

Conserved Colorado Holiday 2023 Guide

Support Colorado's protected land with your holiday shopping!



a program by



We love Colorado.

We love its lands, and we love its people.

Let's bring them together.

Dear Reader,

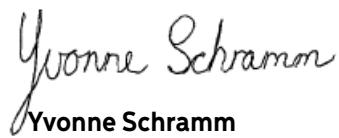
Since COL officially relaunched Conserved Colorado with our Summer Guide, we have gathered even more exciting options in our new Holiday Guide! Do you have a friend or family member who is conservation-minded and might appreciate a unique Colorado gift? If so, then this guide is for you as you holiday shop this year!

You may be asking how Conserved Colorado works. It all starts with a landowner who chooses to protect their land with a conservation easement. Conserving land means permanent protection from property subdivision or development. It means that a ranch stays a ranch, a farm stays a farm – forever. It means that all the benefits that come from the land remain for future generations: local food, scenic views, fresh water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, outdoor education, and Colorado's heritage.

Conservation isn't a new concept. We recycle, save water, and use public transportation. But how can we protect the land in Colorado? How do we conserve the places that grow our food, maintain our waterways, inspire our adventures, and nurture our souls? How can we ensure that future generations have a chance to experience the Colorado we love today?

One action you can take is to think about conservation when holiday shopping. In this guide, you will not only find local Colorado products and services, but you will also support land conservation across the state, as each business owner in this directory operates on and/or has permanently protected land with a conservation easement. You can feel proud that the dollars you spend through this guide support businesses that maintain Colorado's unique character and quality of life. Happy holidays!

Best,



Yvonne Schramm
Community Outreach & Education Manager
Colorado Open Lands



Using this Guide

This guide offers products and services from a multitude of landscapes and communities across Colorado. To make it user-friendly, we have segmented the guide by region and added an index at the back. While not all of these products and services are offered in your region, we encourage you to check this guide when planning trips to destinations across the state. You may discover a business you can support!

Note: Purchases are made directly with the farmers, ranchers, business owners, and landowners. Purchases are not conducted through Colorado Open Lands. We recommend visiting the website of the business to find the most up-to-date information, as product and service offerings can fluctuate over time.

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Front Range Region pg. 4-5 | Index pg. 16-17 |
| Stories from the Land pg. 6-7 | Holiday Gifts pg. 18 |
| West-Central Colorado Region pg. 8-9 | Products Available in Stores pg. 19 |
| Central Colorado Region pg. 10-11 | Winter Recreation pg. 20-21 |
| Stories from the Land pg. 12-13 | Conservation 101 pg. 22 |
| Southern Colorado Region pg. 14-15 | The History & Future of this Guide pg. 23 |

Symbol Key



Artisan Foods



Community Supported Agriculture



Dairy & Eggs



Fruit, Vegetables & Herbs



Hay & Feed



Plants & Seeds



Meats & Poultry



Preserves & Honey



Spirits & Alcohol



Wool & Fiber



Education Opportunities



Event Venue



Hunting & Angling



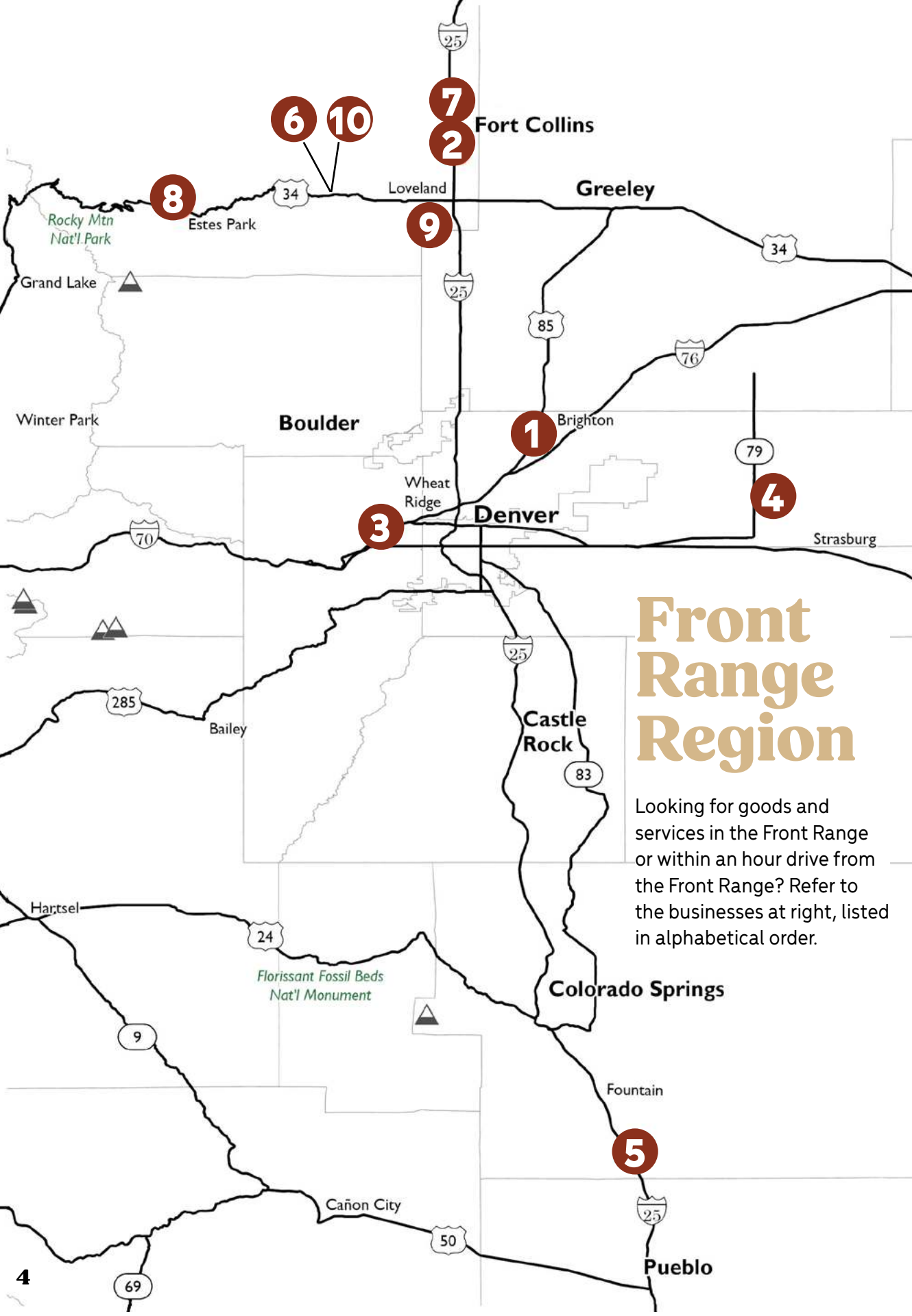
Llama & Horse-Related



Lodging & Guest Ranch



Recreation Opportunities



Front Range Region

Looking for goods and services in the Front Range or within an hour drive from the Front Range? Refer to the businesses at right, listed in alphabetical order.

1 BERRY PATCH FARMS, LLC



13785 Potomac Street | Brighton, CO 80601
 (303) 659-5050
bpf@qwestoffice.net
berrypatchfarms.com
 Purchase Method: At Address, Online

2 COLORADO YOUTH OUTDOORS



4927 E. County Road 36 | Fort Collins, CO 80528
 (970) 663-0800
coloradoYO.org
 Purchase Method: Online

3 FIVE FRIDGES FARM



11100 W. 38th Avenue | Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
 (720) 432-9437
amanda@5fridgesfarm.com
5fridgesfarm.com
 Purchase Method: By Phone, By Email

4 FLYING B BAR RANCH



7300 Yulle Road | Strasburg, CO 80136
 (303) 887-8735
Margaret@FlyingBBar.com
FlyingBBar.com
 Purchase Method: Online, By Phone, By Email, At Address

5 FROST LIVESTOCK CO.



17825 Hanover Road | Fountain, CO 80817
 (719) 930-0700
frostlivestock1@gmail.com
frost-livestock.com
 Purchase Method: Online, At Address (appointment only), By Phone, By Email

6 HEART-J CENTER AT SYLVAN DALE RANCH



2939 N. County Road 31D | Loveland, CO 80538
 (970) 690-4221
explore@heartjcenter.org
heartjcenter.org
 Purchase Method: At Address (appointment only), By Email

7 JODAR FARMS



Fort Collins, CO
 (970) 391-2825
customerservice@jodarfarms.com
jodarfarms.com
 Purchase Method: Online

8 MACGREGOR RANCH



180 MacGregor Lane | Estes Park, CO 80517
 (970) 586-3749
office@macgregorranch.org
macgregorranch.org
 Purchase Method: Online, By Phone, By Email

9 ROOT SHOOT MALTING



Loveland, CO
info@rootshootspirits.com
rootshootspirits.com
 Purchase Method: At Stores (see pg. 19)

10 SYLVAN DALE GUEST RANCH



2939 N. County Road 31D | Loveland, CO 80538
 (970) 667-3915
ranch@sylvandale.com
sylvandale.com
 Purchase Method: Online, At Address, By Email, By Phone

A Viable Agricultural Operation



In looking to remain a viable agricultural operation, Olander Farms began to ask how they could take the products they grow directly to the consumer rather than the commodity market. In 2014, they realized that local breweries had no options for sourcing local malt. The Olander's grew barley...what if they processed that barley into malt and sold it to all the amazing craft beverage producers in their area? From that brainstorm, Root Shoot Malting was born, allowing the Olander family to produce a value-added commodity from the very grain they grow.

Olander Farms has been cultivated by the Olander family for five generations. As they say, however, change is the only constant. Development has boomed in what was once an agricultural area and the economic reality of farming has changed. Farms are being bought out every year, taking up land that was once used to grow food, fiber, and fuel and turning it into subdivisions and commercial areas. The Olanders want to continue farming in the Front Range. If no farms are left, however, how will that happen? Thus, they decided to conserve their land in the hopes of also conserving the long agricultural tradition in the Front Range. Currently, the conserved acreage houses farm fields that produce grain for the malthouse, the malthouse itself, and a small cattle operation on the home farm site.

Looking for a holiday gift from Root Shoot Malting?

Purchase their American Single Malt Whiskey! More information on where to purchase their whiskey can be found at rootshootspirits.com.

Olander Farms | Root Shoot Malting in Loveland

See page 5 for full listing.



Conserved with Colorado Open Lands.

Top photo courtesy Emily Sierra Photography, photo at right courtesy Michael Eldridge.



An Urban Research Lab

Five Fridges Farm was originally known as Red Wing Ranch. Earnestine and Walt Williams owned the land from the 1930's to the mid 1990's and raised steer, hogs, chickens, and later goats. Upon her death in the early 1990's, Earnestine established a conservation easement on the land, known as the William's Wildlife Preserve. Seeing the future of development around the farm, she wanted a way to conserve a place she loved for generations ahead to enjoy.

In 2010, Amanda Weaver, urban agricultural researcher and instructor of geography at CU Denver, began working with then-owner Louise Turner, a long-time Wheat Ridge resident and farm neighbor. Amanda then bought the historical farm where she started her own herd of dairy goats. While teaching at CU Denver, she now maintains dairy and weed grazing herds of goats, flocks of chickens and turkeys, hives of bees, and grows a variety of vegetables for local restaurant sales. Amanda uses her farm as her research lab and classroom, teaching urban agriculture, sustainability, and environmental science.

"Very simply, there is no way this would be a viable operation without the tools provided by a conservation easement. Our easement protects this land from development and allows us to run as a sustainable and financially viable farm operation," said Weaver.

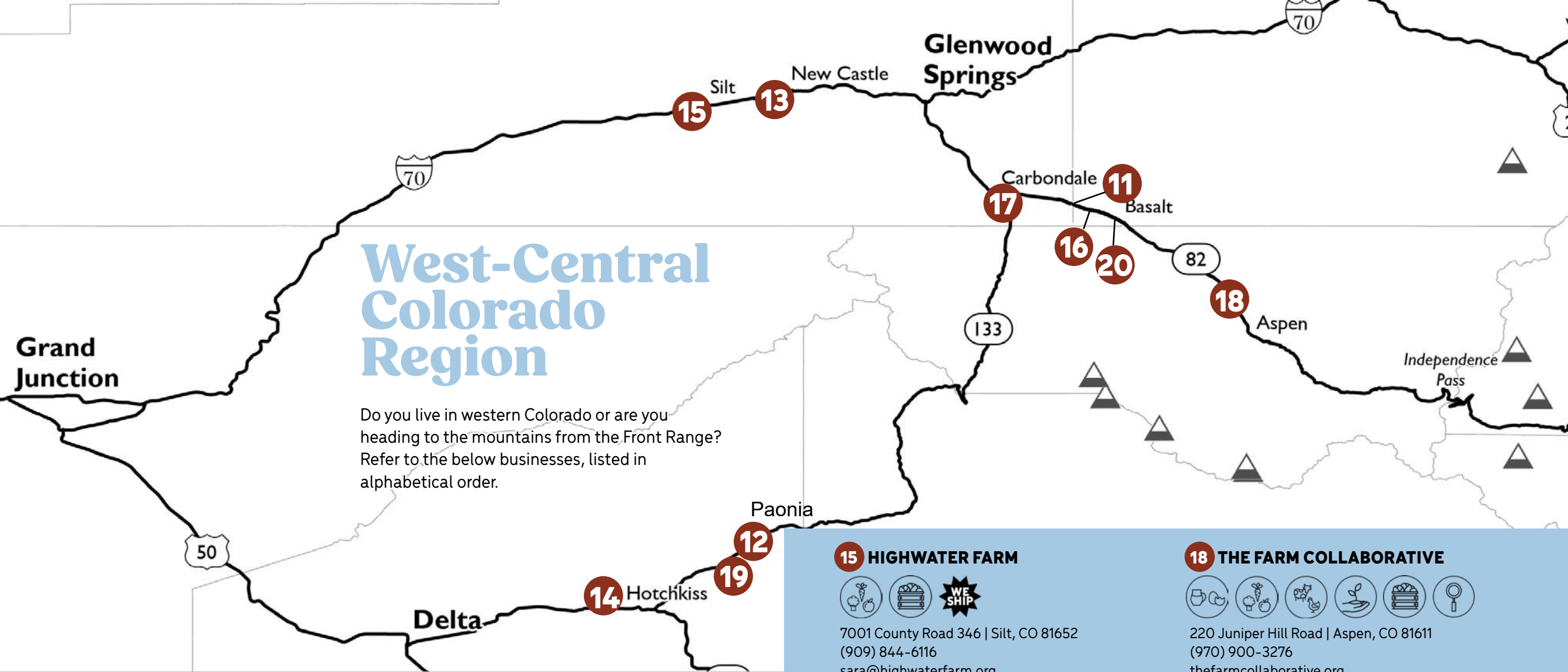
Five Fridges Farm in Wheat Ridge

See page 5 for full listing.



Conserved with Colorado Open Lands.





West-Central Colorado Region

Do you live in western Colorado or are you heading to the mountains from the Front Range? Refer to the below businesses, listed in alphabetical order.

11 ACES AT ROCK BOTTOM RANCH



2001 Hooks Spur Road | Basalt, CO 81621
 (970) 927-6760
pbanks@aspennature.org
aspennature.org
 Purchase Method: At Address

12 DESERT WEYR, LLC



16870 Garvin Mesa Road | Paonia, CO 81428
sales@desertweyr.com
desertweyr.com
 Purchase Method: Online

13 DWYER GREENS AND FLOWERS



4730 County Road 335 | New Castle, CO 81647
 (970) 984-0967
brett@dwyergreens.com
dwyergreens.com
 Purchase Method: By Phone, By Email

14 ELA FAMILY FARMS



30753 L Road | Hotchkiss, CO 81419
 (970) 872-3488
info@elafamilyfarms.com
elafamilyfarms.com
 Purchase Method: Online, At Address, By Phone, By Email, At Stores (see pg. 19)

15 HIGHWATER FARM



7001 County Road 346 | Silt, CO 81652
 (909) 844-6116
sara@highwaterfarm.org
highwaterfarm.org
 Purchase Method: Online, At Address (appointment only), By Phone, By Email

16 MARIGOLD LIVESTOCK CO.



543 Hooks Spur Road | Basalt, CO 81621
alyssa@marigoldlivestock.com
marigoldlivestock.com
 Purchase Method: Online, At Address (appointment only)

17 SEED PEACE



Carbondale, CO 81623
seedpeace.org
 Purchase Method: Seasonally at Farmers Markets

18 THE FARM COLLABORATIVE



220 Juniper Hill Road | Aspen, CO 81611
 (970) 900-3276
thefarmcollaborative.org
 Purchase Method: Seasonally at Farmers Markets

19 THE LIVING FARM



39776 Green Tractor Road | Paonia, CO 81428
 (970) 765-8583
thelivingfarm1938@gmail.com
thelivingfarm.org
 Purchase Method: Online, At Store (see pg. 19)

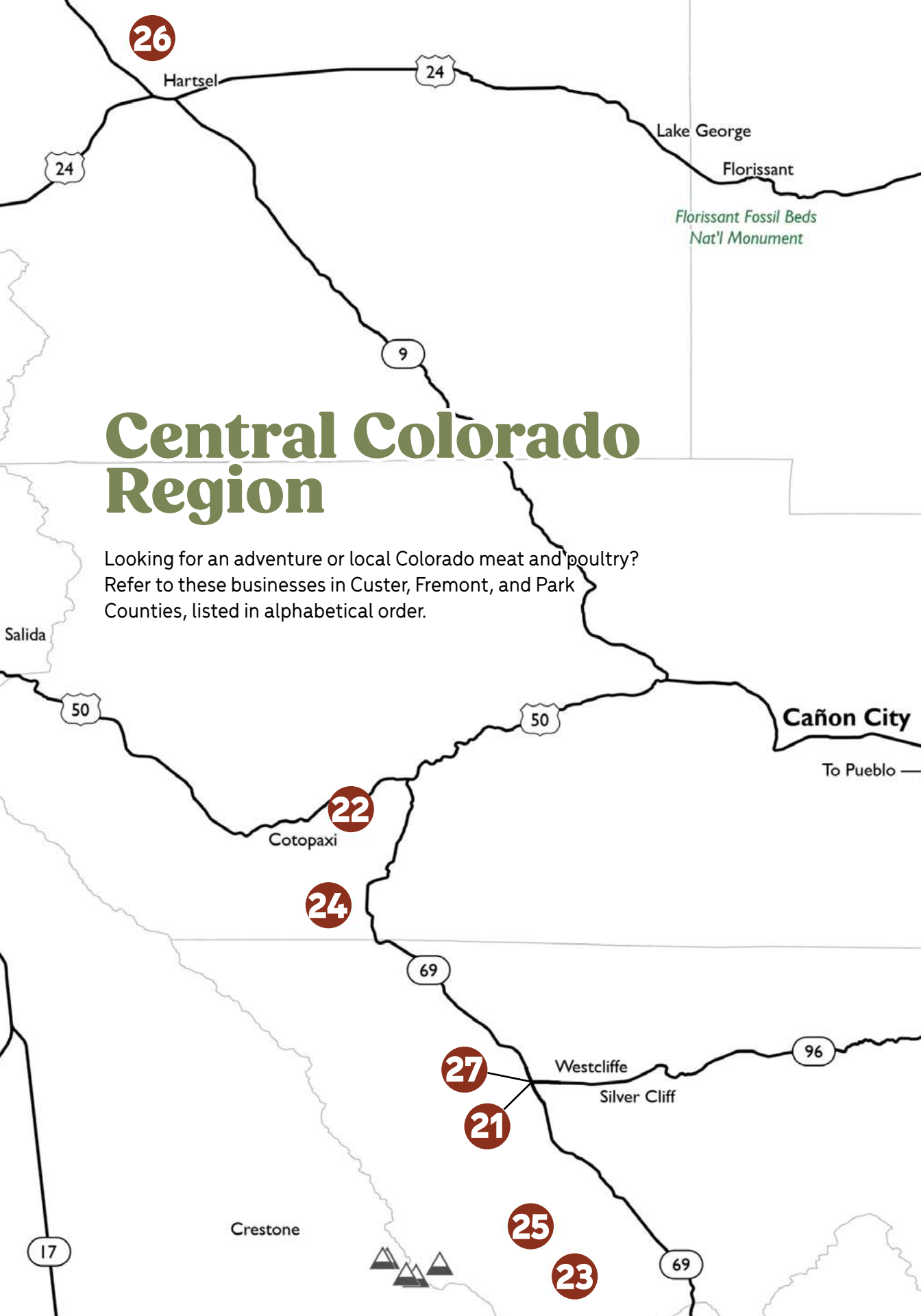
20 TWO ROOTS FARM



100 Sopris Creek Road | Basalt, CO 81621
 (970) 376-6039
farmers@tworootsfarm.com
tworootsfarm.com
 Purchase Method: Online, At Address (appointment only)

Central Colorado Region

Looking for an adventure or local Colorado meat and poultry? Refer to these businesses in Custer, Fremont, and Park Counties, listed in alphabetical order.



21 LLAMA TREKKING BY LOOKIN' UP OUTFITTERS



Westcliffe, CO 81252
 (719) 371-4839
brianna0215@yahoo.com
llamatrekwestcliffe.com
 Purchase Method: Online, By Phone, By Email

22 LOCO MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS



4700 County Road 37 | Cotopaxi, CO 81223
 (719) 371-1447
LocoMountainOutfitters@hotmail.com
locomountainoutfitters.com
 Purchase Method: By Phone, By Email

23 MUSIC MEADOWS GUEST RANCH



6076 County Road 119 | Westcliffe, CO 81252
 (719) 783-2222
elin@musicmeadows.com
musicmeadows.com
 Purchase Method: Online, By Phone, By Email

Pictured below:
 Music Meadows Ranch in Westcliffe.
 Photo by Kate Spinelli.

24 OSWALD CATTLE CO



2241 Country Road 1-A | Cotopaxi, CO 81223
 (719) 942-4361
stepheno@centurylink.net
oswaldgrassfedbeef.com
 Purchase Method: Online, At Address, By Phone, By Email

25 SANGRES BEST GRASS FINISHED BEEF



6076 County Road 125 | Westcliffe, CO 81252
 (719) 300-5344
elin@sangresbest.com
sangresbest.com
 Purchase Method: Online, By Phone, By Email

26 SANTA MARIA RANCH FLY FISHING



Hartsel, CO 80449
 (303) 478-1349
info@nfrgs.com
santamariaflyfishing.com
 Purchase Method: By Phone, By Email

27 SHINING MOUNTAIN RANCH



Westcliffe, CO 81252
 (707) 321-5728
sallyforth@pon.net
lisaandthecritters.biz
 Purchase Method: By Phone, By Email





Farming Regeneratively in the Roaring Fork Valley

Homesteaded in 1893 by Myron P. Thompson, Sunfire Ranch has been home to six generations of Thompsons/Sewells and other agrarians. Situated in the shadow of the majestic 12,963-foot Mount Sopris, the 1,240-acre ranch has historically yielded countless train cars of potatoes and superbly raised cattle and sheep. Sunfire Ranch strives to continue its agricultural tradition that started in 1893. Jason and Alex Sewell have created a home for regenerative soil food production, and welcomed Casey Piscura, local farmer and seed breeder, to the farm in 2013. The Sewell Family, in partnership with Casey (founder of Wild Mountain Seeds and Seed Peace and now agricultural director at the Farm Collaborative), have built a vision of continuing the growth of health-giving food on the ranch while educating new and aspiring farmers about what it takes to farm regeneratively in the Roaring Fork Valley.

Seed Peace has a mission to accelerate the transition to regenerative farming and land management in the Roaring Fork Valley through seed, education, and farm innovation. This is being accomplished by providing shared agricultural infrastructure, cooperative agricultural business services, and community services. The Seed Peace team is actively engaged in developing, testing, and teaching agricultural systems that help sequester carbon, combat climate change, and improve community health by creating health giving, poison free superfood. A unique focus of the farm is on the development of a seed supply of adapted plants for future generations in the Roaring Fork Valley.

Seed Peace in Carbondale

See page 9 for full listing.



Conserved with Pitkin County Open Space and Trails.

Photo courtesy Casey Piscura.

A Living Testament

The MacGregor Ranch was homesteaded in 1873 by Alexander and Clara MacGregor. Their son, Donald, would eventually take over the ranch in the early 1900s. He switched the cattle herd from Herefords to Black Angus, which are still run today, and amassed more land, growing the acreage of the ranch to approximately 4,000 acres. Donald and his wife, Maude, had one child named Muriel Lurilla MacGregor.



Muriel and her father, Donald

Upon her death in 1970, Muriel established a trust for the preservation of her family ranch. After some time working with Rocky Mountain National Park, a conservation easement was developed and agreed upon so that 1,200 acres of the ranch would never be built upon, preserving the space for cattle ranching and educational purposes.

For the past 50 years, the ranch has welcomed visitors to the Home Museum of the MacGregor Family, which includes 26 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. To help increase visitation and appreciation for the historic site, ranch staff are focused on agritourism activities, including visits that allow people to experience the heritage of the ranch, exposing people to high mountain ranching practices, and providing the opportunity to purchase Angus beef.

"It is my will that my ranch shall be maintained and retained insofar as is possible, and that my cattle herd be preserved and maintained insofar as is possible, and that the net proceeds of the production of my ranch and cattle herd be used for charitable and educational purposes."

~Excerpt from the last will and testament of Muriel MacGregor

Looking for a holiday gift from MacGregor Ranch? They sell portions (1/4, 1/2, Whole) of their grass fed and finished Angus cattle that are processed in both January and June. More information on where to purchase on page 5.

MacGregor Ranch in Estes Park

See page 5 for full listing.



Conserved with Rocky Mountain National Park.

Southern Colorado Region

Do you live in Southern Colorado or visit the area often? Refer to the below businesses, listed in alphabetical order.



28 4UR RANCH



One Goose Creek Road | Creede, CO 81130
 (719) 658-2202
info@4urranch.com
4urranch.com
 Purchase Method: By Email

29 JAMES RANCH



33846 Highway 550 | Durango, CO 81301
 (970) 385-6858
Info@jamesranch.net
jamesranch.net
 Purchase Method: At Address, By Email,
 At Stores (see pg. 19)

30 KNOBLAUCH RANCH/ LAZ EWE 2 BAR GOAT DAIRY



10530 County Road 15 | Del Norte, CO 81132
 (719) 850-9914
lazu2bar@gmail.com
lazewe2bargoatdairy.weebly.com
 Purchase Method: Online, At Address, By Phone, By
 Email, At Stores (see pg. 19)

31 PUEBLO SEED & FOOD COMPANY



25 N. Beech Street | Cortez, CO 81321
 (719) 250-9835
info@puebloseed.com
puebloseed.com
 Purchase Method: Online, At Address, By Phone,
 By Email

32 TRINCHERA RANCH



24492 Trinchera Ranch Road | Fort Garland, CO 81133
 (719) 379-3263
emma.roybal@trincheraranch.com
trincheraranch.com
 Purchase Method: By Phone, By Email



Index

Looking for a specific product or service this holiday season? Use this index to find businesses by product or service, and then navigate to their full listing by page number for more information.

Products

ARTISAN FOODS

Pueblo Seed & Food Co. | pg. 14



COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

ACES at Rock Bottom Ranch. | pg. 8

Berry Patch Farms | pg. 5

Ela Family Farms | pg. 8

Frost Livestock Co. | pg. 5

Highwater Farm | pg. 9

Seed Peace | pg. 9

The Farm Collaborative | pg. 9

The Living Farm | pg. 9

Two Roots Farm | pg. 9



DAIRY & EGGS

ACES at Rock Bottom Ranch | pg. 8

Five Fridges Farm | pg. 5

James Ranch | pg. 14

Jodar Farms | pg. 5

Knoblauch Ranch/Laz Ewe 2

Bar Goat Dairy | pg. 14

Shining Mountain Ranch | pg. 11

MacGregor Ranch | pg. 5

The Farm Collaborative | pg. 9



FRUITS, VEGETABLES, & HERBS

ACES at Rock Bottom Ranch | pg. 8

Berry Patch Farms, LLC | pg. 5

Ela Family Farms | pg. 8

Frost Livestock Co. | pg. 5

Highwater Farm | pg. 9

James Ranch | pg. 14

Pueblo Seed & Food Company | pg. 14

Seed Peace | pg. 9

The Farm Collaborative | pg. 9

Two Roots Farm | pg. 9



HAY & FEED

Frost Livestock Co. | pg. 5



MEATS & POULTRY

ACES at Rock Bottom Ranch | pg. 8

Desert Weyr, LLC | pg. 8

Flying B Bar Ranch | pg. 5

Frost Livestock Co. | pg. 5

James Ranch | pg. 14

Jodar Farms | pg. 5

Knoblauch Ranch/Laz Ewe 2

Bar Goat Dairy | pg. 14

MacGregor Ranch | pg. 5

Marigold Livestock Co. | pg. 9

Oswald Cattle Co | pg. 11

Sangres Best Grass Finished Beef | pg. 11

The Farm Collaborative | pg. 9

The Living Farm | pg. 9



PLANTS & SEEDS

Dwyer Greens and Flowers | pg. 8

Seed Peace | pg. 9

Pueblo Seed & Food Co. | pg. 14

The Farm Collaborative | pg. 9



PRESERVES & HONEY

Ela Family Farms | pg. 8

Frost Livestock Co. | pg. 5

James Ranch | pg. 14

The Living Farm | pg. 9



SPIRITS & ALCOHOL

Root Shoot Malting | pg. 5



WOOL & FIBER

Desert Weyr, LLC | pg. 8

Llama Trekking by Lookin'

Up Outfitters | pg. 11

The Living Farm | pg. 9



Services

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Colorado Youth Outdoors | pg. 5

Heart-J Center at Sylvan Dale Ranch | pg. 5

James Ranch | pg. 14

MacGregor Ranch | pg. 5

Pueblo Seed & Food

Company | pg. 14

Shining Mountain Ranch | pg. 11

The Farm Collaborative | pg. 9

Trinchera Ranch | pg. 14



EVENT VENUE

Five Fridges Farm | pg. 5

Frost Livestock Co. | pg. 5

Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch | pg. 5



HUNTING, FISHING, & GUIDING

4UR Ranch | pg. 14

Frost Livestock Co. | pg. 5

Loco Mountain

Outfitters | pg. 11

Santa Maria Ranch

Fly Fishing | pg. 11



LLAMA & HORSE RELATED

Llama Trekking by

Lookin' Up Outfitters | pg. 11

Music Meadows Guest

Ranch | pg. 11

Shining Mountain Ranch | pg. 11

Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch | pg. 5



LODGING & GUEST RANCHES

4UR Ranch | pg. 14

Five Fridges Farm | pg. 5

Frost Livestock Co. | pg. 5

James Ranch | pg. 14

Music Meadows Guest Ranch | pg. 11

Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch | pg. 5

Trinchera Ranch | pg. 14



RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

4UR Ranch | pg. 14

Heart-J Center at Sylvan Dale

Ranch | pg. 5

Llama Trekking by Lookin' Up

Outfitters | pg. 11

Music Meadows Guest

Ranch | pg. 11

Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch | pg. 5

Trinchera Ranch | pg. 14



Looking to gift from far away?

Shipping convenience and online purchase of services can be quite helpful during the busy holiday times where you hope to spend as much time as possible with loved ones. Below is a list of businesses that ship their products or sell their services online.

Looking for an outdoor educational class for your child or grandchild?

Colorado Youth Outdoors in Fort Collins | pg. 5

Looking for spices, seeds, or gift boxes for a home gardener or exquisite cook?

Pueblo Seed & Food Company | pg. 14

Looking for beef for a lovely holiday meal?

Flying B Bar Ranch | pg. 5

Sangres Best Grass Finished Beef | pg. 11

Looking for artisan fruit products to taste the sunshine from a jar?

Ela Family Farms | pg. 8

Looking for a gift for a friend or family member who seemingly has everything? Give a gift of an authentic Colorado ranch experience!

4UR Ranch in Creede | pg. 14

Music Meadows Guest Ranch in Westcliffe | pg. 11

Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch in Loveland | pg. 5

Trinchera Ranch in Fort Garland | pg. 14

Haven't found the perfect gift?

A tax-deductible donation to Colorado Open Lands in honor of your loved one is always a great gift! When you make this gift, you not only honor your family member or friend, but you make a gift to Colorado itself, by helping us protect land and water for both people and wildlife.

Make a gift anytime at coloradoopenlands.org/donate



Products from Conserved Land at Retail & Farm Stores

Some businesses even sell in stores across the state.
See their full listing on the referenced page.

Ela Family Farms (pg. 8)

Marczyk Fine Foods – Denver
Select Whole Foods Markets
and Natural Grocers
Spinelli's Market – Denver

James Ranch (pg. 14)

Durango Natural Foods
James Ranch Market – Durango
Nature's Oasis – Durango

Knoblauch Ranch/Laz Ewe 2 Bar Goat Dairy (pg. 14)

Cheese Importers – Longmont
Durango Natural Foods
Gunnison Vitamin & Health Food
Lowe's Market – Del Norte
Mountain Earth Organic Grocer –
Crested Butte
Nature's Oasis – Durango
Simple Foods Market – Del Norte
Southwest Farm Fresh Cooperative
– Cortez
Tap Root Cooperative – Online
Valley Roots Food Hub – Mosca
Wilders Organic Market – Gunnison
Zuma Natural Foods – Mancos

Root Shoot Malting (pg. 5)

Check rootshootspirits.com
for various locations from
Colorado Springs to Fort
Collins.

The Living Farm (pg. 9)

The Living Market – Paonia



Winter Wonderland Adventures

Give the gift of your time with a friend or family member this holiday season! Even though summer is over, you can still recreate on conserved land! The wintertime allows for great adventures such as winter hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. As you enjoy the winter silence among loved ones, know that the land around you will remain open forever. Below is a list of four spectacular winter wonderland areas for your next adventure.

Cheyenne State Park

Located in El Paso County near Colorado Springs
Managed by Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Winter Uses: Hiking, Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing

Trails:

Talon | 2.6 Miles - Moderate
Sundance | 3.2 Miles - Easy

Eagle's Nest Open Space

Located in Larimer County near Livermore
Managed by Larimer County
Winter Uses: Hiking

Trails:

Three Bar | 2.9 Miles - Easy
OT | 4.7 Miles - Easy

Heil Valley Ranch

Located in Boulder County between Boulder and Lyons
Managed by Boulder County
Winter Uses: Hiking, Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing

Trails:

Lichen Loop | 1.3 Miles - Easy
Picture Rock | 5.2 Miles - Moderate

Sacramento Creek Ranch

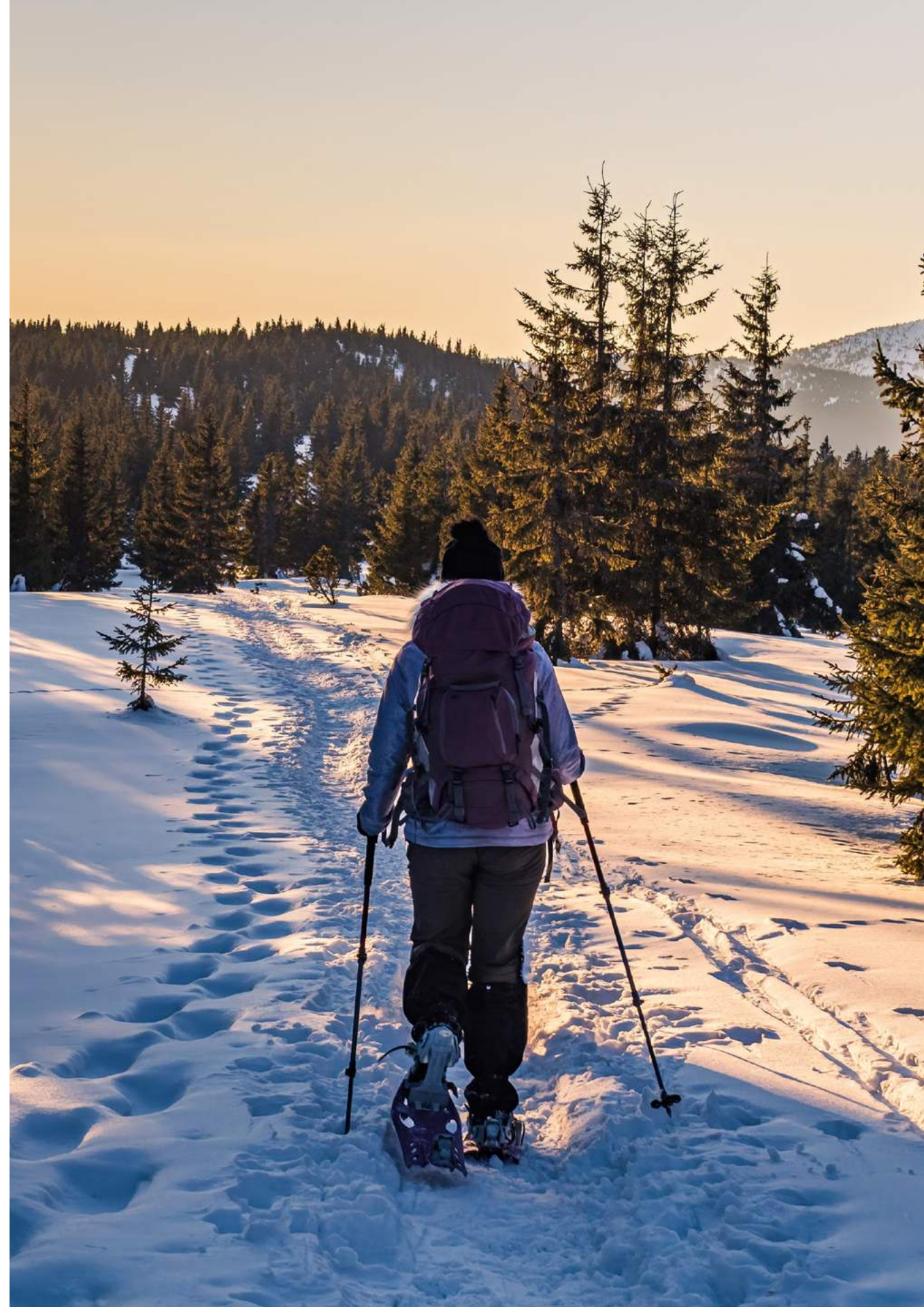
Located in Park County near Fairplay
Managed by Mountain Area Land Trust
Winter Uses: Hiking, Snowshoeing

Trails:

Sacramento Creek | 1.5 Miles - Easy
Hershey | 1 Mile - Easy

We recommend checking management websites before visiting for fees, trail closures, and regulations!

See a list of all protected open spaces at coloradoopenlands.org/public-access-easements.



Conservation 101 & the Land Trust Industry

Colorado residents enjoy an unmatched quality of life, particularly because of our state's natural resources and beauty and its outstanding recreation opportunities. Thus, Colorado remains an attractive destination for young families, new graduates, second-home buyers, and retirees. The State Demography Office projects that Colorado's population will grow to 7.5 million by 2050, an increase of nearly 30%. Land trusts are not against growth, but we recognize that as growth happens, we can help direct and manage that growth to protect the natural treasures that we enjoy as Coloradans today. Sixty percent of our state's land is owned by private individuals and organizations, but only 2% is permanently protected. As Colorado continues its rapid pace of population growth, we need a tool to protect the best of it while we still can.

Conservation easements are that tool. They are voluntary legal agreements between a land trust or organization and a landowner, tailored to each property. Conservation easements can limit future building, the creation of new parcels, and changes to the land that harm the natural features. The current use – be it farming, ranching, hunting, or recreation – is written into the easement that protects the land and its use in perpetuity. Permanent land conservation provides many benefits for the public, including maintaining healthy waterways, supporting local agriculture, protecting viewsheds, providing education and recreation opportunities, and providing intact corridors and healthy habitat for wildlife populations. Besides the intrinsic value of conserving land in perpetuity, conserving land may qualify landowners for a variety of financial benefits. These benefits are established at the federal, state, and local levels and by private organizations in order to encourage landowners to conserve their land.

Land Trusts in this Guide

Colorado Open Lands is one land trust operating statewide in Colorado. However, there are many local land trusts and government organizations that operate in specific regions that work to conserve land! Some of the businesses listed in this guide have their land conserved with COL. See additional land trusts and organizations at right whose landowners or business owners are represented in this guide.



The History & Future of this Guide

Conserved Colorado started out as Bountiful Conservation by Tax Credit Connection, Inc. in 2008. After years of running a successful guide, they handed it off to Colorado Open Lands for its future. It has been adapted and reinvented multiple times and is now on its way to become a robust program.

Conserved Colorado is a collaboration of people, all in support of land conservation. At Colorado Open Lands, we connect these people – whether they are landowners, consumers, or businesses. This guide provides the direct connection between landowners and consumers, but we acknowledge that many landowners who have conserved their land may also sell to businesses such as restaurants. As the program grows, consumers will be able to use this guide to identify and support businesses that source from conserved land in addition to making purchases directly from landowners.

As you explore Colorado with this guide in your hand, keep in mind the following:

- Let us know if you know of a landowner with conserved land who would like to be listed in this guide or if you know of a business who sources primarily from conserved land.
- Take time to learn more about land conservation and what you can do to support by visiting coloradoopenlands.org.
- Tell a farmer, rancher, or other landowner about conservation easements and their benefits.



To see a full list of land trusts in Colorado, visit keepitco.org/meet-your-local-land-trust!



If you have feedback, questions, or comments regarding this guide or Conserved Colorado, please contact Yvonne Schramm at yschramm@coloradoopenlands.org.