

6.3 QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

Twenty-two *Initiative* partners returned questionnaires attached to literature mailed this spring and summer. This appendix provides a summary of responses to the questions posed and serves, along with formal meeting results, as the baseline for information presented in this report.

6.3.1

We can/cannot supply updated natural areas protection information, including mapped information and summaries. Explain.

- ▶ We can supply briefs and maps for National Natural Landmarks. (NPS)
- ▶ We can provide, in digital format, the natural areas inventory we prepared for the Northern Colorado Regional Planning Study. (ERO Resources)
- ▶ Through CNHP and our Land and Water Protection staff, we have this information available. (TNC)
- ▶ We can supply data sheet for all ACEC's in Colorado. Maps not yet available. (BLM)
- ▶ We can supply information. (Forest Service - Fort Collins)
- ▶ We can supply information...share computerized data base list of conservation/ open space leases...also by virtue of our joint MOU, the Natural Areas has inventory of State Trust Land. (State Land Board - SLB)
- ▶ We do not have a decent inventory of all the important natural areas on private land in the County. We have a partial list, primarily of land forms along the I-70 corridor, but it includes cliffs and hillsides almost exclusively. The wetlands and riparian communities on private land have not been mapped by the County, but that task is on our list of work projects. (Eagle County)
- ▶ We have about 400 field sites mapped as Natural Areas in Fort Collins. These include private and public lands. I'm not sure you would want to include all in your database. Some are very small (ponds/wooded areas) - see attached for example. (City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Dept.)
- ▶ Some material available now; major inventory/GIS process presently underway (working with CNAP). (City of Boulder Mountain Parks)
- ▶ As we begin to acquire Open Space properties, we can supply a map of each tract and basic information about that tract. (Summit County Open Space & Trails Dept.)
- ▶ We have just gotten a GIS program for our County and are in the process of adding parcel layers that include wildlife and wetlands. (San Miguel County Open Space Commission)
- ▶ City has acquired approximately 1500 acres of Open Space, much along creeks, canals, with water, vegetation and wildlife. (City of Westminster)
- ▶ We can provide the natural areas inventory prepared for the Loveland area. (City of Loveland)
- ▶ We can provide updated information about the status of private lands inside federal wilderness areas as well as for private lands within other significant roadless blocks of undeveloped federal land. (The Wilderness Land Trust)
- ▶ None of the El Paso County Parks are "identified or designated natural areas," even though we say that a majority of our park lands are "natural." Some of our lands may well qualify as a natural area according to the CNAP definition. Our mapping information is limited. We can supply information about El Paso County Park lands including location, communities represented, species list. (El Paso County Parks)
- ▶ To the best of our knowledge, no one has compiled such information for Pitkin County. (Pitkin County Open Space & Trails)
- ▶ At this time, Larimer Land Trust (LLT) cannot supply natural areas information. At two years old, LLT is a relatively young land trust. To date we have been successful in protecting 285 acres of land in Larimer County. While we have been as pro-active as possible (given manpower and monetary constraints) in identifying at least two projects (one completed and one proposed),

much of our work has resulted from landowners contacting us (two other projects - one completed and one proposed). It is one of the goals of our Project Identification Team to identify and inventory lands to be protected for open space, natural, scenic and cultural reasons. As Larimer Land Trust gets more volunteer help and/or financial ability to make these identifications, we would be pleased to provide the requested information. (Larimer Land Trust)

- ▶ Limited to our Comprehensive Plan areas defined as parks, open space and buffer. It is not defined as to critical habitat type or quality. Boulder County Environmental Impact Plan is more defined. (City of Longmont)
- ▶ We will be receiving two easements in December 1995 and with the landowners will share summary information with CNAP. (Valley Land Conservancy)
- ▶ We can supply updated natural areas protection information. Please see page 8 of the plan. The Town of Vail as part of our open lands planning effort obtained the services of the Natural Heritage Program to identify sensitive natural areas in the Town of Vail. The Town also identified areas prone to natural hazards, wetlands and riparian areas. (Town of Vail)
- ▶ We can supply updated natural areas protection information, including mapped information and summaries, on our identified, registered and designated natural areas. Our protection efforts are based on site recognition and volunteer cooperative management agreements with landowners. (Colorado Natural Areas Program)

6.3.2

Natural Areas Program

We can/cannot prioritize natural areas protection projects over the next ten years. Explain.

- ▶ We can prioritize the potential National Natural Landmarks. However, regulations do not allow us to designate new ones at this time. (NPS)
- ▶ Based on our findings and recommendations for the Northern Colorado Regional Planning Study we can offer suggestions for priority projects. (ERO)

- ▶ Can sure help prioritize projects of others, but don't have projects of our own. (Colo. Dept. of Natural Resources - DNR)
- ▶ We can prioritize natural areas protection projects over the next ten years, and we have already identified many top natural area protection priorities. (TNC)
- ▶ Since we designate ACECs through the planning process and since it is complete, any further designations will come through plan amendments. There is no long-range plan for ACECs. (BLM)
- ▶ We can to some degree. (Forest Service)
- ▶ Continuation of #7.1.1. (SLB)
- ▶ We hope to be able to in the next 3 years but are not at that point right now. (Eagle County)
- ▶ We can prioritize natural areas protection projects over the next 5 years. This would be sites "targeted" for acquisition (high, moderate, low priority classification) - see attached. (City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Dept.)
- ▶ We can prioritize natural areas protection projects over the next ten years. Ongoing and increasing effort to protect important habitat from recreational use pressure. Currently developing long term plan for protection and acquisition of contiguous natural areas. (City of Boulder Mountain Parks)
- ▶ Our Open Lands Protection Plan will not prioritize acquisition projects; instead a set of selection criteria will be developed to assess properties on a case-by-case basis. (Summit County Open Space & Trails Dept.)
- ▶ The Open Space Commission may be interested in prioritizing natural areas in the future. (San Miguel County Open Space Commission)
- ▶ Our funding runs for 5 years, so will have well-defined priorities to 2,000. Some ideas beyond 5 years. (City of Westminster)
- ▶ Our Open Lands Plan specifies projects for a 5 year time frame, however, future recommendations are included. (City of Loveland)

- ▶ We have prioritized the individual private parcels within Colorado's largest wilderness areas using an approach devised specifically for wilderness inholdings. A copy is enclosed. (The Wilderness Land Trust)
- ▶ El Paso County Parks has begun a master plan process for Parks, trails and open space. Included as part of the master plan is a Biological Inventory. I hope that an outcome of this plan would be the identification and prioritization of lands that should be preserved in El Paso County. (El Paso County Parks)
- ▶ We can prioritize natural areas protection projects over the next ten years. The Open Space and Trails Board wishes to identify some of these areas itself, using GIS and data collected by county staff, the DOW and other non-profit environmental groups in the state. (Pitkin County Open Space & Trails)
- ▶ Prioritization will take place as the above mentioned inventory evolves, but to date Larimer Land Trust has only informally identified some key parcels that are known only because they are such "high visibility" properties. As such, they are prioritized by virtue of this, not because they have been evaluated relative to a complete inventory. Larimer Land Trust is not only interested in protecting examples of rare habitat or scenic value, but also more common landscapes that may need protecting for cultural or social reasons as well. We would be interested in being involved in a larger effort, if there was one, to help prioritize natural areas protection projects in Colorado and especially within Larimer County. (Larimer Land Trust)
- ▶ Saint Vrain River Greenway, McIntosh District Park and Longmont Eastern Buffer would be highest priorities. (City of Longmont)
- ▶ We will possibly be submitting a GOCO grant application to prioritize open space parcels in the valley using several partners - city, county and non-profits to establish criteria for GIS analysis. (Valley Land Conservancy)
- ▶ We can prioritize protection projects over the next 5 years. Page 21 of the Plan identifies priorities for protecting open space parcels in the Town of Vail. There are over 51 actions identified in the Plan that involve protecting specific parcels of open space. One of the actions of the Plan is to create a charter amendment that would require a vote of the people before designated open space parcels could be sold, leased or upzoned. (Town of Vail)
- ▶ We do not have our lists of identified and registered sites prioritized, however, we choose designated sites, from the registered site list, based upon degree of threat, rare or endangered species status, the landowner's level of interest in obtaining natural area designation and, in addition, the management criteria are considered in detail. The status of a potential site can change rapidly. Our goal is to perform site evaluations at 15-20 identified locations statewide per year. While we do not have a ten year prioritization list, our evaluation of sites is ongoing and new sites are continually being added. (Colorado Natural Areas Program)

6.3.3

The following factors should be considered in evaluating natural areas and open space grant applications, include screening criteria, rating methods and any other pertinent factors (attach information if necessary):

- ▶ NPS follows the evaluation criteria set forth in 36 CFR 62.5 (see attached) for National Natural Landmarks. (NPS)
- ▶ The following are preliminary criteria: 1. Linkages with or between protected significant open space and natural areas. 2. Protection of natural area and open space of a) statewide significance, b) regional significance, c) local significance. 3. Opportunities to protect significant open space and natural areas in immediate peril of development. (ERO)

- 1. Richness of biological diversity — degree of rareness — urgency — strategic location — “visibility” to public - - other special features/values — existence of entity to assure long term management and protection — habitat value — local interest and support — public use potential (learning, recreation, etc.). Be sure to consider GOCO grant criteria too. (DNR)
- 2. This should be gathered in facilitated group process. (TNC)
- 3. The BLM 1610 Manual defines criteria for ACEC nominations/designations. The CNAP/BLM Memorandum of Understanding also contains evaluation criteria for “natural areas” as ACECs. (BLM)
- 4. 1. For State Trust Lands: “Protection” may be provided if at no cost to the beneficiary or if Trust is appropriately compensated for fair market value. 2. See S.L.B.’s Urban/Transition Lands listing (attached). (SLB)
- 5. We are in the process of inventorying all vacant lands in the County. As part of that inventory, we evaluate/list how many of the attributes the parcel features that are listed as part of the Open Space Plan Update Mission Statement (attached). (Eagle County)
- 6. Needs to be different criteria for local (city), County and State significance. Screening criteria should be established based on what has already been done at each level for various communities; send draft of your compilation to various agencies for review (include agencies that do not yet have criteria, but can provide input on their community/jurisdiction); and revise. (City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Dept.)
- 7. CNAP definition in conjunction with opportunities/capability to protect lands. Opportunities to educate public regarding values of natural areas and therefore maximize our protection efforts should be highly rated. Critical habitats, particularly those with ripple effects on other species and/or under serious threat of development/degradation, should receive highest priority. (City of Boulder Mountain Parks)
- 8. Rarity of habitat type; development threat; relative quality/level of disturbance. (Summit County Open Space & Trails Dept.)
- 9. We have no priorities at this time. The Open Space Commission is currently working on an Open Space and Agricultural Presentation educational program with GOCO funds. This will occupy most of the Commission’s time in 1996. (San Miguel County Open Space Commission)
- 10. Attached material lists our selection criteria. Good to preserve open spaces/nature in the urban areas so we can grow up and live with these areas, use for education, close to schools. This understanding close to home will help us respect larger open spaces (and private land) in rural areas. (City of Westminster)
- 11. 1. Does it meet a need? (resource area, community separator, important view shed, biological diversity, public use potential, etc.). 2. Urgency, need to be protected. 3. Management of the land. (City of Loveland)
- 12. In addition to the criteria already identified for prioritizing sites, you might consider the ability of an acquisition to consolidate or “make whole” a preserve or land protection effort. Another factor would be the acquisition’s ability to act as a catalyst for further protection efforts. An example of this is purchase of the last or only private inholdings within a public land unit that consequently clears the way for legislative action such as designation of a wilderness, wild and scenic river, national recreation area, national or state park, etc. (The Wilderness Land Trust)
- 13. 1. State and/or local significance. For local government “local” is very important criteria too. 2. Richness of biological, ecological or geological diversity. 3. Species or occurrence rarity. Note: El Paso County Parks does not have any specific criteria or rating methods for evaluating lands. I have, however, begun to use CNAP and CNHP criteria when I evaluate lands in El Paso County. (El Paso County Parks)

► Open space grant applications should be evaluated according to the relative merits of the particular piece of property proposed for protection. The Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Board believes the types of property which deserve the highest level of protection are: 1. Privately held lands located wholly within publicly held lands; 2. Lands with rare or sensitive wildlife habitat; 3. Lands of ecological significance, such as watersheds and riparian areas; 4. Agricultural lands. (Pitkin County Open Space & Trails)

► a. Degree of threat. b. Value to community: this is especially important because it may result in protection of land that supports more “common” species or features but is nevertheless identified as critical by a human community as significant for social, cultural or scenic reasons. c. Rarity. d. Feasibility. e. Ability to link wildlife corridors or other open spaces. (Larimer Land Trust)

► 1) Community plans for the areas, 2) Interpretive programming, 3) Sensitive design to habitat, 4) Cities and counties should be viewed differently in terms of habitat - promoting more interpretive programming in cities where concentrated populations are and where it is more unlikely to be able to provide adequate public use restrictions. (City of Longmont)

► 1) Need for project: does it supply/protect a) native habitats, b) prime agricultural land, c) habitat for threatened groups, migratory birds, d) specifically, valley bottoms - riparian, winter range. 2) Long-term impact: a) lead to other projects, b) educate local government to consider open space - community support - self-sustaining, c) connects open space parcels together. (Valley Land Conservancy)

► Suggested criteria for evaluating open space grants: 1) High priority criteria; a) Natural value of the land, i.e., is it a functional wetland, does it have riparian vegetation, are there plants and/or species composition unique or rare, does it provide valuable habitat for wildlife, b) Is the parcel of land at risk for

development or disturbance, and c) Is the parcel of land in a region/area in a high growth area where protection of open space is critical for maintaining the character of the area, e.g., conservation easement on a ranch in an area being urbanized quickly; and 2) Medium priority criteria; a) Areas with high value for outdoor recreation, b) Buffer areas around sensitive natural areas, c) Lands that provide trail connections or help create a “system” of open lands, d) Areas valuable for protecting view corridors, and e) Lands with valuable cultural resources. (Town of Vail)

► The following criteria should be used for selection of natural areas: 1. Ecological and Physical Criteria — Knowledge of an area, representation, quality, disturbance, size and buffer, and use. 2. Management Criteria — responsible party, degree of threat and the potential effect of designation on conservation of the area, availability and security of tenure, boundaries, management, and access. (Colorado Natural Areas Program)

6.3.4

Does your organization have a working definition of open space and/or natural area? If so, please provide it here.

► Natural Region means a distinct geographic province having similar geologic history, structures, and landforms. The basic physiographic characteristics of a natural region influence its vegetation, climate, soils and animal life. — used with respect to National Natural Landmarks. (NPS)

► “Open space” could be simply defined as an area free of extensive development. In working with Santa Fe County, New Mexico and its citizens the following definition for “open space” was developed: “Lands that are set aside from future development because of their importance to public use, enjoyment and education and the value they provide for protection of diverse ecosystems and preservation of community and cultural heritage.” (ERO/CLF)

- ▶ Our definition of “open space” is contained in FLPMA (ACEC’s) and in the 1610 Manual. The CNAP/BLM Memorandum of Understanding also contains definitions for ACECs/Colorado Natural Areas. (BLM)
- ▶ Designation categories include Research Natural Areas and Special Interest Areas. (Forest Service) No - except through our relationship/agreements on Natural Areas. (SLB)
- ▶ Please see attached definition and mission statement. (Eagle County)
- ▶ Natural Areas definition attached. Open Space definition in process of revision by our Parks Dept. (City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Dept.)
- ▶ Our mission statement speaks indirectly of a definition and is included. (City of Boulder Mountain Parks)
- ▶ Largely undeveloped lands in their natural or agricultural state. (Summit County Open Space & Trails Dept.)
- ▶ Not at this time - Open Space Commission just formed this year. (San Miguel County Open Space Commission)
- ▶ Not specifically - generally open spaces here in Westminster are those lands that preserve great views and that, in their natural condition, have highest values for plant and wildlife diversity. (City of Westminster)
- ▶ See attached definition. (City of Loveland)
- ▶ We work primarily in federally-designated wilderness areas. The definition of wilderness provided by the federal 1964 Wilderness Act is attached. (The Wilderness Land Trust)
- ▶ El Paso County Parks uses these terms but we do not have identified working definitions for “open space” and “natural area.” (El Paso County Parks)
- ▶ Pitkin County Resolution 90-93, Section 13.5.1.: The Open Space & Trails Board of trustees shall promulgate such policies as will further the following purposes for open space and trails acquisitions: 1. Shaping development (greenbelt and viewplanes); 2. Incorporating or protecting significant wildlife habitat and corridors; 3. Preventing encroachment of flood plain and riparian areas; 4. Preserving historic agricultural and ranching activities; 5. Protecting other public lands from the impacts of development. (Pitkin County Open Space & Trails)
- ▶ See attached Site Acquisition Criteria. (Larimer Land Trust)
- ▶ Open space: land that has been designated to remain in a relatively natural state or use. 1) preserve natural areas and resources, 2) provide passive recreation areas, 3) maintain Longmont’s separate identity, and 4) enhance the visual quality of the community. (City of Longmont)
- ▶ We are organized to take open space as a concept and make it a reality for all to enjoy in perpetuity. (Valley Land Conservancy)
- ▶ The community felt that defining open space was not necessary. Instead the Vail Plan solicited what type of open space people wanted most to preserve. The public clearly stated that the 1st priority was to protect natural open space. The public defined natural open space as critical natural habitat, wetlands, riparian areas and natural hazard areas. These areas became the highest priority for protection and acquisition. (Town of Vail)
- ▶ A “natural area” as defined under the Colorado Natural Areas Act, as set forth under C.R.S. 33-33-101 et seq. (1988), is “a physical and biological area which either retains or has reestablished its natural character, although it need not be completely undisturbed, and which typifies native vegetation and associated biological and geological features or provides habitat for rare or endangered animal or plant species or includes geologic or other natural features of scientific or educational value.” (Colorado Natural Areas Program)

6.3.5

Please attach any other comments, concerns and/or considerations.

- ▶ We look forward to working with you. (ERO/CLF)
- ▶ Can supply much more on all this as needed. (Forest Service)
- ▶ ...this is an excellent idea, and I applaud your efforts to get it off the ground. (TNC)
- ▶ The SLB Commissioners can “protect” State Trust Lands if no cost to the beneficiary or if fair market value paid. (SLB)
- ▶ We would like information/ guidance about funding for mapping/identifying sensitive natural areas with the assistance of trained experts. (Eagle County)
- ▶ How often do you need update (#1) - yearly? What form do you need it in? Current example of our form is as for #1. We will likely have GIS Database for our Natural Areas information by the end of 1996. (City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Dept.)
- ▶ Great timing! We need all of your help now as we develop our long range plan. (City of Boulder Mountain Parks)
- ▶ Attached are: copy of ordinance for O.S. Program; several brochures from this past summer; article that further describes program. (City of Westminster)
- ▶ I appreciate the efforts of the CNAP. The Partnership Initiative is a great concept. It appears that the Partnership is focused more at state and federal agencies. My perception is that we might be overlooking areas of local significance and this partnership might be beneficial in helping local governments develop uniform assessment factors and field survey instructions. Sometimes we (local governments) just need a little help or additional training to identify and potentially designate natural areas in our community. (El Paso County Parks)

- ▶ It is more difficult to provide highly restricted natural areas within city limits. Most areas have been impacted by non-authorized use for decades. I would promote enhancement (clean-up) of these areas, clarifying proper use including providing paths and viewing areas, and finally, educational programs. (City of Longmont).
- ▶ Developing a comprehensive plan was extremely valuable to the protection of open space. It created private/public partnerships in Town to protect open space and gave the town clear direction in its' open space program. From a more pragmatic standpoint, it allowed the Town to invest limited resources in lands that the community valued the most - sensitive natural areas. I have attached a copy of our Open Lands Plan, Survey of Wetlands and the Natural Heritage Inventory. (Town of Vail)
- ▶ We have already sent copies of our lists of identified, registered and designated natural areas to all participants of the Natural Areas Partnerships Initiative. (CNAP)

NOTE: The City of Pueblo and Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation did agree to participate, without additional comment on the questionnaire.

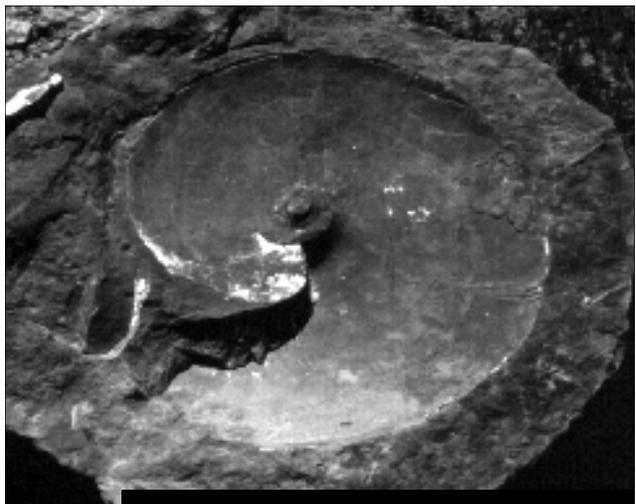


Photo courtesy of Colorado State Parks

6.4 MEETING SUMMARIES

Two meetings were called to explore natural area and open space issues. The first was a kick-off/brainstorming meeting held in May and the second was a summation meeting held in November. We very much appreciate those who took the time to join in the meetings and speak on behalf of their efforts and the entire effort of natural area conservation and protection in Colorado.

6.4.1

Kickoff Meeting

The first meeting of the Natural Areas Partnerships Initiative (NAPI) participants was well-attended and constructive; we appreciate the time taken by everyone to make it a success. Summarized are the results of site protection criteria identification, developed in a facilitated session. This summary is intended to be used as the basis for data gathering, map and report production, site prioritization, criteria development and future discussions. We will continue to request volunteer assistance in preparing the various products necessary to assist the State Board of the Great Outdoor Colorado Trust (GOCO) with natural area grant application evaluations.

Summary: May 11, 1995 Meeting

Diane Huling, Facilitator, Department of Natural Resources, began the meeting with round-table introductions from participants, asking everyone to state their reasons for attending. The reasons varied, but everyone has an interest in significant open space and natural areas within a broad spectrum of jurisdictions, e.g., local, regional and/or state-wide.

Laurie Mathews, Director, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, welcomed everyone and stressed the important issues surrounding GOCO and other funding, including comprehensive approaches, the role of all participants and the value of natural areas. She is supportive of the NAPI and feels it will be valuable in assisting GOCO with grant application decisions.

Will Shafroth, Director, Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust, stated the advantages of having clear natural area and open space review criteria and assistance. Over 100 applications have been received under the GOCO Land Conservation Grant program funding to date. With a staff of five it is difficult to

judge the applications and rate them relative to importance. In addition, there are many local and state land use decision-making processes underway, as well as, information gathering efforts which would benefit from coordination and consistent review of resulting applications.

Tom Easley, Natural Resources Director, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, introduced the NAPI and summarized the meeting goals. A network of leaders from the natural areas and open space protection community will accomplish three tasks in support of GOCO, they are: 1) catalog statewide natural area and open space protection efforts to date, prepare a map of these sites and provide a report summary of these efforts; 2) identify and prioritize natural area and open space protection projects that could be carried out over the next ten years and develop a strategy to guide protection efforts; and 3) develop screening criteria and rating methods to assist GOCO when evaluating applications.

Survey Questionnaire Summary

A survey questionnaire was included with initial information distribution efforts, to determine the level of interest in the NAPI, the ability to provide the important data required to assist GOCO and to provide organization/agency definitions of terms. This summary has been since updated and is provided as Attachment B. It is important to note the mission of each organization when evaluating open space and natural areas, some examples include the Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) which considers biotic and geologic sites, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) which considers biotic sites and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) which considers biotic, geologic, historic/cultural and environmental hazard sites.

Protection Effort Catalog

A handout was distributed, listing the sites approved by the BLM as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Identified, Registered and Designated sites under the CNAP; these total over 200 sites. The group was then asked to discuss information which could be made available from their organizations/agencies and to provide comments.

Elizabeth Richardson, Colorado Open Lands and Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, stated that information could be made available with permission from individual land trusts. Between 50,000-60,000 acres of land in Colorado is currently under land trusts, and could include significant open space and natural areas. The baseline information for each site may not be as detailed as that collected for existing natural areas. Many land trusts rely on volunteers to conduct the day to day business necessary for site protection. A Land Trust booklet is currently under preparation and will detail how to put information together in addition to providing a good list of existing trusts. It would be beneficial to those initiating land trusts to have access to professional assistance in evaluating land resources and preparing grant applications.

Mark Burget, The Nature Conservancy, Colorado Program, stated his willingness to cooperate in a successful NAPI. Much of the significant biotic data collected to date is available from the Conservancy-sponsored Colorado Natural Heritage Program, located at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. TNC has participated with many agencies and private landowners to provide protection for significant natural resources.

Will Shafroth, GOCO, stated that they are aware of many local actions and could serve as a clearinghouse for professional researcher and open space information.

Jim Munch, City of Pueblo, stated that a county-wide effort is underway to collect and present planning data including open space. Data generated from this effort will be digitized for future presentation on base maps. Water rights play an important role in open space issues; both the water community and agricultural community should be represented in the NAPI.

Karen Scruby, National Park Service, stated that newly proposed National Natural Landmarks are not currently being considered by the NPS. The present list for Colorado, however, includes over 600 entries and the files could be made available to the NAPI for consideration. The NPS can prioritize National Natural Landmarks, but current regulations do not allow new designations.

Ernest Kaska, Division of Wildlife, Habitat Section, stated that DOW maintains many leases, primarily for hunting and fishing or access. The database on these sites is not complete, however, the data could be made available to support NAPI. In discussion, it was stated that several DOW leased sites have designated or identified natural areas.

Steve Dougherty, ERO Resources, Inc. and Northern Colorado Regional Planning Partners, stated that suggestions for priority open space and natural area projects could be made, following a recently completed Regional Planning Study. Three communities (Boulder, Loveland, Fort Collins) and associated counties have recorded several layers of information, at least some in a digital format, that can be considered.

Carol Spurrier, Bureau of Land Management, stated that the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern submitted to the group earlier were digitized and reproducible on a base map. The locations would be accurate, but some sites lack baseline natural resources inventories. Designation as an ACEC does not preclude many activities on the land, unless specifically stated in the Area Resource Management Plan.

Tom Andrews, Forest Service, stated that Research Natural Areas receive a high degree of protection, while Special Interest Areas are similar to ACEC's. The FS would share information to support the NAPI.

Max Vezzani, State Land Board, stated that the SLB database would be available to access for the NAPI. The SLB has a list of urban properties totalling approximately 60,000 acres that could be disposed for development, maximizing the contribution to the school trust fund. These sites could contain significant open space and natural areas and may have not been evaluated for those reasons. SLB lands can be protected if there is no cost to beneficiary revenue. The SLB must receive fair market value for their land in terms of lease, acquisition or exchange. Several sites on the three million acres of SLB land are currently managed for their natural area values.

Jim Von Loh, Colorado Natural Areas Program, stated that the information given to the group at the beginning of the meeting is available for the NAPI. In addition, the DPOR Environmental Education

Committee is preparing a list of resource professionals within the Department of Natural Resources who would volunteer to visit sites and relate natural resource information. Further, an attempt to expand the NAPI base of participants will be made by Greg Monroe, DPOR Real Estate, by presenting information to the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts at their Spring Meeting (May 20 and 21, 1995).

Definitions for Open Space and Natural Areas

Discussion was undertaken concerning the definitions of open space and natural areas. Will Shafroth instructed the group to move forward with a focus on natural areas and not attempt a definition of open space. Tom Andrews suggested acceptance of the CNAP definition of natural areas and the City of Boulder definition of open space for working definitions. The assembled group agreed to accept these working definitions. The CNAP definition for natural areas has both a biotic and geologic component, as follows:

“Natural areas are a physical and biological area which either retains or has reestablished its natural character, although it need not be completely undisturbed, and which typifies native vegetation and associated biological and geological features or provides habitat for rare or endangered animal or plant species or includes geologic or other natural features of scientific or educational value”.

The City of Boulder open space definition is provided as Attachment C.

Site Protection Priorities and GOCO Grant Application Criteria

A question was posed to the group by facilitator, Diane Huling, “What is important to consider when prioritizing a site?” A group participation activity developed seven general categories that should be considered and rated them by importance. These are supplied as Attachment D to this summary.

Addenda

Volunteers are needed to assist Jim Von Loh with catalog, prioritization and criteria preparation. Many thanks to Steve Dougherty and Tom Andrews for agreeing to be volunteers.

Other groups should be contacted, including the water community, agricultural community, environmental groups, universities and agencies (Natural Resources Conservation Service, Army Corps of Engineers, etc.).

6.4.2

Summation Meeting

The second meeting of Natural Areas Partnerships *Initiative* (NAPI) participants was attended by an active and thoughtful group who made it very interesting and productive. Attachment A lists the partners in attendance; the results of this meeting, developed in a facilitated session, are presented below. This summary is intended to be used as the basis for preparing a draft report that will be sent to all *Initiative* partners for review and comment. CNAP continues to request volunteer assistance in preparing the various products necessary to assist GOCO with natural area grant application evaluations.

Summary: November 3, 1995 Meeting

Diane Huling, Facilitator-DNR, began the meeting by welcoming participants and introducing Lise Aangeenbrug and Jim Von Loh for opening remarks. Following the opening remarks, a round-table introduction of participants was conducted to learn more of their areas of interest and/or influence and to briefly summarize their organizational efforts to date.

Lise Aangeenbrug, Program Manager-GOCO, summarized the importance and need for the GOCO Board and staff to obtain constructive *Initiative* results from participating entities. Significant steps have been made to acquire open space, however, more direction is necessary to fully address the subset of natural areas within Colorado's open space. In addition, a number of Legacy Projects are under consideration for acquisition and grant funding for planning is also being made available for these efforts.

Jim Von Loh, Program Administrator-CNAP, summarized *Initiative* efforts to date, stressing that more than 70 agencies/programs/organizations have been contacted using a variety of direct methods and mailings. Information was requested on additional interested entities that have not yet been contacted, as well as, additional baseline information. A summary showing examples of products for a report to GOCO

had been mailed to participants for comments. All areas of the report, including format, figures, tables, level of detail, etc., were to be up for discussion. Following the results of this meeting and receipt of comments mailed to CNAP, a draft report will be prepared and mailed to all *Initiative* partners for further review and comment.

Chris Ford, Project Director-Colorado Heritage Area Partnership Project, summarized this effort during the afternoon portion of the meeting. Two tools currently in use nationwide and being investigated for Colorado are heritage areas and cultural landscapes. Heritage areas are non-regulatory tools that recognize resources most valued by citizens and promote regional cooperation to care for them. Heritage areas represent a region's planning, management and marketing strategies focused on identifying, protecting and enhancing the natural, cultural and recreational resources. Cultural landscapes are specific sites showing human interaction with the land that are of historic significance. Further information can be obtained by reading the report on this project, entitled *Heritage and Change in Colorado*.

Additional Information

Additional information was requested from *Initiative* partners at the beginning of this meeting session. Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department and Clear Creek Land Conservancy provided maps and/or other pertinent information concerning their programs.

Summary of NAPI Efforts

Contact Methods: although the contact methods were considered thorough and no new contacts were mentioned, it was suggested that smaller land trusts be recontacted so that more complete information would appear in any list of sites prepared.

List of Contacts: no new contacts were mentioned.

Map Product: Amap was displayed to determine if presenting existing natural area sites using color and number coded pins was useful to participants. The base map selected to present this information was prepared by the BLM and shows land ownership within the state. Comments generated about this map example and a map in general were:

- ▶ Pin maps are not very useful,
- ▶ Enter base information into a digital format (GIS format for easier update and manipulation),
- ▶ Two separate maps are required, 1) what is already preserved and 2) what areas are identified but not preserved,
- ▶ Amap depicting areas already inventoried for natural sites and the level of confidence in the inventory would be more useful than a map depicting existing natural areas,
- ▶ The map could show different levels of protection afforded existing natural areas,
- ▶ Consideration of political issues and private land issues could prevent creating a map with specific points plotted; Model map shown at the meeting tends to show data gaps geographically,
- ▶ Need to prepare two kinds of maps: 1) a very general public map and 2) a detailed map set up in a GIS system for more confidential use (scientific, technical and research oriented), and
- ▶ The map should be available for all users in addition to natural areas types. An open-door policy should prevail with this information.

Table of Sites: Examples of tabular data were included in each handout to determine if this format and types of data presented were useful to participants. Comments generated about the utility of this example table include:

- ▶ Need separate lists, one for protected areas and one for potential areas to be protected,
- ▶ List percent of sites that are under private, federal, state, etc., ownership,
- ▶ Multiple ownership of sites needs to be clearer, possibly cross-referenced,
- ▶ Pay more attention to sites under private ownership, individuals, volunteers, etc. who are not represented at this meeting (this was addressed by Lise under the capacity building grants currently funded by GOCO),
- ▶ Eliminate sites which are identified but not yet evaluated, such as the category "CNAP Identified",

- ▶ Recontact land trusts and ask for more information on sites which might be included on this table,
- ▶ Move this lengthy table to an Appendix attached to the report,
- ▶ Make it clear that sites listed is a baseline data list only,
- ▶ Ensure greater completeness of lists, and
- ▶ Should the recreation attribute remain as relevant information for natural areas?

Review Evaluation Criteria

A detailed discussion of evaluation criteria was undertaken to determine if those initially proposed were still valid and to determine if other criteria suggested by *Initiative* Partners should be added to the list. A recommendation was made to tie criteria for natural areas to those criteria for funding grants already used by GOCO. An additional recommendation was to incorporate examples of natural area projects that GOCO has funded. Criteria recommendations and comments made relative to evaluation criteria for natural areas include:

- ▶ When describing criteria, do not use references to specific programs, rather paraphrase information,
- ▶ Prepare concise definitions of criteria in text and place examples of criteria interpretation in an appendix,
- ▶ Criteria retained and added, in order of importance, are 1) Rarity, 2) Representativeness, 3) Integrity, 4) Threats, 5) Stewardship and Sustainability and 6) Value to Science, Education and Community. From the original list of criteria, “Value to Community” was included with science and education values, “Management” was changed to “Stewardship and Sustainability” and “Value to Science, Education and Community” was added,
- ▶ GOCO needs more scientific criteria,
- ▶ “Rarity” and “Representativeness” should be the two most important factors, if sites do not meet one of these, they should not be considered further under natural area projects funded by GOCO,
- ▶ Concerning “Rarity”, does this mean “Colorado Rare” or “County Rare”; discussion concluded that statewide significant and local significant sites may be funded under either the natural areas or open space pots of money, so all sites are considered equally,

- ▶ Need to describe different levels of rarity (global, regional, state, local, etc.),
- ▶ State why some criteria are not included in the *Initiative* report, because they are already included under current GOCO criteria, e.g., value to community and feasibility, and
- ▶ GOCO will weed out redundant evaluation criteria during their review process.

Site Prioritization

Initiative partners felt that **Section 3.0: Priority Projects** should be eliminated, because only a few organizations were prepared to provide this potentially sensitive information. In addition, some site negotiations could be adversely affected if these sites appeared on a list.

Types of sites were also presented in order to determine what would make up natural areas lists for preservation. Three general types were listed, they are: 1) Biologic, 2) Geologic and 3) Aesthetic Values. Following discussion, it was agreed that “Aesthetic Values” should be eliminated as a site type criteria. Biologic site types should include, at a minimum, a) natural community, b) wetland/riparian/aquatic communities, c) rare, threatened or endangered species, d) vertebrate animals and/or e) invertebrate animals. Geologic site types should include those with geologic processes and paleontologic values.

As a result of the decision to eliminate prioritization of sites during this phase of the *Initiative*, no site lists were prepared or collected.

Brainstorming

Cross-jurisdictional Strategies to Guide Implementation: It was suggested and adopted that this terminology be changed from “cross- jurisdictional” to Cooperative Strategies to guide implementation. Ideas generated by participating *Initiative* partners included:

- ▶ Develop a Memorandum of Understanding,
- ▶ Conduct an annual symposium on status of Colorado natural areas and publish the proceedings,
- ▶ Need more scientific expertise to make effective evaluations,
- ▶ Share information and resources on a regional or watershed basis,



Photo by: Keldyn West

- ▶ Develop partnerships,
- ▶ Provide technical and professional assistance to public and private entities involved in protecting and evaluating natural areas (land trusts, cooperative extension service, landowners, county agencies, etc.),
- ▶ GOCO purchase land,
- ▶ Funding innovative and partnership mechanisms for natural area inventorying,
- ▶ Fund capacity building for long-term stewardship of natural areas,
- ▶ Fund site monitoring studies,
- ▶ Fund habitat restoration, rehabilitation and reintroduction,
- ▶ Continue to provide funds to increase people's capacity to protect natural areas, and
- ▶ Integrate protection of natural area values when funding other types of projects.

Identify and List Data Gaps: the main comment for data gaps is to ensure greater completeness of the natural area baseline list and to prepare a mapped inventory of areas with completed surveys. These might include places like Boulder and Larimer counties. Additional comments included:

- ▶ Timeline and prioritization,
- ▶ Prioritization process of areas not yet identified,
- ▶ What areas are identified but not preserved; 1) gaps in the system (e.g., a particular rare species - which is best site to protect), 2) information sharing and 3) information documentation, and
- ▶ What is already preserved.

Future Direction: The group was asked to comment on whether this partnership or *Initiative* should continue and in what form, responses included:

- ▶ Let Jim (CNAP) do it,
- ▶ Annual workshop with Colorado Lands Forum,
- ▶ Vague partnership to be defined,
- ▶ Annual symposium with a natural areas focus or as a subset of open lands/open space symposium,
- ▶ To continue requires ongoing and adequate funding,
- ▶ Find ways to have more participation from local land trusts, and
- ▶ As a contingency, hold one more meeting of this *Initiative* group to obtain consensus on a final report.

Attachment A: Attenders of the November 3, 1995 NAPI Meeting

Note: Meeting was facilitated by Ms. Diane Huling, DNR.

Great Outdoors Colorado Board
Ms. Lise Aangeenbrug
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City of Denver
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City of Fort Collins
Natural Resources Department
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Clear Creek Land Conservancy
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650 Range View Trail
Golden, Colorado 80401

Colorado Heritage Area Partnership Project
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Colorado Lands Forum
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Colorado State Forest Service
Ecosystem Planning Project
Mr. Jeff Jones
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203 Forestry Building
Colorado State University

Fort Collins, Colorado 80523
Colorado State Parks
Mr. Tom Easley & Mr. Greg Monroe
303/866-3203 x307 & x318
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Denver, Colorado 80203

Jefferson County Open Space
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Summit County Open Space
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Breckenridge, Colorado 80424

The Nature Conservancy
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1244 Pine Street
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U. S. Bureau of Land Management
Mr. Rick Athearn
303/239-3735
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215

U. S. Forest Service
Rocky Mtn. Forest and Range Exp. Station
Mr. Tom Andrews
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Fort Collins, Colorado 80526-2098

Colorado Natural Areas Program
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& Mr. Jim Von Loh
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Denver, Colorado 80203

6.5 LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

6.5.1

Acronyms

ACEC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	CNAP	Colorado Natural Areas Program
ACES	Aspen Center for Environmental Studies	CNHP	Colorado Natural Heritage Program
ACPD	Adams County Parks Department	CNPS	Colorado Native Plant Society
AFT	American Farmland Trust	COL	Colorado Open Lands
AVLT	Aspen Valley Land Trust	COLF	Colorado Open Lands Foundation
BCNL	Boulder County Natural Landmark	CPART	Conservation Partners
BCPOSD	Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department	CPU	City of Pueblo
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	CRS	Colorado Revised Statutes
BMPRD	City of Boulder Mountain Parks, Parks and Recreation Dept.	CSFSEPP	Colorado State Forest Service Ecosystem Planning Project
BNA	Boulder Natural Area	CSP	Colorado State Parks (Same as DPOR)
BPROS	City of Broomfield Parks, Recreation and Open Space	CSU	Colorado State University
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation (also USBR)	CU	University of Colorado
BOS	City of Boulder Open Space	CWHF	Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation
CBPD	City of Crested Butte Planning Department	DCLC	Douglas County Land Conservancy
CCALT	Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust	DCPD	Douglas County Planning Department
CCI	Colorado Counties, Incorporated	DDPR	Denver Department of Parks and Recreation
CCLC	Clear Creek Land Conservancy	DNR	Department of Natural Resources
CCLT	Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts	DOW	Division of Wildlife
CDLA	Colorado Department of Local Affairs	DPOR	Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (Same as CSP)
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation	ECOSP	Eagle County Open Space Program
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	ECPD	Eagle County Planning Department
CHAPP	Colorado Heritage Area Partnership Project	EPCP	El Paso County Parks
CLAF	City of Lafayette	EVLT	Eagle Valley Land Trust
CLF	Colorado Lands Forum	FCNA	Fort Collins Natural Area
CLOU	City of Louisville	FCNRD	City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Department
CLOV	City of Loveland	FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
CML	Colorado Municipal League	FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
CNA	Colorado Natural Area	GAG	Geologic Advisory Group (BLM)
CNAC	Colorado Natural Areas Council	GCLC	Grand County Land Conservancy
		GIS	Geographic Information System
		GOCO	Great Outdoors Colorado Trust
		HA	Heritage Area

JCOS	Jefferson County Open Space	SRA	Special Resource Areas
LCNRD	Larimer County Natural Resources Department	SSPRD	South Suburban Parks and Recreation District
LCPD	Larimer County Parks Department	TBD	To Be Determined
LLT	Larimer Land Trust	TCF	The Conservation Fund
LPRD	City of Longmont Parks and Recreation Division	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
LTA	Land Trust Alliance	TNF	The N.A.T.U.R.E. Foundation
MALT	Mountain Area Land Trust	TOSC	City of Telluride Open Space Commission
MCLC	Mesa County Land Conservancy	TOVPCD	Town of Vail Planning and Community Development
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement	TPF	The Palmer Foundation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	TPL	The Trust for Public Lands
NA	Natural Area	TRLT	Three Rivers Land Trust
NAPI	Natural Areas Partnerships Initiative (<i>Initiative</i>)	TSMCF	The San Miguel Conservation Foundation
NNL	National Natural Landmarks	TWLT	The Wilderness Land Trust
NNLP	National Natural Landmark Program	UERV	Upper Elk River Valley Planning Group
NPS	National Park Service	USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation (also BOR)
NR	Natural Region	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory	USDI	United States Department of Interior
ONA	Outstanding Natural Area	USFS	United States Forest Service
OS	Open Space	USGS	United States Geological Survey
PCOSTD	Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Department	VLC	Valley Land Conservancy
PRT	Poudre River Trust	VPCD	Town of Vail Planning and Community Development
RFLC	Roaring Fork Land Conservancy	WA	Water-based Areas
RMEF	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Inc.	WCDPS	Weld County Department of Planning Services
RMNPA	Rocky Mountain National Park Associates	WHA	Wildlife Habitat Area
RNA	Research Natural Area	WLT	Weld Land Trust
RP	Regional Preserve	WOSD	City of Westminster Open Space Department
SCOS	Summit County Open Space	YVLT	Yampa Valley Land Trust
SIF	San Isabel Foundation		
SLA	Southwest Land Alliance		
SLB	State Land Board		
SMCPD	San Miguel County Planning Department		
SMLP	South Metro Land Conservancy		

TABLE 6.5: FEDERAL DESIGNATION PROGRAMS

Federal Agency	Designation Program(s)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Wilderness
National Park Service (NPS)	National Natural Landmark (NNL), Research Natural Area (RNA), Heritage Area (HA)
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	Research Natural Area (RNA), Wilderness
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Wildlife Refuge

6.5.2

Definitions

This subsection provides definitions for natural area and open space concepts and programs, as they were presented by the managing entity. Other definitions have also been created, but have not yet been submitted to us for inclusion.

Boulder County: Natural Landmark. BCNLs are prominent landscape features in Boulder County that distinguish a specific locality and are important because of the views they afford, their value as scenic vistas and backdrops and their intrinsic values as wildlife habitats, natural areas, and park and open space preserves. Areas identified for consideration as a BCNL should: 1) possess identifying features (local recognition) with outstanding scenic, aesthetic, or unique qualities; or 2) possess historical significance; or 3) possess archaeological or cultural significance; or 4) possess areas which meet the criteria for natural areas; or 5) possess opportunities for scientific research, education, or passive recreational uses.

Bureau of Land Management: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). ACEC's are areas within the public lands where special management attention is required: 1) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or 2) to protect life and

afford safety from natural hazards. This designation also includes Outstanding Natural Areas and Research Natural Areas.

City of Denver: Natural Area. A natural area is a physical and biological area which either retains, has reestablished, or has the potential to reestablish many aspects of its natural character. These areas now support or in the future could support native vegetation, associated biological and geological features, or provide habitat for wildlife or plant species. These areas may host geological, scenic or other natural features of scientific or educational value. Natural areas shall be managed primarily to safeguard the flora, fauna and physical features they contain, while not necessarily precluding public access.

City of Fort Collins: Natural Area. Areas of land or water that contain or support the continued existence of geological, paleontological, ecological, or other natural features that are 1) important to the conservation of natural resources that are classified as endangered or threatened, sensitive to impact from human activity, or otherwise in need of protection; 2) important to the conservation of natural resources that provide environmental protection, recreational, educational, scientific, aesthetic, or economic benefits; or 3) unique or rare examples of our natural heritage.

City of Loveland: Open Space. Any parcel or area of land or water essentially unimproved and set aside, dedicated, designated or reserved for the public or private use or enjoyment or for the use and enjoyment of owners and occupants of land adjoining or neighboring such open space.

City of Westminster: Open Space Criteria. Prospective open space shall satisfy at least one of these criteria: 1) Aesthetics; unique of dramatic visual impact; protects scenic view corridor; visually enhances primary transportation corridor; unique view from site; natural features that enhance quality of life, 2) Protection and Preservation; protection of environmentally sensitive features, 3) Location; spatial definition of urban area; protection of sole remaining undeveloped land within large developed area of City; geographical distribution throughout City; provides key link or extension/addition to existing park/open space area; proximity to existing or proposed urban shaping and open space buffers; access; large number of potential beneficiaries, 4) Use Potential; ability of the land to be used for passive recreational purposes including trail linkages; potential secondary benefit to community; continued agricultural production, 5) Need for Immediate Action; development pressure; development status; potential to remain as open space; attitude of property owner, and 6) Acquisition Consideration; availability of land; ease of acquisition; price of land; significance of economic loss to City; potential for increase in price in the near future; potential for acquiring other sources of funds.

Eagle County: Open Space. An area of land or water is absent of built structures and there has been no significant disturbance of the natural landscape. Exceptions include the scenic fields, pastures and historic buildings from agriculture and ranching as well as archeological sites.

ERO Resources/Colorado Lands Forum: Open Space. An area free of development.

Forest Service: Research Natural Area (RNA). RNA's are part of a national network of ecological areas designated in perpetuity for research and education and/or to maintain biodiversity of National Forest System lands. RNAs preserve a wide spectrum of relatively pristine representative areas that typify important forest, shrubland, grassland, alpine, aquatic, geological and similar natural situations.

Larimer County Parks Department: Open Space (OS). There are four types of open space recognized, they are: 1) Regional Preserve, 2) Natural Areas, 3) Special Resource Areas and 4) Water-based Areas

Regional Preserve (RP). Large area with natural resource values of regional significance for nature-oriented, outdoor recreation. Emphasis on resource preservation.

Natural Area (NA). Area with natural resource values to serve as day-use area for nature-oriented, outdoor recreation. Could also have secondary purpose of providing buffers between communities. May correspond to an open space corridor along drainages.

Special Resource Areas (SRA). Protect areas with important environmental resource values, such as wildlife habitat, scenic areas, riparian/wetlands, rare plant communities.

Water-based Areas (WA). Water-based recreation with an emphasis on resource preservation.

National Park Service: Heritage Area (HA). An HA is a region where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make HAs representative of the state or national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in the regions. Continued use of HAs by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance.

National Park Service: National Natural Landmark (NNL). NNL's are sites of "National Significance" which exemplify one of a natural region's characteristic biotic or geologic features which has been evaluated, using Department of Interior standards, as one of the best examples of that feature known. Such features include terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, geologic structures, exposures, and landforms that record active geologic processes or portions of earth history; and fossil evidence for biological evolution.

National Park Service: Natural Region (NR). Distinct geographic province having similar geologic history, structures and landforms. The basic physiographic characteristics of a NR influence its vegetation, climate, soils and animal life.

Natural Areas Program: Colorado Natural Area (CNA). CNA's are a physical and biological area which either retains or has reestablished its natural character, although it need not be completely undisturbed, and which typifies native vegetation and associated biological and geological features or provides habitat for rare or endangered animal or plant species or includes geologic or other natural features of scientific or educational value.

Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Program: Open Space. Primarily undeveloped lands which meet one or more of the following criteria: within public scenic viewplanes; bounding or within suburbanized areas; incorporating or protecting significant wildlife habitat; preserving historic agricultural and ranching activities; protecting riparian or wetlands areas; protecting other public lands from the impacts of development.

Santa Fe County, New Mexico (per ERO Resources): Open Space. Lands that are set aside for future development because of their importance to public use, enjoyment and education and the value they provide for protection of diverse ecosystems and preservation of community and cultural heritage.

Summit County Open Space and Trails Department: Open Space. Largely undeveloped lands in their natural or agricultural state.

The Palmer Foundation: Natural Area (NA). NAs may contain plant/animal species of unusual merit or special concern; representative local plant and animal communities; valuable wildlife habitat; wetlands; and/or migration corridors.

The Wilderness Land Trust: Wilderness (Wilderness Act of 1964). A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which 1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work

substantially unnoticeable; 2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; 3) has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition and 4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, education, scenic or historical value.

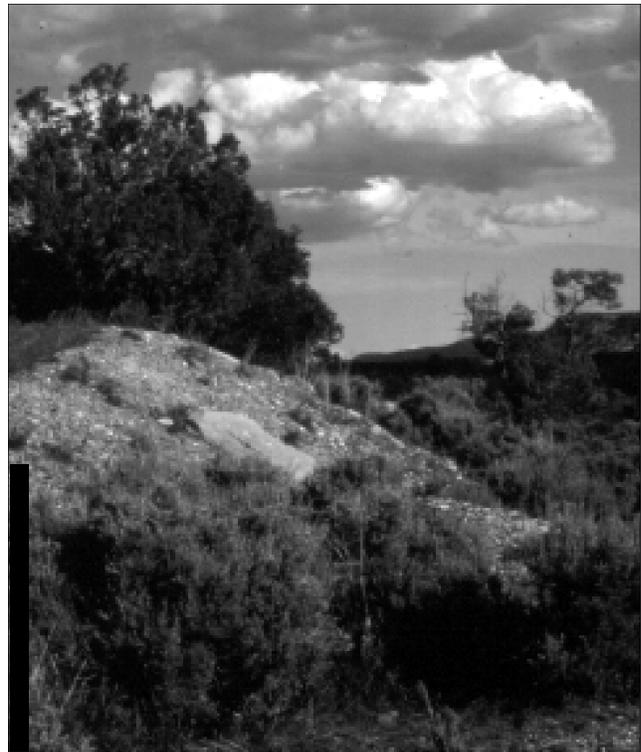


Photo by: R.L. Powell

6.6 Initiative PARTNER SUMMARIES

Efforts were made to contact all potential partners for the *Initiative*. These contacts are provided in Section 6.1; many of the partners contacted provided information that allowed the summaries of methods and accomplishments provided here, to be prepared. This attachment briefly describes the various programs and natural area conservation/protection efforts currently underway. Data are from documents provided by the individual program or summaries printed in other sources such as Colorado Open Lands; *A Directory of Private and Public Land Conservation Organizations in Colorado* (1995).

American Farmland Trust: 1) Methods. AFT works to stop the loss of productive farmland and rangeland and promotes agricultural practices that lead to a healthy environment. The principal focus is policy development at all levels of government, supplemented by direct farmland protection projects and public education programs. 643 AFT members reside within Colorado. 2) Accomplishments. AFT holds easements on 15 land parcels in Colorado, totalling over 10,088 acres. It is also active in the Elk River Valley initiative in Routt County.

Aspen Center for Environmental Studies: 1) Methods. ACES promotes environmental education, conservation and wildlife habitat preservation. A variety of educational programs and site analyses are provided by ACES staff, in addition to stewardship responsibilities of lands acquired by the Aspen Valley Land Trust. 2) Accomplishments. Stewardship duties currently extend directly to 440 acres of important habitat and 175 acres of riparian habitat under a management agreement with Pitkin County.

Aspen Valley Land Trust: 1) Methods. AVLT is dedicated to acquisition, preservation and enhancement of land in the Roaring Fork Valley for future generations. AVLT is responsible for negotiating acquisitions and easements while the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies provides land evaluation and stewardship of lands so conserved. 2) Accomplishments. A variety of land is protected through acquisition and donated conservation easements. The largest ranch thus conserved is 414 acres.

Boulder County Land Trust: 1) Methods. BCLT is a Division under the Boulder County Nature Association and works with private landowners,

neighborhood associations and city and county Parks and Open Space. BCLT was formed to a) conserve and protect habitats important to wildlife and natural ecosystems, b) preserve scenic vistas and c) provide outdoor scientific and educational activities for the public. 2) Accomplishments. BCLT has created the Allegra Collister Preserve from a riparian habitat conserved with an easement on a private ranch. The parcel was fenced, providing a water source at either end, and long-term research is being conducted.

Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department:

1) Methods. The county's objective is to seek a balance between recreational use and protection of wildlife habitat and other natural and cultural resources. Special plant associations, critical wildlife habitat and cultural/archaeological features identified as significant in the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan require protection at BSPOS properties. To this end, volunteers are used extensively to assist in management and environmental education programs. 2) Accomplishments. BCPOSD manages eighteen park and open space areas, mostly in the eastern one-half of the county. Visitor surveys are conducted every three years and show that 75% of park visitors live in the county. Hiking and wildlife viewing rate very high for park visitor uses.

City of Boulder, Open Space Department: 1)

Methods. Boulder Open Space Department (BOS) Natural Areas (BNA's) include prime examples of natural ecosystems and areas with significant genetic resources and habitat critical to native plants and animals. BNA's are managed to provide the greatest possible protection of site integrity; activities and access are restricted to nondestructive research, education and other activities that do not detract from the natural or research values. BOS seeks cooperation with other programs to preserve and protect significant natural resources. Cooperation may involve coordinating management activities with adjacent landowners and for plant and animal habitats, integrated management activities, educational activities, research and information exchange. 2) Accomplishments. Three CNAs are found within the system. Two, one designated and one registered, are in private ownership with BOS holding conservation easements on the properties. The third, in BOS ownership, is designated and its

boundaries are currently being considered for expansion to increase its ecologic integrity. Additionally, one identified CNA is being considered for registry between BOS and the CNAP.

City of Boulder, Division of Mountain Parks: 1)

Methods. Boulder Mountain Parks mission is to ensure the long-term protection of the Park's natural resources and functions while providing for appropriate visitor access for education, enjoyment and low-impact recreational opportunities consistent with resource protection goals. To achieve this mission, goals have been written to: 1) develop and implement a management system which recognizes the constantly changing balance between increasing human use and finite resources and develop a zone management plan which minimizes habitat fragmentation and maximizes the biodiversity and genetic integrity of ecosystems; 2) develop and present excellent environmental education programs which build awareness and understanding of natural processes and human interaction with nature; 3) develop and maintain quality trail systems and public facilities which contribute to visitor enjoyment and safety while ensuring protection of natural resource attributes; 4) promote visitor safety and resource management goals through competent public education, law enforcement and protection services; 5) promote a thorough understanding of the parks and resource issues through appropriate biological and sociological studies and cooperative involvement in community affairs; and 6) promote public involvement in the long-term management of the parks by providing diverse communication opportunities and maintaining a responsive attitude towards visitor concerns. 2) **Accomplishments.** Four mountain parks are managed as recreational open space, one mountain park is a registered CNA.

City of Colorado Springs, Development Services: 1)

Methods. CSDS is currently developing a master plan for open space. The plan, which is partially funded through a GOCO grant, will be in a draft stage in December, 1996. CNHP is conducting a Phase I biological inventory for El Paso County, the results will be incorporated for local planning efforts. Other map overlays to be used for planning purposes include a) vegetation cover, b) soils, c) significant forest types, d) wildlife habitat and e) visual

resources. 2) **Accomplishments.** The draft planning document will be available in December, 1996. Abalot initiative to support open space acquisition from local tax dollars was defeated in 1996, but will be brought

to the people of Colorado Springs for reconsideration in 1997.

City and County of Denver, Parks and Recreation

Department: 1) **Methods.** DDPR, through the City and County of Denver, is enacting an ordinance whereby Denver's natural areas can be designated, protected and appreciated. DDPR is responsible for many places in the City and County, including the Denver Mountain Parks, where native vegetation grows/could grow and where citizens can visit, finding relief from the urban hardscapes. Four resource planning classifications are to be used in natural area designations, they are: 1) Active use natural areas are those areas that have important natural features or provide habitat for wildlife while at the same time support recreational facilities such as trails, fishing piers or other facilities that will attract public use; 2) Conservation and restoration areas are areas with significant natural features or areas where there is the potential for restoring significant natural features and where facilities for less active forms of recreation, such as natural surfaced paths, aid in the protection of nature; 3) Preservation areas contain sensitive natural elements that should remain undisturbed; and 4) Temporary preservation areas are those areas that need to remain undisturbed for a period of time while restorative processes occur. 2) **Accomplishments.** DDPR has completed a study of how other jurisdictions in Colorado and from across the country have successfully instituted programs to preserve natural areas. One DDPR mountain park is a registered NNLand an identified CNA.

City of Fort Collins, Natural Resources Division: 1)

Methods. City of Fort Collins Natural Areas (FCNA's) include areas of land or water that contain or support the continued existence of geological, paleontological, ecological or other natural features. The goal is to preserve and protect natural areas within Fort Collins and the Urban Growth Area to provide habitat essential to the conservation of plants, animals and their associated ecosystems and to enrich the lives of citizens by providing opportunities for education,

scientific research, nature interpretation, art, fishing, wildlife observation, hiking and other activities. FCNA's were identified using this goal and established criteria and a combination of information/data gathering using personal contact, literature, habitat maps and field verification. 2) Accomplishments. Eight large natural resource areas and several isolated areas were identified and mapped during initial study phases. Most FCNA's were associated with river and stream corridors, lakes or occurred in the foothills. They contained locally important geologic features, plant communities, wildlife habitat, habitat for three rare plant and nine rare animal species, important wildlife use areas (nesting sites, concentration areas, breeding/brood-rearing sites and biologically diverse areas). Currently, nearly 400 sites within the City have been mapped as natural areas; they are on both private and public land. The City has prepared general management guidelines and categorized sites by management classification: 1) Natural Areas (further refined as sensitive, urban and restorative land), 2) Greenway, and 3) Parkland (further refined as developed and undeveloped land).

City of Longmont, Parks and Recreation Division:

1) Methods. LPRD and the Department of Community Development have prepared a comprehensive planning effort for the Longmont area; areas defined as parks, open space and buffer are managed by LPRD. Open space land has been designated to remain in a relatively natural state or use. LPRD works to preserve natural areas and resources; provide passive recreation areas; maintain the city's separate identity; and enhance the visual quality of the community. 2) Accomplishments: Land use maps and definitions have been prepared to guide development within the City. Areas that would have priority during current planning efforts include the St. Vrain River Greenway, McIntosh District Parks and an eastern buffer for the City.

City of Loveland, Open Space: 1) Methods. LOS has defined open space and created a list of land types that may be considered for preservation, they include: 1) resource for the community - farmland, rangeland, lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, forests, mines, etc.; 2) needed for the health and safety of the community - ground water recharge areas, reservoirs and surrounding lands, vegetation insuring better air

quality, high wildfire danger zones, steep slopes, floodplains, buffers around airports and similar facilities, etc.; 3) diversity of public activity - parks, outstanding historical, educational, cultural or archaeological value, access to lakeshores, beaches, rivers and streams, privately- owned recreation areas, etc.; 4) ecologically valuable areas - habitat for animals and plants, unique ecosystems, etc.; 5) community separators - provide buffer between communities; and 6) provide viewsheds and/or aesthetically pleasing experiences - aesthetic relief and pleasure to the public. 2) Accomplishments. A natural areas inventory has been performed for the Loveland area.

City of Pueblo: 1) Methods. A county-wide effort is underway to collect and present planning data including open space, presentation will occur as digital base maps. 2) Accomplishments. TBD.

City of Westminster Community Development:

Open Space Program: 1) Methods. In 1985, citizens of Westminster approved open space funding, with a preliminary goal of setting aside 1,800 to 2,700 acres for parks, trails and open space. Open space is generally considered to be lands that preserve great views and that in their natural condition have highest values for plant and wildlife diversity. Six major selection criteria are used to evaluate open space, they are: aesthetics, protection and preservation, location, use potential, need for immediate action and acquisition consideration. 2) Accomplishments. The City of Westminster has acquired 1,500 acres to date, much of it along creeks and canals. Acquisition will continue until approximately 15% of the city's area is preserved and managed as open space.

Clear Creek Land Conservancy: 1) Methods. CCLC works in the Clear Creek watershed to preserve, protect and enhance the natural, scenic, historic, wildlife and recreational resources of Colorado's natural heritage. CCLC conserves land through acquisition, conservation easements and leases. 2) Accomplishments. CCLC currently conserves 490 acres through conservation easement, fee-title and lease vehicles. A planning document has been prepared, dividing the area of CCLC influence into ten study areas. A systematic approach for plan implementation is presented, based on the major issues of development and conservation.

Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust: 1) Methods. CCALT's primary mission is to facilitate awareness of landowner options, explain conservation easements and how landowners may use this tool to achieve long-term land use objectives. The trust will concentrate on fund-raising, organizational tasks and work with established land trusts until it can legally hold easements in 1997. 2) Accomplishments. Conservation easements cannot be accepted prior to March, 1997.

Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts: 1) Methods. CCLT's mission is to serve as an umbrella organization for Colorado land trusts, to enhance the ability of land trusts to protect important open lands in Colorado by providing education, referral and other services to land trusts, landowners, landowner's advisors and others. The CCLT functions to stimulate interest in scientific research, environmental education, natural heritage and land conservation activities of nongovernmental, nonprofit land trusts and public land management agencies in Colorado and to work as a service bureau to the geographically dispersed land trusts in Colorado by serving as a clearinghouse of information, providing access to specialized expertise and state-level resources, seeking financial assistance and board of directors training for Corporation members. 2) Accomplishments. Thirty-three land trusts were operational in 1993 and over 140,000 acres of land were protected. Forty-seven conservation easements were held by CCLT members as of 1993.

Colorado Department of Natural Resources: 1) Methods. DNR is the managing and policy-making entity for eight Divisions. Three of these Divisions own or lease lands that are CNAs, they are the SLB, DOW and DPOR. Each Division works directly with the CNAP to designate deserving sites and each has a board or commission member on the Colorado Natural Areas Council. Additionally, DNR appoints a staff member to act as the liaison with the CNAP, through the CNAC. 2) Accomplishments. The CNAP is conducting a statewide inventory of school trust lands (approximately 60% complete), evaluating them for natural area and recreation potential. Ten SLB properties have been registered/designated as CNAs and an additional thirteen sites are under evaluation. Three DOW sites are registered/designated CNAs

and five sites are under evaluation. All or part of five state parks are designated CNAs and three other sites are under evaluation.

Colorado Division of Wildlife: 1) Methods. DOW perpetuates the wildlife resources of the state and provides people the opportunity to enjoy them. Key goals to achieve this mission are: 1) protection of wildlife and wildlife habitats, 2) wildlife-related recreation, 3) wildlife-related education and information and 4) responsive management. Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation are the greatest threats to the viability of wildlife, therefore DOW emphasizes habitat protection strategies. DOW provides quality opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and other forms of wildlife recreation and enjoyment, consistent with the goal of protecting the wildlife resource. DOW maintains biological data used for decision-making in GIS formats known as the Wildlife Resource Information System (WRIS) and Colorado Vertebrate Ranking System (COVERS). WRIS data are used to manage terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and identify habitat issues. COVERS identifies individual species at risk, supports proactive planning and management decisions and provides endpoint assessment. 2) Accomplishments. WRIS data are available as map bases through DOW. More than 650 animal species have been ranked using COVERS to date, these rankings have involved over 75 rankers/reviewers knowledgeable of the species. The reference database contains more than 1,000 citations and is linked to CNHP, CBO and GAP databases.

Colorado Heritage Area Partnership Project: 1) Methods. CHAPPhas prepared a report covering the research and development phase; defining Heritage Areas and Cultural Landscapes, explaining their purpose, techniques and implications for officials and citizens of Colorado. Primary objectives of the CHAPP is to: 1) assist regions interested in the heritage area concept, 2) determine if the State should create a Heritage Area Program and recommend how it could be established, and 3) promote partnerships among the open space and preservation communities to protect cultural landscapes. 2) Accomplishments. This project is just emerging in Colorado, although there are more than 80 Heritage Areas established in 36 other states.

Colorado Lands Forum: 1) Methods. CLF is in its formative stages and has met several times to formulate a mission, establish goals and discuss organizational needs. This is a cooperative effort of public and private-sector professionals who are interested in open lands issues and in furthering communications among diverse open lands viewpoints. The CLF mission is to increase the level of communication among individuals working on open lands issues in the state. Goals have been prepared for the Forum, they are: 1) find key opportunities to support the conservation and stewardship of Colorado's open lands, 2) develop a clearinghouse of information that will help identify, conserve, and restore open lands in Colorado, 3) create forums for communication on open lands issues - conferences, workshops, field trips, newsletters, and 4) support and continue the work of this DPOR/CNAP *Initiative*. 2) Accomplishments. An Executive Committee has been named, consisting of 19 individuals from 14 organizations/agencies. A newsletter is being written for distribution during July, 1996.

Colorado Natural Areas Program: 1) Methods. Colorado Natural Areas (CNAs) include outstanding examples of native plant communities, geological exposures, rare species habitat and places of aesthetic beauty. Once identified as a potential natural area, the site is studied by a team of experts to evaluate its natural features. Upon acceptance, the site is registered with the Colorado Natural Areas Council, agreements for management are prepared with the landowner for review by the Board of County Commissioners and designation is approved by the Colorado State Parks Board. The Program mission is to help private landowners and public land agencies identify and conserve special places on their land. 2) Accomplishments. Fifty-six CNAs are designated, thirty-four sites are registered and one-hundred eighteen sites are identified and are to be evaluated (Table 2.0 lists registered and designated sites).

Colorado Natural Heritage Program: 1) Methods. The CNHP is the state's primary comprehensive biological diversity data center, gathering information and field observations to help develop statewide conservation priorities. CNHP's principal role is collection, maintenance and dissemination of information about rare, threatened and endangered

plant and animal species and significant natural communities in Colorado. Life history, status and locational data are incorporated into an updated information storage system. CNHP methodology for evaluations includes ranking elements (species, subspecies and significant natural communities) according to the degree of imperilment; ranking occurrences (populations) to focus on the most viable populations; and delineating potential conservation areas - then ranking these areas according to the imperilment and quality of the elements and their occurrences contained within. 2) Accomplishments. Wildlife location records currently total 1,854; the wildlife potential conservation areas number 447 (116 wildlife potential conservation areas are ranked from high to outstanding); 1,528 non-wildlife potential conservation areas have been identified; and the total dataset now contains 5,898 records.

Colorado Open Lands: 1) Methods. COL develops and implements effective techniques that leverage the resources of both the public and private sectors to preserve significant open lands in Colorado. 2) Accomplishments. COL has protected 3,066 acres through conservation easements and 6,510 acres through acquisition. The 3,200-acre Evans Ranch, a historic property, is COL's best-known project; the conservation easements are held by American Farmland Trust and only limited development was allowed. The 830-acre Allis Ranch Preserve is permanently protected as open space, except for ten homestead sites.

Colorado State Land Board: 1) Methods. It is the mission of the Colorado State Land Board to maximize benefits to school trusts while recognizing state interests and citizen concerns by managing the assets in a manner to: 1) preserve and enhance the long-term productivity and value of all the assets and 2) promote increased annual revenues. The SLB is responsible for managing three million surface acres and four million acres of mineral rights within Colorado, while recognizing open space and environmental values of these lands. The SLB works with DOW to open trust lands to wildlife-related recreation and has established an Urban Lands Program. 2) Accomplishments. A systematic statewide review of SLB lands has been conducted in 35 counties to date by CNAP, to evaluate natural area

and recreation potential. At this time the SLB manages seven designated CNA's, two registered CNA's and fourteen identified CNA's.

Colorado State Parks: 1) Methods. Colorado State Parks (Parks) mandate is to protect, preserve, enhance and manage Colorado's natural, scenic, scientific and outdoor recreation areas for its citizens and visitors. Parks also acquires and develops areas to increase the variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. Long-range planning has identified draft goals which includes land protection as follows: a) acquire critical inholdings and additions needed for management, resource protection and enhancement at state parks, b) establish sound management practices for all state parks, c) work with state agencies, private land owners, local governments and water providers to preserve and protect instream flow levels in each park, c) become model stewards of the parks natural resources, d) ensure the identification and protection of important natural areas through the CNAP and e) provide state parks where significant needs exist to meet additional recreational demands and preserve spectacular recreational, scenic and natural resources. 2) Accomplishments. There are currently forty state parks; five contain designated CNA's. These parks are managed under agreements with landowners or are owned fee-title; a total of seven new parks are expected to be added to the system over the next twenty years. A project to identify and prioritize real estate acquisition needs resulted in ninety-two land parcels, with various priorities on immediacy of acquisition, from this 1993 effort.

Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation: 1) Methods. CWHF protects and preserves Colorado's wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, by promoting habitat acquisition/management, environmental education and wildlife research. 2) Accomplishments. CWHF expects to acquire two wildlife habitat parcels: 1) a 15-acre site near Nathrop in Chalk Creek Canyon, prime habitat for bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk and deer and 2) an 80-acre parcel northeast of Parker to be used as a wildlife refuge and environmental education facility.

Continental Divide Land Trust: 1) Methods.

Currently being formed to serve Summit County with future plans to include Jackson, Grand, Lake and Chaffee counties. 2) Accomplishments. TBD.

Crested Butte Land Trust: 1) Methods. CBLT was formed to preserve and protect open space lands within Gunnison County considered to be of particular value to local heritage and quality of life. Emphasis is placed on lands within the Slate and East River valleys. CBLT maintains a special relationship with historic Crested Butte and its open space dedication requirements for annexed lands; proceeds from a real estate transfer tax are dedicated to the acquisition and maintenance of open space. 2) Accomplishments. CBLT has acquired title to 65 acres of land, holds a conservation easement on 110 contiguous acres, adjacent to the Town of Crested Butte and another conservation easement in the Irwin townsite.

Douglas County Land Conservancy: 1) Methods. DCLC preserves significant areas of open space with qualities relating to wildlife, scenic vistas, agricultural, historic, and/or archaeological values, endangered or threatened flora and fauna and passive recreation including trails, areas of environmental education and enjoyment of the outdoor experience. 2) Accomplishments. DCLC has protected 290 acres through ownership, conservation easements and the resale of a parcel of land with deed restrictions including 70 acres adjoining Castlewood Canyon State Park. DCLC is an effective networking entity with other community groups in support of land conservation.

Eagle County Planning Department/Open Space Program: 1) Methods. ECOSP prepared a Mission Statement "... to preserve open space in the rural, developed and developing areas of Eagle County to protect and enhance: 1) wildlife habitat; 2) visually prominent, scenic parcels including unique landforms, ridgelines, waterfronts and open meadows; 3) the rural, agricultural and mountain resort character and lifestyle of Eagle County; 4) ecologically sensitive natural areas such as floodplains, wetlands, rivers, streams, lakes and geologic hazard zones; 5) buffers of open land to define and separate community boundaries and create setbacks from rivers, streams and major highways; 6) opportunities for trail system development and

recreational opportunities within and between communities, 7) appropriate public access to open lands; and 8) archaeological, historic and cultural resources". 2) Accomplishments. Currently inventorying vacant lands in the county and evaluating and listing how many of the above attributes are present on a parcel. Maps of open space have been created county-wide and a narrative is being prepared to support mapped products.

Eagle Valley Land Trust: 1) Methods. EVLT preserves agricultural lands and protects open space and wildlife habitat in Eagle County. 2) Accomplishments. EVLT has completed a 60-acre easement within the Town of Eagle.

El Paso County Parks: 1) Methods. EPCPhas begun a master planning process for parks, trails and open space. Abiological inventory is included as part of the master plan, to provide baseline site information. This process will allow EPCPha to prioritize lands for preservation. 2) Accomplishments. EPCPha manages five parks with significant natural values, totalling 2,691 acres. Descriptions of plant communities and species lists for plants and wildlife have been prepared for each park. The parks protect riparian, wetland, meadow, grassland, shrubland and forest communities along Fountain Creek, in the Black Forest and in Bear Creek Canyon.

Estes Valley Land Trust: 1) Methods. EVLT encourages and provides a means for maintaining significant open space in the Estes Valley portion of Larimer County, east of Rocky Mountain National Park. 2) Accomplishments. EVLT has protected 12 land parcels equalling 826 acres and holds a conservation easement for 175 acres in northern Larimer County (pending transfer to the Larimer Land Trust).

Grand County Land Trust: 1) Methods. GCLC's purpose is to preserve the visual quality, biological diversity and agricultural and historical heritage of Grand County by aiding and encouraging careful stewardship and conservation of these resources. GCLC seeks to preserve and/or enhance agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, riparian zones, wetlands, water quality scenic beauty, recreational resources and historical and archaeological sites in the Upper Colorado River Basin. This area includes the Fraser River Valley, State Highway 34 corridor between

Granby and Rocky Mountain National Park, Willow Creek Basin and the Muddy Creek drainage. 2) Accomplishments. TBD.

Great Outdoors Colorado Board/Trust Fund: 1) Methods. Under constitutional Amendment 8, a portion of all lottery revenue is earmarked for funding programs for parks, wildlife, outdoor recreation, environmental education, open space and natural areas. Funds are distributed to preserve, enhance and develop appreciation for these programs/sites by making strategic investments, fostering partnerships among diverse interests and supporting education about the outdoor environment. Awards for open space and natural areas work are given for capacity building and planning to governments and nonprofit organizations, primarily for land conservation projects. To qualify for a GOCO grant, land intended for conservation must be: 1) a buffer adjacent to or inholding within public land, 2) a natural area or nongame wildlife habitat, 3) agricultural land, 4) a greenway or stream corridor, 5) a community separator, or 6) an urban open space parcel. This *Initiative* is funded by Colorado State Parks using a distribution from GOCO. 2) Accomplishments. In excess of four million dollars have been made available to fund investments in open space and natural areas work. Both land conservation and legacy projects are funded from this source.

La Plata Open Space Conservancy: 1) Methods. LPOSC carries out educational and charitable activities for the identification, preservation, protection, conservation and enhancement of open land, parks and trails in southwestern Colorado which have significant scenic, wildlife, agricultural and/or historical/archaeological values, in order to maintain and improve the quality of life of the general public. 2) Accomplishments. LPOSC is receiving eight conservation easements protecting 904 acres, transferred from La Plata County. In cooperation with TPL, LPOSC transferred 530 acres of land to the USFS. Two parcels totalling 202 acres were transferred to the City of Durango for a mountain park and eight easements were acquired from La Plata County, protecting 440 acres.

Larimer County Parks Department: 1) Methods. LCPD's mission is to provide high quality outdoor recreational opportunities for present and future residents of the County and its visitors. This includes the provision of regional parks, open space areas, special use areas, trails, and the protection of natural, scenic, historic, archaeological and paleontological resources. Goals have been identified to accomplish this mission, they are: 1) provide diverse opportunities for water-based recreation, 2) protect open space within the County, 3) coordinate the development of a regional trail system, 4) provide a safe, high quality experience for all users of County parks and facilities, and 5) provide adequate funding and make the most of available resources. 2)

Accomplishments. A Master Plan has been prepared from which to begin a series of recommended actions to conserve open space and provide recreational opportunities. Improving existing park infrastructure, developing a regional trail system, acquiring or protecting open space along major drainages and in the foothills, and protecting wildlife and natural resources are of immediate importance.

Mesa County Land Conservancy: 1) Methods. MCLC maintains and protects agricultural land and open space in Mesa and Delta counties. Conservation easements are used to legally tie water rights to the land and require that the land be managed in accordance with NRCS guidelines. 2)

Accomplishments. MCLC has formed effective partnerships with the FHA, USFWS, TPLand TNC to protect 4,420 acres of agricultural land. This land includes irrigated pasture, rangeland, orchards and wetlands. MCLC administers the Grand Junction Wildlife Area for the BOR; this former dairy farm covers 130 acres.

Mountain Area Land Trust: 1) Methods. MALT assists landowners and neighborhoods in the mountain areas west of Denver to preserve open lands and natural areas. Generally, this area includes the foothills west of Denver to the continental divide in Jefferson, Clear Creek and a portion of Park counties. 2) Accomplishments. Conservation easements, fee ownership and building density reduction were agreed upon between MALT and the developer of the 509-acre Noble Meadow site. A \$2.3 million funding

proposal was met by the Jefferson County Commissioners and through a bond issue passed by Evergreen Park and Recreation District voters.

Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Department:

1) Methods. Created by a ballot issue, PCOS&TPis to establish acquisition priorities and recommend management guidelines and other relevant policies and procedures to guide the expenditure of open space/trails funds. Open space criteria include: 1) natural and unspoiled lands which contribute to the rural quality of the local landscape; 2) land possessing unique values such as outstanding scenic quality, rare flora, critical wildlife or riparian habitat, fragile alpine areas or unusual geologic or topographical formations. High aesthetic appeal, variety and proximity to viewpoints. Natural buffer areas which separate and screen the impacts of developed uses from rural areas; 3) agricultural lands particularly irrigated meadows, open croplands and historic ranching areas; 4) land with historic, cultural or social significance. Agricultural areas, lands significant to the historic past or lands which contribute significantly to the community's identity and well-being; 5) land with significant recreational value, particularly passive uses not requiring intensive maintenance or management; 6) land which defines the boundaries of urbanized areas, thereby preventing urban sprawl and strip development; 7) land with major viewplanes, whose preservation is important to maintaining the rural appearance of Pitkin County; 8) land accessible to the public either directly, through recreation, trails or activities, or indirectly, by being generally visible, apparent and appreciable by residents and visitors; 9) land which is available and reasonably priced. Current owner willing and able to negotiate the sale of property or development rights in good faith and on a fair-market basis; 10) land within or adjacent to public lands whose use or potential use is clearly incompatible with those lands. A variety of trails criteria have also been established with the statement that they provide recreation and access without damaging sensitive ecosystems or compromising natural values.

2) Accomplishments. TBD.

Poudre River Trust: 1) Methods. PRT promotes revitalization along the Poudre River corridor in Larimer County. PRT's primary role is as facilitator among diverse groups. 2) Accomplishments. PRT, along with TPL, secured the 18,000-acre Cherokee Park for acquisition by the USFS. PRT facilitated a Western Mobil conservation easement and cooperative management plan with the City of Fort Collins to reclaim a historic, alluvial gravel mine adjacent to the Poudre River. Currently, PRT is working to help pass a National Water Heritage Area for the Poudre River Basin, through the offices of a U. S. Senator.

Roaring Fork Land Conservancy: 1) Methods. RFLC preserves the agricultural, ecological and scenic heritage of the Roaring Fork Valley in Pitkin County. RFLC works directly with landowners through voluntary actions to assist in finding financially secure alternatives to improper development. 2) Accomplishments. TBD.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Inc.: 1) Methods. RMEF's mission is to ensure the future of elk and other wildlife by conserving, restoring and enhancing natural habitats. Membership in Colorado exceeds 5,000 in nineteen Chapters. 2) Accomplishments. More than 140 projects have been cost-shared by RMEF in Colorado, partners have included 16 federal agencies, 5 state agencies and 13 private entities. RMEF holds conservation easements protecting over 21,000 acres of habitat and an additional 10,000 acres have been conveyed into public ownership.

Rocky Mountain National Park Associates: 1) Methods. RMNPAdirects contributions toward significant capital construction and land protection projects of long-term value to the Park. RMNPAs is a companion organization to the Rocky Mountain Nature Association. 2) Accomplishments. Ninety acres of land have been acquired and transferred to the NPS. Additional acquisitions are being planned.

San Isabel Foundation: 1) Methods. SIF works with lands effecting and affected by the San Isabel National Forest. The SIF has set as its goal, the protection and preservation of critical and significant properties in an area of breath- taking beauty, spectacular treasures of both human and natural origin, and history rich in Native American peoples, early explorers and mining and ranching heritage. It is active in the area bounded

on the west by the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Arkansas River on the north, the Spanish Peaks to the south and the eastern plains grasslands. Its purpose is to provide a local partner for landowners to voluntarily facilitate the stewardship and preservation of agricultural lands, wildlands and wildlife habitat, open space, water, scenic beauty and other natural and historic resources now and for future generations. 2) Accomplishments. SIF is currently completing negotiations on two conservation easements totalling 962 acres. SIF is planning/ conducting workshops, seminars, media articles and individual meetings to educate land owners. SIF received a grant from GOCO to prepare the San Isabel Resource Plan, a comprehensive land conservation plan for the protection of open space, agricultural land, historic sites and structures and natural resources, including wildlife habitat and water.

San Miguel County, Planning Department - Open Space Commission: 1) Methods. San Miguel County's Open Space Commission is newly-formed and currently developing an Open Space and Agricultural Preservation educational program using GOCO funding. The Commission recently received access to a county-wide Geographic Information System and is in the process of adding parcel layers that include wildlife and wetland habitats. 2) Accomplishments. The Commission prepared a proposal and received a GOCO grant to write the Open Space and Agricultural Preservation educational program. Most of 1996 will be dedicated to this endeavor.

South Metro Land Conservancy: 1) Methods. SMLC acquires or otherwise preserves open space lands considered to enhance the quality of life of present and future generations residing in the southern portion of the Denver metropolitan region (Littleton and surrounding areas). SMLC objectives include the preservation or restoration of natural areas, preservation of scenic areas and view corridors, wildlife habitats and fragile ecosystems, preservation of agricultural and ranching uses, enhancement of access to public lands and preservation of land for its aesthetic or recreational value. 2) Accomplishments. TBD.

South Suburban Parks and Recreation District: 1)

Methods. SSPRD has a stated mission to contribute to the full and meaningful lives of our residents by providing a variety of leisure services, and improving quality of life through stewardship of the environment, parks, trails and open space. SSPRD serves over 130,000 residents in a 57 square-mile area including the communities of Bow Mar, Cherry Hills Village, Columbine Valley, Littleton, Sheridan and portions of Douglas, Arapahoe and Jefferson counties. 2) **Accomplishments.** The district includes more than 2,700 acres of park land at 115 locations, ranging from developed facilities to natural open space. An educational program entitled “Nature and the Environment” is offered to both district and non-district residents. A newly implemented campaign is the W.E.C.A.R.E. Campaign - Wellness, Education, Community, Accountability, Resources, Environment, which serves as the foundation for programs and activities.

Southwest Land Alliance: 1) **Methods.** SLA protects and preserves wildlife, scenery and traditional use of the Upper San Juan Basin, including Archuleta and portions of Mineral and Hinsdale counties. 2) **Accomplishments.** SLA holds easements on seven working ranches, protecting 3,690 acres of scenic and ecologically important land.

Summit County, Open Space & Trails Department:

1) **Methods.** An Open Lands Protection Plan has been created and will be supplemented by selection criteria. Each property to be considered for conservation/acquisition will be evaluated per the criteria adopted, which may include: 1) rarity of habitat type, 2) development threat and 3) relative quality of the site, including existing level of disturbance. 2) **Accomplishments.** Plans to acquire open space property are under discussion.

The Conservation Fund: 1) **Methods.** TCF works nationwide to seek new opportunities to advance land and water conservation, forming partnerships with individuals, businesses, public agencies, foundations, land trusts and other conservation organizations. Committed to both excellence and entrepreneurial spirit, TCF has helped partners protect more than 1,000,000 acres in 40 states. 2) **Accomplishments.** TCF has assisted with protection of more than 30,000 acres in Colorado, including the recent acquisition of the

Southdowns property at the Roxborough State Park entrance. Some other successful TCF projects include purchasing the Lily Lake property in Rocky Mountain National Park, a 6,000-acre donation of land along the Upper Huerfano River to the USDI/BLM in Canon City, assistance to acquire the Piedra Valley Ranch near Pagosa Springs, the Cloyses Lake inholding in the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness and a 17,000-acre ranch protecting wildlife and riparian habitat values.

The Larimer Land Trust: 1) **Methods.** LLT facilitates the acquisition and preservation of environmentally sensitive areas, critical wildlife habitat and other lands which are important for the enrichment of present and future generations. LLT has developed criteria for acceptance of land or a conservation easement on land to ensure the Trust’s mission. Broad land conservation and planning efforts are promoted regionally, while complying with Internal Revenue Service regulations. Acceptable criteria include: 1) agricultural or forestry significance; 2) potential to be part of community, regional or state park or greenway system; 3) contain, or have the potential to contain, ecosystems of educational or scientific value; 4) wetlands, floodplains or other riparian lands necessary for the protection of water quality; 5) historical value, or adjacent to lands of historical value, and that are necessary for the protection of the items of historical interest; 6) contain endangered, threatened or rare species or natural communities; 7) contain unique or outstanding physiographic characteristics (such as a large rock outcropping); 8) contain wildlife habitat, exemplary ecosystems or natural features (such as migratory waterfowl wintering areas); 9) valuable to a community as open space; 10) development would diminish scenic views or interfere with views across already protected open space; 11) contiguous with, or in close proximity to, land that has been protected by LLT or is likely to become protected; and 12) provides a buffer for or corridor between important wildlife habitats, wetlands, floodplains or surface and ground water supplies so that its’ protection would diminish impacts of dense development on these resources. 2) **Accomplishments.** LLT is successful in protecting 290 acres of land after two years. Two land protection projects are ongoing.

The Nature Conservancy: 1) **Methods.** TNC works worldwide to conserve land using an ecosystem approach. The best examples of rare, declining or inadequately protected species and plant communities are identified across their range and priority is placed on those most threatened or declining, along with the ecological processes that sustain them. TNC conservation projects emphasize a community-based approach and development of partnerships with private and public entities. TNC's biodiversity protection priorities are guided by the natural resource data base maintained by the CNHP. 2) **Accomplishments.** TNC has protected approximately 75,000 acres in Colorado. Six preserves are currently established in Colorado, using a variety of conservation mechanisms. Some lands are purchased fee-title, but most are conserved using conservation easements, cooperative agreements, land exchanges and long-term leases. TNC planning efforts include consideration of 45 conservation planning units made up of 129 sites. Five TNC preserves are designated/registered CNAs and three are currently under evaluation as identified CNAs.

The N.A.T.U.R.E. Foundation: 1) **Methods.** N.A.T.U.R.E. acquires and protects open space and other pristine private land within the Crystal River Valley, from Marble to Carbondale (Pitkin and Garfield counties). The trust also provides a college scholarship endowment fund for native Americans, national newsletter and journal, wildlife art and other natural resources projects recommended by its Board of Trustees. 2) **Accomplishments.** TBD.

The Palmer Foundation: 1) **Methods.** TPF fosters, for people of all ages, open space, park, recreation and leisure time facilities and opportunities within the City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County and nearby areas. TPF evaluates property using Enhancing Values and Limiting Factors. Enhancing Values include: 1) expands and enhances existing or proposed public domain holdings, 2) links significant public and/or private open space/natural area, 3) preserves or buffers natural areas, 4) contains important historical, geological, archaeological or local landmark features, 5) protects scenic vistas or view areas, 6) permits existing agricultural practices to continue on land that would otherwise succumb to development pressures, 7) provides needed urban open space or sets a

precedent for open space values and protection in a developing area, 8) offers educational opportunities to the public, 9) does not exceed or adversely affect the financial and land management capabilities of TPF and 10) concurrent gift for endowment of property. Limiting Factors include: 1) few conservation/natural resource values remain intact in the property, 2) the presence of noxious weeds, hazardous materials, contaminants or refuse requiring containment, control or disposal, 3) small size and conflicting adjacent land use, 4) future development of adjacent properties which would diminish existing conservation values, and 5) difficult endorsement or management issues. 2) **Accomplishments.** TPF has preserved approximately 2,000 acres of land and is an important custodian of private funds used for conservation and recreation purposes. A \$100,000 private donation was leveraged into \$200,000 in improvements to the Starsmore Discovery Center in a City of Colorado Springs regional park.

The San Miguel Conservation Foundation: 1) **Methods.** SMCF acquires and preserves critical land, educates property owners and provides mechanisms for land conservation in San Miguel County. 2) **Accomplishments.** SMCF acquired the Bear Creek Canyon land parcel, 325 acres considered one of the most critical sites in the region. An additional 140 acres of land has recently been acquired for preservation.

The Trust for Public Land: 1) **Methods.** TPL works nationwide to conserve land as a living resource for present and future generations; these lands include parks, gardens, recreation areas and wilderness. The goal is to ensure livable communities and a healthy environment for generations to come. TPL is a problem-solving organization, working closely with urban and rural groups and public agencies to acquire and preserve open space to serve human needs; share knowledge of nonprofit land acquisition processes; and pioneer methods of land conservation and environmentally sound land use. TPL does not hold conservation easements or own or manage land, except on an interim basis. 2) **Accomplishments.** TPL has completed 45 transactions in Colorado and has worked on over 150 more transactions. These have conserved and protected over 48,000 acres to date. Assistance has been provided to 14 land trusts in addition to land trust training programs.

The Wilderness Land Trust: 1) Methods. TWLT acquires private lands in federally-designated wilderness areas for transfer to public ownership so that all generations of Americans will enjoy an enduring resource of wilderness. The primary goal is to prevent commercial or private developments that would diminish wilderness attributes of surrounding designated wilderness areas. Parcels are considered following the procedures described in the publication Prioritizing the Acquisition of Wilderness Inholdings. 2) Accomplishments. To date, over 5,000 acres of private inholdings have been acquired, valued in excess of four million dollars. These were located within 13 Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas in Colorado. All of the acquired land has been or will be transferred to public ownership.

Three Rivers Land Trust: 1) Methods. TRLT exists for preserving, protecting and enhancing land which is important to maintaining and improving the quality of life in the area of concern, which includes the drainage of the Gunnison, North Fork and Uncompahgre Rivers (Delta County and selected adjacent areas). A priority of types of land to be preserved has been completed as follows: 1) wetlands, floodplains, waterways, riparian corridors, aquifer recharge areas, watershed or other lands necessary for protection of water supply, water resources or wildlife habitat, 2) wildlife habitat and migration routes, 3) areas of historic significance, 4) prime farmland in active agricultural use, 5) ecosystems that remain in relatively natural, undisturbed condition and 6) attractive, unspoiled views from major roads. 2) Accomplishments. TBD.

Town of Vail, Planning and Community Development: 1) Methods. TOVPCD's vision is to be a leader in natural resource stewardship and strive, as a community, to attain environmental and economic sustainability. Four supporting goals for this vision are: 1) Sustainable land use regulation and development, 2) Ecosystem protection, 3) Environmental efficiency, and 4) Environmental management and compliance. Vail has completed an Environmental Strategic Plan and a Comprehensive Open Lands Plan as guidance documents for land conservation. 2) Accomplishments. A natural heritage inventory of Vail was completed by CNHP and a survey of wetland communities was completed by

CSU, identifying potential natural areas, significant biological elements and locations of conservation sites. At least 51 parcels identified by CNHP and by the Open Lands Plan are considered sensitive and are recommended for acquisition, conservation easements or trail easements. Two open space zone districts are used, 651 acres of land are zoned Agricultural and Open Space and 326 acres are zoned Greenbelt and Natural Open Space.

Upper Elk Planning Group: 1) Methods. The Upper Elk Planning Group is focusing on the area from Big Creek to Columbine and the Continental Divide to the Wolf and Sand mountain ridge in Routt County. This newly-formed group's goal is to incorporate information gathered from the community into a strategic planning tool, the Upper Elk River Master Plan, identifying the values and physical character of that area citizens wish to cultivate, maintain and enhance. Primary issues to be investigated and included in planning efforts are recreation, agricultural lands, Forest Service activities, transportation and commercial expansion. 2) Accomplishments. A planning group has been named and a survey of residents has been completed. Eighty-eight per cent of those polled felt that agricultural lands, open space and natural areas should be preserved. A nine-month planning process is anticipated, ending in May 1996 with a policy document similar to the Steamboat Springs Area Community Plan. The plan will act as a guide for future development of the Upper Elk Valley.

USDA Forest Service: 1) Methods. Research Natural Areas (RNA) are lands that are permanently protected for the purpose of maintaining biological diversity, conducting non-manipulative research, monitoring to determine the effects of management on similar ecosystems and fostering education. The objectives of establishing an RNA are: a) To preserve a wide spectrum of pristine areas that represent important forest, shrubland, grassland, alpine, aquatic, geological and similar natural situations that have special or unique characteristics; b) To preserve and maintain genetic diversity; c) To protect against serious environmental disruptions; d) To serve as reference areas for the study of succession; e) To provide on site and extension educational activities; f) To serve as baseline areas for measuring long-term

ecological changes; g) To serve as control areas for comparing results from manipulative research; and h) To monitor effects of resource management techniques and practices. 2) Accomplishments. Ten RNAs are currently established and approximately 70 potential sites are under evaluation.

USDI Bureau of Land Management: 1) Methods. Special Management Areas in the BLM are designated as Research Natural Areas (RNA): natural areas established for the protection of a fragile, rare or exemplary ecologic community; Outstanding Natural Areas (ONA): areas having rare or representative examples of natural diversity capable of withstanding moderate use for educational purposes; and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): areas within the public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources. 2) Accomplishments. An MOU with the CNAP to jointly register BLM-designated RNA'S, ONA's and ACEC's is in place since 1982. There are currently 57 designated ACECs and 14 proposed ACECs on BLM lands, of these, 30 are designated CNAs and four are registered CNAs.

USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: National Wetlands Inventory: 1) Methods. Under the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986, the FWS is mandated to produce wetland inventory maps for the conterminous United States by 1998. These maps do not rate the significance of a particular wetland community, but the information is very useful when determining the value of open space relative to the wetland resource. Wetlands of international importance have been identified, but none of these sites occur in Colorado. 2) Accomplishments. Over 40,000 detailed wetland maps have been prepared to date, covering approximately 80% of the lower 48 states.

USDI National Park Service: 1) Methods. National Natural Landmarks (NNLs) are nationally significant natural areas that have been designated by the Secretary of the Interior. To be nationally significant, a site must be one of the best examples of a type of biotic community or geologic feature in its physiographic province. NNL designation is not a land withdrawal, does not change the ownership of a site and does not dictate activity. Landmark preservation is made possible through the long-term, voluntary commitment of public and private owners to protect an area's outstanding values. An annual report is prepared for the Secretary to transmit to

Congress, identifying all designated NNLs with known or anticipated damage or threats to the integrity of their resources and identifies the sources of the threat or damage. 2) Accomplishments. Eleven NNLs are currently identified for Colorado. Four NNLs are designated CNAs and two NNLs are identified CNAs.

Valley Land Conservancy: 1) Methods. VLC identifies and protects open space in the Uncompahgre River watershed (Ouray and portions of Montrose and Delta counties) and conserves scenic, agricultural, wildlife and historical resources. VLC works to prepare and receive conservation easements from landowners. They will be prioritizing open space parcels in the valley using GIS analysis, sharing with several city, county and non-profit partners to establish criteria. 2) Accomplishments. Two easements with private landowners, protecting over 100 acres of agricultural lands and wildlife habitat have been acquired by VLC.

Weld County Department of Planning Services: 1) Methods. Weld County is currently preparing an Open Space Comprehensive Plan to guide its heritage and development future. This plan will combine a vision statement, planning information, resource inventory, open space resource map, project identification and implementation strategies and preparation of a comprehensive plan document. The plan will be completed by December 1996. 2) Accomplishments. To date Weld County has selected an Open Space Technical Committee and are preparing a vision statement, developing community planning integration and are conducting a resource inventory.

Weld Land Trust: 1) Methods. WLT is a new trust and was created in response to the loss of agricultural lands in Weld County. WLT facilitates the protection of agricultural lands that are critical for the economic, environmental and social health of Weld County and Colorado. WLT is starting a Farm Link program by creating a data base to match retiring farmers with people who would like to begin farming. 2) Accomplishments. TBD.

Yampa Valley Land Trust: 1) Methods. YVLT encourages the preservation and protection of natural, scenic, agricultural, historical and open space resources in the Yampa Valley (Routt, Moffat, Jackson, Grand and Rio Blanco counties). 2) Accomplishments. YVLT is currently establishing partnerships with landowners in Routt County, City of Steamboat Springs, TNC and AFT.