



NEWS RELEASE

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HUTCHINSON RANCH PROJECT AWARDED GOCO/LOTTERY GRANT

DENVER—The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board has awarded \$853,200 in Lottery funds to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to purchase a conservation easement protecting 211 acres of the Hutchinson Ranch in Chaffee County near Salida.

This ranch is a designated a “Colorado Centennial Farm” and has been in the Hutchinson family since the 1860s. The ranch is bordered by federal land and other private and public protected properties. The easement will protect some of the last open space between Salida and Poncha Springs and provides scenic views for both local residents and travelers along US Highway #50. In addition to its cattle operation, the ranch continues to provide important habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. The Hutchinson family feels that the property is their legacy to be preserved and want it to remain in agriculture.

This important conservation effort has been assisted by partnerships between GOCO, TPL, Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), Chaffee County, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Hutchinson family. CCALT will hold the conservation easement on the property, thereby handling its long-term monitoring and enforcement. This effort will require additional partnership and funding from NRCS to complete, as well as TPL will need to secure additional funding to complete the transaction.

Conservation easements are an effective means of preserving some of the remaining open rural landscapes for future generations, as easements prevent land from being subdivided in the future and limit future development. This project is part of a larger effort to protect land at the foot of Colorado’s Collegiate Mountain Range, with the ultimate goal of preserving 10,000 acres of land throughout the Upper Arkansas Valley.

Fifty-five projects in 32 counties across Colorado were awarded GOCO/Lottery grants totaling more than \$24 million by the GOCO Board in this round of funding. The projects will enhance outdoor recreation opportunities, create plans for future projects and protect 13,595 acres of open space. GOCO received 108 applications requesting approximately \$40 million.

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GOCO is the result of a citizens' initiative that was passed by 58% of the voters in 1992. It receives approximately half of Colorado Lottery proceeds—\$56.4 million in Fiscal Year 2010. It awards grants to local governments and land trusts, and makes investments through the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Colorado State Parks. More than 3,100 projects have benefited from GOCO grants since 1994. Since 1994, projects in Chaffee County have been awarded \$5.7 million in GOCO grants.

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