

# COLORADO OPEN LANDS

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## **LEGACY LAND TRUST MERGES WITH COLORADO OPEN LANDS FOR GREATER IMPACT AND EFFICIENCY**

***Nonprofit merger will increase the pace, quality and permanence  
of land and water conservation in Northern Colorado***

**March 1, 2016**—Legacy Land Trust (Legacy) and Colorado Open Lands (COL) today announced the successful merger of their two nonprofit land conservation organizations to better serve Northern Colorado landowners and communities.

“We’re genuinely excited,” said Stan Cass, local rancher and Legacy Board President. “Northern Colorado is home to some of the finest farms, ranches and natural lands in the state. Many of the families who own these properties want to conserve them to leave a lasting legacy for themselves and their communities. This merger will give these landowners a capable, trusted partner to help them achieve their goals.”

COL President Tony Caligiuri agreed. “Northern Colorado has been a priority landscape for COL for many years,” he said. “As we considered the best ways to help interested landowners conserve the region’s working and natural lands in the face of unprecedented growth and development, partnering with Legacy was at the top of the list.”

Both Legacy and COL have long histories of successful, collaborative conservation efforts in Northern Colorado. Over the last 23 years, Legacy has helped more than 100 landowners permanently conserve nearly 43,000 acres in Larimer, Weld, Jackson and Washington Counties. COL has worked with landowners to conserve nearly 30,000 additional acres in the region since it started in 1981.

Legacy and COL began evaluating a merger last fall. After careful consideration, the two organizations agreed to complete the merger for three important reasons:

- To ensure the continued stewardship of Legacy’s conserved lands in perpetuity;

- To give interested Northern Colorado landowners a trusted partner to achieve their conservation goals; and
- To increase the overall pace, quality and permanence of land conservation in Northern Colorado as the region continues to grow and develop.

As a result of the merger, COL has taken responsibility for Legacy's conservation easements and Legacy has concluded its separate operations. Going forward, COL's dedicated Northern Colorado staff will steward Legacy's conserved properties and work with Legacy's Board members, volunteers, partners and stakeholders to help interested landowners conserve even more of the region's remarkable lands.

Both Legacy and COL are more excited than ever to continue this important conservation work in Northern Colorado. COL is committed to protecting the integrity of Legacy's conserved lands, expanding conservation work in the region and assuring that partner landowners have a quality experience as they work to protect what is important to all Coloradans.

For more information about the merger, and how to get involved, visit [www.ColoradoOpenLands.org](http://www.ColoradoOpenLands.org).

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#### **About Legacy Land Trust**

Founded in 1993, Legacy Land Trust helped private landowners conserve nearly 43,000 acres of Northern Colorado's key natural, scenic and agricultural lands that make the region a special place to live and work before merging with Colorado Open Lands in 2016.

#### **About Colorado Open Lands**

Colorado Open Lands is a private, nonprofit land trust that works to enhance Colorado's quality of life by protecting its most treasured asset: open lands. Since 1981, COL has helped landowners conserve more than 400,000 acres around the state and fostered partnerships responsible for critical innovations in conservation funding, easement defense and more. In 2015, COL adopted an ambitious strategic plan to help interested landowners protect an additional 400,000 acres across Colorado by 2025.