



## EAGLE VALLEY LAND TRUST

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### **Eagle Valley Land Trust Announces the Closing of 4 New Public Access Conservation Easements in May.**

Eagle County, Colorado – Your local Land Trust is overjoyed at the closing of 4 new conservation easements located in Edwards, CO. The Land Trust has been working to protect these properties forever, in concert with the Eagle County Open Space Program, Creamery HOA, Homestead HOA and numerous individual donors for over a year and the end result is 322 new acres of conservation in Eagle County.

The centerpiece of this conservation effort is a 160 acre parcel that has come to be known as “the L” due to its L shape. This parcel was already approved for 150 homes when the county Open Space Program purchased it in XXXDATEXXX with a permanent conservation easement contemplated for the property. This alone was a momentous achievement for the OS program and conservation in Eagle County, but your local Land Trust and the Open Space Program thought they could go further. Two homeowners associations had land adjacent to the L designated as open space in their PUDs. During the L acquisition process EVLT secured commitments to put these parcels into conservation easements along with the L, thereby ensuring the original intent of the homeowners would be honored in perpetuity. “This really demonstrates how much more powerful an outcome can be when you have collaboration between public and private entities.” said Kara Heide, executive director of EVLT. As a result of the additional 3 conservation easements, any person can walk from Highway 6 to the US Forest Service land in Edwards on public access conservation easements.

“The interconnectivity of these easements really sets this project apart from other conservation efforts” noted Jason Denhart, Director of Development and Communications for EVLT “and it protects an existing trail system much loved by local Edwards residents.” Enhancing that trail system is a new public trail easement through the Creamery Open Space.

With all this good news one would think the Land Trust would take a break but not so. EVLT is in the process of securing the last couple of parcels for conservation in the Lake Creek Valley that will let the theoretical hiker mentioned earlier go all the way to Canyon City, CO without leaving public land. With a goal like that it shows the Land Trust is in this for the long haul.



conserved lands to ensure they remain protected, open and unspoiled for the benefit of all residents and visitors to our mountain community. [www.evl.org](http://www.evl.org)