

COLORADO CONSERVATION TRUST

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



conserving extraordinary places.





Dear Friends,

The economic downturn of late 2008 and 2009 resulted in interesting and often challenging discussion in the State Capitol and among Colorado opinion leaders about future priorities of the state. The core question of this debate was often reduced to, “what is essential to the future quality of life in Colorado?”

There are several critical components to our future quality of life, and these certainly include education, health, and safety. But this important debate brought on by weak economic conditions also resulted in a reaffirmation that the majority of Coloradoans wish to protect and defend critical open and natural lands, water sheds, agricultural land and essential scenic vistas that are so vital to the state’s tourism industry. By way of example, and despite the economic slowdown, votes to renew or expand open space programs consistently passed overwhelmingly.

Colorado’s broad support for important land conservation translated into exceptional support for Colorado Conservation Trust in our 2009 fiscal year. This support ranged from “thank yous” from farmers and ranchers to whom we made small loans, to the extraordinary generosity of Ted Turner, who hosted a dinner for 350 civic and business leaders on our behalf.

In 2010, we are hard at work to expand our nationally recognized Fellows program, continuing our efforts on measures in the state legislature to ensure viable conservation tools remain in place, and working diligently to secure national foundation funding for land conservation work in the state.

All of us at Colorado Conservation Trust sincerely appreciate your support of our commitment to conserve extraordinary places in Colorado.

Sincerely,

*Brian Ross
Executive Director*

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Cover photo courtesy of Rio de la Vista.

Future Conservation Leaders Fellowship

combining leadership, education, and human resource needs.

OVERVIEW

The Future Conservation Leaders Fellowship program places emerging conservation professionals with qualified conservation organizations for a two-year term. The program matches great young talent with leading organizations that can meaningfully advance their work with the addition of a highly qualified staff member.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The CCT Fellowship program affords donors the *unique opportunity to affect real change*, both in the life of a young professional, and in a Colorado landscape. In this classic win-win scenario, Fellows get a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hit the ground running in their land conservation career, and the host organization gets a highly motivated, educated staff member. When the Fellow and the host organization come together, they can significantly advance the pace and effectiveness of land conservation in our state. The success stories are many and the benefits are invaluable to all involved.



QUICK FACTS

- The program was initiated in 2004. It has since become a national model.
- CCT currently has seven Fellows with Colorado land trust host organizations. Thirty Fellows have been placed since the program's inception.
- CCT fully vets host organizations for placement to match expertise with need and conservation opportunity.
- CCT pays 75% of the Fellow's compensation and benefits for the two year term of their Fellowship. The remaining balance is paid by the host organization.
- CCT provides grant money for computers and other necessary tools, and conducts on-going training and education programs, including attendance at the Land Trust Alliance national annual training conference.
- The total compensation, benefits, training, education, and support grants for the two year placement that CCT provides has a cost of \$90,000.

"Montezuma Land Conservancy has been able to accomplish more and better land conservation by hosting a CCT Fellow. Our Fellow Amber Johnson has worked diligently on a wide range of programs at MLC, improving efficiency and providing necessary skills and expertise. Her assistance has been invaluable, and after the term of her Fellowship ended, we were very pleased to offer her full time employment."

- Nina Williams; Director of Conservation Initiatives
Montezuma Land Conservancy
Cortez, Colorado

Saving family lands - Aubert Hawks Ranch

In a multi-year transaction beginning in 2008, CCT applied \$400,000 of Doris Duke Chairitable Foundation funds to place an easement on the 3,700 acre Aubert Hawks ranch in the Grande Valley. This spectacular project represents Mesa Land Trust's largest ever conservation easement. Keep it Colorado and the Colorado Conservation Partnership sponsored a special celebration in August 2009, donating an additional \$5,000, as depicted at right.

This property contains a wide diversity of wildlife including deer and elk habitat, and has been ranched by the Aubert family since the 1940s.

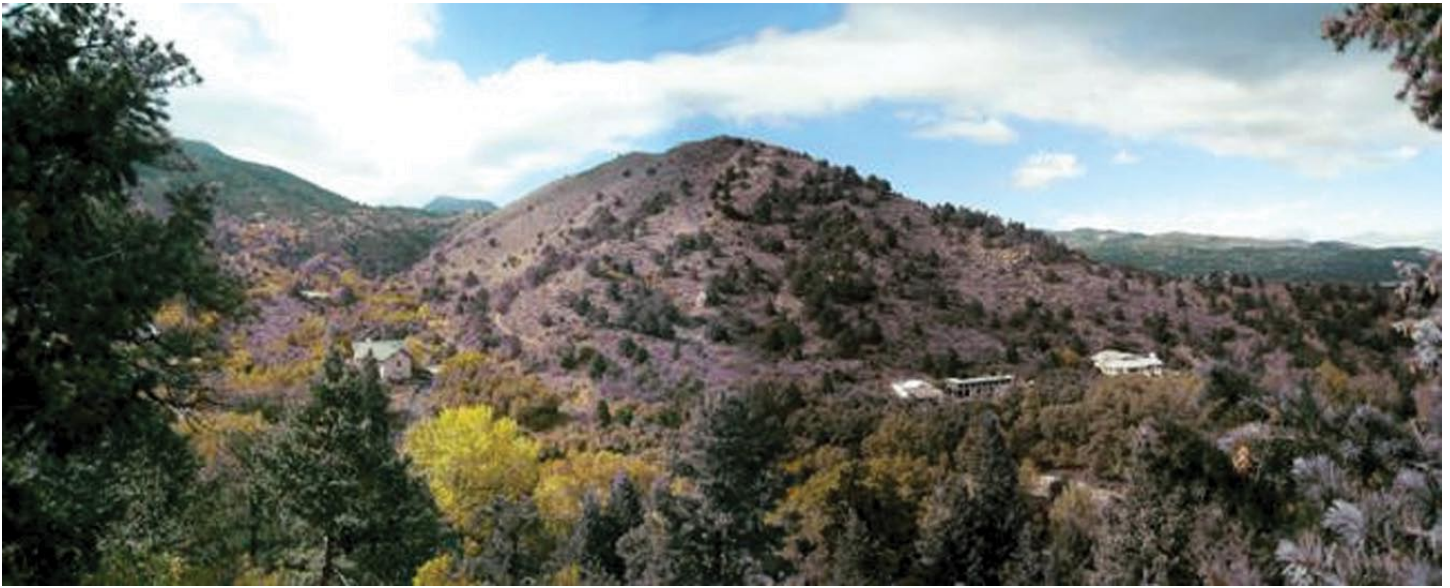


Q for Conservation with Ted Turner



At the 2009 Q for Conservation event, CCT presented Ted Turner with its inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award. As an internationally renowned philanthropist as well as a Colorado landowner, Ted shared his views on conservation and the future of the energy industry to a sell out crowd. The event raised an unprecedented \$220,000 in support of CCT's conservation efforts.

Adding trail and open space connectivity



In mid 2009, CCT began working with the City of Manitou Springs to pursue the purchase of a long sought-after property integral to the City's open space plan. CCT provided a \$108,000 loan in December 2009 to complete the property transaction.

The newly acquired property allows for trail connectivity to Pikes Peak. By adding this parcel to the city's open space lands, the impressive view shed that serves as the city's backdrop will not be obstructed by development.

Thanking our founding board members



Michael Dowling, George Beardsley, Will Shafroth, and Linda Campbell, Vice Chair of the Board

We at CCT are extremely grateful for the extraordinary vision and leadership of our founding board members. Due to term limits, George Beardsley and Michael Dowling transferred to trustee status as of December 2009. We thank them, along with founder Will Shafroth, for all they have contributed to the organization and look forward to their continued support and counsel moving forward.

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*Deceased

FINANCIAL REPORT

CCT's most recent completed fiscal year ran from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. Approximately \$905k of the Grant Expenses from fiscal year 2009 reported below were paid out of previous years' revenues.

REVENUES: \$2,381,795

70% FOUNDATIONS
26% INDIVIDUALS & CORPORATIONS
4% GAINS & INTEREST INCOME

EXPENSES: \$2,764,686

57% GRANTS
30% GRANTMAKING & PROGRAM SERVICES
7% FUNDRAISING & DONOR CULTIVATION
6% GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION