

# COLORADO OPEN LANDSCAPES

A NEWSLETTER OF COLORADO OPEN LANDS



*On a retreat at the Trinchera Ranch, the Board and staff of COL and CCT work out the details of merging together to form a stronger organization to ensure the protection of conserved lands in perpetuity. Photo by Catherine Austin.*

## Colorado Open Lands and Colorado Conservation Trust Merge to Create Future of Land Conservation in Colorado

Two of the most significant forces in land protection in Colorado, Colorado Open Lands and the Colorado Conservation Trust merged effective October 1 of this year. Colorado Open Lands will be the name of the successor organization, which incorporates all of the staff and functions of the two previous organizations.

Two years ago, charged by the COL board to assess the future of land conservation in the face of changing social and political priorities, Colorado Open Lands initiated a strategic planning process. While the effort was intended to create a course for Colorado Open Lands, it evolved as a strategic plan for the land conservation industry. The framework became a serious analysis of perpetuity – what it means, what it takes, and how to get there.

Colorado Open Lands and the Colorado Conservation Trust have enjoyed a close working relationship since CCT's inception. Together, we had recently participated in meetings with the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, Great Outdoors Colorado, and the Gates Family Foundation, among others, examining the status and future of the land trust industry.

As Colorado Open Lands was evaluating the conservation future and our role in it, CCT was asking itself many of the same questions. As our strategic plan began to take shape, reality-check discussions were conducted with our friends at the Colorado Conservation Trust.

After several conversations about working together towards our mutual objectives, Pete Leavell, a CCT board member and owner of the 4UR Ranch, and Tim Schultz,

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*Celebrating local agriculture, land preservation, and the communities that these two pursuits bring together.*

## Winter 2013

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# Colorado Open Lands and Colorado Conservation Trust Merge To Create Future of Land Conservation in Colorado



*The combined boards sign the Trinchera Accord, reaffirming their commitment to merging the two organizations to better ensure the protection of Colorado's spectacular vistas for our grandchildren's grandchildren and beyond. Photo by Catherine Austin.*

a COL board member and President of the Boettcher Foundation, talked during a Boettcher Foundation retreat at the 4UR. They returned proposing that we evaluate a merger.

Both boards issued a similar challenge: show us 1 + 1 is greater than 2. Our staffs started addressing the challenge. The two boards formed a joint merger committee which met to hammer out the relatively few issues between them. Legal due diligence was contributed by Holland and Hart, LLP, pro bono, and Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck LLP at a substantial discount.

In June, the boards adopted a memorandum of understanding to formally pursue a merger. In August, at a joint retreat at Trinchera Ranch, representatives of both boards of directors agreed that a merged organization would serve the purpose of ensuring the protection of conserved lands in perpetuity, while establishing new partnerships and alliances for land conservation and creating the outreach necessary to build an enhanced conservation ethic into Colorado's growing population.

In September, a Merger Agreement was formally signed by both groups, and the merger was announced and celebrated September 12th, at a dinner for over 300

people at Mile High Stadium.

In addition to being a leader in land conservation for decades, Colorado Open Lands' strength lies in exceptional conservation real estate and stewardship. Over its 32 year history, Colorado Open Lands has protected over 379,000 acres through 372 transactions in 41 Colorado counties. The organization provides a state-of-the-art stewardship program for 270,000 acres of conservation easements.

Colorado Conservation Trust is known for its success in fund raising, marketing and community engagement. In its 12 year existence CCT has enhanced the landscape in Colorado through the investment of nearly \$14 million in strategic studies, loans, acquisition funding and capacity building for conservation. (see article on page 4 for CCT achievements).

The people who built Colorado Open Lands and Colorado Conservation Trust cherish the open lands which define our state. We are humbled, but genuinely excited about building on this incredible legacy. Together, we pledge to do everything within our power to conserve critical unprotected landscapes and to make certain all the land we steward remains undisturbed for our grandchildren's grandchildren and beyond.

In 2000, Colorado faced rapid population growth, insufficient conservation funding, and fragmented conservation leadership and strategies. Eighteen new land trusts had formed since 1992 (nearly twice the number that had existed before that year) and needed help leveraging funds from Great Outdoors Colorado to conserve land in their service areas.



Colorado Conservation Trust funds loaned to the Wilderness Land Trust made possible the protection of 320 acres of private land located in the stunning glacial cirque on the edge of the James Peak Wilderness. Photo by Todd Patrick.

A small group of business, philanthropic, and political leaders identified those challenges on the horizon, and decided to act. In the spirit of proactively addressing these problems, Will Shafroth, George Beardsley, Jim Kelley, Michael Dowling and Gail Schoettler founded Colorado Conservation Trust.

Their strategic vision for CCT was to be a community foundation for private land conservation. They wished to increase the pace and effectiveness of conservation statewide, which they accomplished through expanding philanthropy, making strategic grants, and implementing nationally-pioneering programs.

In its twelve years of existence, CCT has been a statewide and national leader in how to accomplish more and better conservation. It has been an agile partner to all-too-often understaffed and underfunded land trusts – providing loans, staff capacity, and grants where they could effect the greatest impact. It has invested more than \$14 million in Colorado’s special landscapes.

Among its greatest achievements in its 12-year history, Colorado Conservation Trust:

- » *Sponsored 35 Fellows at land conservation organizations around the state. Of those, 90% continue to pursue conservation careers, 80% do so in Colorado.*
- » *Launched an innovative community engagement program nationally recognized by the Land Trust Alliance, with the ultimate goal being to help grantees become “the community’s land trust,” an organization that is deeply relevant and valued, and that will be championed and protected for years to come. Both Palmer Land Trust and Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust successfully completed this program.*
- » *Supported two loan programs that help bridge the timing of funding to complete conservation transactions. Over 10,000 acres was protected through \$5.5 million in loans.*
- » *Founded the Center of Excellence along with Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts. The Center is a voluntary commitment by the Colorado land conservation community to produce conservation easement contracts of the highest possible quality and consistency that shall be enduring, defensible, transferable and of exceptional conservation value for the citizens of Colorado forever.*
- » *Founded the Q for Conservation, an annual celebration of land conservation in Colorado. In its seven year history, the event has raised over \$1.2 million for land conservation, and has honored special guests such as Ted Turner, Bill Ritter, Douglas Brinkley, and Ken Salazar.*

As Colorado Open Lands moves ahead with its Strategic Planning process, we all look forward to building on the programs and legacy that CCT created!

# Celebrating Conservation Together



In an evening when torrential downpours swept the Front Range, 332 brave souls from all across Colorado and the nation convened at Sports Authority Field at Mile High to celebrate land conservation in our great state. In 2013,

Colorado Open Lands and Colorado Conservation Trust combined their signature events, the George E. Cranmer Award and the Q for Conservation, to celebrate our pending merger.

Colorado Conservation Trust presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to former Colorado Attorney General, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. CCT has bestowed this award only once previously, to the U.S.'s second largest owner of private land and noted conservationist, Ted Turner.



Ken Salazar

Throughout his distinguished career, Ken has proven, time and again, that “*fighting for Colorado’s land, water and people*” is more than a campaign slogan—it is his passion, his mission and his

life’s work. Ken served as Great Outdoors Colorado’s first chairman. To date, GOCO has committed more than \$773 million in lottery proceeds for nearly 3,500 projects across Colorado.

As Senator, Ken championed the cause of farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. In 2009, Ken became America’s 50th Secretary of the Interior, where he led the establishment of the President’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative,

Through the generosity of the business, philanthropic, political, and industry leaders who attended, Colorado Open Lands was able to raise nearly a quarter of a million dollars, all of which will be invested in conducting more and better conservation across Colorado.

We’d like again to thank our premium and event sponsors, which include the **LP Brown Foundation, The Summit Foundation, Bob and Pamela Troyer, 1stBank, Sam Gary, Greenberg Traurig, and Transwest Express LLC**. Nearly all of these companies and individuals have supported our two events in the past, and we are profoundly grateful for their continued support and confidence in our work this year.

Our thanks go to title sponsor **General Motors**, which through its incredible generosity donated a brand new Chevrolet Volt to be sold on behalf of the new Colorado Open Lands. This is the second year in a row that GM has gifted Colorado Conservation Trust with a Volt, for a total of \$70,000 in value. *Thank you General Motors!*

*If you are interested in purchasing a Volt from Colorado Open Lands, please contact Brian Ross at [bross@coloradoopenlands.org](mailto:bross@coloradoopenlands.org) or 303.988.2373, ext. 217.*

and led the nation’s efforts on conservation, overseeing the creation of eight new National Park units, two new National Monuments, nearly 8,000 miles of new National Recreation and Scenic Trails, and the addition of 10 new National Wildlife Refuges.

In his remarks, Ken Salazar quipped, “*we’ve got so much more to do, let’s just make [this] a mid-life achievement award.*” He went on to add, “*for all the investments we make, if it wasn’t for the landowners who stand up to the table and say we want to protect all these special places it wouldn’t be happening...Our work is not yet done, our work is only beginning. Colorado is leading the way because of these two great organizations and the leadership we have here. Give me one thing as I accept this award. Keep your shoulder to the wheel, because our cause continues.*”

This year marks the 22nd time that Colorado Open Lands has awarded an outstanding Coloradan the George E. Cranmer Award. Mr. Cranmer, for whom the award is named, was an independent, creative, and driven conservationist; founder of Red Rocks Park, Winter Park Ski Area, and scores of other signature Colorado conservation projects. In past years, the George E. Cranmer Award has been given to such inspirational individuals as George Beardsley, John Fielder, and Sydney Macy.



Steve Wooten

Fourth generation rancher Steve Wooten, from southeastern Colorado, received the Colorado Open Lands George E. Cranmer Award. Steve was cited for his implementation of conservation practices and tireless leadership with organizations including the Colorado Cattlemen’s Association, the Advisory Council of the Central Short Grass Prairie Initiative, the Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust, the High School Rodeo Association and Ranching for

Wildlife. He donated one of the first conservation easements in southeast Colorado, inspiring his neighbors to investigate and consider easements of their own.

In his acceptance remarks, Steve shared the following wisdom: “*When I consider what perpetuity entails beyond its simple definition...it boils down simply to clean air, clean water, and a healthy food supply. And to have that you’ve got to have productive lands and working families on those lands. And what these two organizations have done with their merger is to strengthen their ability to work in Colorado’s unique ecosystems and the families that live in balance with those ecosystems.*”

Thank you to all who attended this momentous night to help us celebrate these two fine Coloradans, and our future as a combined organization. We hope to see you again next year!

# The Board of Directors Launch Financial Initiative

The Board of Directors of the post-merger Colorado Open Lands is comprised of 26 distinguished Colorado leaders. This accomplished group has deep collective experience in public policy, law, business, communications, agriculture, water, nonprofit management and land conservation.

Their collective experience is only matched by the group's enthusiasm for the potential of the new organization they have created. As Dan has outlined in the President's letter, the new Colorado Open Lands has ambitious—but attainable—plans for multiple new initiatives which will drive exceptional land conservation in our state.

In crafting our merger plans, the Board of Directors constantly tested our plans against a set of guiding principles which included: will the merged organization have a major positive impact on land conservation in Colorado and can we clearly demonstrate that impact quickly? Stated differently, we have promised a “paradigm shift” in certain land conservation practices. So a key question became: are we truly prepared to deliver on that promise?

In response to this challenge, the staff and Board members of Colorado Open Lands continue our work on implementing the comprehensive strategic plan for the merged organization. The plan calls for us to initiate new programs or significantly expand existing programs so we may credibly meet the challenge of making a meaningful and immediate impact on exceptional land conservation in Colorado.

We look forward to sharing the details of our strategic plan in the near future but we are committed to executing on initiatives ranging from landscape scale conservation projects to forming partnerships with like-minded organizations across the state to leverage and accelerate land conservation work.

## The Fuel

A particularly pragmatic board member offered some very clear counsel as we reviewed our plans for the future. The observation was this: you can build the most efficient, powerful and beautiful car ever made, but if you do not fill the gas tank it won't run.

Of course, like all not-for-profit organizations, financial support is our fuel.

As we neared completion of our merger, plans and excitement grew about the potential of the expanded organization, and the Board of Directors discussed how best to ensure we had the “fuel” to launch our highest priority initiatives immediately. The Board decided to create a special program to raise \$250,000 to bolster our funding base for these new initiatives.

Charlie Russell and Pete Leavell, chairman and vice-chairman respectfully of the merged organization announced this fund raising initiative when they formally announced our intent to merge at our combined Q for Conservation and George E. Cranmer Award dinner on September 12 before an audience of over 300 civic and land conservation leaders.

Michael P. Dowling, Chairman of the national Land Trust Alliance (the organization which supports all 1,700 land trusts in the United States) also addressed the audience on September 12 and applauded our merger as a nationally significant step which must be followed by land trusts across the country. Mr. Dowling then urged the audience to support this special fund raising campaign to make certain the merger has a great start.

## Tremendous Support

The enthusiasm for our work and for the expanded Colorado Open Lands by our Board of Directors, our staff and our friends in attendance on September 12 has been infectious. **We are proud to report we have already secured nearly \$90,000 towards our \$250,000 goal.**

All of us at Colorado Open Lands are deeply grateful for this incredible show of support as we dedicate ourselves to conserving exceptional lands in Colorado and doing so in a new and dramatic fashion.

In the coming months we welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further explain our conservation programs and our specific funding needs. Please contact Dan Pike, Brian Ross or Christine Strickland to set up an appointment. As we hope you deduce, we are very excited about the wonderful conservation we can achieve.

Thank you all for everything you do to protect critical Colorado lands and we look forward to meeting with you soon.



*Increasing our capacity to protect spectacular ranches like the recently protected Berchert Ranch is the driving force behind the merger. Photo by James H. Berchert.*

# Building Community with Colorado Open Lands' First Farm to Table Dinner



Pictured left to right: Eric Kornacki, Chris Howe, Dallas Gilbert, Amanda Weaver, Eric Yochim, and Steve Cochenour.

*"The dinner was an amazing opportunity for consumers of food to truly personalize their eating experience with the producers of their food. It's not often as producers that we have the opportunity to convey the passion and love we put into our land and our products—be it vegetables, meat, or dairy."* Amanda Weaver, Owner, Five Fridges Farm

On a cold, rainy late-September evening, 55 hardy folks gathered in a field at *Five Fridges Farm at Williams Wildlife Refuge* in Wheat Ridge to celebrate local agriculture, land preservation, and the communities that these two pursuits bring together. Propane heaters, heavy jackets, wool hats and high spirits kept diners warm(ish) under the large canopy that kept everyone—and their meals—dry.

The dinner was dreamed up by Amanda Weaver, owner of Five Fridges Farm, to support Colorado Open Lands, which holds a conservation easement on her 13-acre urban farm. Not only was a wonderful amount of support shown for Colorado Open Lands, but the dinner also brought just as much focus to the importance of protecting urban food production lands.

While large-scale agriculture has the ability to feed thousands of people with a single harvest, small-scale, local food operations have the ability to continue heritage breeds that have greater genetic diversity and therefore often greater hardiness. Small-scale agriculture also allows for creativity such as teaching and internship opportunities, cost-sharing with other producers, and learning laboratories.

Five Fridges Farm encompasses all these, and more. Amanda Weaver, powered by strong coffee and even stronger convictions, is creating a unique learning and growing environment where individuals interested in becoming producers—but without the capital to purchase land—can lease an acre or less on her farm, and try their hand at growing or raising just about anything: vegetables, hops, fruit, chickens, milk goats, or bees. She is also in the process of building a commercial kitchen and classroom space to allow for classes like cheese-making. And did we mention that she also has plans for a cheese cave?

Our Farm to Table dinner brought together nine producers, a national sponsor, a farmer/professor, a local food truck, an outstanding chef, farm neighbors and 'foodies,' all in a

celebration of our local food system and the land protection it requires for long-term sustainability. We decided to share the menu itself with you, as a way to showcase all who made Colorado Open Lands' first Farm to Table dinner such a resounding success.

Lindsay Halsch, Store Marketing Specialist for Whole Foods Market—Belmar, shared with us that *"The Whole Foods Market West Denver Team was honored to sponsor Colorado Open Lands' Farm to Table dinner. This was a great opportunity to bring awareness to our local vendors and support the community. Our community partnerships are invaluable to our success in honoring our company's core values."*

Underscoring the critical connections that being in the local food community offers were the humble vegetables we had planned for the dinner. Originally, they were to come from *Clear Creek Organics*, a community-supported agricultural (CSA) producer at Five Fridges Farm, but when punishing hail devastated their entire field in the opening storm of the eight-day rains Colorado suffered in early September, we had to look elsewhere for the main ingredients that held the dinner together.

We did not have to look far. *Revision*, with a CSA farm of its own located just a few miles to the east (but which missed the hail storm) stepped up immediately. Charlie Russell, Colorado Open Lands' Board Chairman was especially struck by this relatively easy shift between local producers: *"This was an eye-opening experience. We have always looked at landscape-scale conservation, but I think we need to look more closely at smaller, urban and suburban projects that make conservation a working piece of the passion that these young people have for a more natural and sustainable relationship with their environment."*

Colorado Open Lands wishes to thank everyone that made this incredible dinner a reality, and we hope the weather is a bit better next year for our second Farm to Table Dinner! Look for a *Save the Date* announcement next spring!

## Farm to Table Dinner Menu

Designed and prepared by  
Chef Christopher Howe of The Kitchen Denver

Crisp baby salad greens with beets, slivered cucumber, fresh goat cheese and a citrus vinaigrette dressing  
Greens, beets and cucumbers from *Revision* and *Whole Foods Market*; goat cheese from *Five Fridges Farm*

Quinoa prepared with kale, carrots, celery and onion  
Quinoa from *White Mountain Farm*; vegetables from *Whole Foods Market*

Pan-roasted Heritage chicken seasoned with lemon  
Heritage chicken from *High Plains Food CoOp*

Deep chocolate zucchini cake with fresh berries  
Zucchini from *Revision*; cake ingredients and berries from *Whole Foods Market*

Dinner complemented by wine from *Infinite Monkey Theorem* and *Will Chessler*, coffee roasted by *Two Rivers Craft Coffee*, tea from *Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage* and *Celestial Seasonings* and flowers from *Stevens and Sons*, *Fresh Herb Company* and *Arrowhead*

We are pleased to introduce you to our new, expanded Board of Directors. We are all energized by the recent completion of the merger of Colorado Conservation Trust and Colorado Open Lands, and excited to work together as a single, unified Board. For more complete bios, please visit our website, [www.ColoradoOpenLands.org](http://www.ColoradoOpenLands.org) and click on About Us.



Dr. Donald Aptekar

**Dr. Donald Aptekar** arrived in Colorado 40 years ago to train in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Colorado. He has also served as medical director of Rocky Mountain Planned Parenthood and currently works as a national consultant on hereditary Breast and Ovarian cancer syndromes. He is an avid fly fisherman and enjoys biking, hiking, skiing, travel, birding and art.



Rye Austin

**Rye Austin** grew up in Colorado with a passion for the outdoors. He is the Executive Director of the Malone Family Land Preservation Foundation which protects the agricultural heritage and natural beauty of properties across the United States. Mr. Austin is an Executive Board member of the Denver Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. His interests include hunting, fly fishing, bicycling, and telemark skiing.



Ingrid Carlson Barrier

**Ingrid Carlson Barrier** is a proud Denver, Colorado native. In her career as an attorney, she has served as a Deputy District Attorney in Denver, as a lawyer in private practice with a natural resources litigation emphasis, and now serves as an attorney for the Colorado Attorney General's Office. She loves to take advantage of urban and rural Colorado outdoor spaces with her husband and two daughters.



Carolyn F. Burr

**Carolyn F. Burr**, a shareholder with Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley, specializes in water law and represents clients throughout Colorado in all seven of the state's water divisions. Carolyn grew up on a ranch in North Park, where she fell in love with magnificent landscapes. She is proud to be part of Colorado's leading land conservation organization, which also helps preserve the state's agricultural heritage.



Russell Caldwell

**Russell Caldwell** is the President of The Russell Caldwell Company, a municipal financial advisory company he formed in late 2012 after 31 continuous years in the municipal bond business. Additionally, Mr. Caldwell served as Director of the Division of Commerce and Development for the State of Colorado from 1976 to 1981.



Rob Deline

**Rob Deline** is the president of Monaghan Management Corp., a real estate management company specializing in agricultural and commercial properties in the west. A second generation native of Colorado, he is primarily interested in raising wheat, cattle, and thoroughbred horses. He enjoys farming, ranching, and hunting.



Wendell Fleming

**Wendell Fleming** fell in love with Colorado on a ski trip to Vail in her teens, and has lived in Colorado for over 32 years. Long active in Denver's nonprofit community, she is the executive director of the LARFIK Foundation. Wendell has served as Chairwoman of the Women's Wilderness Institute, and on the Middlebury College alumni board. She is an avid skier and hiker, and has climbed over 35 of the Colorado fourteeners. She is married to Stephen Cunningham and has three sons.



Paul Phillips

**Paul Phillips** has practiced environmental and land use law, policy and litigation for more than 30 years. His experience includes Environmental Protection Agency enforcement actions under the Clean Air Act, RCRA, and the Clean Water Act. From 2000 to 2008, Paul served on Holland & Hart's Management Committee, ultimately as Chairman, overseeing substantial growth in the firm. Previously, he served as Chair of the firm's Natural Resources Department and Leader of its Environmental Group. Mr. Phillips loves hiking and backpacking in the Colorado Rockies, bagging the easy 14ers, and rafting the desert canyons of Colorado and Utah.



Rebecca Frank

**Rebecca Frank**, a Colorado native, is the longest-ever serving commissioner on the Colorado Wildlife Commission and served as the commission's representative to the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund. She is from Grand Junction and has lived on the Western Slope since 1973. She enjoys the great outdoors, especially fly fishing and adding birds to her life list.



Ford Frick

**Ford Frick** is a 45-year resident with family ties to Colorado dating back four generations. He is a Managing Director and the Chairman of BBC Research and Consulting, a Denver based economic, market and policy research firm. He directs the firm's real estate, resorts and tourism practice. Ford is married with two grown daughters, who live in New York City, but who claim that absence only makes the heart grow fonder.



Larry Hauserman

**Larry Hauserman** is co-Chairman of the Board of FirstBank Holding Company of Colorado, having worked for the organization for over 28 years. Formerly Chairman of Children's Hospital, he has served on the Board for the last 10 years. He is a member of many community organizations.



Charlie Kurtz

**Charlie Kurtz** has lived in Colorado his whole life and is the president and owner of Brown Lumber sales, as well as a partner in Confluence Energy, the largest beneficial user of the beetle kill timber in Colorado. Additionally, he is the director of the Charles H. Kurtz Family Foundation, and the manager of Kurtz Family LLC, a family holding company with ranching and real estate interests. His leisure interests include skiing, tennis, fishing, golfing, and biking.



Pete Leavell

**Pete Leavell** moved to Colorado in 1978. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of Governors of The Alliance for Choice in Education (ACE). He loves to hike, ride and fish at the 4UR and around Creede in the La Garita Mountains.



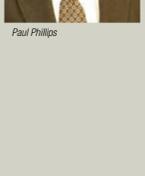
Scott McInnis

**Scott McInnis** served in the U.S. House of Representatives 1992 - 2004, serving on the Ways and Means Committee, Forest Subcommittee and Natural Resource Committee. His highest honor is having a 200,000-acre area named McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area in 2003, in recognition of his service to the Nation and the State. Scott is a former Partner at Hogan & Hartson LLP where he focused on Energy, Natural Resources and Tax and Finance.



Will Morgan

**Will Morgan** is a Colorado native and has lived everywhere else, but always comes back to Colorado. Currently, he is Director of Impact at Sonen Capital, an investment management firm dedicated to impact investing. Will has also worked in international development and business planning. He spends as much time as he can in the snow!



Paul Phillips

**Paul Phillips** has practiced environmental and land use law, policy and litigation for more than 30 years. His experience includes Environmental Protection Agency enforcement actions under the Clean Air Act, RCRA, and the Clean Water Act. From 2000 to 2008, Paul served on Holland & Hart's Management Committee, ultimately as Chairman, overseeing substantial growth in the firm. Previously, he served as Chair of the firm's Natural Resources Department and Leader of its Environmental Group. Mr. Phillips loves hiking and backpacking in the Colorado Rockies, bagging the easy 14ers, and rafting the desert canyons of Colorado and Utah.



"When I consider what perpetuity entails beyond its simple definition...it boils down simply to clean air, clean water, and a healthy food supply. And to have that you've got to have productive lands and working families on those lands." 2013 George E. Crammer Recipient Steve Wootton riding on Beauty Ranch.



Charlie Russell

**Charlie Russell** is a principal of the public relations firm C.A. Russell Partners. He has served on the Board of Directors of Colorado Open Lands since 1993 and as Chairman since 2002. He is a past director of Colorado Trout Unlimited and the Colorado Trail Foundation. He is a past recipient of Trout Unlimited's national Conservationist of the Year and the Sol Feinstein Environmental Award by the State University of New York.



Tim Schultz

**Tim Schultz**, a Colorado native, has served as President of the Boettcher Foundation since 1996. From 1991-1996, Tim was the President and Chairman of Colorado Open Lands. In the past, Tim has served as County Commissioner of Rio Blanco, Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Commissioner of Division of Wildlife, Executive Director of the Department of Local Affairs, and Chairman of the Colorado Economic Development Commission. Tim loves to hunt birds and big game throughout Colorado.



Wes Segelke

**Wes Segelke** was born and raised in Northeastern Colorado near the town of Brush. His family members continue to live there and have been involved in ranching and related livestock ventures since the early 1900s. Wes and his family have a smaller livestock and recreational ranch in Northern Colorado near Red Feather Lakes where they spend enjoyable times throughout the year.



Rod Slifer

**Rod Slifer** is a Colorado native and has been in Vail since its beginning in 1962. He served as Mayor 11 of the 16 years he served on the Town Council. He is a partner in Slifer Smith & Frampton, a Real Estate Brokerage firm. Rod resides in Vail with his wife Beth and daughter Alexandra.



Dick Stermer

**Dick Stermer** has lived in Colorado full time since Thanksgiving 1997, and has been enjoying Colorado and specifically Custer County since 1990. He and his wife Audrey spend a good deal of their time with their four children and eight grandchildren; traveling; nurturing and supporting several mostly local, non-profits. They also handle most of the routine duties of a property manager for their family LLLP.



Bob Troyer

**Bob Troyer**, a native Coloradan, is the First Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado. He has been a trial lawyer for 23 years. Prior to his current position, he was Chair of the litigation department at Hogan Lovells LLP's Denver office. Before he turned to lawyering, Bob was a commercial salmon fisherman in Alaska, a high school English teacher, a landscaper, and a soccer coach. He spends all the time he can training German Shorthair Pointers and chasing upland birds around the Western United States.



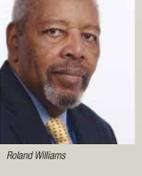
Bill Vollbracht

**Bill Vollbracht** is from Wichita Kansas and has been in Colorado since 1960. He is Chairman of Land Title Guarantee, a company he founded in 1967. He enjoys golf, staying at his ranch in Evergreen and visiting with his two grandchildren. Being on the COOL Board has been a rewarding experience participating in the preservation of Colorado land for future generations.



Jennifer Weddle

**Jennifer Weddle** is the Co-Chair of Greenberg Traurig's National American Indian Law Practice and has wide-ranging experience in Indian law, handling a variety of matters for tribal and non-tribal clients. She has experience in the areas of tribal jurisdiction and natural resources development on tribal lands. Jennifer is a frequent speaker on tribal rights, Indian Law matters and Native Americans' unique racial and political perspective on legal diversity issues.



Roland Williams

**Roland Williams** pursued his engineering career in Ohio, New Jersey, Colorado and finally California. During this time he served on a number of boards and organizations, from local community based groups, to small business incubators, to an appointment by the Governor of Colorado to the Minority Business Advisory Council. In 2008, he retired from Harris & Associates, Inc. of Concord, CA as a Vice President and Partner. His responsibilities focused on the management of complex projects from concept to fully operational status. He also managed Business Development, Marketing and Operations for internal activities.



John Woodard

**John Woodard** has spent over 25 years in the private equity industry. He began his career in The First Boston Corporation's Management Buyout Group, where he worked with the team that would go on to form Vestar. John earned his BA in Economics from Williams College. Originally from Atlanta, GA, he has lived in Denver for the last fifteen years with his wife and three sons. He enjoys cycling, fly fishing and skiing.



Ruth Wright

**Ruth Wright**—Moving to Colorado in the late 1950s, Ruth witnessed huge population growth and has worked for decades to preserve Colorado's natural heritage. After enjoying great success as a citizen conservation activist, Ruth was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1980, where she held the role of House Minority Leader from 1986-1992. While serving in the House of Representatives, Ruth continued to be a champion for the environment, earning recognition from groups such as the Colorado Wildlife Foundation, the ACLU, and the Sierra Club. With a passion for open space, Ruth is an enthusiastic member of the COOL Board.



The Red Dirt Open Space fronts nearly two miles of the Colorado River and will be open to the public for low-impact recreational uses. Photo © John Fielder

Colorado Open Lands' Staff



Daniel E. Pike

**Daniel E. Pike**, President, came to Colorado in 1975 as Director of the Rocky Mountain Field Office of the Nature Conservancy. A founder and principal in the Western Land Group, he specialized in completing land exchanges with government agencies from 1981 to 1996. Dan is a Board member of the Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy, and has been on the boards of the Mountain Area Land Trust in Evergreen and the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts. He also served on three Governors' Open Space Commissions, and was the first chair of the Conservation Easement Oversight Commission, credited by the legislature to provide oversight to the State's conservation easement program.



Brian Ross

**Brian Ross**, Vice President, a Colorado native, served for over five years as Executive Director of Colorado Conservation Trust, following a 27-year career with Jones Lang LaSalle, one of the world's preeminent real estate advisory organizations. Brian was President of the firm's Leasing and Management division in the United States. Prior to joining JLL, Brian worked for United States Senator Gary Hart on natural resource matters. He was directly involved in the negotiations of the 1980 amendment to the Wilderness Act which dramatically expanded federally protected wilderness acreage in Colorado.



Cheryl Fox

**Cheryl Fox**, Director of Development & Administration, has worked in fundraising, administration, accounting, and personnel issues for the past twenty two years. Formerly, she worked as the Director of Foundations with the Land Trust Alliance and as the Development Coordinator for The Conservation Fund. In a prior lifetime, she owned and operated a forestry company that helped in the planting of over 20 million trees throughout the United States and Central America.



Cheryl Cufre

**Cheryl Cufre**, Director of Land Stewardship, joined Colorado Open Lands as a Land Steward with over nine years' experience with Geographic Information Systems. Growing up on a small farm in Wisconsin, Cheryl moved to Colorado in 1996 and fell in love with its short-grass prairies. Her interest in rangeland ecology led her to the semi-arid Chaco ecosystem of Argentina where she worked with ecologists and ranchers in developing improved range management strategies for subsistence ranching.



Jordan Vana

**Jordan Vana**, Program Director, worked at CCT to help Colorado land trusts and public open space programs improve the pace, quality and permanence of their work. Prior to joining CCT, Jordan spent 7 years as Director of Conservation for the Wyoming Land Trust, prior to which he was an attorney in Billings, Montana, focusing on real estate, commercial transactions and estate planning. Jordan and his family enjoy volunteering, skiing, and hunting.



Leslie Volkar

**Leslie Volkar**, Communications Director, comes to Colorado Open Lands after serving for five years at Colorado Conservation Trust. Prior to that, she worked at a Denver-based urban design firm, coordinating marketing, promotion, and event planning efforts. Leslie enjoys all facets of design, graphics, and typography, and indulges in many creative pursuits that let her explore those interests.



Sarah Parmar

**Sarah Parmar**, Land and Water Protection Specialist, focuses her time on the Southern Sangre de Cristo landscape, home to Colorado's oldest agricultural communities. Sarah came to COL from the hot Arizona sun where she completed her M.S. in Agricultural & Resource Economics, conducting research on land and wildlife issues, especially on the law of conservation easements. Her passion for Western land protection stems from her background growing up as the fifth generation on a cattle ranch in Southeastern Arizona, where her parents and their ranching community established the Malpai Borderlands Group, a collaborative conservation organization. Sarah also serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors of Revision, a Denver-based community development nonprofit and is on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Watershed Assembly.



Amanda Nims

**Amanda Nims**, Director of Development & Administration, joined Colorado Open Lands in 2010, after working as a Land Protection Specialist for The Nature Conservancy (RI) and a Conservation Projects Coordinator for the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Before this, Amanda was a Program Technician for the USDA's Farm Service Agency. Amanda loves to cook, is the president of the South Meadows Cemetery (circa 1793) and is thrilled to be a part of the Colorado conservation community.



Christine Strickland

**Christine Strickland**, Development Coordinator, has worked in the non-profit environmental field for over 20 years. A former Land Protection Fellow at Colorado Open Lands, her 14-year career at COL has spanned conservation easement acquisitions, managing the Fellowship Program, and most recently grant writing, major donor relations, and community events. When not raising money for land conservation, Christine can be found chasing after her two small children and hiking, bicycling and cooking with her family.



Joel Nystrom

**Joel Nystrom**, Land Stewardship Specialist, joined Colorado Open Lands this year after working with The Nature Conservancy (CO) and Colorado Parks & Wildlife. Joel is excited to help COL protect and steward Colorado's amazing open spaces and natural heritage.

**COLORADO COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION GIVESDAY 12.10.13**  
 1STBANK Corporate Partner

Mark Your Calendars – December 10th!  
**24 Hours to Give Where You Live!**

Community First Foundation and FirstBank once again present Colorado Gives Day! With your help, we will have protected over 400,000 acres by year-end. Combined, that's larger than all of Summit County! With our expanded strength and with your continued support, we can save another 400,000 acres of the land we love.

All you need to do is make an on-line donation at [www.givingfirst.org](http://www.givingfirst.org) anytime on December 10th, starting at 12 a.m.

- 100% of your donation will come to us when you give through [GivingFirst.org](http://GivingFirst.org).
- The value of your donation will be increased by the FirstBank Incentive Fund.

Donate online at [www.GivingFirst.org/ColoradoOpenLands](http://www.GivingFirst.org/ColoradoOpenLands) any time over the 24 hour period of December 10th to Give Where You Live!

**Projects Completed to Date**

As a loyal reader, you may have noticed that there are no project descriptions in this issue. We wanted to introduce you to all our wonderful new board and staff members and give you an idea of our direction for the future. However, land protection and the stewardship of those protected lands remains at the heart of all we do!

We are on the verge of completing our 400,000th acre by the end of December! With three properties protected and 10-14 more set to complete by year-end—our landowners continue to keep us busy!



With frontage along both the east and west banks of the Arkansas River, the recently closed conservation easement on the Berchert Ranch provides a significant buffer to a number of public lands, including the Arkansas Headwaters State Park, BLM lands within the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, and National Forest lands, including the Collegiate Peaks and Buffalo Peaks wilderness areas. Photo by James H. Berchert



The 2013 Whinnery Homestead Ranch conservation easement protects subalpine coniferous forest, irrigated native grass meadows and sagebrush uplands, as well as a variety of State of Colorado Species of Concern. Photo by Susan Lohr.



Dr. Donald Aptekar  
Rye Austin  
Ingrid Carlson Barrier  
Carolyn Burr  
Russell Caldwell  
Rob Deline  
Wendell Fleming  
Rebecca Frank  
Ford Frick  
Larry Hauserman  
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If you know someone who cares about Colorado’s scenic heritage and should be on our mailing list, call us with their name and address at (303) 988-2373 or email us at [info@coloradoopenlands.org](mailto:info@coloradoopenlands.org).

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## Your Support

*Your support of Colorado Open Lands has helped to protect over 399,000 acres of Colorado’s spectacular vistas and rich agricultural heritage. For every \$1,000 raised, Colorado Open Lands can protect \$10,000 worth of land.*

**Please join Colorado Open Lands in protecting Colorado’s land and water legacy. You can support Colorado Open Lands in the following ways:**

**Donate Online:** Your online gift will make a difference. With your support, we can continue to protect and preserve the great scenic lands and natural heritage of Colorado!

**Gifts of Cash or Securities:** Colorado Open Lands accepts personal and corporate checks and gifts of stock. By giving appreciated stock, you can avoid capital gains taxes and receive an income tax deduction. You can also recommend Colorado Open Lands through your Donor Advised Fund!

**Give a Recurring Gift:** Our monthly donors provide long-term sustainable support for our Community Conservation Programs. These enduring gifts help us provide vital services by ensuring that the resources we need for our programs are always available. Start today by clicking on the “Donate” button on our website and choose the monthly giving option!

**Community Shares:** Community Shares is a nonprofit federation that raises funds for over 100 Colorado charities through workplace giving. Colorado Open Lands’ Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) number is 78031. Our Denver Employee Combined Campaign (DECC) number is 5021, and our Community Shares of Colorado (CSC) number is 5016.

**Employer Matching Gifts:** Check with your employer to see if they will match your gift. This can often double your contribution.

**Leave a Legacy:** This is as easy as including Colorado Open Lands in your will or living trust, naming Colorado Open Lands as a beneficiary of your IRA-qualified retirement plan, or adding a codicil to your current will that names Colorado Open Lands. Lifetime gifts like this will make a lasting impact on land conservation in Colorado!

**Gifts of Real Estate:** Colorado Open Lands can take excess real estate and turn it into capital for protecting endangered land around Colorado, while potentially giving the donor significant tax deductions.