



Continental Divide Land Trust

Saving Mountain Landscapes Forever!

Volume 9, No. 1

CDLT News

Winter 2007

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2007 is the Year for Land Conservation!

Increased tax incentives at both the Federal and State level mean that 2007 is the year for landowners considering a conservation easement to take action!

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 raises the deduction a conservation easement donor can take from 30% of his or her income in any year up to 50%; allows qualifying ranchers and farmers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take a tax deduction from 5 to 15 years. But these provisions in the Act are slated to expire at the end of 2007!

Also in 2007, qualifying taxpayers in the State of Colorado who donate a conservation easement on their land are eligible to take a tax credit of 50% of the value of the donation up to a maximum donation value of \$750,000, resulting in a transferable tax credit of up to \$375,000. Last year, the maximum tax credit was \$260,000. These tax credits may be transferred to another Colorado tax payer, resulting in cash for the conservation easement donor which can be used to buy equipment, purchase more land, or put the kids through college.

Conservation Easements must be donated to a qualified organization such as Continental Divide Land Trust, and must permanently protect land with significant natural qualities such as ranch lands, open space and scenic views, watersheds, wetlands, riparian areas, wildlife habitat and migration corridors. Public access is not a requirement of a conservation easement.

For more information, or to help determine if your property has significant conservation values that may be protected by a conservation easement, please contact CDLT at 970-453-3875.

Mark Your Calendar

Land Trust Reception

Tuesday, April 3
5:30p.m.-7:00p.m.
Brooks Furniture
Silverthorne



Earth Day Action Fair

Sunday, April 22
10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Frisco Recreation
Building

(See pg. 3 for more info).



Easement
Stewardship Day
Saturday, June 30th



Friends of Open
Space Honors
Awards

Thursday, September 6
Silverthorne Pavilion

Newest Conservation Easement Donated by Town of Silverthorne, 1298 Blue River Parkway

In January 2007, Continental Divide Land Trust accepted a conservation easement from the Town of Silverthorne on a 2.2 acre parcel that provides a critical link in the Town's Blue River Experience trail and recreation project. Known by its street address, 1298 Blue River Parkway, this conserved land is across the river from another conservation easement held by CDLT and now owned by the Town of Silverthorne, Willow Grove Lot 39 (formerly known as the Grande Easement).

1298 Blue River Parkway is a triangular shaped property bounded by Blue River Parkway (Highway 9) on the west, the Blue River on the east and south, and Blue River Run Townhomes on the north, directly across the highway from Bighorn Materials. Characterized by its relationship to the Blue River, the property is dominated by wetlands and moisture-loving plant species including willows, large cottonwood

trees, and Engleman spruce.

Future uses of the property include a paved trail along the Blue River, a recreation bridge across the river connecting to the Willow Grove
(Continued on Pg. 2)



Photo of the Blue River roaring through CDLT's newest conservation easement.

(Continued from pg. 1) property, and fishing access. Scenic views from Blue River Parkway will be preserved.

Continental Divide Land Trust's responsibilities as holder of the conservation easement will be to work with the Town of Silverthorne to protect the conservation values on the property in perpetuity, provide input into the final phases of the Blue River Experience plan, and perform annual monitoring of the property. For more information on easement monitoring, please see "What is Monitoring?"

Thank You to those who Joined Us for the CDLT Reception at Todd Powell's Photo Gallery!

CDLT staff and board members were pleased to meet so many of our supporters at the Reception for the Land Trust on Tuesday, February 6 in Frisco. Todd Powell's Photo Gallery provided an appropriate atmosphere for greeting and socializing.

The reception also marked CDLT's new Zero Waste goals. This year the Land Trust aims to reduce waste at programs and events through compostable corn cups and utensils. CDLT believes in zero waste because preservation of natural resources in ALL forms is essential for our mission in land conservation.

If you missed the last reception, you can join us in Breckenridge at The Photo

Shop on Tuesday, March 6. For more info contact CDLT at info@cdlt.org.



New County Commissioner Thomas Davidson, Laura Rossetter of the Rossetter Foundation, and Photographer Todd Powell at the CDLT reception.

Volunteer Land Stewards Needed!

We are looking for land conservation enthusiasts to oversee conservation easements held by CDLT.

Responsibilities include:

- * Occasional visits to the property
- * Documenting plants and animals
- * Understanding of the conservation easement language
- * Performance and coordination of monitoring visits (see "What is Monitoring?" for more info)

Qualifications:

- * Willingness to "adopt" a Land Trust property and gain a thorough knowledge of that property

Benefits:

- * Pride of stewarding land and ensuring it is protected in perpetuity.

Training begins in spring 2007. If you are interested, contact CDLT at info@cdlt.org or 970-453-3875.

What is Monitoring?

Conservation Easements held by a Land Trust must be monitored annually to ensure that the conservation values of the land are being preserved and to determine if the terms of the easement are being upheld.

Each year, CDLT monitors each of the conservation easements it holds, using staff and trained volunteers. Monitoring volunteers walk the boundaries of the property and check internal areas of interest, taking notes and photos at designated photo points along the way. Using photos from previous years' monitoring visits, volunteers note any changes to the property. Smaller properties may be monitored in a couple of hours, while larger properties may take all day to walk around.

Each property protected by the Land Trust has a Land Steward, a volunteer who is trained on the conservation values of the property, the property boundaries and areas of special concern, and the specific terms of the conservation easement. The Land Steward takes the lead in monitoring the conservation easement property, working with other volunteers to take photos, notes, and to

answer questions and fill out the Easement Monitoring Form.

Volunteer monitors are very important to the conservation work of CDLT. Monitoring volunteers act as the Land Trust's "eyes and ears" by making observations of the condition of the property, recording unusual plant and animal sightings, and noting any changes. Volunteers are also asked to pick up litter as they tour the property.

Each year, CDLT hosts Easement Stewardship Day, gathering interested volunteers for a training session in the morning and an actual easement monitoring visit in the afternoon. It's a great way to learn about conservation easements and how to monitor them, and to get involved in the field and on-the-ground for open space preservation in our community. This year, Easement Stewardship Day will be Saturday, June 30, 2007.

We will also hold a workshop this spring for volunteers interested in being a Land Steward. If you are interested contact CDLT at info@cdlt.org or call 970-453-3875.

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.

I want to help preserve the beauty of Summit County!



Continental Divide Land Trust

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- \$15 Full Time Student
- \$35 Friend of the Land \$50 Land Saver
- \$100 Land Sustainer \$200 Land Patron
- \$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: _____
 I suggest the Land Trust protect this land:

Credit cards will be charged through The Summit Foundation.

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

THANK YOU!

Thank You to All Grantors of CDLT's Community Outreach Brochure!

CDLT is in the process of creating a new color Community Outreach Brochure. We would like to thank the following groups for the Community Outreach funding we received to make this brochure happen:

- Summit Foundation
- Town of Breckenridge
- Town of Frisco
- Summit County Open Space

Earth Day Action Fair 2007

The Earth Day Action Fair 2007 is scheduled for April 22 at the Frisco Recreation Building. This year's Action Fair will be hosted by The Cool Winter Coalition including local nonprofits Continental Divide Land Trust, High Country Conservation Center, Sierra Club, Blue River Watershed Group, Family and Intercultural Resource Center, & The Keystone Science School. The Coalition will host a film / discussion series called "The Climate Crossroads Film Series" that leads up to Earth Day.

The goal of the series is to have all of the Towns (Frisco already has) and the County sign onto the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. The Agreement aims to join US mayors in an effort to implement the goals of the Kyoto Protocol in their cities and towns.

The Earth Day Action Fair

will once again include the popular Recycled Fashion Show and the Green Scene Awards, as well as Earth Day booths to educate on ways we can strive for a more sustainable earth.

Stay Tuned: CDLT will be

sending out more information about this great film series and Earth Day 2007. Join CDLT's email list to be the first to hear about upcoming events. Send your email address to info@cdlt.org.

A Sneak Peak into The Climate Crossroads Film Series :

- * "Resorting to Madness: Taking Back Our Mountain Communities", Mon., March 5, 6:30pm, Speakeasy Theatre in Breckenridge - Hosted by Blue River Group and Sierra Club, the film addresses the impacts of the modern ski resort industry on mountain communities and their environments.
- * Film "Kilowatt Ours," Wed., March 14, 6:30pm, Frisco Rec. Center - From coal mines to solar panel fields, explore America's energy problems. Guest speakers on tax credits & solar installation.
- * Frisco Presents Climate Protection Summit, TBA, week of March 19- 23, 5:30p.m., Frisco Town Hall- Short film and local speakers Tom Looby & Michael Penny.
- * Film "Earth to America," Mon. March 26, 6:30pm, Speakeasy Theatre, Breckenridge (tentative): Comedians Steve Martin, Robin Williams, & more talk about Global Warming.



Winter photo of Willow Grove Property adjacent to new conservation easement 1298 Blue River Parkway in Silverthorne.

Just a Reminder...

***A New Web Site for
Continental Divide Land Trust is
COMING SOON!
WWW.CDLT.ORG***

2007 Friends of Open Space Honors Awards

Who Deserves Recognition?

Help us celebrate open space protection by nominating outstanding resource protectors in our community.

Nomination forms will be available soon. Volunteers are needed in 2007 to help coordinate nominations and serve on the selection committee. Nomination categories include volunteer, organization, professional, exceptional job protecting open space in a development project, and more. Planning and organizing will start soon! Please contact CDLT if you are interested in helping out with the 2007 Friends of Open Space Honors Awards: 970-453-3875 or info@cdlt.org.



Email Alerts & Notices

Want an email reminder or notice of CDLT special events & education programs?

Sign up for our email alerts!

Send your email address to info@cdlt.org.

Note: We've been having problems with email delivery. Don't miss out on CDLT's upcoming events and announcements!

**Remember to put CDLT's email addresses in your safe box:
info@cdlt.org & cdltinfo@cdlt.org.**



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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