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Celebrating 30 Years!

A Reflection on Our Accomplishments Over the Past 3 Decades

About Us

- Mesa Land Trust's mission is to conserve agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, and scenic natural lands in and around Mesa County
- The main tool the Land Trust uses is the conservation easement. A conservation easement is a binding agreement between the landowner and the Land Trust that prevents the property from ever being subdivided and developed. The landowner still owns and lives on the land. The terms of the conservation agreement stay with the land forever, even if sold
- The Mesa Land Trust recently received national accreditation from The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, demonstrating that it meets the highest standards for excellence, upholds the public trust, and ensures that conservation efforts are permanent.

History

- Founded in 1980 as an all-volunteer organization, we completed the first 3 conservation agreements in 1982.
- In 1995 we had conserved over 4,000 acres and hired our first paid staff.
- We reached the milestone of 25,000 acres conserved in 2002, a number we would double by 2007.
- Today we now conserve over **58,000** acres through **163** conservation agreements!

What Our Work Represents

These 58,000 acres represent family orchards and vineyards in Palisade, working farms in the Lower Grand Valley, multi-generational ranches on Glade Park and Plateau Valley, and scenic lands in Unaweep Canyon.

More specifically, the 58,000 acres represent:

- Over 500 acres of the best fruit growing land in Palisade representing 29%

- of the eligible land in the area.
- 688 acres in the Palisade Buffer - 37% of the eligible land.
 - 570 acres in the Fruita Buffer – 15% of the eligible land.
 - 38,000 acres of rangeland on Glade Park and 56% of the irrigated ground.
 - 20% of the eligible critical winter range for deer and elk in Plateau Valley.
 - 11 of the 30 properties identified as important to the scenic character of US Highway 141 through Unaweep Canyon and along the Dolores River.
 - Over 6 miles along the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers!

Acres Conserved Throughout Mesa County

<u>Project Area</u>	<u>Agreements</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Palisade	47	1,082
Lower Grand Valley	24	1,593
Glade Park	46	39,999
Unaweep Canyon and Dolores River	18	2,108
Plateau Valley	26	13,581
Gunnison River / Whitewater Area	2	263
Total	163	58,626

A Vision and Plan For the Future

Despite our success over the last 30 years, there still remains a lot to do and we are excited to continue this important work. In order to better prepare us for the work ahead, we recently completed an extensive planning process to assess our past accomplishments and chart a course for the future. The process concluded with the completion of our first *Conservation Plan* for Mesa County. This extensive analysis of the conservation opportunities in Mesa County will help us build off our solid foundation and target our future efforts where they will have the most impact. If you would like to learn more about our plan, please visit our website: www.mesalandtrust.org