



# THIS IS **YOUR PLACE**

## **2021/2022 Winter Newsletter**

Message from the Executive Director | Partners in Conservation | Saving Smith Hill  
Values in Action Photo Essay | Conservation through Generations | Supporter Spotlight



photo: **John Holder**





photo: **John Holder**

**C**hoosing to create a life in the high country was not a masterfully planned event but rather a series of small decisions that continued to point in the direction of happiness in a small, rural community where I have immediate access to the things I love. The result of those decisions is that I am able to raise a family, build a career, and pursue my passions in a place that is unlike any other. Today, I am afforded the gift of helping to protect the same place that has given me so much. What we have here is special, and I feel fortunate every day to live a life in the mountains, surrounded by beauty and wildness. I am also proud to walk side by side with individuals and organizations that share common goals within the community. In my work here at the Land Trust, it is abundantly clear that together, we can accomplish much more than we can do alone. In this issue of the Crested Butte Land Trust newsletter, we celebrate some of the people and organizations that support the mission of conservation and stewardship in the Gunnison Valley. I find each of these individuals and stories to be unique and inspiring. I hope you agree.

Through expanded partnerships with supporters, landowners, public agencies and other non-profit organizations, the Land Trust is able to serve an important role in the community as a convener for conservation efforts that benefit nearly every resident and visitor to the

area. At times the solutions we seek are beyond the grasp of the Land Trust alone, and it is through bonds forged from years of reliance and hard work with our partners that we are able to advance the mission for the community. The point is, we can't do it alone and we can't do it without you.



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

With your help, we are getting a lot of great work done. This past summer and fall saw a record harvest at Glacier Farm, delivering mountain grown food to neighbors in need. The Coal Train Trail, connecting Gunsight Bridge to Oh Be Joyful Campground, was opened to the public. The Slate River Working Group continues to support balanced solutions for wildlife and recreation, and the Long Lake Stakeholder Committee is working on a management plan for the community's beloved swimming hole. To top off a great summer, the Land Trust and Town of Crested Butte completed a vital conservation project on Smith Hill in the Slate River Valley with the acquisition of the Kikel Lot 3 parcel, important to wildlife and grazing and located in the heart of the Lupine Trail area. These lands that you protect are the same areas you are helping steward for the future. Thank you!

**Jake Jones** Executive Director



# FOR VISTAS, RECREATION, WILDLIFE, AND RANCHING: **PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION**

**OUR MISSION:** to forever protect and steward open lands for vistas, recreation, wildlife, and ranching, thus contributing to the preservation of Gunnison County's unique heritage and quality of life.

**The Crested Butte Land Trust's mission is driven by our four conservation values: preserving scenic vistas, protecting wildlife habitats, honoring ranching heritage, and maintaining and creating recreational opportunities. None of these would be possible without the others - just as the rivers, trees, and mountain peaks blend together and interlace seamlessly into the landscape, each conservation value intersects with its counterparts and weaves through our valley.**

In order to help these values work harmoniously with each other, the Land Trust works with partners in the Gunnison Valley who recognize the value of open space and share our commitment to protecting these spaces forever. This year we celebrate 30 years of conservation, and over that time have cultivated critical relationships that help us tie these values together to maintain our mission. We can't protect and steward these lands without multiple groups rallying together: willing landowners, local ranchers, government entities, fellow nonprofits, and a committed community of supporters.

## **RECREATION**

Recreation in the Gunnison Valley is a prime example of how each conservation value overlaps, requiring knowledge and oversight from multiple players. The Land Trust values its partnerships in recreation: organizations that build and steward the trails, such as the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association and the Crested Butte Conservation Corps; governmental entities that help inform land management decisions, like the Town of Crested Butte, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management; and landowners that willingly allow public access to trails that pass through their private land.

"Our working relationship with the Land Trust allows for a continuity of conservation throughout the valley. Such that the average user may not know they're crossing through jurisdictions as they're hiking the Lower Loop or other trails. But that's possible because of our ability to work together," says Matt McCombs, Gunnison Forest







Service District Ranger. "The Land Trust is a critical partner, a good neighbor, and a good friend to the District, and when our goals are so perfectly aligned it does nothing but strengthen our missions. Doing it together is a win, win, win."

Another strong partnership is with the Crested Butte Nordic Center,

which maintains an extensive Nordic trail network across Land Trust land along the Peanut Lake corridor. We work together to maintain best practices on our conserved land and educate users on how to minimize impact on the trails.

"To have this conserved land and to have access to this pristine open

space for our trails is huge," says Brittany Perkins, CB Nordic Program Director. "That view of the Slate River Valley and the Paradise Divide is incredible, and the Magic Meadows Yurt is a wonderful amenity to have. None of that's possible without our partnership with the Land Trust, and Crested Butte wouldn't be what it is without all this conserved land."





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## WILDLIFE HABITAT

The Land Trust's commitment to uphold the area's ecological habitats often requires integrating various perspectives and goals, even when everyone's needs don't necessarily align.

This is demonstrated in the Slate River Working Group, made up of 18 stakeholders representing the town, county, advocacy groups, ranch operators, recreational outfitters, and private landowners. The group addresses management opportunities in the Upper Slate River, and works toward sustainable use of the river through a community-driven plan.

"One of the biggest intents of the working group is to bring a number of stakeholders together and be reasonable and understanding of each other, and find a balance point with each of our values," says Joey Carpenter, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Supervisor for the Town of Crested Butte. "We're really looking to make sure that the management plan for the Upper Slate River remains sustainable and in place."

"The idea of collaborative conservation in the grand scheme of wildlife conservation is wonderful," says Patrick Magee, Assistant Professor of Wildlife & Conservation Biology at Western Colorado University, who studies the human impacts of Great Blue Herons on the Slate. "Collaborative conservation is not easy, but I also recognize that it's the right way to have those conversations upfront by using science and data to really drive the discussions. I applaud the working group and Land Trust for taking on this leadership role in collaborative conservation."

## VISTAS

Our unobstructed view is one of the reasons that makes this place so special. Over the years, the Land Trust has collaborated with local photographers to capture the beauty of those conserved views.

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photos: **Courtesy, Conni Mahoney, Xavi Fane**







photo: Xavi Fane

Xavier Fane's images illustrate the grandeur of our open spaces and the precious perfection of our untouched vistas.

"As a photographer I try to scratch under the surface and provide some spiritual feeling that goes deeper than just the beauty itself. To show the wildness and the landscape's function as an ecosystem," says Fane. "If the Land Trust can channel my photography in a way that will help conservation in the valley, that's incredible. I admire and support the Land Trust because every day I go out and see things that really ignite my soul."

## **RANCHING**

The Land Trust is grateful to have developed relationships with many of the valley's working multi-generational ranching families. These partnerships have not only provided historical insight to the valley's open spaces, but also help guide our long-term land management and stewardship practices. The Land Trust collaborates closely with families like the Allens and Rozmans to

ensure that recreational impacts on their land are minimized, through public education, signage, and stewardship.

"Ranching is one thing that has been maintained at the upper end of the valley and to me it is very important to continue it in the years to come," says Rudy Rozman, a fifth-generation Crested Butte native whose family's ranching and mining roots date back to 1880. "A lot of what makes Crested Butte so special is the possibility that future generations will be able to enjoy it, and that's possible because of the Land Trust preserving a lot of crucial property. Working with them over the years you realize that we all want the same thing, to protect the valley as much as possible."

## **BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER**

However different our perspectives may be from one another, the Land Trust's mission to protect our valley brings together these four conservation values and unifies a community that recognizes the importance of open space.

# CONSERVATION IN ACTION

# Saving Smith Hill



photo: **Xavi Fane**

The Slate River Valley is a treasured Crested Butte corridor that has helped drive the Crested Butte Land Trust's mission since the organization's very beginnings 30 years ago. A local area that hits all four of our conservation values - wildlife habitat, ranching heritage, scenic vistas, and recreation - protecting the Slate River corridor continues to be a priority for the Crested Butte Land Trust and our community.

When the Crested Butte Land Trust was formed, its first acquisition of land using the Town of Crested Butte's real estate transfer tax funds included five small parcels of the Slate River wetlands corridor. Now 30 years later, we're pleased to share that we're not only stewarding those same lands in perpetuity, but we also continue to add protections to that corridor. Join us in celebrating the conservation of another little slice of Crested Butte paradise: Kikel Lot 3 on Smith Hill.

This 59-acre Smith Hill parcel located between

the Lupine 2 and Gunsight Connector trails is now owned by the Town of Crested Butte with a conservation easement held by the Crested Butte Land Trust. This protection was made possible through the collective efforts of our generous and collaborative partners in conservation, including a \$1 million contribution from the Town of Crested Butte, \$123,700 from the Gunnison County Land Preservation Fund, \$115,000 from 1% for Open Space, and more than \$300,000 in contributions from our dedicated donors and supporters like you.

This latest achievement for land conservation in the Gunnison Valley is why we do what we do, and our gratitude for your valuable partnerships and unwavering support is immeasurable. This land will now be conserved forever and continue to thrive as a critical wildlife habitat, operate as historic cattle grazing land, maintain that iconic view of the Paradise Divide, and keep some of the community's most cherished trails accessible for public recreation for years to come.



# EXPLORING THE LAND TRUST'S VALUES THROUGH THE LENS OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS



Karen Artas



Greta Starrett



Jerry Clark



Marilyn Rodman



Kristin Woestehoff





**Xavi Fane**



**Xavi Fane**



**Conni Mahoney**



**John Holder**



# Conservation Through Generations

Rudy





**T**he Crested Butte Land Trust's impact spans across generations: It's rooted by the past generations that first established conservation efforts in the Gunnison Valley; it's in practice today as our community collaborates to conserve and steward the land; and it's legacy will last in perpetuity with the generations that follow.

The Crested Butte Land Trust is fortunate to have the support of a conservation-driven community that represents many generations. And we are truly grateful that this community not only holds the values of conservation near and dear to its heart, but that it also strives to pass those values down to the generations yet to come. We took some time to chat with some of our supporters, partners, and friends, and one thing remains steadfast no matter what stage of life you're in: we all love the precious lands of the Gunnison Valley!

### **RUDY ROZMAN**

*Age:* 5th generation Crested Butte resident

*Occupation:* Retired

*Tie to Crested Butte:* A native to Crested Butte, Rudy's family has strong ranching and mining roots in the valley dating back to 1880. The Rozmans have been longtime partners with the Crested Butte Land Trust, with historical knowledge that is integral to our long-term stewardship of the open spaces in our valley.

#### **What does open space mean to you?**

Even growing up here prior to the ski area, Crested Butte was always that destination for people to come because of the view and the recreational possibilities that existed. Even though over the years we've had a lot of development, we do have a lot of protected open spaces right now and the feel and people's love for the town is the same as when I grew up here.

#### **The four conservation values of CBLT are recreation, ranching heritage, wildlife habitats, and scenic vistas. How do these values impact your life or your community?**

People that want to live here and be part of the community also want the ability to enjoy the surrounding country. Everything fits together, you need a certain amount of development to support the people and you have to preserve a certain amount as well.

#### **How has your relationship with public lands changed throughout your life?**

It's changed for the better - when you become involved with others involved in public lands you find out you have the same general desires to preserve and protect things so that future generations can enjoy them. I've found that somebody who's just been here one year can be just as valuable as somebody who's

been here for a lifetime. You still find that over generations, everybody's looking for the same thing and the more you know of what land conservation is the more you appreciate it and that everybody has a common goal to preserve and enjoy the gift we have here.

#### **Would you rather be a great blue heron or a marmot?**

Great blue heron, so I could fly south for the winter if I wanted to.

### **LAURA TOMLINSON**

*Age:* 67

*Occupation:* Laura mentors student teachers for the Education Department at Western Colorado University. She also serves on the Crested Butte Land Trust Board.

*Tie to Crested Butte:* My husband Charlie and I moved here full-time seven years ago. We lived in Denver for 40 years, had our careers and raised our kids, and always wanted to live in the mountains. When we moved here it was a dream come true, and getting involved with CBLT was one way to learn about the history of the valley and its current and future needs.

#### **How has conservation affected your life?**

Land protection has been a thread throughout my life. My dad and two uncles are memorialized on Catalina Island for their commitment to the Catalina Island Conservancy. As a family we sailed to the





# Conservation Through Generations

island year-round, and we kids were allowed to freely explore. To this day, I look to the Conservancy as one example of how to manage and restore open space as well as address the pressures placed on these lands by the increasing demand for recreation. Encroaching development was an ever-present topic of conversation while growing up in Southern California. After moving to Colorado, my career included guiding backcountry and skill-building trips for kids, all on protected lands. In terms of recreation, I have always taken advantage of conserved lands and that is certainly true in this valley. Now in my semi-retirement, I finally have time to participate in the process of protecting lands.

**The four conservation values of CBLT are recreation, ranching heritage, wildlife habitats, and scenic vistas. Which resonates the most with you and why?**

I can't pick one. What I'm learning is that the interconnectedness of the four is of ultimate importance to me. I don't think any one of those values sits by itself in isolation and we are focused on some really important projects right now at the Land Trust to ensure the balance of those four things. It's not just a view, it's not just habitat

and herons, or thinking about the ranchers, it's the combination of the four when addressing our community's needs.

**How has your relationship with public lands changed throughout your life?**

My relationship has shifted from taking advantage of everything these lands have to offer and at the same time taking them for granted, to now being at a point in my life where I can commit to intentional protection and stewardship. Now I can act on it and help others carry out that plan.

**Would you rather be a great blue heron or a marmot?**

I would pick a blue heron for the perspective it has on the world, and the way they fly, they are just beautiful. They thrive in small communities that currently require protection and stewardship.



**LAURA  
PUCKETT  
DANIELS**

Age: 39

Occupation:

Development  
Director at CB  
Nordic, Crested  
Butte Community  
School Cross Country  
Coach.

**Tie to Crested Butte:** I moved here in January of 2009 on my birthday. I was looking for a place that I could live a whole calendar year, and the criteria was that I wanted to be able to go from my home into the woods in 10 minutes or less on foot.

It's really important to me to have access to wild places from my door.

**What does open space mean to you?**

Open space means freedom, it means beauty, and it means solace. For me, having open spaces to look at, to recreate in, to spend time in is a huge part of my mental health and joy in life. It's where I go to feel grounded, to feel inspired. This place in part is so special because I feel both deeply rooted and lifted up toward something greater: Looking out at the peaks gives me a sense of uplift and inspiration, and being out in it gives me a sense of groundedness with the earth.

**The four conservation values of CBLT are recreation, ranching heritage, wildlife habitats, and scenic vistas. How do these values impact your life or your community?**

They impact our community because they give it a very distinct feel. Anyone who spends time in Crested Butte and the areas around it gets that feeling of this very particular sense of place, and we have that feeling because of our conserved lands. Because we see elk and beaver in the Slate River, because of the ranches along the highway, because of the view of Paradise Divide. All of those values are what it feels like to be in Crested Butte.

**How has your relationship with public lands changed throughout your life?**

Growing up I was not an outdoorsy kid, so I didn't have any relationship with public lands. Then when I was 12, I went on a canoe trip in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota. It changed my life - that wilderness experience set me on a totally different course. After graduating from college, I knew I had to get



back to the woods. That's when I realized access to public lands and nature wasn't just a luxury or something to do on vacation, but was something very critical to the foundation of my life. Now I love going out and doing trail work and giving back, and my relationship with public lands has become more intellectual; I'm learning about land use and regulation. It's become profoundly interesting and important work to be doing so that other people can have those transformative experiences that I did.

### Would you rather be a great blue heron or a marmot?

Heron for sure. More endangered but better views.

### ISABEL RUSSELL

Age: 20

Occupation: Student, studying architectural engineering at CU-Boulder

Tie to CB: I was born in Crested Butte and lived in a house in town that was apparently haunted by the ghost of a midwife who lived there back in the mining days. I went to school here, participated in the student organization SOAR, as well as local events like community theatre and Vinotok.

### How has conservation affected your life?

It's affected my life pretty deeply. It's particularly impactful for me in continuing with my education and my career path. I grew up surrounded by the RMBL (Rocky

Mountain Biological Laboratory) culture where there's so much conservation in the name of science, and the Vinotok culture where there is such an emphasis for spiritual and cultural growth and sustainability. It's led me to go into architectural engineering and hopefully building more sustainable buildings and solutions.

### The four conservation values of CBLT are recreation, ranching heritage, wildlife habitats, and scenic vistas. Which resonates the most with you and why?

It's kind of a tough one between wildlife habitat and scenic vistas.

As much as I love



### ZAC AND BEN LAUERMAN

Ages: 7 and 6

Occupation: Students, 2nd and 1st Grade

recreation and I really respect our ranching heritage, I have a deep respect for the wildlife in our valley and the big role that it plays in our culture and the health of the environment. As for scenic vistas...I mean,

if you grow up in Crested Butte and go anywhere else in the world you realize - oh, this a special place.

### How has your relationship with open spaces changed throughout your life?

I think I've developed a love for it in the past three or four years, especially since COVID hit. Having

a place to escape to, where there isn't the constant fear of infection or the need to wear a mask and to feel safe with the air you're breathing. I appreciate the importance of open space and teaching people about what the planet is naturally like without human influence and seeing it for the beauty it possesses.

### Would you rather be a great blue heron or a marmot?

A great blue heron. They have this grace about them and it's just so awe-inspiring. They can fly and they can fish and they take this gangly form and turn it into something remarkably beautiful.

Tie to Crested Butte: Zac and Ben are children of Crested Butte and love hiking, camping, fishing, hockey, and baseball.

### How has conservation affected your life?

It makes us happy.

### The four conservation values of CBLT are recreation, ranching heritage, wildlife habitats, and scenic vistas. How do these values impact your life or your community?

Because when you hike around you see lots of animals. We see elk, moose, bear, and lots of birds.

### Would you rather be a great blue heron or a marmot?

Both: Marmot!







Courtesy photo of Mary and Havalin Haskell

**C**onservation is timeless: not only because its impact will span across generations forever, but also because of how conservation as a value is passed down through generations. We see that practice represented in so many people that make up the fabric of the Gunnison Valley: folks drawn here to visit, live, work, and play; folks who value the importance of protecting our open spaces and support the Crested Butte Land Trust's mission; families who instill those conservation values in their children and their children's children. The McAllisters are one such family, representing three generations committed to protecting this special place and passing that on to each other and their surrounding community.

The McAllisters first fell in love with Crested Butte in the '80s. "My oldest child, John, came out to Crested Butte as a ski bum after college," says Jack. "He introduced us to it and we immediately thought it was a special place and so we made a rather impulsive purchase of a house in town." For Jack, a fly-fisherman, and his wife Jane, a hiker and wildflower enthusiast, Crested Butte was the perfect fit.

The house was the family's ski home for a number of years, and their daughters, Sarah and Mary, both made their homes here independently after college. Now longtime locals, Sarah and her husband Jimmy Faust, Mary and her husband Kirk Haskell, with grandkids added to the mix, have become active members of the community. Through the years, the McAllister clan has supported the Crested Butte Land Trust in many ways, through volunteering, financial contributions, and sharing their conservation values with others.

Jack first got involved with the Land Trust through the Caddis Cup Fly Fishing Tournament. "Conservation allows

me to recreate and fly fish and enjoy the great outdoors, because whether you're with friends or family, it's good for the soul," he says. "Preserving the watershed for fishing, boating, and recreation, and protecting it for our drinking water is very important to me."

Mary recalls teaching her kids about conservation, and how volunteer opportunities with the Crested Butte Land Trust have helped to open the conversation of giving back to the community. "For our kids, this place with these trails and the open space is the same as how we saw it when we got here and it'll be the same for our grandkids," says Jimmy. Sarah agrees, "That's what makes Crested Butte special, the beauty and expansiveness of it, with the Land Trust keeping the land open so everyone can see it as we did when we moved here. It's been so wonderful and fun as our children have grown up here to share that love of the outdoors and those values with them."

"We've raised our kids to be outside and a lot of the open space near and dear to our hearts is land the Land Trust preserves and protects. That's where our family has had some of our best days and memories," says Jimmy. "I know for years to come, that those spaces will continue to be there and keep this place special. It's the essence of Crested Butte."

"The McAllisters are a great example of the intersection between generational family values and the conservation mission of the Land Trust," says Crested Butte Land Trust Executive Director Jake Jones. "There is a good chance that I will encounter a family member on the trail, slopes, or river in any corner of Gunnison County, any day of the year. It is these interactions between people and the landscape that strengthen the fabric of our community."





photo: **Desiree Miller**

## CRESTED BUTTE LAND TRUST **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

"I have biked, hiked, recreated, and viewed Crested Butte Land Trust conserved lands for over 20 years now and am grateful for the impact the land has made in our community. I joined the CBLT board because I believe that if you are to benefit from your community, you have an obligation to invest your time and talents in that community. The CB Land Trust is preserving an incredible place, and that's not a spectator sport! I say, dig in and get involved; your community and your family will be the beneficiaries."

**- Chris Riopelle,**  
Board President

**Chris Riopelle,** President  
**John Simmons,** Vice President  
**Beth Appleton,** Secretary  
**Roger Cesario**  
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scenic views   wildlife   recreation   ranching

**970.349.1206**  
**cblandtrust.org**

## 2022 EVENTS

### **Land Trust Field Trips / January 12, February 9, March 9**

Join CBLT staff and partner organizations to visit conserved land and learn more about the great work being done there. Contact Jess to sign up at [jessica@cblandtrust.org](mailto:jessica@cblandtrust.org) or 970-349-1206

### **Starry Evening Gala / July 9**

Join us for an evening full of great food, music, and live auction.  
Contact Ashley for more details at [ashley@cblandtrust.org](mailto:ashley@cblandtrust.org) or 970-349-1206

### **Caddis Cup Fly Fishing Tournament / July 15-16**

This year will mark the 20th anniversary of our annual fly fishing tournament!  
Contact Ashley for more details at [ashley@cblandtrust.org](mailto:ashley@cblandtrust.org) or 970-349-1206



Thank you to all the photographers who submitted photos for CBLT to use. Look for our calendar coming soon to your favorite local store.

photo: **John Holder**