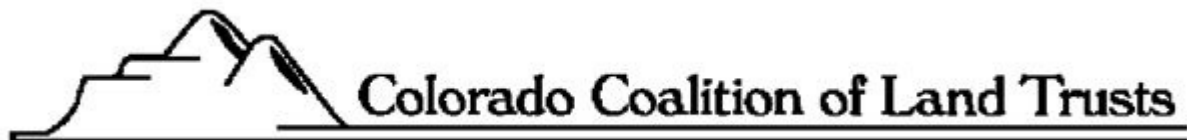


**From:** Kathleen Staks <kstaks@cclt.org>  
**Subject:** News from Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts  
**Reply:** kstaks@cclt.org



## Conservation News

Volume 2

March 2007

### In This Issue

Conservation Excellence 2007  
a Success!  
SB-09 Headed for Governor's  
Desk  
State Conservation Easement  
Tax Credit Legislation in the  
Works  
Bill to Extend Federal Tax  
Incentives for Conservation  
Easements Introduced  
Farm Bill Hearing to be Held in  
Colorado  
Updates on CCLT Website  
IRS Has Nothing New at  
Recent Briefing  
Contact Your Senators!

### News for Conservation Easement Holders

#### Recent changes to IRS tax forms may affect you!

There is a new version of  
**Form 8283** for Noncash  
Charitable Contributions as  
well as instructions that  
explain how to fill out the  
form and what is different  
from the old version.  
[Click here](#) for the form and  
[click here](#) for the instructions.

#### New Land Trust form

**Form 990** includes a new  
question about conservation  
easement for 2006 returns.  
[Click here](#) for more  
information.

### Job Postings

**Land Stewardship  
Manager**  
Larimer County Parks and

### Conservation Excellence 2007 a Success!

The CCLT's annual policy happened in Denver on February 12 and 13 and was a huge success! The conference drew nearly 200 people over the two days and provided the attendees with the latest information on IRS audits of conservation easement tax credits in Colorado, the conservation community's 2007 legislative agenda, national policy changes over the last year, the effect of eminent domain on conservation easements, among other topics, as well as keynote speeches from Colorado House Majority Leader Alice Madden and Harris Sherman, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. Conference materials are now up on the [CCLT website](#). Thanks again to our sponsors!

## State Policy News

### SB-98 Headed for Governor's Desk

◆ SB-98 County Open Space and Parks Sales-Tax Exemption allows counties to ask voters to approve up to a half-cent sales and use tax to fund an open space program which would reflect local priorities for acquisition and management. Senator Joan Fitz-Gerald and Representative Al White are sponsoring the bill which passed through the House with amendment on February 23 and back through the Senate on March 1. SB-98 will provide Colorado counties with an important tool to protect water quality, natural areas, working farms and ranches, wildlife habitat, and create new parks and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Thanks to Senator Fitz-Gerald and Representative White and to the Trust for Public Land and many other supporters for their tireless efforts to get this bill passed!

### State Conservation Easement Tax Credit Legislation in the Works

The CCLT and other partners in the conservation community have been working with the leadership of the Colorado General Assembly on legislation to strengthen accountability for the state conservation easement tax credit. This legislation is still in the works but stay tuned for news next week.

This bill will need your help and support! It will be important for you to talk to your legislators and share information about your work and the importance of the tax credit to preserving our wildlife, open spaces, clean water, and way of life. We will send out talking points on the proposed legislation next week. However, it is never too late to tell your legislators about the importance of open space and conservation in your communities!

[Find your legislator](#)

## Federal Policy News

### Bill to Extend Federal Tax Incentives for Conservation Easements Introduced

Open Lands  
[Information](#)

### **Natural Areas Resource Management**

**Technician Aide**  
City of Fort Collins Natural  
Resources Department

[Contact](#) the City of Fort Collins  
Natural Resources Department  
for more information

### **Natural Areas Biological Inventory**

City of Fort Collins Natural  
Resources Department  
[Contact](#) the City of Fort Collins  
Natural Resources Department  
for more information

### **Program Coordinator, Open Space Land Acquisitions**

Great Outdoors Colorado  
[Information](#)

### **Executive Director Crested Butte Land Trust**

[Contact](#) the Crested Butte  
Land Trust for more  
information

### **Office Manager** Tax Credit Connection, LLC [Information](#)

On January 31, 2007, Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) introduced S.469, a bill that would make the newly expanded 2006 tax incentive for conservation easement donations permanent. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) co-sponsored the bill and Senator Ken Salazar (D-CO) and Senator John Warner (R-VA) have since signed on to co-sponsor as well.

The 2006 law:

- Raised the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from **30%** of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to **50%**;
- Allowed qualified farmers and ranchers to deduct up to **100%** of their AGI; and
- Increased the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 years to **16 years**.

For more information including the bill text, [click here](#).

## **Farm Bill Hearing to be Held in Colorado**

As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Ken Salazar is hosting *Colorado Views on Federal Agriculture and Rural Policies: the 2007 Farm Bill* in Brighton, Colorado on Monday, March 12. This hearing is one of numerous hearings held by the Senate Agriculture Committee to discuss important issues facing rural America and will address Colorado-specific Farm Bill-related issues.

[Click here](#) for more information about the hearing and the 2007 Farm Bill.

## **IRS Audits of Conservation Easements**

### **Updates on the CCLT Website**

The CCLT created a new section on our website called "[Information Regarding IRS Audits of Conservation Easements in Colorado](#)." On this page you can find letters from Senator Allard and Senator Salazar to the IRS and letters from the CCLT to the Senators, IRS and Colorado Department of Revenue documents describing the audit process, stories about lands protected by conservation easements, the latest updates on conservation easement law cases, relevant Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulation provisions, and a 2004 IRS notice announcing increased scrutiny of charitable deductions for conservation easements, with more to come.

### **IRS Has Nothing New at Recent Briefing**

Senator Salazar's office hosted another staff level briefing with the IRS on Thursday, March 1 in Washington D.C. The IRS did not provide any new information and insisted that it has been and will continue to follow the Treasury Regulations in its audits of conservation easements across the nation.

### **Contact Your Senators!**

The Senators need to hear from their constituents about how important conservation easements are in Colorado. Share your stories about our beautiful lands that have been protected by conservation easements and give this program a human face.

Here are some talking points to include:

- Thank the Senators for their important work so far
- Describe your experience with conservation easements and what they have meant to you and your community
- Encourage the Senators to do everything in their power to ensure that conservation easement donors are treated fairly by the IRS

If you would like more information, please contact the CCLT.

[Contact Senator Ken Salazar](#)  
[Contact Senator Wayne Allard](#)

## **Upcoming Events**

## **Tax-Based Hot Topics in Real Estate**

## **The New Range Wars: The Federal Challenge of Conservation Easements Like-Kind Exchanges**

April 26, 8:30 am - 12:15 pm

CBA-CLE Classroom

1900 Grant St., #300

Denver, Colorado

For more information, [click here](#)

## **Colorado Views on Federal Agriculture and Rural Policies: the 2007 Farm Bill Hearing Hosted by Senator Ken Salazar and the Senate Agriculture Committee**

March 12 1:00 pm

Adams County Regional Park Fairgrounds

Waymire Dome building

9755 Henderson Road

Brighton, Colorado

For more information, [click here](#)

## **Rally 2007: The National Land Conservation Conference New Frontiers of Conservation**

October 3-6

Adams Mark Hotel

Denver, Colorado

For more information, [click here](#)

## **Leopold Conservation Award Nominations**

**The deadline for applications is March 30<sup>th</sup>.**

This will be the fifth year of the award and we have been thrilled to present this award to agricultural landowners from Walsenburg, Westcliffe, Monte Vista and eastern El Paso County in the past. The last two winners have been nominated by land trusts. In addition to the recognition of their good work, the winners receive an unrestricted \$10,000 prize. The announcement will be made at the Colorado Cattlemen's Association annual meeting in Steamboat this June 18-20.

For more information, [click here](#)

or contact Chris West at the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust at (303) 225-8677

## **Workshops for COMap Users**

May 18, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Colorado State University Campus

Fort Collins, Colorado

May 25, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Mesa State Bishop Campus

Grand Junction, Colorado

For more information, [click here](#)

## **Stay Tuned!**

There are a lot of things happening right now in conservation and the CCLT is doing its best to stay on top of everything. Check our website often for new information and feel free to contact us any time for more information. Thank you for your interest and support!

## **Contact Info**

Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts

1410 Grant St., Suite C-209

Denver, CO 80203

Ph. 303-271-1577

Fax. 303-271-1582

Website: [www.cclt.org](http://www.cclt.org)

Jill Ozarski

Executive Director

Kathleen Staks

Conservation Fellow

## **[Forward email](#)**

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe**®

This email was sent to [kstaks@cclt.org](mailto:kstaks@cclt.org), by [kstaks@cclt.org](mailto:kstaks@cclt.org)

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)™ | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by

