



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas Receives Colorado State Certification

Upper Arkansas Valley – January 12, 2010 – The Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas was recently certified by the State of Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies, Division of Real Estate. In 2008, the Colorado Legislature passed a bill increasing the amount of oversight for conservation easements in the State. This bill called for the creation of a Conservation Easement Oversight Commission and the requirement for any land trust in Colorado to be certified if they hold conservation easements using state tax credits.

In September 2009 the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas completed its application for certification covering some twenty-five different aspects of the Land Trust. This application included material going back to the start of the Land Trust and required over forty hours of work to prepare. In December 2009 the Conservation Easement Oversight Commission reviewed the application and determined that the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas met the requirements for State Certification. Hollis Glenn, Conservation Easement Program Manager for the Division of Real Estate stated, “After completing the process for state certification, I was really impressed to see the exceptionally high degree of professionalism by many of the local land trusts, such as Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas. In addition, it is encouraging to see qualified land trusts that reside in a local community continue to bring important conservation efforts to their part of the state.”

The State Certification program was designed to use no tax money. The Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas, in addition to the lengthy application, paid a \$7,600 application fee. Land Trust Executive Director, Andrew Mackie was gratified to see that the State of Colorado recognized all the good work we are doing in the Upper Arkansas Valley. He stated, “This is just another confirmation of all the hard work carried out by the board of directors, staff, and volunteers of the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas. We continue to make great strides in the Valley to protect important natural, agricultural, scenic, and historical lands for all the area residents and visitors. Now land owners have one more measure of the professionalism of the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas.”

The Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas is currently negotiating with land owners on several projects that they hope to complete in 2010. If you are interested in learning more about conservation easements or making a donation, contact the Land Trust at 719-539-7700 or info@ltua.org.

The Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas is a non-profit, membership based organization that protects important natural, agricultural, and historical lands and water resources in Chaffee, Lake and Fremont counties to enhance the quality of life for people in the Valley. The Land Trust currently protects over 2,000 acres in the Upper Arkansas by working with land owners in the establishment of conservation easements. For more information on conservation easements and programs, or to make a donation, contact the Land Trust at 719-539-7700 or info@ltua.org. To visit the website go to www.ltua.org.

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