

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Berthoud closes on historic land purchase

Lakewood, CO, *January 5, 2007* - Colorado Open Lands announced today that 74 acres of farmland west of Berthoud are now permanently protected with a combination conservation easement and deed restriction. After the easement and deed restriction were donated to Colorado Open Lands, the Town of Berthoud purchased the land for future conversion into a community park. Protection of this key property is a result of a partnership between the landowner, the Berthoud Land Conservation Fund, Colorado Open Lands, and local funding sources. The protection of this community landmark adds an important link to past land conservation successes, as Berthoud strives to preserve its agricultural heritage and small town character.

A Legacy for Berthoud

The Town of Berthoud purchased the land from John Michael Waggener, a fourth-generation Berthoud farmer, who will continue to farm the land until the Town is ready to convert the property into a full-scale community park. Up until now, Berthoud parkland acreage was below the suggested per person average. With the purchase of the Waggener Farm, Berthoud now has the ability to develop passive and active recreational facilities such as walking trails, bicycling paths, environmental education facilities, a fishing pond, and a much-needed recreation center, ball fields and outdoor amphitheater.

“It is very important to me that my family’s land be preserved for the community’s use. I have been waiting a long time for this day,” Waggener stated. “It’s very exciting to own it and

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now plan the park,” said Berthoud Town Administrator Jim White. “This will provide an outstanding entrance into our town from the west, and an amenity for our residents that will be treasured and used on a daily basis.”

Negotiations for this purchase were years in the making, since Waggener wanted to use a conservation easement to protect approximately half his land for passive recreational uses only, and then a deed restriction on the rest. The permanent deed restriction was used to restrict uses to active recreation such as the recreation center and ball fields. Two separate contracts were also necessary to facilitate the immediate sale of the two parcels to the Town. “This was a highly complex deal with a large number of parties involved. We are very pleased to arrive at a successful series of transactions that meets everyone’s wishes and needs,” said Dan Pike, President of Colorado Open Lands.

Colorado Open Lands

Colorado Open Lands is a 501(c)3, non-profit land trust, dedicated to protecting working farms and ranches and the diminishing natural heritage of Colorado for future generations. Colorado Open Lands works with willing landowners and communities through collaborative approaches to land conservation. By facilitating land preservation agreements with landowners, Colorado Open Lands helps keep land in private ownership while preserving traditional land uses such a family farming and ranching. Since its inception, Colorado Open Lands has preserved more than 190,000 acres through 232 projects in 38 counties.

Please contact Colorado Open Lands at (303) 988-2373 or visit our website at www.coloradoopenlands.org if you are interested in learning more about land preservation.

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