

# CONSERVATION RESOURCE CENTER TAX CREDIT EXCHANGE

The Conservation Resource Center is a nonprofit land conservation organization that specializes in policy, research, outreach and education. In addition to its Tax Credit Exchange Program, the conservation attorneys at the Center work to advance land conservation in Colorado and throughout the nation. Here's a snapshot of our work:

**IRS Working Group:** The Conservation Resource Center is taking the lead in working with the IRS to put in place a system to stop the current audits of Colorado landowners and to stop potential future audits.

**Abuse Prevention:** We are taking the lead in working with the IRS and the Colorado Department of Revenue to stop tax credit abuses and to enforce the law against the abusers.

**University Study:** The Conservation Resource Center has commissioned a study by University of Colorado researchers to assess the importance of the tax credit to land conservation in Colorado. We expect the study to be completed in the fall of 2007.

**National Report:** We have just published our nationwide report, "State Conservation Tax Credits: Impact and Analysis." This report surveys tax credits nationwide and assesses their effectiveness in land conservation.

**Transactional Grant Program:** For the second year, the Conservation Resource Center is offering its Transactional Cost Grant program to qualified landowners. This program offers up to \$2000 in grant funding to

landowners to help cover the up-front transactional costs of an easement donation. Recipients of 2006 grants were thrilled with the ease and speed with which they were able to apply and receive their grant. Each year, in addition to these grants, we donate a substantial portion of our income to land conservation organizations such as CCLT and LTA.

**Spreading the Word & Model Legislation:** The Conservation Resource Center is using its substantial experience with Colorado's conservation tax credit program to help educate legislators and members of the conservation community in other states who are rethinking existing legislation or drafting new programs.

**Education & Outreach:** Each year, the Conservation Resource Center conservation attorneys conduct numerous workshops for landowners interested in conserving their property, typically in conjunction with a local land trust. Our conservation attorneys are also frequent lecturers at local, regional and national land conservation conferences. Education and outreach are touchstones of our non-profit mission.

The Conservation Resource Center relies solely on its tax credit facilitation to fund this valuable work. We do not receive funding from any other source, like grants or donations. Therefore, we depend on land trusts to refer their donors to us and conservation-minded landowners to transfer their credits with us. Without you and your landowners, we would be unable to continue to do the work that ensures successful land conservation in Colorado.

