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SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER



For this issue, our cover photo comes from a conservation easement in Colorado’s southern plains. Just last month, in honor of Arbor Day, A.C. Golden and Colorado Native created a limited-edition variety pack of beers produced only with Colorado-grown ingredients. From the proceeds of these cases, they donated 1,000 willow trees to Colorado Open Lands and Southern Plains Land Trust (SPLT) to be planted along Rule Creek, on the Raven’s Nest Nature Preserve in southeastern Colorado. We are proud to partner with SPLT, which owns the property and hosts educational programs for children and adults. The above photo shows the all-volunteer team that worked all weekend to get those trees in the ground.

Thank you to Colorado Native, the preferred beer of Colorado Open Lands!

DON'T FORGET - COL HAS MOVED!

1546 COLE BLVD, #200 LAKEWOOD, CO 80401

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS, AND STOP BY FOR A VISIT!



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

“What a country chooses to save is what a country chooses to say about itself.”
- Mollie Beattie, former Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Dear Friend,

Take just a moment - perhaps close your eyes - and imagine your favorite landscape in Colorado.

Is it a sweeping valley below a mountain pass? An iconic peak? A high prairie? A quiet mountain meadow? A hidden river? A remote red rock canyon?

Each of us can come up with that special place that we go to in our mind, and we all hope that it will always be there, just as it is today, not only for us, but for future generations as well.

For over 35 years, friends and partners like you have helped Colorado Open Lands make sure that some of Colorado's best places will never change – that those special places will be protected forever.

Because of you, over 491,000 acres of open lands in Colorado – from critical elk and bear habitat in Western Colorado to scenic centennial ranches along the Front Range – have been protected through conservation easements, the permanent agreements between landowners and future generations that we facilitate on Colorado's behalf.

Recently, our new Board Chairman, Paul Phillips, started his tenure by asking an important question of every staff and fellow Board member – *why?* He asked us to consider why our work matters today, why the achievement of our bold strategic plan will matter in 2020, and why Coloradans should continue to support our work.

The answer to Paul's inquiry was clear – *because open lands matter to the people of Colorado.* Land conservation contributes to our quality of life today and ensures our legacy long after we're gone.

While we have a remarkable record of accomplishment behind us, 2017 is shaping up to be a transformative year for Colorado Open Lands with a host of exciting projects underway.

Behind each one of these efforts stands someone like you – someone who recognizes that land conservation matters, and trusts Colorado Open Lands with the task of creating and leading meaningful conservation impact for the people of Colorado.

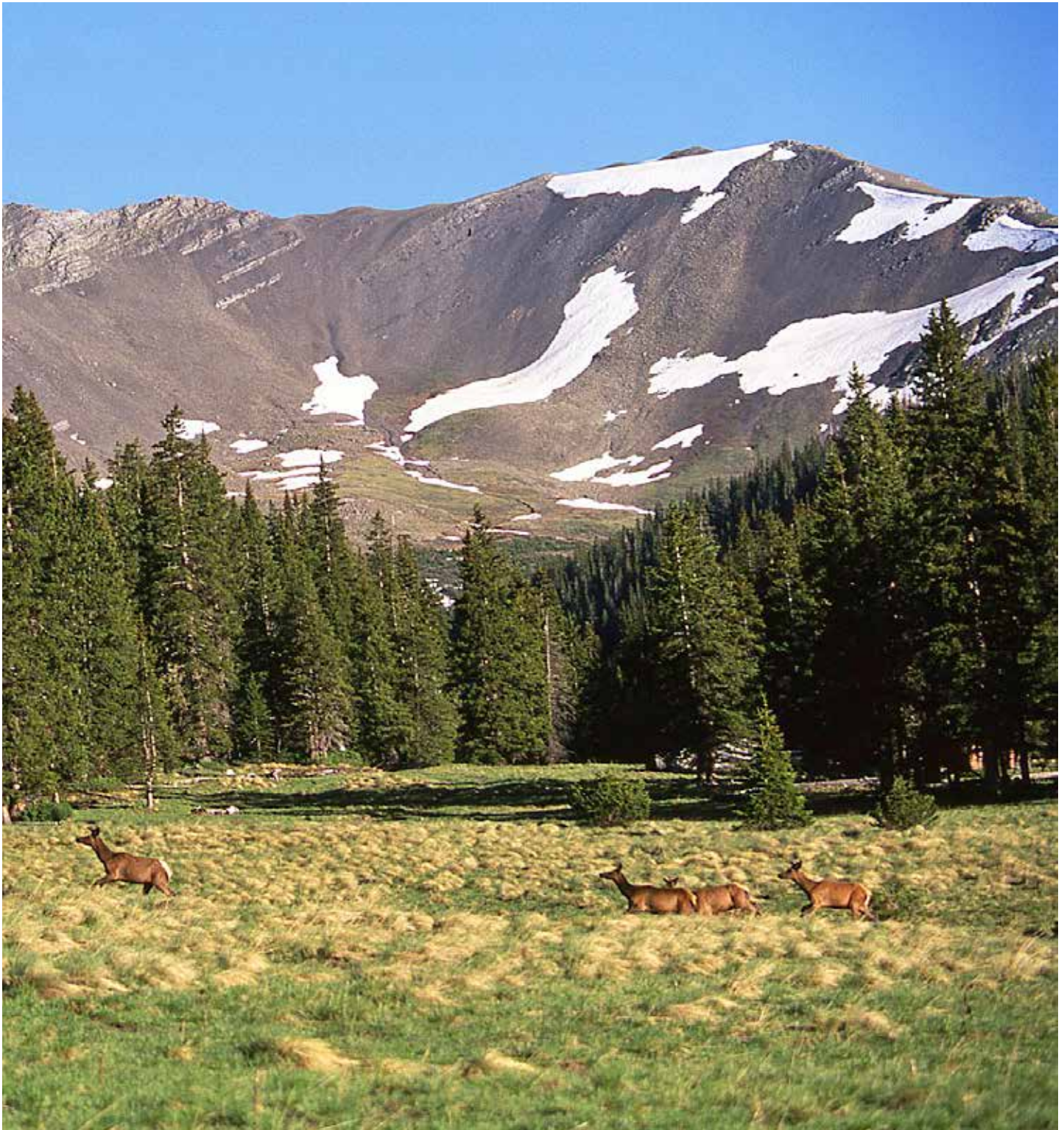
On behalf of all of us at Colorado Open Lands, enjoy these stories about the impact you continue to make and thank you for being a partner in this important work.



Tony Caligiuri
Tony Caligiuri

President and CEO, Colorado Open Lands

CONSERVING COLORADO IN BABY STEPS AND GIANT LEAPS: AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE APPROACHES



Trinchera Ranch, located in the San Luis Valley. Photo by John Fielder.

Three years ago, the staff and Board of COL took a hard look at the future of Colorado, and what it might take to save the best of it while there's still time. This big-picture thinking led to the drafting and adoption of our strategic plan (available in full on our website). One of the key goals in our plan calls for us to triple our historic pace of conservation, and permanently protect a total of 800,000 acres of the best of Colorado by the end of the plan's term in 2025. This year, we are poised to hit a major milestone on the way, as we have our 500,000th protected acre in our sights.

How big is 500,000 acres? It's over 10 times the size of the Washington, D.C. It's 2/3 the size of Rhode Island. In Colorado terms, it's twice the size of Rocky Mountain National Park.

These acres are protected in baby steps and giant leaps. Sometimes the smallest areas can have the richest history, and sometimes huge tracts can have momentous impact on the plants and animals that thrive there. In celebration of our pending 500,000th acre, we wanted to provide a retrospective on our smallest conservation easement and our largest.

**The Smallest: Kaplan-Hoover
Windsor, CO, Larimer County
1 acre, permanently protected in 2007**

Sometimes the truth can be stranger than fiction. What kid hasn't dug in their backyard, looking for buried treasure? What if you found it? In 1997, land developers building a subdivision in Windsor, CO, broke ground for a new home and found something they never expected: thousands of bison bones.

Excavators stopped their work and notified Colorado State University's Department of Anthropology, which sent representatives to investigate. A major dig ensued, and researchers found over 4,000 bones, estimated to be nearly 3,000 years old. CSU researchers say that the quantity and arrangement of the bones suggests that this was a major kill site for pre-historic Native American hunters, who drove bison herds into arroyos to block their escape.



The bone bed at Kaplan-Hoover, Windsor, CO

(cont. next page)



Recognizing what a special place they had stumbled upon, the homeowners' association for the new development applied for and was awarded a grant from the Colorado State Historical Fund to purchase the lot in order to preserve the site in 2004. By 2007, the Kaplan-Hoover Bone Bed was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and placed under conservation easement with Colorado Open Lands, marking our first archaeological easement, and our only easement on one single acre.

**The Largest
Trinchera Ranch
Fort Garland, Costilla County
81,400 acres, permanently protected in 2004**

The mountains of the San Luis Valley were given their name, Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ), by the early Spaniards for their blood-red brilliance in the glow of the setting sun. Though claimed by Spain in 1598, it was nearly one hundred years before any Spaniard set foot on the land. After Mexican independence from Spain, title to much of the range was granted to a French-Canadian fur trapper, Charles Beaubien, who had settled in Taos and become politically influential. The Sangre de Cristo Land Grant was given to Beaubien and totaled 1,038,000 acres. In 1844, Beaubien paid just \$30 in exchange for that grant.

After the Mexican War of 1846, the area became U.S. territory. In 1853, Beaubien began parceling the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant to his relatives and friends. The Ranch would later be re-assembled by Col. William Gilpin, the first Territorial Governor of Colorado, for an average price of just four cents per acre.

Gilpin subsequently brought in numerous investors, including Denver Mayor George Clark, and banker David Moffat, as well as English and Dutch partners. Eventually these partners divided the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant into two pieces. Over the years, the properties continued to be sold and divided. Owners of the Trinchera Ranch included some of Colorado's most prominent individuals, including W. J. Palmer, the founder of Colorado Springs.

In 1938, the Trinchera Ranch was purchased by Ruth and Albert Simms of Albuquerque, both former legislators. In a quiet title action at the time, nearly 400 people were identified as potential claimants to title, including former Presidents McKinley and Buchanan, and the son of President Chester Arthur. In 1950, the Simms sold the 90,000-acre portion of the Ranch north of highway 160, which would become known as the Blanca Ranch. Upon Albert Simms' death in 1964, it became apparent to his heirs they would also have to sell the Trinchera Ranch to pay estate taxes.

Legend has it that Malcolm Forbes first saw the Ranch on a cross-country motorcycle trip that took him over La Veta Pass. Forbes purchased Trinchera in 1969, and subsequently reunited it with the Blanca Ranch which he purchased several years later. By the late 1970s, Forbes had committed both ranches to wildlife, including becoming the pilot for the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Ranching for Wildlife program. In 2004, the Forbes family placed an easement on the 81,400 acres of Trinchera Ranch, reuniting the heart of Beaubien's Sangre de Cristo Land and protecting this portion of the original land grant in perpetuity.

Today, Trinchera Ranch is the single largest contiguous, privately owned ranch in Colorado, and is permanently protected under conservation easements with Colorado Open Lands and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The ranch is now owned indirectly by conservation philanthropist Louis Bacon, who has made incredible contributions to the landscape and the local community. In partnership with Colorado Open Lands, Mr. Bacon has been a dedicated steward in preserving a fascinating part of our state's history.

Mr. Bacon authorized a conservation easement donation of approximately 167,000 acres on the Trinchera Blanca Ranch in Colorado's Sangre de Cristo Mountains, which marks the largest such donation received by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and was also a critical step in the establishment of the Sangre de Cristo Conservation Area as the nation's 558th unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Combined with additional donations authorized by Mr. Bacon of conservation easements on Tercio and Red River Ranches, these donations help form a landscape-scale conservation effort of approximately 800,000 acres of protected lands stretching from Great Sand Dunes National Park, Colorado to northern New Mexico.



Trinchera Ranch, San Luis Valley, CO . Photo by John Fielder

EATING LOCAL MATTERS: CONSERVATION CAN ENSURE ACCESS TO LOCAL FOOD

We all hear that we should be “eating local,” but do we understand why? Let’s examine two main reasons – local foods support healthy bodies and a healthy economy.

Local food has more nutrients

Once separated from the plant, fruits and vegetables continue to undergo their own form of respiration. To fuel this process, the plant uses its stores of nutrients – proteins, carbohydrates, and fats, taking along with them flavor and important nutrients. Some plants lose nutrients faster than others, with broccoli, spinach, artichokes, and Brussel sprouts having a rapid respiration rate, and apples, citrus fruits, onions, potatoes, and nuts retaining nutrients much longer. (Source: USDA) The longer it takes for food to get from the farm to your plate, the less nutritious it will be for your body. (Source: Harvard Medical School Center for Health and the Global Environment).

Local food supports our Colorado community

We recognize that this definition of local may be a bit broad, given that Colorado spans 380 miles in width, but purchasing food from Colorado producers supports our state economy. Food and agriculture is a \$41 billion business in Colorado and directly employs about 115,600 people (Source: Colorado Office of Economic Development). Focusing on buying local can help ensure that one of Colorado’s most vibrant industries stays that way.

Conservation can help

Colorado Open Lands has a long history of supporting Colorado’s farming and ranching community. Conservation easements can help make agriculture permanently viable, by protecting water rights and lessening agricultural producers’ tax burdens. Over 60% of COL’s easements include an agricultural element, whether that’s picturesque open grazing land for cattle, endless orchards of Palisade peaches, or even smaller urban farms that bring just-picked produce to their local communities. (Find great local food listings at our directory, www.ConservedColorado.org.)

Photo courtesy of Poudre Valley Community Farms



A groundbreaking concept in Northern Colorado

Over the last two years, a group of individuals in and around Larimer County have created a cooperative to own and operate a system of community farms, promoting local food production in their community.

The cooperative member-owners are currently looking to purchase their first piece of farmland. Once in ownership of the cooperative, the land will be leased to Native Hill Farm, which will use it to grow four-season vegetables that it will sell and distribute back to cooperative members, as well as through local channels, including a food stand, area restaurants, schools and food banks.

The co-op will purchase the land with proceeds raised from its members, as well as financial support from Great Outdoors Colorado. After the purchase, they plan to place a conservation easement on the land with Colorado Open Lands, to ensure that the land will stay in agricultural production for generations of Northern Coloradans to come!

See more about the Poudre Valley Community Farms at poudrevalleycommunityfarms.com. Stay tuned for more on this project soon, including where to purchase Native Hill Farm produce!

2016 DASHBOARD

LAST YEAR, WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR LANDOWNERS, DONORS AND PARTNERS, COLORADO OPEN LANDS ACHIEVED GREAT CONSERVATION SUCCESSES!

11

NEW PROJECTS

18,435

NEW ACRES

FOR A TOTAL OF

421

TOTAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS
CURRENTLY HELD

491,771

TOTAL ACRES PROTECTED WITH COL

STEWARDS A TOTAL OF OVER

\$303,686,953

IN DONATED LAND VALUE

WORKS IN

45

COLORADO COUNTIES

HOLDS EASEMENTS ON

35

PROJECTS WITH PUBLIC ACCESS

LAUNCHED A PROGRAM FOR

17

NEW CONSERVATION LEADERS

COLORADO OPEN LANDS ANNOUNCES THE CENTENNIAL SOCIETY

Honoring and recognizing families committed to ensuring the permanency of conservation through the creation of an estate gift for Colorado Open Lands



Colorado is America's Centennial State, founded in 1876. In the past 140 years, a lot has changed. But, thanks to land-loving folks, including our state's centennial ranchers and farmers, much has stayed the same.

Since 1981 Colorado Open Lands has partnered with landowners to protect the open lands that define and deliver our state's unparalleled and uniquely western quality of life. As a member of our Centennial Society, you will ensure the permanency of that work.

To learn more about making a bequest, adding Colorado Open Lands as a beneficiary to your life or insurance policy, or to inquire about annuities, remainder trusts, or retained life estate options, please call Brandy Bertram at 303.988.2373 ext., 222. If you have already added Colorado Open Lands to your estate plans, please let us know so that we may enroll you in The Centennial Society and celebrate your commitment to the stewardship and protection of Colorado's conserved lands for the next 100 years, and beyond, today!

MAKING SENSE OF YOUR OPTIONS

by William Albrecht, CFP®
Pathways Non-Profit Solutions
www.pnps.net

People interested in creating a legacy gift for Colorado Open Lands have many options available. There are lots of ways to balance philanthropy with our responsibilities to loved ones, to tailor any gift in ways that meet all of our goals. While these options are highly flexible, it's not always apparent where to begin.

Two Early Questions

Many of us have family members, friends and loved ones we would like to remember in our plans. Our children and grandchildren, close friends and caregivers and others can all be included as desired, along with organizations like Colorado Open Lands whose work truly matters. Deciding who to include is the first question to answer.

In estate planning, many people will direct their gifts based on percentages. It takes thought and reflection, but finding the right proportion between everyone you'd like to remember – the balance that fulfills all of your wishes – is perhaps the most important question to answer.

The second question involves the timing of any charitable gifts. Making a charitable gift typically creates a tax deduction and everyone enjoys saving taxes. However, with a planned gift, it's important to first protect ourselves financially. No one knows what's ahead. We cannot predict future healthcare expenses, assisted living needs, or other financial obligations that sometimes arise – and we have to be ready.

Smart Philanthropy

Fortunately, there are great options available no matter how you decide to time your gift.

For those who want to preserve control over their assets during life, you can create a future gift for Colorado Open Lands in your Will or Living Trust, or by naming COL as a Beneficiary of an IRA or life insurance policy. Your gift will be in place – in whatever proportion makes sense – as you simultaneously preserve complete control over your assets for life. You're protecting your future.

If you're confident that you're prepared for future uncertainties, options like charitable gift annuities and charitable trusts can be worth

HOW WILL YOU BE REMEMBERED?

A few questions to reflect upon, perhaps with pen and paper:

- How would you like people to describe the life you lived?
- What qualities would you like people to associate with you?
- What would you like your children, grandchildren and other loved ones to remember about you?

Considering these and similar questions can help us all define what matters most.

FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

Taking time to share your thoughts and plans with family members can help avoid misunderstandings.

- Share your thoughts and goals, including any philanthropic priorities.
- Ask for feedback.
- Ask your loved ones to consider how they might involve themselves philanthropically, either at Colorado Open Lands or with an organization of their choice.

Sharing your hopes and plans with those you love can unlock important conversations.

considering. They can generate immediate tax savings, sometimes at significant levels. Gift strategies exist to address a wide range of planning scenarios, often in ways that maximize your family, philanthropic and other financial goals.

Most Important Thing

The most important thing is not how much you give or when, or even to whom. It's that your planning accurately reflects all of your goals and priorities. The right plan is whatever is right for you.

If Colorado Open Lands is among your priorities, please consider your options. There is a lot of flexibility – everyone can find the approach that's best for them. And if you'd like to start a gentle, low-key conversation to learn more, please touch base with Brandy Bertram at BBertram@ColoradoOpenLands.org. There are no expectations or obligations. Perhaps a helpful idea (or two) will emerge.

Good luck with your planning! And thank you for your generous support of Colorado Open Lands.



THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS

At Colorado Open Lands, we think a lot about the future. What will important lands in Colorado look like in 50, 100 or 200 years? Will wildlife populations still be healthy? Will we still have the healthy working ranch and farm lands that define our culture and provide us with fresh local food? Will we still have those scenic views and iconic landscapes that make Colorado so special?

But we also think a lot about another future – the future of our conservation industry. Who will carry on this important conservation work in the next generation? And will people still care about protecting Colorado’s land?

With this in mind, Colorado Open Lands has launched some innovative programs to ensure the future of all open space, and private land conservation in particular.

First, for more than 20 years we have been running the **Conservation Fellowship Program** – an initiative that has launched the careers of 46 young conservation professionals. Colorado Open Lands has recruited, trained and placed these folks in positions both internally at COL and with our partner organizations, providing Fellows with important training and opportunity to break into this field, but also critical capacity for our local partners. Today the vast majority of these fellows continue to work in Colorado Conservation – from running local land trusts to serving in the Governor’s Cabinet!

“The Fellowship Program has been a tremendous boost to land trust capacity in Colorado and allowed so much conservation to happen that otherwise would not have. And it personally gave me an opportunity to launch my career in land conservation” – Jon Lebowitz, former COL Fellow and now Executive Director of the Montezuma Land Conservancy.

In addition to the Fellowship Program, COL last year launched the **Conservation Leadership Series**. This year-long experiential program invites emerging leaders from the business, philanthropic or civic world to engage in a series of educational discussions, field trips and meetings with community leaders to build a deeper understanding and appreciation for the land and its conservation. Our hope is that these young professionals will incorporate this knowledge and appreciation into their own professional and personal lives and help us weave a stronger conservation ethic into our communities.

For more information about these programs, including opportunities to sponsor, please contact Brandy Bertram at 303.988.2373 ext. 222 or BBertram@ColoradoOpenLands.org.



Conservation Leadership Series members snowshoeing on Arapaho Ranch, Nederland, CO

COL HAS A NEW LOOK!

You may have noticed that things look a little different around here! Our Board of Directors formally adopted a new logo for use starting on April 1, 2017. Colorado Open Lands' visual identity has evolved quite a bit over our 36 year history. A few things, however, persist unchanged. We remain committed to land conservation that lasts forever. We still hold dear the same values, such as creativity, integrity, inspiration, and collaborative leadership. And we still work to conserve the most critical open lands across our state.



However, we've also evolved a lot in the past few years. We completed two mergers, one with Legacy Land Trust, which worked to conserve land

in Northern Colorado, and another with Denver-based Colorado Conservation Trust, a thought leader and strategic partner to the conservation industry. We've changed leadership, within our staff and on our Board of Directors. We've added significant staff capacity, including two new satellite offices to provide local support to communities where we work. And most importantly, we adopted an ambitious strategic plan.

Given all those changes, it was time to update our visual identity to reflect the new COL. We set out to determine what was most important to convey with our new look. A few concepts came up again and again in our brainstorming work:

- We have pride in, and love for, Colorado, in all our own unique and individual ways.
- We intentionally cultivate an organization that is large and sophisticated enough to deliver complex real estate transactions, but that also is still small enough to provide local attention and expertise to land owners.
- We view all our work through the lens of perpetual conservation – we realize that our work must last forever.

After several rounds of designs, we had a clear favorite logo. Aspen trees are a part of iconic outdoor Colorado, representing our pride and love for the state. Like COL, aspens share a root system, making them one strong organism with many disparate but connected shoots that can span large areas. Finally, like perpetual conservation, aspen systems can live an awfully long time. There are aspen groves estimated to currently be 80,000 years old, existing since the Middle Paleolithic Era.

We hope you agree that this new logo and its associated applications are a great visual representation of mission, approach, and culture.

Colorado Open Lands wishes to thank Colorado photographer and artist Neil Podoll, for providing aspen trunk artwork. Find more of his work at www.neilpodoll.com.

WELCOMING NEW BOARD MEMBERS



In December of 2016, Colorado Open Lands added four dynamic members to our Board of Directors: Thomas (T.A.) Barron, Susan Fox Pinkowitz, Norton Rainey, and Dr. Amanda Weaver. Each was elected to a three-year term.

“Our Board of Directors is comprised of some of Colorado’s most prominent civic and business leaders. The addition of these four new directors continues to set the highest bar for that leadership, which is necessary as we work to protect some of Colorado’s iconic landscapes and key farming and ranching lands in the face of ever-increasing population growth in our state,” said Chairman of the Board Paul Phillips.

Thomas (T.A.) Barron of Boulder is a best-selling author of over thirty books, many focused on the importance and power of nature, including the Merlin Saga. Mr. Barron, a Rhodes Scholar and graduate of Princeton, also completed a joint J.D.-M.B.A.. After a successful business career in New York City, he returned to his native Colorado to fulfill his true passion as a writer. Tom is a Trustee of Princeton University and has served on the national Board of Directors of the Wilderness Society, recently receiving their highest honor, the Robert Marshall award. He has also served on the Colorado Nature Conservancy Board of Directors.

Susan Fox Pinkowitz, a Denver native, runs a private real estate investment company, which she founded upon returning to Colorado following a successful career in international business. Ms. Pinkowitz has a long history of volunteer work for nonprofits throughout the Denver area, and has also worked at the grassroots level on many environmental and land use causes in different Colorado counties, including Jefferson, Park, Clear Creek, and Lake. She was integral in developing a healthy food environment for University Park Elementary, creating

a model which has been replicated in many other public schools. Ms. Pinkowitz is a graduate of Stanford University.

Norton Rainey is the President and CEO of ACE Scholarships, a foundation based in Colorado that provides tuition scholarships to children of low-income families. Now in its fifteenth year, ACE has provided more than 15,000 scholarships and funding commitments exceeding \$26 million. Norton attended the University of Colorado on a golf scholarship and received his degree in business marketing. He is actively involved in the Denver community and is the founder of Men of Faith, a quarterly breakfast series targeted to men in the Denver area. He is also the founder of Rough Riders, a quarterly breakfast series that features local and national political leaders. Norton is the coach for his boys’ competitive baseball team, plays golf and enjoys fly fishing. Norton and his wife, Kara, have been married for 12 years and have two sons and one daughter.

Dr. Amanda Weaver of Wheat Ridge is an urban agricultural researcher and senior instructor of geography at University of Colorado at Denver. She owns the thirteen-acre Five Fridges Farm, which is permanently protected under conservation easement with Colorado Open Lands. Dr. Weaver frequently hosts agricultural demonstrations on her property where she keeps bees, grows vegetables, tends goats, and makes cheese and yogurt. Dr. Weaver received her first bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota, a master’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Ph.D. at University of Denver.

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CHEERS FOR CONSERVATION IS THURSDAY JUNE 1ST

FIVE FRIDGES FARM, WHEAT RIDGE

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THOSE WHO VALUE CONSERVATION!

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.COLORADOOPENLANDS.ORG



WATER

SCENIC VIEWS

WILDLIFE

LOCAL FOOD

RECREATION