

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP SERIES 2025





Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in Colorado Open Lands' (COL) Conservation Leadership Series.

As you may know, 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 foster the next generation of land conservation leaders. Hence, the Conservation Leadership Series (CLS) is essential to our mission.

Through the course of this year, we hope you will not only come to understand our mission and work in land conservation, but you will bring your unique background and experience to help us see this work in a new way. In the next pages, you will get a glimpse of what the program has in store for our CLS participants in 2025. These select experiences are designed to help you develop a deeper understanding of the 'why' and 'how' of land conservation and the impact it has on the people, plants, and animals that call Colorado home.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to learning. I look forward to seeing you 'on the land'.

Sincerely,
Tony Caligiuri

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Caligiuri". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President and CEO



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Colorado Open Lands works with landowners and community partners to permanently conserve and steward Colorado's most important land and water resources. We believe in protecting fish and wildlife habitat, healthy waterways, epic views, outdoor recreation, local food, and outdoor education. These are our values.

The Conservation Leadership Series is designed to offer participants insight into land conservation in Colorado and the values of Colorado Open Lands. The program includes a mix of networking events, land tours, conversations with landowners and stakeholders, and recreational activities. Each land-based excursion in the series reflects at least one of COL's values. It is our hope that participants gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for land conservation in Colorado and, as new conservation leaders, incorporate what they learn into their professional and personal lives to help cultivate a strong conservation ethic across Colorado.



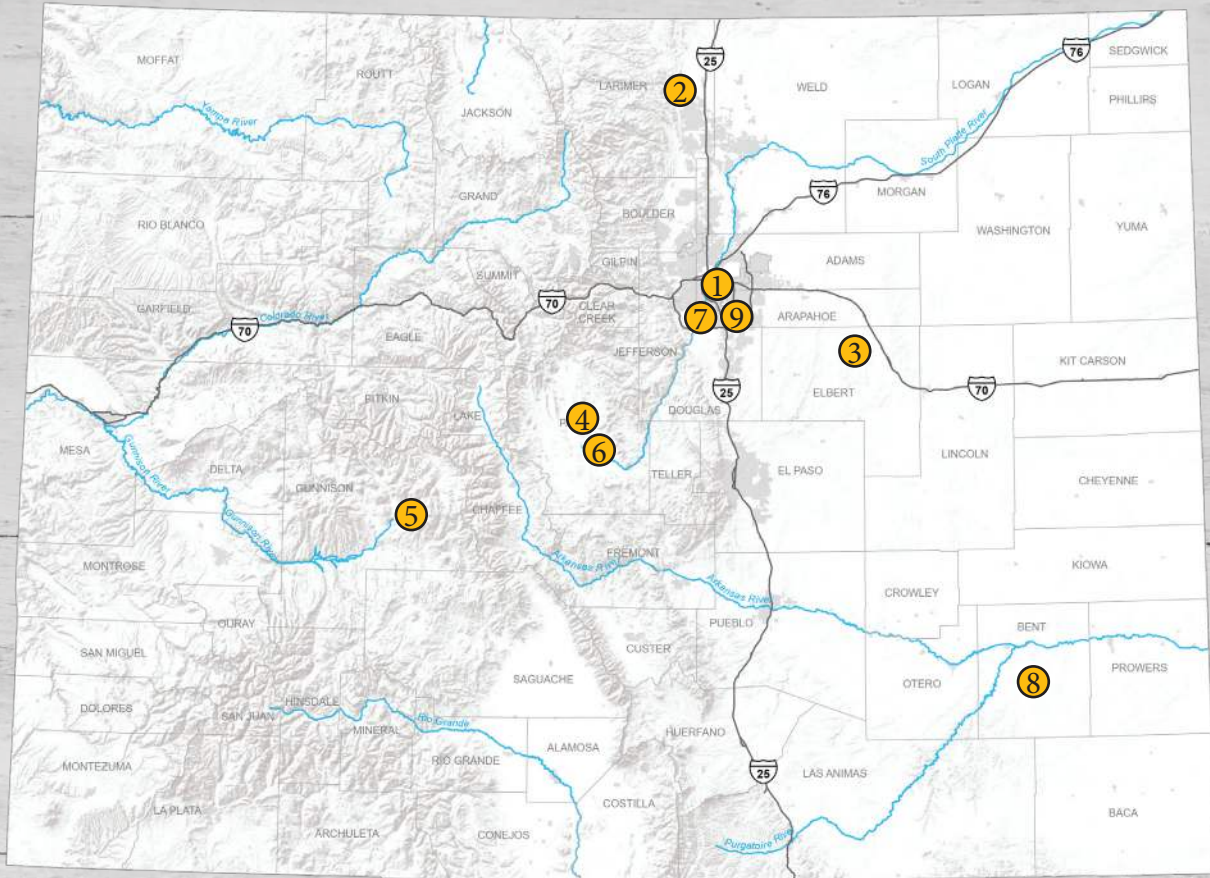
2025 CALENDAR

Please note that these dates are subject to change.

We do our best to have days finalized, but weather, landowner availability, etc. may occasionally necessitate a change.

MARCH 18	PROGRAM LAUNCH ①
MARCH 28	CONSERVATION 101 (VIRTUAL)
APRIL 17	NORTHERN COLORADO TOUR ②
MAY 22	EASTERN PLAINS TOUR ③
JUNE 26	SOUTH PARK TOUR ④
JULY 18 - 19	GUNNISON OVERNIGHT ⑤
AUGUST 22	SOUTH PARK VOLUNTEER DAY (WITH OPTIONAL OVERNIGHT) ⑥
SEPTEMBER 16	CONSERVATION 201 ⑦
OCTOBER 10 - 11	SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO TOUR ⑧
NOVEMBER 4	ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR ⑨

Additional optional engagement opportunities will be communicated as they arise.





PROGRAM LAUNCH

Tuesday, March 18
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Lakewood, CO

Kick off the 2025 series with a COL-provided happy hour at our Lakewood office. Join us as we introduce the program goals and share what we have in store for the year! This launch is also a great opportunity to build community with your cohort and to get to know COL staff members that you'll see throughout the year.

As this is the launch of the program where you'll meet your cohort and COL staff, we ask that you please prioritize attending.

Thank you to Alpine Bank for sponsoring the program launch and Conservation 101!



Photo by John Fielder

CONSERVATION 101

Friday, March 28
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Virtual

Join the Colorado Open Lands team for a virtual briefing all about private land conservation! Engage in this dynamic conversation to learn about the challenges of land and water use that are driving conservation efforts statewide. We hope you walk away with an understanding of both why and how we do our work at COL.

The content shared at this briefing will serve as the foundation of many conversations throughout the year, so we ask that you please prioritize attending.

Thank you to Alpine Bank for sponsoring the program launch and Conservation 101!



NORTHERN COLORADO TOUR

Thursday, April 17
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Northern Colorado

Join us as we venture to Northern Colorado where you will see the ongoing impacts of nearly 40 years of conservation in this iconic Colorado landscape! The day will demonstrate a variety of different values and conservation projects, including conserved open spaces utilized for recreation and education, as well as COL's focus on water and land protection for next generation producers. Be ready to hike through beautiful landscapes and even visit a unique malthouse that supplies malts and raw grains to some of your favorite local breweries and distilleries!



EASTERN PLAINS TOUR

Thursday, May 22
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Strasburg, CO

Journey to the eastern plains of Colorado to stand among the bison of the Savory Institute. Our tour of the 7,500-acre conserved property will be led by Master Field Professional Byron Shelton, who will share his global and local perspective on holistic ranch management. We will then have a picnic lunch by West Bijou Creek with our Senior Director of Stewardship and Strategic Initiatives and chat about the increasing development pressures in the region. We will end our day by viewing a National Natural Landmark which scientists call, “the best KT Boundary site on the planet.”



SOUTH PARK TOUR

Thursday, June 26
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
South Park, CO

Get ready for a day of breathtaking views and resilient landscapes. We start the day with a hike on the Colorado Trail to an incredible overlook of the entire South Park Valley, where COL's CEO & President Tony Caligiuri will share the region's uniquely Coloradan history and community. After a picnic lunch, get your feet wet as we traverse through densely restored riverscapes with Dirk Rasmussen, COL's Restoration Program Manager. We'll learn about how restoration efforts resonate with COL's mission and why they are critical for people living on the Front Range.



GUNNISON OVERNIGHT

Friday, July 18 - Saturday, July 19
7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Gunnison, CO

Uncover the values of another one of COL's priority landscapes, the Gunnison Basin, on this overnight excursion during peak wildflower season. Learn how conservation has shaped this landscape as you hike on the Mill-Castle Trail and meet the community catalysts who are key to conservation in this region. On the second day we will visit the reclaimed ghost town of Gothic, which is now home to the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory and their groundbreaking climate change research. Throughout the trip, you will also have the opportunity to explore Gunnison with your COL and CLS friends.



** We ask each participant to contribute \$150 toward hotel accommodations. The remaining cost will be paid by COL. Scholarships may be available.*

SOUTH PARK VOLUNTEER DAY

Friday, August 22 - Saturday, August 23

Friday | 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Optional Camping Friday Night on Property
Hartsel, CO**

Return to Park County to visit the distinctive Santa Maria Ranch, a one of a kind historically preserved ranch. Not only will you have the opportunity to meet the incredible owners of the ranch and hear about their journey as landowners, but you will also support them with a meaningful project on the land.

The workday will take place on Friday. The landowners, George and Merrill, have graciously extended an invitation to camp on their property Friday night. Free time will be available Saturday morning after breakfast to explore the property. Or, take off right after breakfast to keep exploring South Park on your own.





CONSERVATION 201

Tuesday, September 16
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wheat Ridge, CO

Join us for dinner and dig a little deeper into the topic of land conservation in Colorado. Do you have a question or have thoughts to share about what you've learned? This is the space to reflect and ask! The presentation topic for this dinner will be chosen based on interests expressed throughout the prior events.

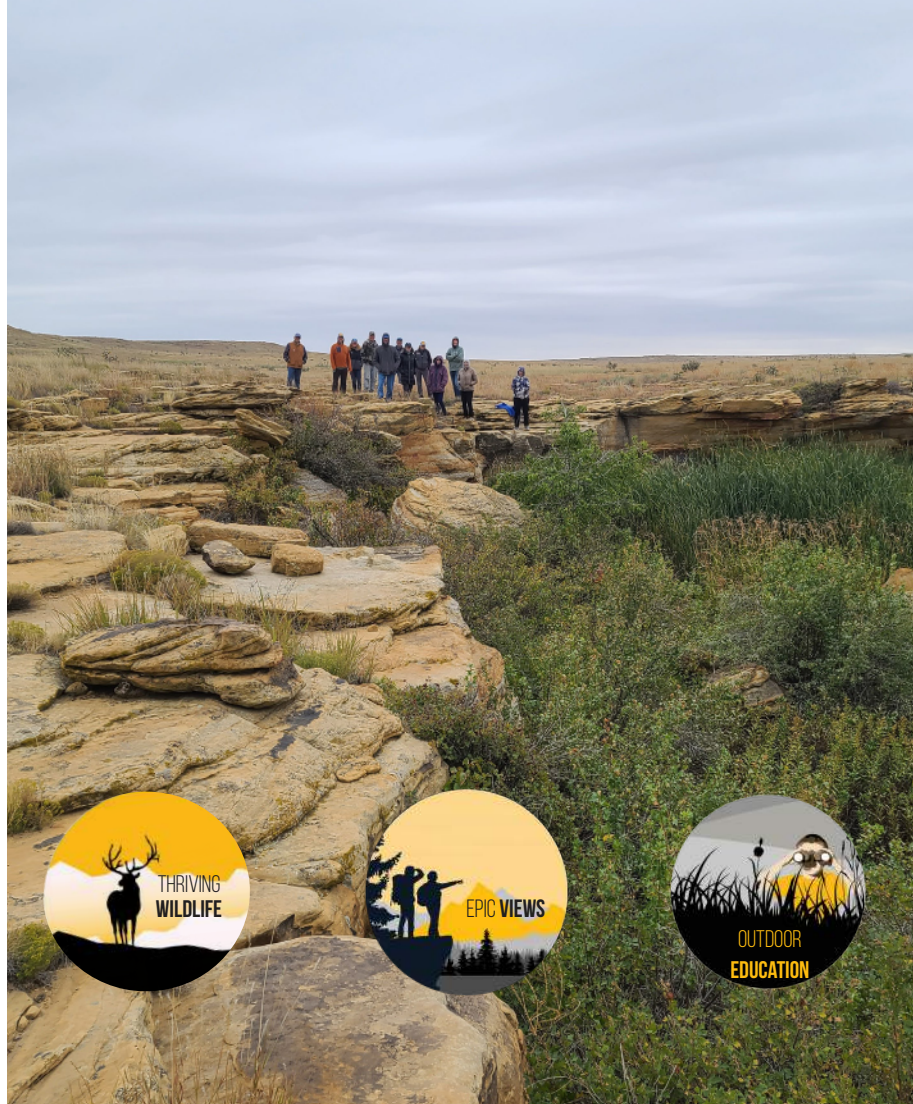


SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO TOUR

Friday, October 10 - Saturday, October 11
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
La Junta, CO

Tarantulas, bison, rescue horses, black-footed ferrets, burrowing owls, and more! This is the overnight tour to practice your observation skills as we visit multiple conserved properties owned by Southern Plains Land Trust (SPLT) in southeastern Colorado! We will travel to Heartland Ranch Nature Preserve, a 43,000-acre pristine shortgrass prairie, and the Purgatoire River Preserve to learn about SPLT's goals of protecting prairie wildlife and developing prairie education programs. This will be a fun overnight with unusual sightings and highlights the unique partnership between two land trusts.

* We ask each participant to contribute \$150 toward hotel accommodations. The remaining cost will be paid by COL. Scholarships may be available.





ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR

Tuesday, November 4

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Denver, CO

Let's celebrate the completion of the 2025 Conservation Leadership Series by joining COL staff and CLS alumni at a happy hour event! Chat with new friends, bring along friends who may be interested in the program next year, network with individuals who completed the program in years past, and learn how to stay involved in the COL community in the coming years!

A person wearing a blue cap and a striped shirt is looking through binoculars in a field. The background is a blurred landscape with other people.

ADDITIONAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to join our stewardship team on a monitoring trip to learn about what it means to steward land in perpetuity or join another virtual briefing to learn about our innovative work? Do you want to join your cohort midway through the year for a virtual lunch to talk about your take-aways so far and get any questions answered? Additional opportunities for engagement will be shared throughout the course of the year that will not only help you understand our work better, but also give you the chance to participate in more land-based activities and connect with more COL staff and the greater conservation community.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Conservation Leadership Series is made possible through the support of generous donors and foundations who value the goals of this program. We typically receive a lot of interest in this program, but we have found that a small cohort keeps the group-based experiences personal and effective. We ask that you commit to at least 7 of the 10 organized events, and we hope you enjoy the personalized experience of one of the additional engagement opportunities. 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. For transportation, cost, and application information, please review the Program Overview document found on our website.

Thank you for your interest – it means the world to us, our landowners, and all Coloradans.



**Colorado Open Lands is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.
Our EIN is 84-0866211.**

**Contact Yvonne Schramm at yschramm@coloradoopenlands.org
or 303-988-2373 ext. 223 with any questions.**

