



# 25 YEARS

is a great start towards forever



PHOTO: Lydia Stern

# Looking forward: the next 25 years with YOU

There's no place like home, and Crested Butte sure is our home. For 25 years, we've been working with you to make this community a healthy and vibrant home. Please, take a moment to share with us your hopes and dreams for the next 25 years. Send us a note, give us a call, or tag us on Facebook or Instagram. Let us know what makes this place special to YOU.



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Petar Dopchev



**Our mission is working with you:** to forever protect and steward open lands for vistas, recreation, wildlife, and ranching, thus contributing to Gunnison County's unique heritage and quality of life.

# PROTECTING THE RANCH

## The next 25 years begin now

“Water is the true wealth in a dry land.”

The Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Wallace Stegner said that. Here on the arid Western Slope of Colorado, Stegner’s words ring true. Crystal clear, unpolluted creeks still flow from rocky mountain tops down to lush valley bottoms in the Gunnison Valley.

However, a long stretch of our precious fresh water, from the base of Gothic all the way down to Gunnison, remains vulnerable.

For the last century, that 30-mile stretch of productive river bottom has been owned and carefully managed by the Trampe Family. Now, local rancher Bill Trampe hopes to preserve the ranch to continue his family’s legacy, and to conserve the vibrant land and fresh water.

### **This is big - really big**

Nearly 6,000 acres of land surrounding the East and Gunnison Rivers need your help. Without protection,

this land is vulnerable to haphazard development.

Trampe’s ranch currently brings in a staggering 20 percent of Gunnison County’s agricultural revenue, so preserving this operation is essential to keeping our local economy booming. In many places across the west, working family ranches like Trampe’s are a relic of the past, but we think these ranches are what set the Gunnison Valley apart.

Crested Butte is unique because of our wide open valleys and stunning mountain views. From biking Snodgrass, to skiing Mount Crested Butte, and the picturesque views along Highway 135 as you drive into town, you can see that protecting Trampe Ranch makes a difference. If we lost that land, your views, and your home, would be drastically different.

### **Together, we’re stronger**

As your local land trust, we believe that partnerships matter, whether they’re with you or with other conservation organizations.

Together, with you, we’re proud to support the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land in the historic preservation of Trampe Ranch. This project has brought the national conservation spotlight to our incredible valley, and right now, we’re just \$800,000 away from the \$17 million goal.

Trampe’s dream is to keep his family’s legacy alive. You can make that dream come true, keeping the ranchland productive forever and leaving our meadows and mountain views wide open.

### **This is your only chance**

Unfortunately, once it’s gone, it’s gone forever. This is your chance to preserve the more than four miles of clean, healthy drinking water that runs through the Trampe Ranch. You can contribute to this historic preservation project knowing you’re saving the true wealth of this land.

For more, please contact Danielle at [director@cblandtrust.org](mailto:director@cblandtrust.org) or visit [cblandtrust.org/take-action/trampe](http://cblandtrust.org/take-action/trampe).



# 25 YEARS, WOR

For the last 25 years, you have played a pivotal role in shaping this community. You have made a difference by providing opportunities for children to unplug from our digital world and explore the peace and beauty of Paradise Divide as they round the bend into town for the first time. And, you have kept our drinking water clean for those whose lives you've transformed over the last 25 years, and we know there will be many more stories to



PHOTO: Courtesy of Marcella Wildes

When Marcella Wildes first arrived in Crested Butte, she was overwhelmed by all of the different hiking trails. Growing up in Texas, she had never had the opportunity to explore the mountains. Coming to Crested Butte changed Marcella down to her core. "When I hike in Crested Butte, beauty blends into my soul," she said.

As a novice hiker, Marcella started exploring the easier trails in the area. Over time, and by pushing herself a bit more on each excursion, Marcella found an incredible sense of fulfillment and achievement on the trails you protect through the Land Trust.

"As much as we all love these valleys, they do need protection," Marcella said. "The Land Trust does an excellent job acquiring and protecting properties for all to use and enjoy!"

Of course, Marcella has the most exuberant hiking companion in the world – her golden retriever, Bear. Bear has been all over the trails of the Gunnison Valley, bringing smiles and slobbers to all. According to Marcella, "hiking with Bear through the wildflowers is like happiness romping through a magnificent garden."

# KING WITH YOU

erence in the lives of ranching families looking for a way to keep their family heritage alive. You exhilaration that lives in nature. You have ensured that our visitors remember the awe-inspiring view water clean and safe, our air pure, and our wildflowers bountiful. Here are just two stories of people come. Here's to the next 25 years.



PHOTO: Teresa Cesario

Chris Mikesell always climbed the mountain to see the view. And what a view he had, living here in the Gunnison Valley. At the age of 23, Chris' life was cut short in an accident on Mt. Crested Butte. But through the work of his family, Chris' love for the mountains lives on.

"Chris lived in, and loved, the Gunnison Valley, and he was passionate about conservation and environmental protection," said his father, Kendall Mikesell. "Since we formed The Chris Mikesell Foundation in 2008, the foundation has been making gifts in our son's memory to the Crested Butte Land Trust. Our family is pleased and excited with what the Land Trust is doing in the Valley, and we know that Chris would be, too."

The Mikesells' work with the Land Trust ensures that generations will know the freedom of a walk in the mountains, just as you do. "With the birth this summer of our first grandchild Willa Egedy, a new generation will be able to enjoy the beauty of the Valley thanks to the ongoing work of the Crested Butte Land Trust," Kendall said.

# FUTURE FACE OF CONSERVATION

“I hope my gift keeps the flowers blooming, and grasses growing”



PHOTO: Courtesy of Benjamin Harris-Myers

These days, kids spend less time than ever playing outdoors.

Studies tell us that spending time outside increases attention span, reduces stress, and helps kids stay active and fit. Kids who spend time playing outside have better eyesight and memory, and are more creative.

And yet, only 10 percent of kids say they spend time outdoors every day, compared to 88 percent of kids who spend time on the internet every day.

Recently, we met someone who broke that mold.

13-year-old Benjamin has lived his whole life in Los Angeles, with his little sister, Elie, and dog, Shelby. But, Crested Butte has had a special place in his heart since he started visiting as an infant. “I love looking at the stars, because you can see so many,” he said. “That’s unlike L.A.”

When Benjamin visits Crested Butte in the winter, he loves to go skiing. In the summer, he and his family go biking and paddle boarding. “I like to ride my bike on the Lower Loop, because it is super pretty and peaceful,” Benjamin said.

Last spring, as Benjamin’s Bar Mitzvah approached, he decided to take his appreciation for the natural lands around Crested Butte one step further. He asked his friends and family to donate to the Land Trust in place of gifts.

“I wanted to give money to your organization because of the work you do. Crested Butte is a really amazing and one-of-a-kind place, and I appreciate your work to keep it that way, or even make it better,” Benjamin told us.

Well, Benjamin, we are incredibly honored and grateful. You make the future of conservation so hopeful. Thank you.

## MISSING CRESTED BUTTE?

From calendars, to coffee mugs, holiday ornaments, and Skida hats, bring the mountains and valleys you love home to your family.



VISIT [CBLANDTRUST.ORG/SHOP](http://CBLANDTRUST.ORG/SHOP)



PHOTO: Jerry Clark with aerial support from LightHawk

# YOU KEEP IT WILD

When the stakes are this high, you are the wind beneath our wings

**C**ruising altitude: 14,500 feet.

Glimpsing the world from up here, ducking over ridges and swooping gracefully down river valleys, is a truly magical experience. Just like the birds, you can see the big picture. You can see how the streams flow into the larger rivers, how the willow carrs connect to the forests, creating habitat for the elk to migrate, how the wetlands border our town of Crested Butte, providing a buffer from natural spring flooding.

Nature is not defined by property boundaries. Nature is wild.

But, there are still invisible lines drawn across the nature down below. There are unprotected parcels of land that could quickly and easily be lost to haphazard development.

One such parcel recently became

available to the Land Trust. In late August, we told you that we had just a couple of weeks to protect the Discovery Lode. If you were not able to help us raise the money to preserve this gorgeous, alpine area, we would lose the option to buy it. Forever.

This might seem unusual, but it happens all the time. We build relationships with landowners, sometimes for years, but when the time comes to purchase a property, we don't have much time to act.

Often, we ask you, our loyal supporter, to help us come up with money at the last minute. And over the years, you have come through, just like you did this time. In September, you successfully protected the Discovery Lode, adding prime land to an elk migration route and protecting a stretch of the pristine North Pole Creek.

Now, as we glide along in a Cessna 180, thanks to our amazing partners at LightHawk, we pass over the North Pole Basin and the Discovery Lode parcels, knowing that another section of land and river will remain wild forever. And that's just one of the profound impacts that you have had over the last 25 years.

Without you, those creeks might not flow into clean, crystal clear rivers, and those willow carrs might not connect to the forests. There may be no such thing as wetlands along the edge of Crested Butte, and our community would be worse off for it.

By acting quickly and protecting the most important lands when they need you, you have made the Gunnison Valley what it is today. Thank you. Together, we can make sure the next 25 years are amazing.



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This holiday season, take a moment to  
**conserve what you love most.**

PHOTO: Chris Miller

Your monthly gift protects your favorite places, now and forever.

**WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.**

You make Crested Butte the special place it is today. Thank you.