



EAGLE VALLEY LAND TRUST

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Media Contact: Jason Denhart or Kara Heide
970-748-7654
jdennhart@evlt.org or kheide@evlt.org

ANOTHER VICTORY FOR OPEN SPACE

Edwards, Colorado – Local conservationists at the Eagle Valley Land Trust announced today the permanent protection of 32 acres of prime open space just east of the Miller Ranch neighborhood. This announcement represents another victory for land protection in our community, and another win for local efforts led by outdoor enthusiasts to connect people to our land. “We are so proud to be able to protect this land forever,” said Kara Heide, Executive Director of the Eagle Valley Land Trust. “This new piece of community open space is an extraordinary asset for the people of Eagle County.”

Your local Land Trust, along with the Edwards Community Authority and concerned homeowners in Arrowhead and Miller Ranch, worked tirelessly to save and protect the recreational opportunities available on this highly used and picturesque parcel. With this announcement, the Miller Ranch Open Space will now be saved forever from development so the people of Eagle County may continue to recreate and enjoy this stunning acreage right on our valley floor.

The 32 new acres of permanently saved land will be added to the portfolio of open space in Eagle County protected for the benefit and use of our local residents as well as our tourists and guests. A conservation easement has been placed on this extremely popular stretch of land so it will now be saved forever. The conservation easement protecting this valuable open space will be held in trust on behalf of our community by the Eagle Valley Land Trust. “It was really amazing to be a part of this effort. We have saved a great stretch of river frontage and a perfect piece of land for our families and neighbors here in the middle valley,” said Joe LeBeau, Arrowhead homeowner and Open Space Advisory Council member who spearheaded the effort along with your local Land Trust.

This 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. Boasting over 100 feet of Eagle River frontage in our central valley, 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. The permanent protection of this beloved recreation spot is truly a momentous occasion for the people of Eagle County and a cause for celebration.

For years, the residents of Edwards and Arrowhead, along with the surrounding homeowners associations, have rallied for the permanent protection of this Miller Ranch open space. The 32-acre

parcel is the last remaining undisturbed portion of the former Miller Family Ranch. This new conservation easement was once a much larger parcel of open space, however hundreds of acres were lost to recent housing development. "The third time was a charm. It took some work, but we got it done for the people," commented Heide. "Your local Land Trust is so happy to have finally saved this last unspoiled portion of the Miller Family Ranch for the enjoyment of our entire community."

Over 10,000 acres of land have been saved by the Eagle Valley Land Trust by using conservation easements to protect, guard and defend land from future development. By placing conservation easements on the Miller Ranch Open Space, as well as other critical landscapes and view-sheds within Eagle County, the Land Trust continues to protect the recreational values of Eagle County for the enjoyment, education and appreciation of people who love the rivers, love the landscapes and love the nature of our valley.

A community ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the Miller Ranch Open Space will take place in the spring. For more information regarding this project, or about your local Land Trusts efforts to save land for people, please contact Jason Denhart at the Eagle Valley Land Trust, 970.748.7654 or jdinhart@evlt.org.

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