

**From:** Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts [sbrangen@cclt.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 02, 2007 5:06 PM  
**To:** jill.ozarski@cclt.org  
**Subject:** Conservation News Volume 5



## Conservation News

Volume 5

September, 2007

### In This Issue

Featured Headline

Article Headline

### Conservation in the News

*City's efforts on open space earn applause*

October 2, 2007

The Durango Herald

[click here](#)

*Last Dollar Ranch to Hit Auction Block*

September 26, 2007

Telluride Daily Planet

[Click here](#)

*Land Staying Green*

September 20, 2007

Colorado Daily News

[Click here](#)

*A PUD Prototype?*

September 20, 2007

Wet Mountain Tribune

[Click here](#)

*Town Jump-starts VF Action Plan*

September 19, 2007

Telluride Daily Planet

[Click here](#)

### Rally 2007 arrives!

The Land Trust Alliance and nearly 2000 conservation professionals from across the nation are gathering to attend Rally, one of the largest conferences dedicated to land conservation. It offers to be a

great learning experience and a whole lot of fun! We can't wait to see you!



### CCLT is involved in several workshops that may be of particular interest to you:

- "IRS Audits of Conservation Easements in Colorado: Overview and Lessons Learned" from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Friday, October 5.
- "Introduction to Mineral Development in Colorado: A Handbook for Conservation Professionals" at 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 5.

### And don't forget the social happenings! Here's a few highlights for Colorado folks:

- Wednesday, October 3, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Wynkoop Brewery, 1634 18th Street. Colorado Conservation Trust is releasing their latest edition of the "Colorado Conservation at a Crossroads" report at our local brewpub. Come show your support as the national spotlight shines on Colorado Conservation. They are offering cocktails and appetizers. RSVP to Aaron Drew, 720.565.8289, [adrew@cocl.org](mailto:adrew@cocl.org)
- Thursday, October 4, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Southwest Regional Reception at the Supreme Court Lounge (across the street from the Adam's Mark).
- Saturday, October 6, 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Yes folks, that's 7 a.m. If we have to be there, so do you! Conservation Professionals breakfast sponsored by the Colorado Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts. We'll have fresh fruit, bagels and muffins, eggs, coffee and juice so please stop in to say hello! We'll be in the Columbine Room.

*What Land is Worth Saving*

September 19, 2007

The Vail Trail

[Click here](#)

*Your Show Inbox - Sen. Salazar Follow-up - Kevin Gibson - Conservation Easements and IRS*

September 14, 2007

9News.com

[Click here](#)

*Deal Closes on Grange's Basalt Ranch*

September 13, 2007

The Aspen Times

[Click here](#)

*Gates Ranch Fits the Bill*

September 13, 2007

Vail Daily News

[Click here](#)

*Open Space Leaders Recognized*

September 11, 2007

Summit Daily News

[Click here](#)

*40 Years of Stewardship*

September 8, 2007

The Aspen Times

[Click here](#)

*Easements Ain't Easy*

July 23, 2007

The Vail Trail

[Click here](#)

## Tell us more!

We're proud of the conservation work done in Colorado and we want to showcase it. Send us your stories, newspaper clippings, events, job postings and pictures so we can include them in the next newsletter!

Email



## SAVE THE DATE: "Brews, Boots, and Bucks: A Celebration of Colorado's Land Heritage"

Promised to be a lot of fun, CCLT is hosting a celebration on November 1st at the Wynkoop Brewery. Come see Western author and rancher Peter Decker and bid on silent auction items that include trips all across our great state! If you are interested in a

sponsorship, serving on the host committee, or have any questions at all please contact Jill at 303-271-1577 or at [jill.ozarski@cclt.org](mailto:jill.ozarski@cclt.org).

## IRS Audits of Conservation Easements

As you know, a significant number of Colorado conservation easements are under audit from the IRS. There is no doubt that tax abuses should be identified and stopped, however the current IRS audit process is not working. The conservation community is frustrated because the IRS does not appear to be making any distinction between solid easements from landowners who followed accepted industry standards and abusive schemes. This means that donors who thought they were doing the right thing are caught up in an expensive and disruptive multi-year audit process, while promoters responsible for abuses continue to operate. For evidence of how the state of Colorado is cracking down on faulty appraisals, please [click here](#).

However, there is recent reason for hope on the IRS front. Senator Ken Salazar and Senator Wayne Allard have continued to be very helpful in gaining information from the IRS. They have been true leaders on this issue, and have encouraged the Service to modify their investigation so as to focus on abusive schemes rather than on well-intentioned easement donors. Please [click here](#) for copies of recent correspondence that details the status of the audits and some options for moving forward on two fronts: (1) for the IRS to expedite certain cases (i.e. the well-intentioned cases involving CCLT members) so as to better focus their efforts on abusive schemes; and (2) for the IRS and the conservation community to collaborate on guidance for easement donations. Also take a look at [9News](#) for a recent public statement on the issue.

Many individuals and organizations have united to build this progress, including the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, the Land Trust Alliance, the Conservation Resource Center, Colorado Open Lands, the Colorado Conservation Trust, and many CCLT-member organizations. In one wonderful example of Colorado teamwork in action, the CRC assembled an informal working group of Colorado conservation representatives and a retired IRS employee to develop policy-based approaches in cooperation with the IRS. This is one example of Colorado's strong conservation community addressing this critical issue as a united front.

## State Policy News

### Task Force to Convene to Discuss Colorado Conservation Easement Tax Credit

Representative Alice Madden will convene a task force this fall to develop recommendations about the Colorado conservation easement tax credit program for the General Assembly, the Department of Revenue, and other relevant state agencies that will ensure the tax credit is cost-effective and encourage high-quality conservation easements that have a clear benefit to the public. The task force will include representatives from the Colorado conservation community, other stakeholders, and legislators and will assess whether any additional reforms to the program are needed. Information about the task force will be available on the [CCLT website](#) as meetings start happening.

### CCLT Working with Department of Revenue on Tax Forms for Implementation of HB 1361

The Coalition is working with the Colorado Department of Revenue on tax forms for the implementation of HB 1361, the new state law that increases the accountability and transparency of the Colorado conservation easement tax credit program with increased reporting requirements. The forms include one for conservation easements donors, one for conservation easement holders, and a public form for conservation easement donors that will

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Stacey Brangenberg

provide information about the easement without revealing confidential taxpayer information.

We will put the forms on our website and send out an announcement as soon as they are ready. In the meantime, make sure your organization is collecting all the information the new law requires! [Click here](#) for the language of HB 1361.

Larry Kueter and Bill Silberstein at Isaacson Rosenbaum have also put out guidance on HB 1361. [Click here](#) for that document.

## **Federal Policy News**

### **Extension of Federal Tax Incentive for Conservation Easements Approved by Senate Finance Committee**

The Senate Finance Committee unanimously approved the "Habitat and Land Conservation Act of 2007" on September 21. This bill includes the provisions from S. 496 making the federal tax incentive for conservation easements permanent as well as provisions that will provide tax credits for landowners who improve endangered species habitat on their land and an extension of favorable tax treatment for brownfield remediation. [Click here](#) for more information.

Senators Ken Salazar and Wayne Allard are both co-sponsors of S.496 which now has 21 co-sponsors. The similar House Bill, H.1576, now has 106 co-sponsors including Colorado Representatives Mark Udall, John Salazar, and Ed Perlmutter. Encourage your representatives to join as a co-sponsor if they haven't already! [Click here](#) for more information about the bills and how you can help!

## **News Around Colorado**

### **8th Annual Colorado Open Space Alliance Conference a Success!**

The Colorado Open Space Alliance hosted their annual conference September 10-12 in Steamboat Springs, drawing approximately 200 open space professionals from across the state. The theme for the conference was "Partnering to Protect Open Space" and keynote speakers included Jordan Fisher Smith, author of *Nature Noir*, and Brian O'Neill, Superintendent of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Both speakers were very well received, bringing to light new ways to partner and foster relationships, as well as emphasizing the importance of partnering as visitor use on public lands increases. Staff from the CCLT presented workshops at the conference about the IRS audits, the upcoming Mineral Development Handbook, and a Best Practices document for local governments.

[Click here](#)

for more information about COSA and the conference.

### **Successful Evaluating and Selecting Conservation Projects Workshop**

Thanks to the generous support of the Colorado Conservation Trust, Community Banks of Colorado, and the Land Trust Alliance, the workshop was a great success. The Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts presented the Land Trust Alliance's newly-completed Standards and Practices course on "Successful Planning, Selection, and Evaluation of Conservation Projects." We presented the workshop twice, once in Denver on August 28 and again in Montrose on August 30. The all-day courses (9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) were taught by contractors Jane Ellen Hamilton (of Hamilton Consulting, and Alliance faculty) and Cindy Cohagen (Executive Director of the Eagle Valley Land Trust). The workshops were well-attended and included many staff and board members from the CCLT-member organizations. These trainings were presented as part of a capacity-building initiative and preparation for accreditation and were also timely as conservation easements continue to face intense scrutiny from the IRS and the state of Colorado.

Thanks again to the Colorado Conservation Trust, Community Banks of Colorado, and the Land Trust Alliance for their generous support.

## Farewell to Kathleen Staks!

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the conservation community and especially to Jill Ozarski and the CCLT board for making this last year one of the best of my life. The experiences and opportunities I've had have been amazing and I've felt so fortunate to be able to take part in them. My favorite part about my job at the CCLT has been getting to know all of you either in person, over the phone, or just through email exchanges. This is the most passionate group of people I've ever met and your enthusiasm and love for what you do makes this an unbelievable field to be working in.

Next week I'll be starting a job at Great Outdoors Colorado where fortunately I'll be continuing to work with most of you! I'm really looking forward to the new opportunities that job will present and to continuing my career in conservation in Colorado. Thank you all again!

## Welcome!

The CCLT would like to welcome a new staff member and a new board member! We're very excited about the experience both of these women bring to the CCLT and look forward to working with them in the future.

**New CCLT Board Member Martha Cochran** has been the Executive Director of the Aspen Valley Land Trust since 2002. She has a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and a Master's in Public Administration. Before starting with AVLT, Martha worked for the Colorado Mountain College for ten years, owned her own businesses for 15 years, and was the publisher of the Glenwood Independent and the Glenwood Post Independent. She served on the Glenwood Springs City Council for four years and later was the chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission for five years. Martha is actively involved with the Colorado Animal Rescue Shelter and the Aspen Community Foundation. She has lived in Glenwood Springs for 30 years.

## Say "Hello" to Stacey Brangenberg, our new Conservation Fellow sponsored by the Colorado Conservation Trust.

Stacey is a recent graduate of the University of Colorado Law School where she focused on Natural Resource Law. She has interned with The Nature Conservancy and Boulder County Legal Services. During her free time, Stacey loves to train and compete in triathlons.

## Upcoming Events

### Valuation of Conservation Easements: Seminar for Appraisers

Appraisal Institute, American Society of Appraisers, American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, Land Trust Alliance

October 1-5, 2007

Denver, Colorado

[Click here](#)

### Rally 2007

Land Trust Alliance

October 3-6, 2007

Adam's Mark Hotel

Denver, Colorado

[Click here](#)

### Brews, Boots, and Bucks: A Celebration of Colorado's Land Heritage

Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts

November 1, 2007

Wynkoop Brewery

Email [jill.ozarski@cclt.org](mailto:jill.ozarski@cclt.org) for more information

### Conservation Easements, Appraisals and Tax Credits for Open Space and Agricultural Land

Larimer County Parks and Open Lands

November 1, 2007

Fort Collins, Colorado

For more information, call 970-679-4577

### Eminent Domain and Land Use Teleseminar

Colorado Bar Association Section of Real Estate

November 6, 2007

[Click here](#)

### Cranmer Award Reception

Colorado Open Lands

November 26, 2007

Details to follow.

### Acres and Ales

Isaacson Rosenbaum P.C.

January 10, 2008

Wynkoop Brewery

For more information call Cassie Moskowitz at 303-292-5656

### Conservation Easement CLE SuperSeminar

Co-Chairs Bill Silberstein and Larry Kueter from Isaacson Rosenbaum

Sponsored by CLE International  
January 11, 2008  
[Click here](#)

## Job Postings

Seasonal Positions at Mile High Youth Corps  
[Click here](#)

Executive Director  
Crested Butte Land Trust  
[Click here](#)

Conservation Specialist  
Middle Park Land Trust  
[Click here](#)

Northwest Organizer  
Colorado Environmental Coalition  
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Development Director  
Colorado Fourteeners Initiative  
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Information and Special Events Coordinator  
Continental Divide Trail Alliance  
[Click here](#)

GIS Specialist - Research Associate II  
Colorado State University, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, National Park Service  
[Click here](#)

Director of Real Estate Development  
Urban Land Conservancy  
[Click here](#)

## Contact Info

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