

**PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF LAND  
CONSERVATION IN THE WEST: HOW LAND  
CONSERVATION IS CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE IN  
THE WEST**

**Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Land Use  
Conference**

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I. QUICK HISTORY OF ACTIVITY OF LAND TRUSTS AND PROTECTION OF LAND IN THE WEST (LARRY KUETER)

A. BRIEF HISTORICAL TOUR OF CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN THE WEST

1. Growth in number of land trusts in the West
2. Acres protected by conservation easements in nation
3. Growth of number of acres protected in the West

B. CURRENT POPULATION PRESSURES IN THE WEST

C. TYPES OF LAND TRUSTS CURRENTLY OPERATING IN THE WEST

1. National organizations
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - The Conservation Fund
  - Trust for Public Land
2. Statewide organizations
  - Montana Land Reliance
  - Colorado Open Lands
  - Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
  - Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust
  - Utah Open Lands
  - New Mexico Land Conservancy
3. Local land trusts
  - Teton Regional Land Trust
  - Jackson Hole Land Trust
  - Taos Land Trust
  - Five Valley Land Trust

D. KEY FACTORS IN THE INCREASE IN LAND CONSERVATION IN THE WEST

1. Connection of the Land Trust community and the agricultural community
2. Federal incentives

3. State level incentives

- Colorado
- New Mexico

E. PARTNERSHIP OF RANGELAND TRUSTS

II. THEN AND NOW AND LOOKING FORWARD (MARTY ZELLER)

A. HOW IS CONSERVATION GAME DIFFERENT? (1984-2011)

1. Number and Type of Players—land trusts, cities and counties, GOCO, federal programs.
2. Growth in Conservation Tool Box
3. Funding Options—growth of tax incentives (state and federal), variety of local, state and federal funding programs, private foundations, private investors
4. Opportunity Driven vs. Strategic and Landscape Scale Conservation
5. Today Limited Development Less Often is Conservation Strategy

C. WHAT IS CONSERVATION GAME LIKELY TO LOOK LIKE GOING FORWARD?

1. Tools Mostly the Same—Apply More Creatively, Most Difficult Projects are Left.
2. Funding Resources Challenged at all Levels.
3. Consolidation of Land Saving Entities/Increasing Professionalism
4. More Integration of Conservation, Development and Planning
5. More Scrutiny of Conservation Transactions

D. STEWARDSHIP

1. Consists of Monitoring and Enforcement of Conservation Easements
2. Growth in Stewardship Capacity
3. Growth in Land Stewardship Services for Landowners

4. New Models for Community Based Conservation and Stewardship

III. WESTERN TRENDS (WENDY NINTEMAN)

A. EXTERNAL TRENDS

1. More people . . . visiting or moving to the region – an economic plus but also a threat
2. More awareness . . . about the problem, and why land conservation matters. Fueled by climate change, habitat fragmentation, diminished quality of life, and loss of traditional lifestyles. Communities want a say in shaping their future.
3. More funding . . . state and local funding for private land conservation. Bond measures.

B. LAND TRUST TRENDS

1. More on the ground success draws more attention - higher level of scrutiny
2. More professionalism. Bar is getting higher and land trusts striving to operate under best business practices. Accreditation. Mergers
3. Strategic conservation via strategic collaborations. Land trusts working in broad partnerships, to make sure they are protecting the right stuff: Examples: Heart of the Rockies, Montana Legacy Project, State/regional land trust associations in west.
4. Regardless of scale, meaningful conservation is place- based, community driven. Community Conservation “Old West” - Blackfoot Challenge, Montana. Community Conservation “New West” - Cascade Agenda, Seattle

IV. NATIONAL CONTEXT AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN CONSERVATION (PETER STEIN)

A. LYME TIMBER COMPANY CONSERVATION

B. FACTORS THAT SUPPORT LYME TIMBER COMPANY CONSERVATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY

1. Changes in forest ownership
2. Stressed landscapes
3. Conservation

V. CONSERVATION THROUGH MITIGATION (LARRY KUETER)

- A. *BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA V. COUNTY OF STANISLAUS AND CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION* (Court of Appeals of the State of California, Fifth Appellate District, Nov., 2010)

VI. CONCLUSION (LARRY KUETER)

A. FUTURE TRENDS

1. Landowner acceptance of conservation
2. Urbanization in the west and its impact on rural land conservation
3. Public funding sources
4. Private funding sources
5. Trends in public support of land conservation