

# THE LEGACY



## Newsletter of the Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy Fall 2023

### MISSION

CONSERVE RANGLANDS. PRESERVE RANCHING.

Dear Friends-

We have big thanks to give. Thanks to the families that that we serve. Thanks for the board members that have helped carry the mission since its inception including Dan Pike, who retired from the board at the end of 2022 after 27 years of service. Thanks to the community that continues to value agriculture and all it provides. Since our last report, we closed two projects totaling 732 acres and expect to close two more projects before year's end. We are currently managing nine conservation projects totaling more than 4,000 acres.



Photo courtesy of Great Outdoors Colorado

In addition to meeting landowners' conservation needs, we have engaged in long-term soil research on Trampe Ranches to measure rangeland health and add to the scientific and working knowledge base of ranching in high mountain areas. We also have thanks for the partners that support our work. GRCL hosted the board and staff of Great Outdoors Colorado on the ranch in June to discuss the history of conservation in the Gunnison Basin and the future of our communities, including working ranch operations. We also received a generous grant from Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley's Pam Montgomery Nonprofit Leadership Fund to travel to Florida to visit Buck Island Ranch and Archbold Biological Station to learn about nonprofit management and research on a working cattle ranch.

And lastly, but most importantly, thank you for our supporting conservation efforts across the Gunnison Basin.

*-Stacy McPhail  
Executive Director*

GRCL is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit and relies on donations to provide conservation services to landowners wishing to conserve their land. Donation are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. Every gift goes directly to conservation projects.



## CONSERVE RANCHLANDS



**OHIO CREEK RANCH** Lynn McDermand donated a conservation easement protecting agricultural production and wildlife habitat on 572 acres in the Ohio Creek Valley. This conservation easement adds to thousands of acres of previous conservation nearby and adjacent to the ranch. Transaction expense funding was provided by the Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund. Colorado Open Lands holds the easement.



**CLERKIN PROPERTY** Kevin and Brianna Clerkin donated a conservation easement on 160 acres in the Parlin area of Gunnison County. The property is a BLM inholding and provides important Gunnison Sage-grouse and wildlife habitat. Transaction expense funding was provided by the Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund. Colorado Open Lands holds the easement.

## PRESERVE RANCHING



Above: MSU Institute of Water Research field testing on the ranch. Right: Researchers from CSU and Noble Research Institute taking soil samples.

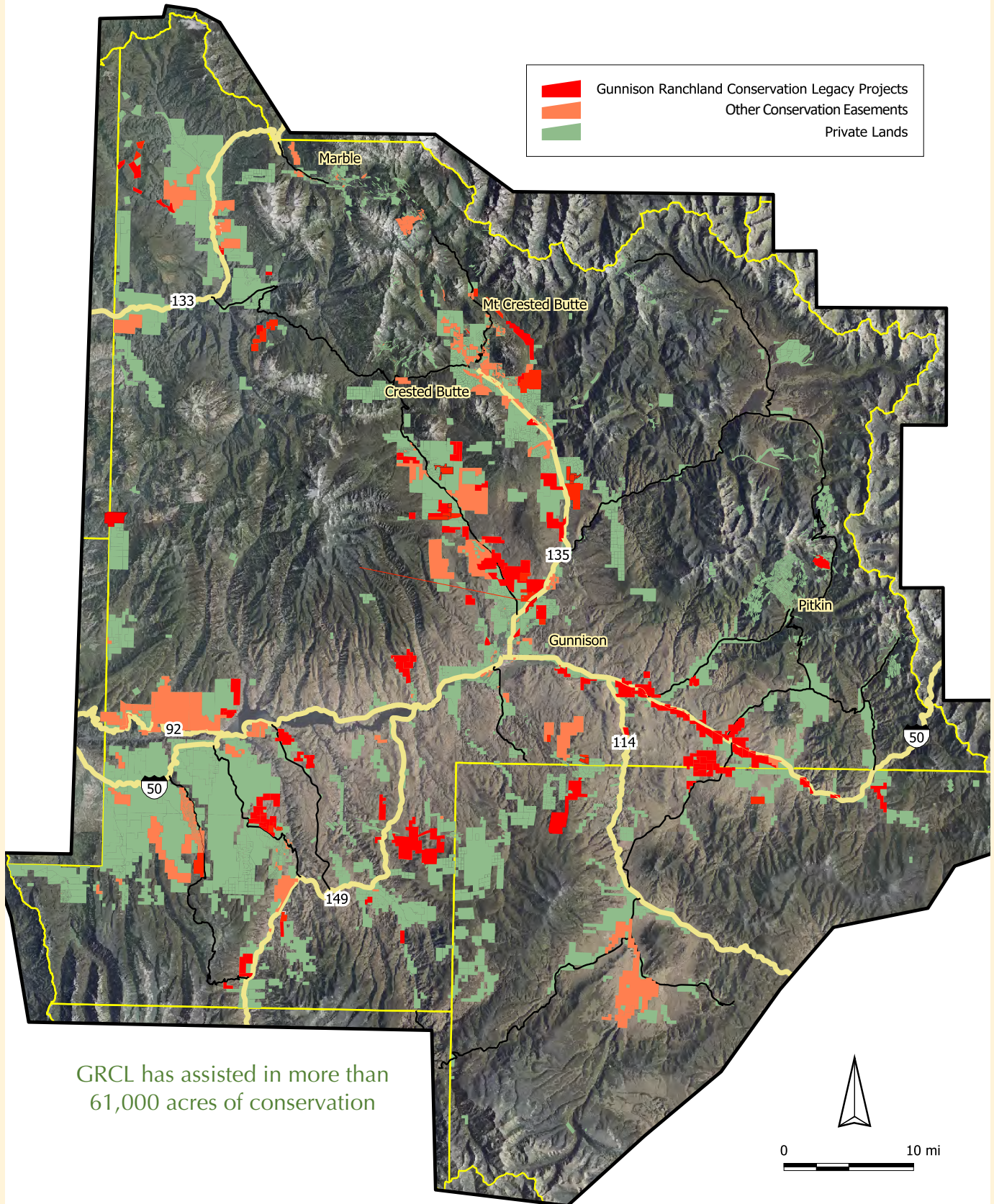


**SOIL CARBON RESEARCH** GRCL and Trampe Ranches were chosen to participate in a national soil carbon study with the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, Noble Research Institute, Colorado State University, Texas A&M University, University of Wyoming, Oregon State University and Michigan State University. The “3M: Metrics, Management and Monitoring” project is a five-year research project that studies and quantifies soil health on grazing lands including how management decisions on pasture and rangeland are interconnected to the overall health of ecosystems using both remote sensing capabilities and on-the-ground soil sampling and vegetation monitoring. The ranch was selected for instrumentation including a carbon flux tower to directly measure soil carbon activity along with soil moisture probes and weather sensors. The U.S. has 655 million acres of pasture and rangeland with an estimated 20% of the world’s soil organic carbon stock. We look forward to working with the national team of researchers to better understand soil health and continue making grazing management decisions that sustain our rangelands.



# Gunnison County & Basin

# Private Protected Lands



GRCL has assisted in more than 61,000 acres of conservation

Thank you to our partners:



Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund







Gunnison Ranchland  
Conservation Legacy

307 N Main St, Ste 2H Gunnison, CO 81230

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #154  
Gunnison, CO



**December 5**

**ColoradoGivesDay.org**

Giving is good. Giving together is great.  
Easily the best day to give.



Please consider a donation to GRCL on December 5<sup>th</sup>, ColoradoGives Day. Every donation made through ColoradoGives gets a boost from the \$1 Million+ Incentive Fund. Online giving is easy any time of year at [www.gunnisonlegacy.org](http://www.gunnisonlegacy.org)



Gunnison Ranchland  
Conservation Legacy