

# CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP SERIES 2024







Dear Friends,

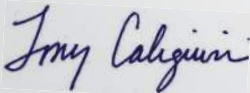
Thank you for your interest in Colorado Open Lands' (COL) Conservation Leadership Series.

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 2024. 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



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 incorporate what they learn into their professional and personal lives to cultivate a strong conservation ethic across Colorado.



# 2024 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 27	CONSERVATION 101 ①
APRIL 26	NEDERLAND SNOWSHOE TOUR ②
MAY 2	EASTERN PLAINS TOUR ③
JUNE 21	SOUTH PARK TOUR ④
JULY 19-20	GUNNISON OVERNIGHT ⑤
AUGUST 16-17	SOUTH PARK VOLUNTEER DAY ⑥
SEPTEMBER 10	CONSERVATION 201 ⑦
OCTOBER 18	NORTHERN COLORADO TOUR ⑧
NOVEMBER 6	ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR ⑨

Additional optional engagement opportunities will be communicated as they arise.



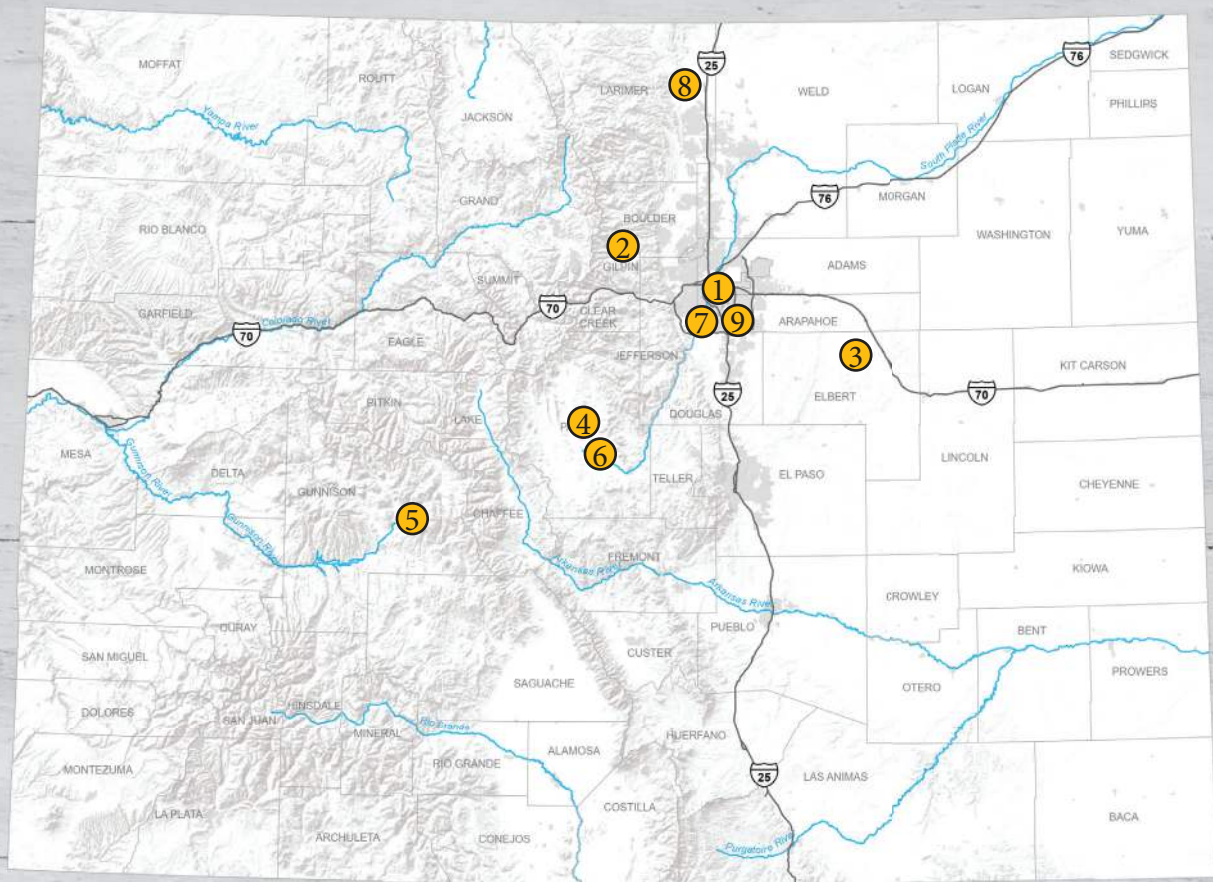




Photo by John Fielder

# CONSERVATION 101

**Wednesday, March 27**  
**11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
**Lakewood, CO**

Kick off the 2024 series with a COL-provided lunch and presentation on why conservation is vital to Colorado. Engage in this dynamic conversation with COL staff as they share information about the challenges of land and water use that are driving conservation efforts statewide. You will also have the opportunity to get to know your 2024 CLS peers and other members of the COL community that you are now a part of.

This event 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 this luncheon!*





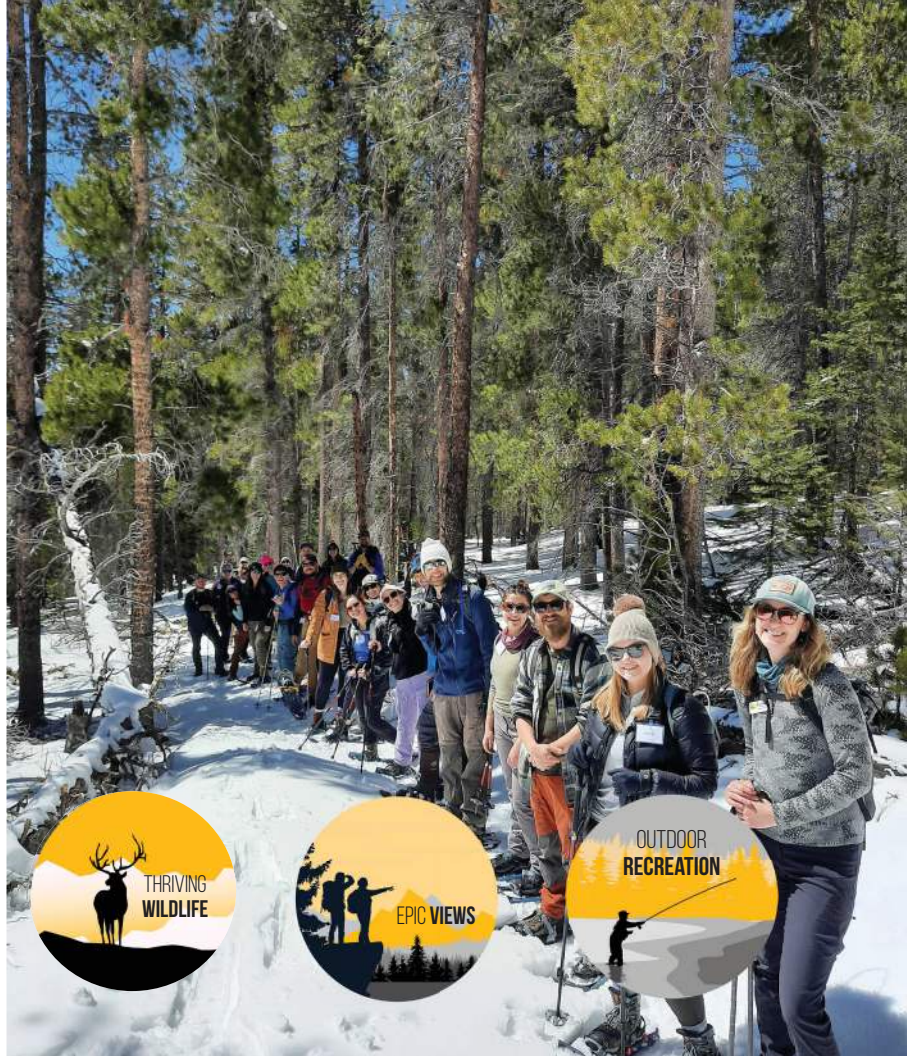
# NEDERLAND SNOWSHOE TOUR

**Friday, April 26**  
**8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**  
**Nederland, CO**

Strap on your snowshoes and get ready for a winter adventure! Discover a recently completed project in Nederland – a public access open space owned by Boulder County. We'll have an opportunity to explore alongside our county partners to learn about the values of the property.

Then warm up with a delicious lunch in the historic mountain town of Nederland while reviewing the morning's tour.

*\*Colorado weather will determine if our day will be spent snowshoeing or hiking.*



# EASTERN PLAINS TOUR

**Thursday, May 2**  
**9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Strasburg, CO**

Journey to the eastern plains of Colorado. This landscape is significant because 48% of native grasslands have been lost in Colorado, yet support more than twice as many species of concern than any other habitat. Our tour will investigate the increasing development pressures of the region and our work protecting both the prairie grasslands and ranching heritage this region is known for.



*\* Due to landowner scheduling flexibility, this event will take place either on May 10 or 31. Once the date is finalized, it will be communicated.*



# SOUTH PARK TOUR

**Friday, June 21**  
**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 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 our 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 these efforts resonate with COL's mission and why they are critical for people living on the Front Range.



# GUNNISON OVERNIGHT

**Friday, July 19 - Saturday, July 20**

**7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

**Gunnison, CO**

Uncover the values of another one of Colorado Open Lands' priority landscapes, the Gunnison Basin, on this overnight excursion in the middle of 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 the conservation of 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 for hotel accommodation. The remaining cost will be paid by COL. Scholarships may be available.*



# SOUTH PARK VOLUNTEER DAY

**Friday, August 16 - Saturday, August 17**

**Optional Friday Arrival | 2:00 p.m.**

**Saturday Event | 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**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 their journey as landowners, but you will also support them with a meaningful project on the land.

The landowners, George and Merrill, have graciously extended an invitation to hike and camp on their property on Friday. The workday will take place on Saturday, and CLS participants can arrive either day.





# CONSERVATION 201

**Tuesday, September 10**  
**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! Topics for the dinner will be chosen based on interest from the cohort.



# NORTHERN COLORADO TOUR

**Friday, October 18**  
**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! Enjoy a light breakfast from a successfully conserved Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) Farm, hike through breathtaking landscapes, discover how a tiny mouse is being saved through collaborative efforts, and end the day hearing about the significance of local agriculture and water rights.





# ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR

**Wednesday, November 6**  
**5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Denver, CO**

Celebrate the completion of the 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 with brown hair, wearing a blue baseball cap and a multi-colored striped shirt, is shown in profile, looking through binoculars. They are wearing a blue and orange beaded bracelet on their left wrist. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green hills and a blue sky. The text "ADDITIONAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES" is overlaid in the top right corner.

# 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 hear from our Conservation Director about our innovative groundwater conservation easement? 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 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 9 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](mailto:yschramm@coloradoopenlands.org)  
or 303-988-2373 ext. 223 with any questions.**

