

THE LEGACY



Newsletter of the Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy Fall 2024

Dear Friends-

It is our honor to continue providing conservation easement services for landowners in the Gunnison Country. To our amazement, next year will be the 30th year of our program. With great pleasure we've come to know the children and grandchildren of the landowners with whom we first worked. Old friends pass on and new ones emerge.

Private land conservation has proved to be a good business strategy for families, and a solid investment in the future for all who live here and visit. There may be a great deal changing in the larger world, but in our work locally we are delightfully anchored in a present time that looks very much like the past.

We are not planning any specific celebration for completing three decades of conservation. As long as landowners are interested in our services, we hope to continue for a fourth decade. Each new conservation easement is incrementally more important than the last, because an increasing landscape of conserved private ranchlands provides for agricultural production, wildlife habitat, water resources and beautiful scenery forever.

Thank you for your support this year, and indeed for the past 29 years.



-Stacy McPhail
Executive Director

GRCL is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit and relies on donations to provide services to landowners wishing to conserve their land. Donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

CONSERVATION



TLC RANCH

The Troupe Family donated a conservation easement on 1,237 acres in the Ohio Creek Valley. The easement protects agricultural production and sensitive wildlife habitat for several Colorado Species of Concern. This conservation easement adds to thousands of acres of conservation in the area. A transaction expense grant was provided by the Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund. Colorado Open Lands holds the easement.



DANCING SUNSHINE FARM

Bonnie and Crockett Farnell completed a conservation easement on 199 acres in the Powderhorn area of Gunnison County. The property includes irrigated meadows along Powderhorn Creek and provides important Gunnison sage-grouse and wildlife habitat. The project was partially funded by grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund. Colorado West Land Trust holds the easement.



LAZY 3 RANCH

The Woodcock Family completed a conservation easement protecting 915 acres at the confluence of Cochetopa and Tomichi Creeks. The property was most recently known as known as the Levalley and Vader ranches of the Esty Ranch. The project was partially funded by grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund. Colorado Open Lands holds the easement.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the GRCL is to create a legacy for future generations by conserving ranchlands and preserving ranching in the Gunnison Country.



ASPEN LEAF RANCH

The Moore and Pfifer Families completed a conservation easement on 984 acres in the Upper Muddy area of northern Gunnison County. The property provides wildlife habitat for several Colorado Species of Concern and protects agriculture. The project was partially funded by grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund. Colorado Open Lands holds the easement.

NEWS

Significant Changes to the Colorado's Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program

A new conservation easement tax credit bill (SB 24-126) passed on the last day of the 2024 legislative session. The bill made several changes to the Conservation Easement Income Tax Credit including stopping the tax credit after December 31, 2031, increasing the tax credit certificate cap by \$5 million annually beginning in 2025 and removing the waiting list for credits. Credits filed after the annual cap is reached will be placed in a priority system of allocation and credits for easements donated in a prior year are eligible for tax credits in subsequent years in order of application.

Starting January 1, 2027 a taxpayer may claim 80% of the value of the donation, reduced from the 90% calculation used currently. Also in 2027, the total amount of the credits that may be refunded to a donor in budget surplus years will be increased from \$50,000 to \$200,000. The individual limits on the donation of a conservation easement for tax credits remains the same at \$5 million in value with credits issued in increments of no more than \$1.5 million per year.

If you have been thinking about completing a conservation easement, it is important to note that all of the available CE tax credits for 2025 have been reserved. There are \$5.6 million credits remaining for 2026 and we anticipate these credits will be issued before end of year and the state will begin reserving 2027 credits.



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Special thanks to our partners in conservation:





Gunnison Ranchland
Conservation Legacy

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Nonprofit Org
US Postage
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December 10



ColoradoGivesDay.org

Please consider a donation to GRCL on ColoradoGives Day where your donation goes further. Every donation made through ColoradoGives gets a boost from the \$1Million+ Incentive Fund.

Online giving is easy any time of year at www.gunnisonlegacy.org



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