

THE LEGACY



photo by Nathan Bilow

Newsletter of the Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy Fall 2021



Stacy McPhail
Executive Director

Building resilience in an uncertain world, one conservation project at a time...

This year we are experiencing the unique effects of the pandemic on our local community. With significant increases in tourism, recreation, real estate values and rents, many people ask, "Is this place going to be loved to death?" As more people come, it becomes harder to protect the natural resources that draw them here. Additionally, the dry winter and low snowpack had us wondering if we'd continue to have water in our streams and meadows. The relationship between water and land in our area was brought to the forefront, even for those who don't typically think about it.

Recently I asked a landowner about what spurred his desire to see his family's land protected by a conservation easement. His response was simply, "It's the right thing to do." He spoke of a commitment to his family and the land that would outlive him.

The pressures of development in our community will not disappear, but we can work to balance these impacts with protection of places that make our area special and keep us living and working here. GRCL is committed to assisting landowners to protect working lands, and to helping our community balance changes in the future. It's the right thing to do.

With thanks,



Gunnison Valley Land
Preservation Fund



Special thanks to our partners in conservation:



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John Scott

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.

CONSERVATION



OCATÉ PROPERTY

The Schaefer family completed a 160-acre conservation easement in the Powderhorn Valley. The property contains irrigated meadows and wetland areas along more than a mile of Cebolla Creek. The easement protects agricultural production and valuable wildlife habitat for many species, including Gunnison Sage-grouse. The project was partially funded by grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund. Colorado Open Lands holds the easement.



WEIDLER PROPERTY

The Weidler family completed a 178-acre conservation easement in Doyleville. The irrigated meadows and meanders of Tomichi Creek are visible from US Hwy 50 and provide agricultural resources as well as important Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat. The project was partially funded by grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund. Colorado Open Lands holds the easement.

NEWS

2021 Changes to the Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program Increases Incentives for Conservation

Colorado has one of the most robust conservation easement tax credit programs in the nation, reflecting the State's desire to incentivize permanent preservation of private lands for the future. The program got a big boost from the state legislature in 2021.

House Bill 1233, signed into law on June 30th, increases the economic benefit for the donation of a qualified conservation easement by changing the formula used to calculate the amount of tax credit to a flat 90% of donated value, up to a maximum of \$5 million credit. The bill also expands the list of eligible landowners who can access the program. Currently, the State allows for up to \$45 million annually in tax credits under the program.

GIVING IS EASY

GRCL is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and relies on donations to provide conservation services to landowners wishing to conserve their land. Donations are tax-deductible and every gift goes directly to conservation projects. Give online at www.gunnisonlegacy.org or participate in Colorado Gives Day, Tuesday, Dec. 7th and make your gift go further.

