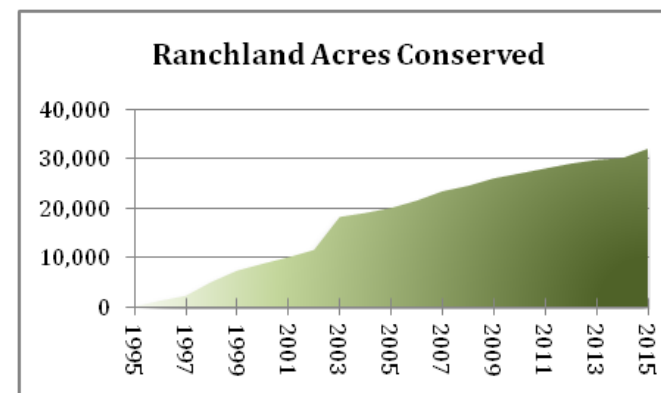


The Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy began in 1995 as collaboration between ranchers and conservationists to help landowners interested in permanently protecting their ranches. For 20 years we have assisted families with placing more than 30,000 acres under conservation easements. The appraised value of foregone development on these lands exceeds \$60,000,000.

We assist landowners with the entire process of completing their conservation easement. Whenever possible we seek funding for conservation easements and also to provide for our office and staff.

Landowners in the Gunnison Country are deeply committed to conservation. Of the 148,000 agricultural acres in the Upper Gunnison Basin, 50,000 (34%) are permanently conserved. Based on current interest levels, this number could eventually exceed 50%.

When ranchlands are permanently protected, historic water rights for irrigation are attached to the land forever, wildlife habitat is protected from fragmentation and degradation, the ranching industry continues to thrive because agricultural lands remain available for producing the nation's food supply, and local governments can better plan for the future, knowing that these lands won't ever be available for development.



Gunnison County ranches contribute to the community in many ways. Ranching produces an estimated three million pounds of beef each year. The market value of agricultural products sold exceeds \$13 million, and the annual economic impact of ranching in the Gunnison Valley is \$46 million.

Above all, successful agriculture depends on a reliable land base. That fact is the foundation for our mission: *"Conserve ranchlands, preserve ranching."*

