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The mission of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust is to protect productive agricultural lands and the conservation values they provide by working with ranchers and farmers, thereby preserving Colorado's ranching heritage and rural communities.

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Spotlight on Colorado

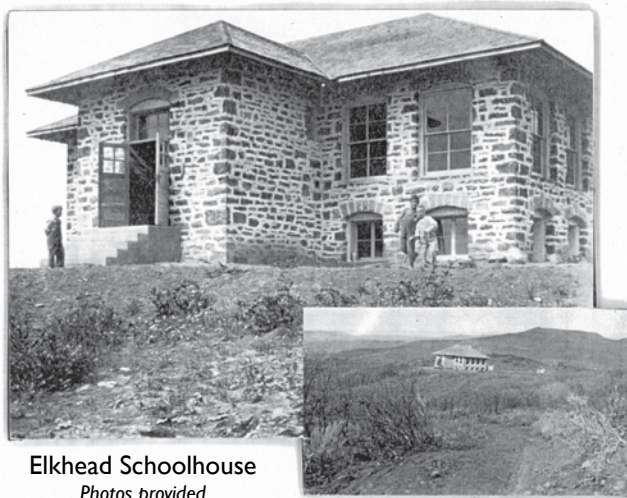
Legendary Tales and Boundless Landscapes

The Elkhead Creek Valley, or simply “the Elkhead” to locals, lies approximately 17 miles north of Hayden. The individuals who lived in the Elkhead at the beginning of the 20th century have one of the most interesting and colorful tales in Colorado history. This is the history and legend of a group of bachelor ranchers, led by the charismatic Ferrington (Ferry) Carpenter and Bob Perry, and their collaboration to bring both matrimony and education – simultaneously – to the Elkhead. It is also the story of modern conservation and the desire of current landowners to keep a ranching heritage and unbroken landscape intact.

The story is so interesting it was featured in *The Saturday Evening Post* in 1952 and again in the April 2009 issue of *The New Yorker*. It is a tale of lonesome cowboys and their brilliant and unorthodox strategy to bring women to an isolated area of Colorado.

In *The Post's* interview of Ferry Carpenter, he said, “Up at Elkhead there was a terrible shortage of she-stuff.” To rectify this shortage, the cowboys developed a plan to build a school that would attract female school teachers to move to the Elkhead. The cowboys believed that once the teachers arrived, they would have no option but to marry the local cowboys.

The only hitch in their plan was that there were no children living anywhere in the Elkhead and thus the county superintendent of schools rejected their application to build a school until they had a minimum of 10 school-aged children living in the area.



Elkhead Schoolhouse
Photos provided
by Willis Carpenter

**“Up at Elkhead
there was a
terrible shortage
of she-stuff.”**

Ferry Carpenter
during his interview with
The Saturday Evening Post

Spotlight on Colorado *continued*

The superintendent's requirement put a damper on the brilliant plan until 1913, when the railroad finally reached Hayden. With the railroad came many families seeking a new beginning in the West. Shortly after the railroad arrived in Hayden, Carpenter and Perry came across a family with 10 children looking to homestead land near Hayden.

Carpenter convinced the family to homestead in the Elkhead and the local cowboys helped them to construct a house and agricultural structures. After the family was settled, the men successfully petitioned the superintendent and began construction of what would become one of the finest public schools west of the Mississippi. When construction was completed, the first two teachers arrived. Ultimately, one of the first two teachers ended up marrying Bob Perry. The plan to bring women to the Elkhead was deemed a great success because each fall, new teachers would arrive; and each spring, there would be a wedding or two.

This colorful story of the Elkhead schoolhouse is testament to this region which is rich with history and is renowned for its working ranches and western way of life. Ferry Carpenter's son, Willis, has a unique perspective on the Elkhead, both from the ranching and conservation perspectives. As a boy, Willis rode all across the land working cattle. He recalled, "My mother would tend the cattle while my father was in town practicing law, she was a regular cowboy too." Now a renowned Denver attorney, Willis has helped two Elkhead families to protect their ranches through conservation easements held by CCALT. "Conserving the Elkhead hits close to home for me, I've known that place my whole life."

Conservation Successes in the Elkhead

Elk Head Ranch

The Elk Head Ranch, originally known as the McKinley Homestead, is one of the oldest operating ranches in Routt County and is a designated Routt County historic ranch. Homesteaded in the late 1800s, the ranch became the center of the Elkhead community. For a time, it even served as the post office and store; and was the center of the Routt and Moffat County livestock communities. This included another school separate from the Elkhead Schoolhouse. Heather Stirling recognized the need to protect this historic ranch and has been actively working on the permanent protection of the ranch since 2007. To date, she has protected more than 2,000 acres of the nearly 4,000 acre ranch.

Agner Mountain Ranch

The Agner Mountain Ranch was historically part of the Elk Head Ranch. Today the two properties, while under separate ownership, are still managed as one unit. Owner James Spitzley protected 1,200 acres of this mountain ranch in 2010 and is actively working on the protection of the rest of the ranch by the end of 2011. This property provides spectacular views of the Williams Fork Mountains to the south and the Elkhead Mountains to the north; and provides high-quality habitat for wildlife and summer pasture for cattle.

Howe Ranch

Tucked between the Elk Head Ranch and the Agner Mountain Ranch, the Howe Ranch (600 acres) played an important role in the founding of the historic Elkhead School. The first two teachers lived on what is now the Howe Ranch. Now owned by Cal and Penny Howe, the ranch offers unobstructed views of Agner and Buck Mountains to the north and Pilot Knob, Wolf Mountain and Quaker Mountain to the east.

CCALT is proud to have protected these traditional ranching operations and the undeveloped landscape that makes the Elkhead a unique part of Colorado. We encourage you to explore the Elkhead region and its rich western history. When you visit, be sure to stop by the Hayden Heritage Center. The Elkhead is a region where historic ranches protected by conservation easements provide a connection to the past and a respect for a uniquely western way of life.

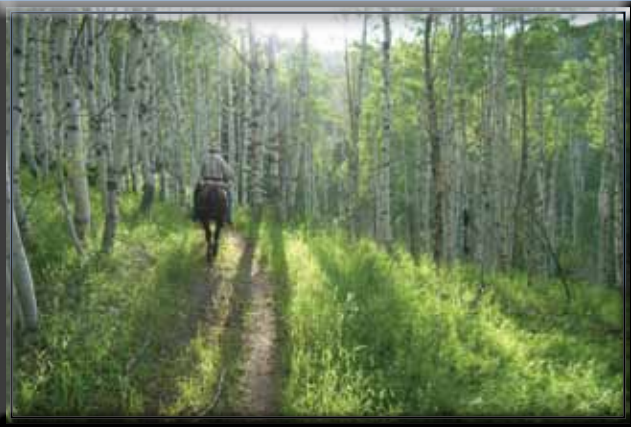


Howe Ranch

What a Year!



Hutchinson Ranch, Chaffee County



*Chew Ranch in the Upper Elk River Valley
Routt County*



Purdy Ranch, Elbert County

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) had another banner year in 2010. The Land Trust partnered with landowners in the protection of over 20,000 acres and 34 transactions in 2010. This means CCALT has protected a total of 370,000 acres as of December 31, 2010 in over 37 counties across Colorado!

Special thanks go to our landowners; and also to the many funders, public and private, who helped us to protect so many places this year. Funders included, but were not limited to, Great Outdoors Colorado, Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, Routt County PDR Program, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Colorado Conservation Trust, Hewlett Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Watermolen Foundation.

There are three projects that we have spotlighted in this issue; the Hutchinson Ranch in Chaffee County, the Chew Ranch in the Elk River Valley, and the Purdy Ranch in Elbert County. These are three traditional ranching families who chose to protect their family heritage and agricultural lands through conservation easements with CCALT.

The Hutchinson Ranch is the oldest ranch in Chaffee County and has been owned and operated by the same family since it was first homesteaded in the 1860's. As one of the last working cattle ranches in the area, the ranch provides a scenic backdrop for tourists and residents of Chaffee County.

Dean Chew was committed to the ranching lifestyle and was part of the early conservation movement in the Upper Elk River Valley which began nearly 20 years ago. Over 9,000 acres of private land are protected by conservation easements contributing to a remarkable example of how voluntary measures can preserve working landscapes.

Located near Agate in Elbert County, the Purdy Ranch has been in the family for many generations. They are long-time CCA members and run a successful cow/calf operation on this diverse property. CCALT has protected over 10,300 acres in Elbert County to date and is proud to be working with the Purdys to protect this historical ranch.

As CCALT begins the new year, the staff and board look forward to protecting even more of these important agricultural landscapes and spectacular views for which Colorado is renowned. It is our hope that 2011 brings even more conservation success.

Abby Hutchinson

CCALT's Conservation Corner

Conservation from a landowner's perspective



I often try to imagine what my great-great-great-grandmother was thinking when the family left Sparta, Wisconsin with all of their possessions in a covered wagon and headed to the gold fields of Colorado. Annabel was just 19 when the oxen reached Canon City in the fall of 1860. Annabel married Joseph Sykes Hutchinson, a former Civil War captain, in 1868. Joe and Annabel had four boys and they found their true niche in the open range cattle business.

I also often try to imagine how the land looked when they first established their home and headquarters along the cottonwood-lined South Arkansas River. Miles of ditches needed to be dug and the fields needed to be cleared, leveled and plowed. None of it was easy.

Joe died in 1882 leaving behind a young widow, four boys and a host of challenges. It is hard to explain the feelings I have when I think back on what those early years must have been like. I wonder if Annabel ever thought that seven generations later, her great granddaughter would be managing the same land? What words of wisdom would she pass on to me?

I am so fortunate that the family has been able to make an adequate living on the land and that my grandfather and mother had the wisdom to keep it as a working ranch. They also saw its historic value and worked to get the old house and associated buildings on the National Register of Historic Places and the ranch itself designated as a Colorado Centennial Farm. The place is indeed a significant piece of Colorado's rich history and is now also protected with a conservation easement through CCALT.

Each day I walk by the historic buildings that my ancestors built and maintained. I get to check for calving heifers in the same corrals they used. When spring comes, I clean and irrigate out of the same ditches that my family dug by hand. Our goal is to preserve the land that Annabel and Joseph once saw as an opportunity and a way of supporting a family. Their dreams have lasted for more than 140 years. I can now look forward to the future and know that my great-great-granddaughter will have the opportunity to follow in Annabel's footsteps. As my grandfather Wendell often said, **"It's a good ranch and a great life."**

Commissioner John Salazar speaks at CCALT landowner appreciation dinner

We are very thankful to Sue Anschutz-Rodgers for hosting our annual landowner dinner. The National Western Stock Show dinner is our chance to thank landowners for their donations and dedication to land conservation in Colorado.

Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture and former Congressman John Salazar was the guest speaker at this invitation-only event, and showed his ongoing support for our conservation easement program. Over 160 guests gathered to honor our landowners and those responsible for the success of our organization.

Thank you to all of our landowners and donors who attended. We have posted pictures of the dinner online. Visit our website at www.ccalt.org and go to our Events page.



Commissioner John Salazar, Sue Anschutz-Rodgers and Chris West at the NWSS dinner

Your dollars at work

Even if you don't own land, you are helping to protect land through conservation easements. One of the ways that CCALT puts your donations to good use is to partner with willing landowners in high-priority landscapes. The average rancher and farmer is now over 60 years old and there will be an enormous transition in ranch ownership and management over the next few decades. The work of CCALT will help to ensure that future generations will be able to appreciate Colorado's ranching landscapes.

There are many different opportunities for you to support CCALT and our landowners. Gifts of cash, stock, real estate and bequests are welcome. If you wish to attend our annual Sunset BBQ, it is held annually each summer and located in different regions across the state. Proceeds of the BBQ go toward the protection of Colorado's agricultural lands. Come enjoy good company while celebrating the success of CCALT. Auction items, entertainment and excellent food and drink are also a part of this annual affair.

Are you feeling the effects of the recent economy in your pocketbook but you still want to give? Budget your donation and pledge a monetary gift once a month. This recurring donation is simple and can be charged to your credit card automatically.

Call us now to set up your donation or visit us online at www.ccalt.org and set it up through Network for Good or Donate Now!

How you can help

*Leave a legacy by planning
a bequest to CCALT*

Including the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust in your estate plans is a great way to protect Colorado's special places. You can remember CCALT in your will or living trust; or name CCALT a beneficiary of your IRA qualified retirement plan, or life insurance policy. If you would like more information or would like to talk with someone about making a planned gift, contact your financial advisor or contact our Development Director Alyssa Street at alyssa@ccalt.org or 303-225-8677.



Other giving opportunities

Do you want to give a special gift to CCALT this year but are unsure as to what you can do to help the organization make a difference? CCALT is looking for non-traditional gifts like the items from the CCALT Wish List, auction items, donations for services at our annual BBQ (food, beer, wine, etc.) and corporate sponsors for CCALT events.

Now is your chance to get involved with CCALT and make a personal difference in protecting the scenic values and historical agricultural heritage that is so important in Colorado! Are you interested? Contact Alyssa Street at 303-225-8677 or by e-mail at alyssa@ccalt.org.



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Save the Date!



You are cordially invited to the 2011 Sunset BBQ at the
Prairie Canyon Ranch in Douglas County.

Saturday, July 16, 2011

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

\$150 per guest

There will be dinner, drinks and an auction, so be ready to have
a wonderful time on one of CCALT's protected ranches.

The proceeds from the event will go toward the protection of
Colorado's beautiful agricultural lands. For more information
about this exciting event check online at www.ccalt.org or send
an e-mail to Alyssa Street at alyssa@ccalt.org.