



Continental Divide Land Trust

Saving Mountain Landscapes Forever!

Volume 8, No. 3

CDLT News

Fall 2006

Mark Your Calendar

Make a Difference Day
Saturday, October 14
&
A Celebration of Land & Water Conservation
Thursday, November 9

See page 2 & 3
for more information

Inside this Issue

Easement Stewardship Day	2
Four Mile Bridge	2
Thank You to Volunteers	2
Info on Upcoming Events	2-3
Golden Horseshoe Update	3
Slate Creek Ranch Update	3
Membership Form	4

New Tax Incentives for Land Conservation

Two new tax benefit programs provide increased incentives for land conservation both nationally and in Colorado.

The new Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program in Colorado will change on January 1, 2007. Governor Owens signed Colorado House Bill 06-1354 amending the procedure under which tax credits are earned.

The new Tax Credit Program was passed in an effort to guarantee conservation easements encumber properties of greater conservation benefit with fewer transactional steps. Currently, 100% of the first \$100,000 and 40% of the remaining donation can be claimed as a tax credit. The new Tax Credit Program will permit a flat 50% of the donation's fair market value to be claimed as a state tax credit and increases the maximum amount of credit that may be claimed from \$260,000 to \$375,000. The tax credit is still transferable to another Colorado tax payer. This new tax credit applies to conservation easements donated after

January 1, 2007.

At the Federal level, President Bush signed legislation in August 2006 that also increases tax incentives for land conservation. New provisions allow donors of conservation easements to deduct up to 50% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) as opposed to the previous cap of 30% of AGI. The deduction can be taken over 16 years instead of the previously allowed 6 year limit. Qualifying ranchers and farmers can deduct up to 100% of AGI. These provisions are only applicable for donations of conservation easements made in 2006 and 2007.

Summit County benefits from these increased tax incentives because the incentives help Land Trusts such as CDLT conserve properties more effectively and efficiently. More incentives for land owners also mean the interest in conservation will rise and more valuable land in Colorado can be protected in perpetuity.

CDLT has a New Logo!



NEW LOGO



OLD LOGO

CDLT's logo has been updated recently with a new look and new colors thanks to Wilson-Lass of Breckenridge.

Easement Stewardship Day 2006 A Success!

On Saturday, June 24, Easement Stewardship Day brought together CDLT's land stewards, staff, and volunteers to successfully monitor five out of twelve properties with conservation easements. The day consisted of a morning full of training and an afternoon in the field.

Thanks to our twelve volunteers who helped monitor the properties, CDLT was able to monitor Fiester Open Space Preserve (Frisco), McCullough Gulch Open Space (Blue River), Wetlands at Water Dance (Frisco), Grande Easement (Silverthorne), and Iron Springs Easement (Farmer's Korner).

Easement Stewardship Day represents some of the Land Trust's most important work. It is also one of the best ways for Land Trust volunteers to get involved in the field and on-the-ground for open space preservation.

CDLT would like to thank Hearthstone Catering for providing the lunches for Easement Stewardship Day.

Four Mile Bridge Blue River Restoration Project



Thank you to Brian Lorch for leading an interpretive walk at Four Mile Bridge Blue River Restoration Project in August. This walk is one of CDLT's educational programs sponsored in part by The Summit Foundation. Pictured are Brian Lorch and Todd Robertson of the Summit County Open Space Department.

Thank you to CDLT's 2006 summer Volunteers!

These folks helped with our weed pulls, nature hikes, easement monitoring, and educational programs:

Lynn Amstutz
Judy Anderson
Sue Carver
Ed Crane
Gail Culp
Joan de Graaff
JoAnn Dufty
Terri & Jerry Eaton
Carol Gerard
Jacob Holley
Garry Horine
Cathy Houdek
John Jeanneret
Gary & Mary Johnson
Jan Lace
Margareta Lambert
Steve & Pat Larson
Brian Lorch

Nancy & Bing Martin
Sue McHenry
Kristina Nethaway
Peggy Nie
Kate Noonan
Travis Shackelford
Kurt Steuer
Sue Taylor-Brown
Kenny Van Howe
MJ Wurster

We apologize if we inadvertently omitted your name or made any errors. If there are any problems, please let us know as soon as possible.

Come Join Us for Make a Difference Day!

Join Continental Divide Land Trust to help clean up Upper French Gulch Open Space at the 8th Annual Make a Difference Day, Saturday, October 14th.

Hundreds of volunteers will help make a huge difference in Summit County at a community-wide volunteer effort on October 14, 2006. CDLT will host a site in Upper French Gulch at the Cobb and Ebert Placer. Volunteers will help clean up trash and debris left from old squatters' camps on the open space property owned by Summit County Government and the Town of Breckenridge. CDLT holds a conservation easement on the Cobb and Ebert Placer.

Participants in Make a Difference Day will receive a free breakfast, t-shirt, and lunch. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Summit Stage Bus Barns in Frisco at 8:00 a.m. for registration, check in and breakfast. Volunteer work takes place in the morning with a free celebration lunch following from noon - 2:00 p.m.

To pre-register for MADD, go to www.summitpreventionalliance.org. For more information call 970-668-2077.

Our Mission Statement:

The Continental Divide Land Trust permanently preserves and protects irreplaceable natural areas in and around Summit County for current and future generations, through land preservation agreements, land acquisition, and public education.

Golden Horseshoe Update

The Golden Horseshoe is the landscape between the Swan and French Creek valleys east of Breckenridge, comprising almost 9000 acres of rolling hills, National Forest lands, mining lands, and popular recreation trails. Summit County Government, the Town of Breckenridge and the US Forest Service are the primary landowners in the area. Continental Divide Land Trust holds a conservation easement on 173 acres in the Upper French Gulch valley (Cobb & Ebert Placer).

Over the past few months, citizens groups have been meeting to study the area and make recommendations for use and management. CDLT's executive director Leigh Girvin has been involved with this Natural Resources group.

The goal of the citizens groups is to have recommendations ready for the Forest Service's Travel Management Plan in October 2006.

For more information, please contact Leigh at CDLT 970-453-3875.



Upper French Gulch Conservation Easement Dedication, July 8, 2006. This property is part of the Golden Horseshoe.

Slate Creek Ranch Phase II Postponed to 2007

Because of the more generous provisions of the new Colorado Conservation Tax Credit, the landowners of Slate Creek Ranch have decided to postpone the conservation easement on the second phase of the Slate Creek parcel to 2007. Continental Divide Land Trust intends to carry-over to 2007 donations made in 2006 toward the transaction costs and stewardship endowment for the Slate Creek project. Thanks to all the donors who contributed to this important project!

Thank you to El Pomar Foundation!

Continental Divide Land Trust would like to give a special thank you to El Pomar Foundation of Colorado Springs for their generous grant award of \$2,500 toward the transaction costs and Stewardship Endowment Fund for Slate Creek Ranch Phase II.

A Celebration of Land & Water Conservation November 9th

The Blue River Watershed Group and the Colorado Water Trust are joining Continental Divide Land Trust on Thursday, November 9 to host A Celebration of Land and Water Conservation at the Silverthorne Pavilion. You are invited to this evening of music and socializing followed by presentations on successes in land and water conservation and information on ways to protect even more.

The event is sponsored in part by Maryland Creek Ranch and Tetra-Tech. We'll send further details about the event as the date gets closer. Sign up for our Email Alerts to be among the first to hear more about this event.

We hope to see you there!



Email Alerts & Notices

Want an email reminder about Make a Difference Day or other email notices of special events, education programs, etc.?

Sign up for our email alerts!

Send us an email at info@cdlt.org & ask to sign on, or fill in the form on page 4 and send it in!

Log onto Goodsearch.com & Support CDLT!



There is a new & easy way to raise money for CDLT just by searching the Internet with Goodsearch.com. Goodsearch is a new search engine powered by Yahoo that donates half of the advertising revenue it earns to charity.

It's easy to use! Just go to Goodsearch.com & specify Continental Divide Land Trust as your designated charity under the "I'm Supporting" box. Also, pass this message on to your friends & family. The more people who use Goodsearch, the more money will go to CDLT for land conservation!

I want to help preserve the beauty of Summit County!



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- \$15 Full Time Student
- \$35 Friend of the Land
- \$100 Land Sustainer
- \$500 Land Benefactor
- \$1,000 Steward of the Land
- \$5,000 Conservator of the Land
- Other \$ _____
- Please direct this gift to the Slate Creek Ranch Project

Member Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Day phone _____
 Email _____

Check Enclosed for \$ _____
 Please charge my credit card \$ _____:
 Visa MasterCard American Express
 Card # _____ Exp. _____
 Signature _____

I want to volunteer. I am interested in the following committee(s):
 Membership Outreach Events and Education Stewardship Marketing & Public Relations Other: _____

Credit cards will be charged through The Summit Foundation.

I suggest the Land Trust protect this land:

May we acknowledge your donation in our publications? Yes No
 Please mail to CDLT, PO Box 4488, Frisco, CO 80443
THANK YOU!



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**Inside: New Tax Incentives for
 Land Conservation,
 Upcoming Events, &
 Golden Horseshoe Update!**