



Spanish Peaks Area

Huerfano and Las Animas Counties

The scenic areas at the foot of the Spanish Peaks are comprised of vast expanses of short grass prairie, pinon juniper forests, mountain meadows, playa lake wetlands, and old growth ponderosa pine forests. The use of conservation easements to protect working ranchland in this area started in 2001, when the late Sam Capps of Walsenburg finalized a conservation easement on his 28,700 acre ranch. Since then many neighboring ranches have followed Sam's lead, and began using easements as a tool to help ensure that the corridor will remain in agricultural production for generations to come. As of August 2007, CCALT has protected over 50,000 acres of productive ranchland in the area and continues to work with new ranchers in this area every year.