

# Conservation Leadership Series

## Program Overview

### 2024 Cohort



**Thank you for your interest in the Colorado Open Lands Conservation Leadership Series.**

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As you may know, Colorado Open Lands (COL) is an organization focused on conserving Colorado's most important wild and working lands, forever. While a seemingly simple mission, conserving land in perpetuity takes more than just good conservation work on the ground. For this work to be truly permanent, we also need to be effective in connecting people to the land, educating the public about the importance of private land conservation, and helping to foster the next generation of land conservation leaders. Hence, the Conservation Leadership Series (CLS) is essential to our mission.

CLS is designed to offer education and insight into land conservation in Colorado and introduce participants to COL's innovative work in this field. The program includes a mix of networking events, land tours, conversations with landowners and stakeholders, and recreational activities. These select experiences are designed to help you develop an understanding of the 'why' and 'how' of land conservation and the impact it has on the people, plants, and animals that call Colorado home. It is our hope that participants gain a deep appreciation for land conservation in Colorado and incorporate what they learn into their professional and personal lives to help cultivate a strong conservation ethic across Colorado. Throughout the program, our team is also inspired by the unique backgrounds and experiences that participants bring to the group, which helps us see our work in a new way. As such, the program simultaneously educates and inspires a new generation of conservation champions and connects COL to Colorado's emerging leaders.

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Questions?

Contact Yvonne Schramm at [yschramm@coloradoopenlands.org](mailto:yschramm@coloradoopenlands.org)  
or call (303) 988-2373 ext. 223





## Who should apply to the Conservation Leadership Series?

Early to mid-career professionals in any professional sector (e.g., law, real estate, natural resources, finance, arts and humanities, philanthropy) who are interested in engaging in land and water conservation in Colorado and who desire to integrate this learning into their personal and professional life. Some guiding questions applicants may consider before applying:

- Do I have a passion for sharing my learning from this program with my sphere of influence (e.g., in my home, at work, in my community)? CLS is an immersive educational opportunity intended to cultivate a strong conservation ethic across Colorado. Participants should be interested in learning about Colorado's water and land conservation and be excited to use that knowledge to encourage positive change in their sphere of influence.
- Am I an early to mid-career professional? This program is designed for professionals in any industry who typically have 3-20 years of experience in their industry. We have found that individuals who find this program most engaging have been in their careers for 5+ years.
- Can I commit to attending 7 of the 9 organized events? We receive a lot of interest in this program and have found that a small cohort keeps the group-based experiences personal and effective. Your commitment will help you feel engaged with the program and your peers and ensure that the cohort experiences a sense of community and collaboration. Please only consider applying if you are able to commit, as we'd like all the 'seats' in the program to be fully used! Please refer to the calendar of event for dates.



## **What does the application process look like for the Conservation Leadership Series?**

The Conservation Leadership Series has grown immensely since its inception in 2017. As such, we will be implementing an application process for the 2024 program. Each year, we welcome approximately 20 individuals into the cohort.

Program admission will be based on a matrix that maximizes the impact of the program, provides an engaging learning environment for all involved, and encourages program diversity. We look for participants from a variety of geographies, professions, and backgrounds. We desire to reach a wide audience with this program, so we may not accept more than one person from the same employer in a given year or in consecutive years.

If an applicant is not offered a 'seat' in the current year's program, we encourage them to reapply in a future year!

Applications are digital and found on our website at [coloradoopenlands.org/conservation-leadership-series/](https://coloradoopenlands.org/conservation-leadership-series/).

## **What is the application timeline for the 2024 program?**

Program Information Available | January 5

Applications Accepted | January 8-31

Cohort Finalized | Mid-February





## What does the program cost?

The Conservation Leadership Series is made possible through the support of generous donors who value the goals of this program. The only cost associated with the program is \$150 per participant to offset the hotel stay in Gunnison. Scholarships may be available for participants in need of support.

## How does transportation work for events?

For land tours and excursions outside of the Denver Metro Area, we offer limited carpool seats from the COL office in Lakewood. Carpool seats are first come, first served. On certain tours, we ask participants to consolidate at our first tour stop to ensure adequate parking at subsequent stops. We highly encourage carpooling and hope you meet peers from your area with whom you feel comfortable carpooling! Details will be shared in advance of each event.

## Can I bring a guest to these events?

Most events are restricted to CLS cohort participants only. However, there may be some events that have space for guests or CLS alumni. In addition, each participant will receive one guest pass (guest must be 18+), which can be used at specified events.



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