

Subject: Preserving Conservation Values

From: Eagle Valley Land Trust <jdenhart@evlt.org>

Date: 5/29/2012 6:02 AM

To: sconklin@evlt.org

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Dear Scott,

The Land Trust movement is based in the voluntary conservation of land by private land owners. Land owners and qualified conservation organizations like the [Eagle Valley Land Trust](http://www.evlt.org) work together to preserve important lands and waters on a given property. The important historic, scenic, natural or agricultural characteristics of the property are identified which benefit the general public; these are collectively known as "conservation values." A conservation easement then establishes a set of restrictions and protections on the use of that land which ensures that those conservation values are permanently protected.



To encourage voluntary conservation, tax incentives and tax credits are available to private landowners who protect the conservation values of their property for the benefit of the general public. The IRS allows tax deductions for donations of land value that provide one or more of the following conservation values:

- 1) Farmland and forestland
- 2) Significant wildlife habitat
- 3) Public recreation and/or education
- 4) Scenic enjoyment
- 5) Historic and cultural resource preservation

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Here in Eagle County, Colorado, we obviously have many parcels of land that include at least one, and in many cases, all five of these federally defined conservation values. We are proud at the [Eagle Valley Land Trust](#) to have conserved and protected thousands of acres in our community consisting of each and every one of these values for the public benefit of our citizens.

Recently, we have had a focus on preserving lands and waters that provide the conservation values of 'public recreation and education' and 'scenic enjoyment.' In January of this year, we protected the Miller Ranch Community Open Space, a beautiful and highly used 32 acre public recreation area right on our valley floor with over a mile of Eagle River frontage. And in the coming weeks, we will announce 4 new conservation easements consisting of 325 acres with extensive public trail systems.

These new conservation achievements in 2012 will join several other recent projects to permanently preserve acreage for the people of Eagle County. In 2005, we saved the Eagle River Preserve as a 72 acre 'central park' for the mid-valley region which has over a mile and half of Eagle River frontage accessible by the public. In 2006, the Meadow Creek conservation easement south of Stephens Park in Vail was protected. In 2008, we preserved 95 acres adjacent to the Brightwater development, called



Constellation Ridge, which includes wonderful hiking and public fishing access along Gypsum Creek. These are just a few of the example of our conservation work to save land for the people of Eagle County so our community may have expanded public access on lands walk-able from neighborhoods, lands on our valley floor and lands right out our front doors.

Your local Land Trust connects people to the land. We thank you for your support.

Yours in conservation,

[Eagle Valley Land Trust](#)

Eagle Valley Land Trust Will Celebrate, Highlight, Conservation in Edwards with Family Fun Day at Miller Ranch June 16th

Don't have time to cart the kids off to Moab this summer? Your local land trust has you covered with Family Fun Day at Miller Ranch. Seeking to highlight its brand new conservation easement, the Miller Ranch Community Open Space, your local Land Trust will be building bird houses on Saturday, June 16 at 10am. "We really want to show the mid-valley community the work we've done in the past few years to ensure they have recreation opportunities within walking distance of their homes." said Scott Conklin, project coordinator for Eagle Valley Land Trust (EVLTL).

Family Fun Day will be held at the Miller Community Open Space on Saturday, June 16 from 10am-1pm. This land was permanently protected in January of 2012 and boasts over 1 mile of Eagle River frontage, excellent riparian habitat, public river access and extensive walking trails. The new tract of permanently protected open space is located immediately to the southeast of the Miller Ranch neighborhood, bordered on the west by the "blue bridge", on the south and east by the Eagle River, and the on the north by the railroad tracks. The Miller Ranch Open Space is a community gem continually used by the people of Eagle County. Hikers, bikers, runners and walkers exercise daily on this land. Our local cross country and track teams train here regularly. Fly fishers, bird watchers and boaters consistently enjoy this beautiful expanse. Parents pushing strollers and dogs romping with kids are a staple of this family friendly area which will now be saved forever. Elena Jones, a Miller Ranch resident, loves "the Miller Ranch open space! It is a

beautiful place for my friends, my dog and me to exercise." The permanent protection of this beloved recreation spot is truly a momentous occasion for the people of Eagle County and a cause for celebration, and celebrate we will, on June 16th.



In addition to refreshments, a face painter and other outdoor fun, Family Fun Day at Miller Ranch will have a great hands-on craft project for kids of all ages. "One of the attractions at this conservation easement is the large mountain bluebird population" noted Kara Heide, Executive Director of EVLT. "We think building bird houses will be a fun way to celebrate conserving and protecting their home." EVLT will provide all the materials for participants to assemble. (Don't worry Moms, there won't be any sawing or drilling.) After the volunteers

are finished, Eagle County Open Space will erect the new bird dwellings throughout the property.

So mark your calendars for Saturday, June 16th 10am and head on down to the Miller Ranch Open Space. To get there, head east on Hwy. 6 from Edwards and turn left on Miller Ranch Road. Park at June Creek Elementary on the right and follow the signs to family fun.

Save the Dates...

For upcoming EVLT happenings and events this summer! Thanks for your support.

The 4th Annual EverGreen Ball goes Into the Wild Live with Jungle Jack Hanna

- August 21, 6:30pm @ the Vilar Performing Arts Center
- Live animals, stage show, meet exotic animals up close
- Tickets available online at www.vilarpac.org
- For more information visit www.theevergreenball.org

Yoga for Land presented by EVLT and [Revolution Power Yoga](#)

- June 9, June 23, July 14, July 28, August 11 and August 25
- 10am @ the Eagle-Vail Community Garden
- \$10 suggested donation to your local Land Trust

2nd Annual Ed Fest presented by [Crazy Mountain Brewing Company](#)

- August 18th 3-7pm
- At the Riverwalk @ Edwards
- Sample over 20 craft brews.
- Tickets \$35 at the door or available at Crazy Mountain Brewing Company in Edwards
- EVLT is the charitable beneficiary of Ed Fest, 100% of the net proceeds will support local land conservation.

Miller Ranch Community Open Space Ribbon Cutting and Family Fun Day

- June 16 10am to 12:30pm

- Make bird houses for the bluebirds!
- Face painter, refreshments, activities and more.
- Celebrate the new conservation at Miller Ranch with us.
- Parking @ June Creek Elementary

Family Fun Days @ the Eagle River Preserve

- June 30 and August 4 from 10am to 12:30pm
- Make kites, do a scavenger hunt and more.
- Held at the Eagle River Preserve in Edwards

Thank You to Our 2012 Event Sponsors!

You make conservation possible.



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