

Accepted and Accredited!

Colorado Open Lands is proud to announce that we are among the first group of land trusts to be accredited by the [Land Trust Accreditation Commission](#). We are one of 38 land trusts across the country that was selected to pilot the new program, which was initiated in 2007. Land trusts volunteered to be part of the program, and those selected to participate represent a diversity of land trust sizes, geographic locations, and types of land protected.

Accreditation provides public recognition of standards for organization and operations that typify best practices for land trusts engaged in the long-term protection of the land in the public interest. This program will increase public awareness of, and confidence in, land trusts and land conservation.



In an era when the public is demanding accountability from government and nonprofit organizations, independent land trust accreditation will help provide the assurance of quality and permanence of land conservation the public is looking for, explained Executive Director of the Commission, Tammara Van Ryn. The accreditation seal lets the public know that the accredited land trust has undergone an extensive, external review of the governance and management of its organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect land.

Community leaders in land trusts across the country have worked with willing landowners to save over 37 million acres of farms, forests, parks and places people care about. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.

As part of being accredited, we now have the right to display the accreditation seal which recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. Colorado Open Lands is proud to be one of the first land trusts in the nation to be accredited!

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that demonstrate the ability to protect important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance established in 2006, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. For more information please visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org.