

# Cultural Landscapes: Scenic and Then Some



## SPEAKERS

**Ekaterini “Kat” Vlahos**

University of Colorado, Denver

**Ogden Driskill**

Rancher and board member, Wyoming  
Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust

## MODERATOR

**Jim Lindberg**

National Trust for Historic Preservation

**Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute**

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference

March 4, 2011

# I. What is a cultural landscape?





## II. Conservation through continued use







# Cultural Landscapes: Scenic and then Some

## Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute



Aerial view of Canyon Wind Winery, Palisade, Colorado

<http://bigpictureagriculture>

# The Problem

Disappearance of our rural cultural landscapes



# Why is this important?

Loss of open space

Loss of a part of our history

Loss of a quality and way of Life

Loss of scenic and working landscapes

Loss of local jobs and community businesses

**No Farms  
No Food™**

[www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)

  
American Farmland Trust

1-800-431-1499

SXT



## Develop a process of understanding

Identify, document, interpret and organize resources to guide conservation of rural cultural landscapes working.

## Routt County

Keeping working landscapes in the hands of the rancher

## Hayden Ranch

Working landscape is transitioned to an educational use

## Medano Zapata Ranch

Ranch is transitioned to a non-profit conservation organization



A cultural landscape shows the interaction and relationship of people and place over time.

*Preservation Brief # 36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes, National Park Service (1994)*





How do we identify critical  
components of a cultural landscape?



# NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN

Technical information on the the National Register of Historic Places:  
survey, evaluation, registration, and preservation of cultural resources



U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Cultural Resources  
National Register, History and Education

## Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes

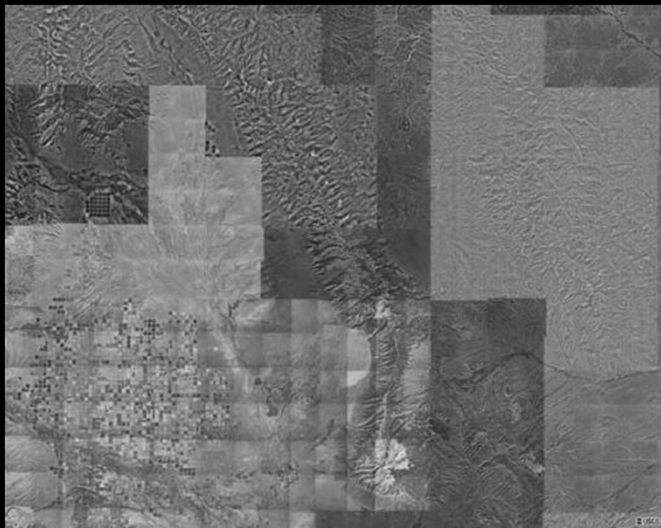


# Processes

- Land uses and activities
- Patterns of spatial organization
- Response to the natural environment
- Cultural traditions



# Land Uses and Activities



*All historic photos copyright Linger Family Photo Collection, Aurora, Colorado*



# Circulation Networks

## Patterns of Spatial Organization



# Response to the Natural Environment



# Cultural Traditions



## Physical Components

Vegetation Related to Land Use

Topography

Demarcations

View sheds

Water features

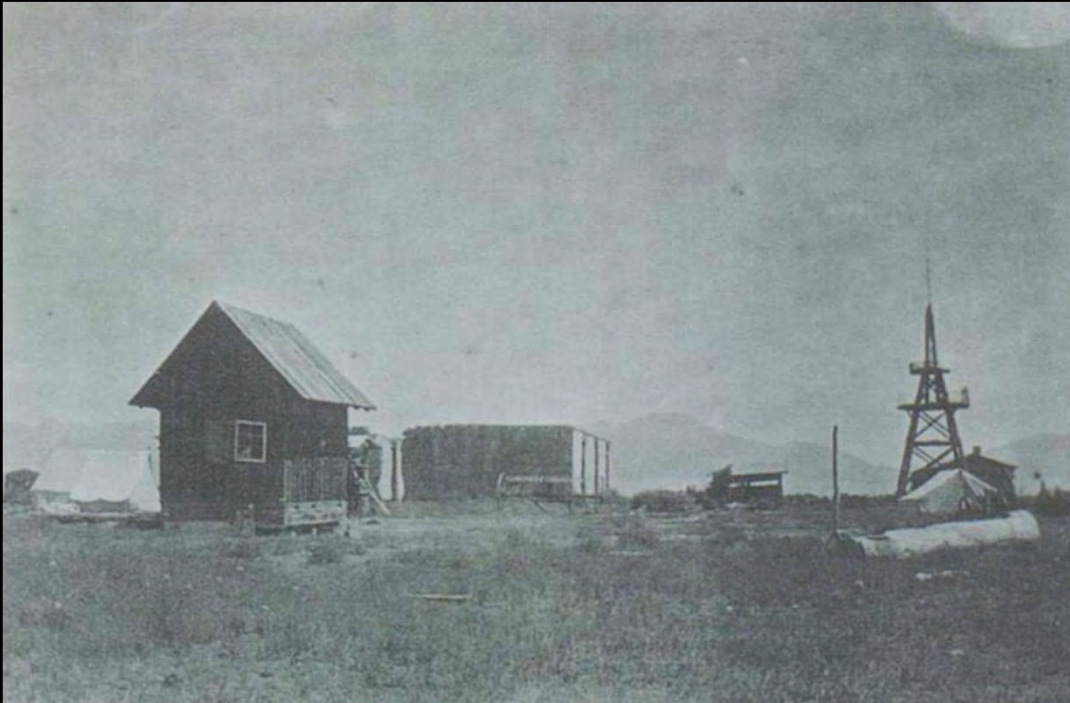
Boundary





# Buildings, Structures, and Objects

## Small-scale elements



# Case Study • Routt County



# Working Partners

Historic Routt County!

Individual Ranchers and Property Owners

City of Steamboat Springs

Yampa Valley Land Trust

Community Agriculture Alliance

# Who is funding the project?

- Colorado State Historical Fund
- DOLA
- City of Steamboat Springs
- University of Colorado Denver
- Private Donors





11% of prime ranchland  
threatened by conversion to  
residential development by 2020





# House&Home

F1

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2001

The New York Times



#### SAGEBRUSH SURVIVORS

Top left, Judy Green at an outbuilding. 'The Stankoo' barns, top right and below left; Jerry Green during a round up, below right.



Photographs by Richard Perry/The New York Times

## Developers at the Door, Ranchers Round Up Support

# Private Ranch Sales Over 400 Acres Between 1990-2001

## Summary of Owners

Total Acres	243,331	
Traditional Rancher	17,520	7%
Part-Time Ranchers	2,072	1%
Amenity Buyer	156,203	64%
Developers	17,716	7%
Investors	25,802	11%
Corporations	14,292	6%
Conservation Orgs	1,281	1% +
Other	2,809	1%
Unclassified	5,636	2%



## Process: Identify the community stakeholders



# Key property owners selected throughout the county





# Identify properties for survey



# Identify the survey team





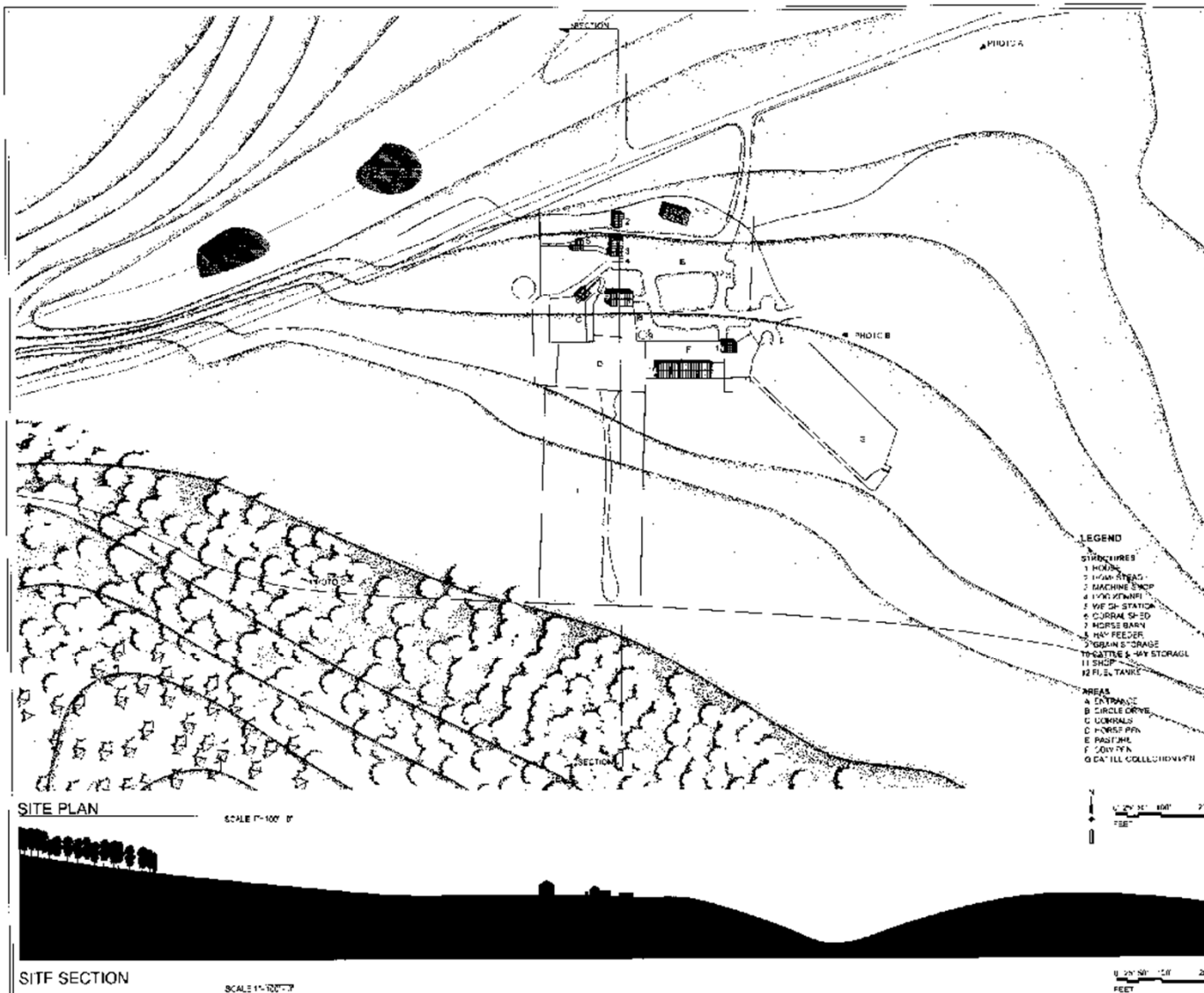
# Develop historic context



## Develop documentation



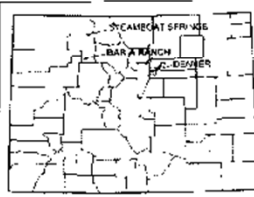




## STERNER (BAR A) RANCH

The Sterner (Bar A) Ranch is located in southwest Routt County in northwestern Colorado. To the west of the ranch lies the Flat Tops Wilderness Area, and Flat Top Mesa is situated directly to the north. Surrounding the ranch are native and agricultural grasslands. Aspen groves, as well as lodge pole pine and Douglas fir forests, border the complex to south. The ranch is historically known as the Flatner and Sterner Ranch and was settled in the 1800's. It was owned by the Sterner family.

The Bar A Ranch encompasses 13,000 acres, 12,200 of which are irrigated, and manages approximately 300 head of cattle annually. The first ranchstead structure constructed in the early 1800's, still stand today and are in excellent condition. The Sterner homestead house, which now functions as a bunkhouse, the log barn and feed house, and the large log barn all rest on their original sites and represent very vernacular architecture of Colorado.



BAR A RANCH, ROUTT COUNTY, COLORADO



PHOTO A: VIEW OF RANCH FROM EAST



PHOTO B: VIEW OF RANCH FROM NW

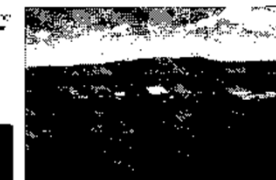


PHOTO C: VIEW OF RANCH FROM WEST

BAR A RANCH

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT DENVER  
RURAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

# Local Designation





# Case Study • Medano-Zapata Ranch



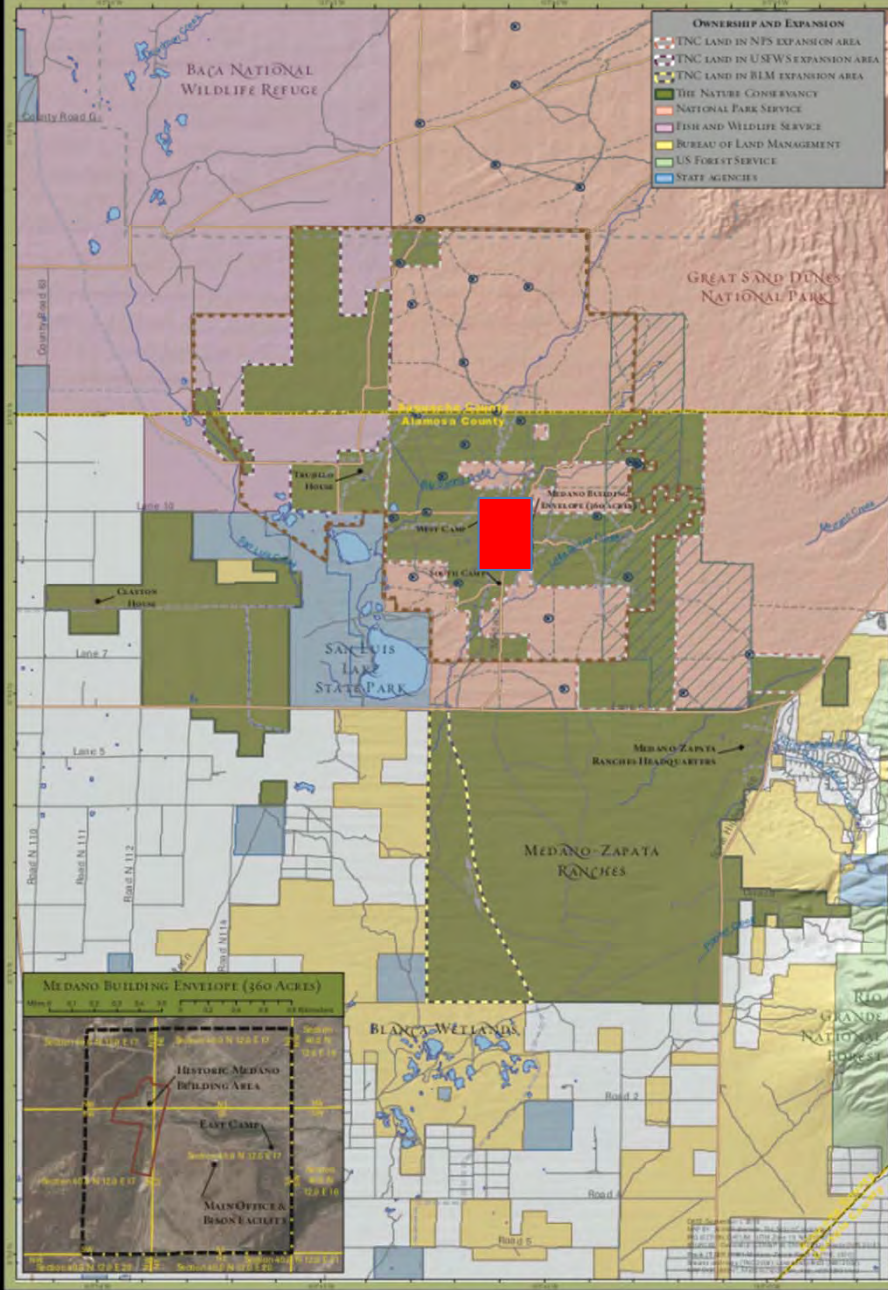


# Who is funding the project?

- The Nature Conservancy
- Colorado State Historical Fund
- UCD, College of Architecture and Planning
- Private Donors

**OWNERSHIP AND EXPANSION**

- TNC LAND IN NPS EXPANSION AREA
- TNC LAND IN USEW'S EXPANSION AREA
- TNC LAND IN BLM EXPANSION AREA
- THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
- FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- US FOREST SERVICE
- STATE AGENCIES



# Prepare a Long-Range Plan

Developed by Jackie Powell

## PURPOSE

**Why** is this project compatible with the TNC mission?  
**Where** is the geographic area of this project?  
**Who** are the participants and partners in this effort?

## SIGNIFICANCE

**What** are the resources we're concerned about?  
**Why** are they important?

## VISION

**What** future do we desire for these resources?

## GOALS

**What** do we want to accomplish over the next 5 to 10 years?

## OBJECTIVES

**How** do we move toward those goals within the next 2 to 3 years?

## OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

**What** will help us reach our goals and objectives?  
**What** will be an obstacle to reaching them?

## ACTION ITEMS

**How** do we attain our objectives?

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Selected action items arranged in priority sequence, with who, what, when, how, and how much.











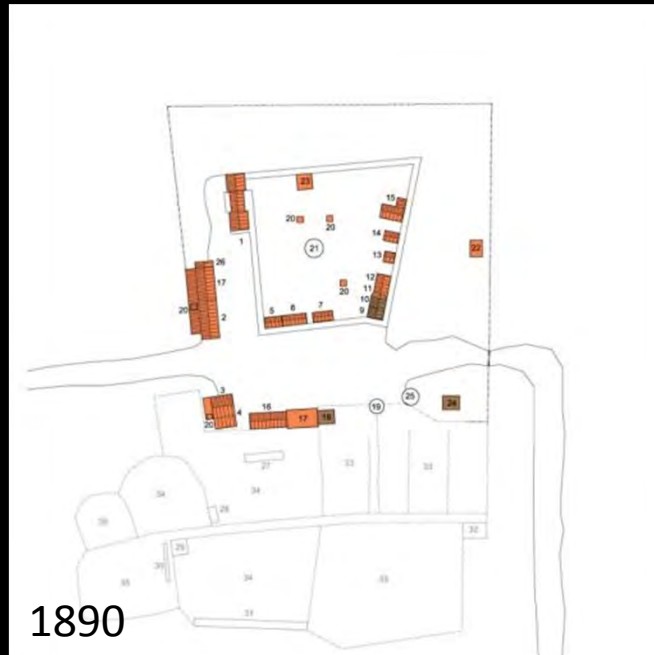












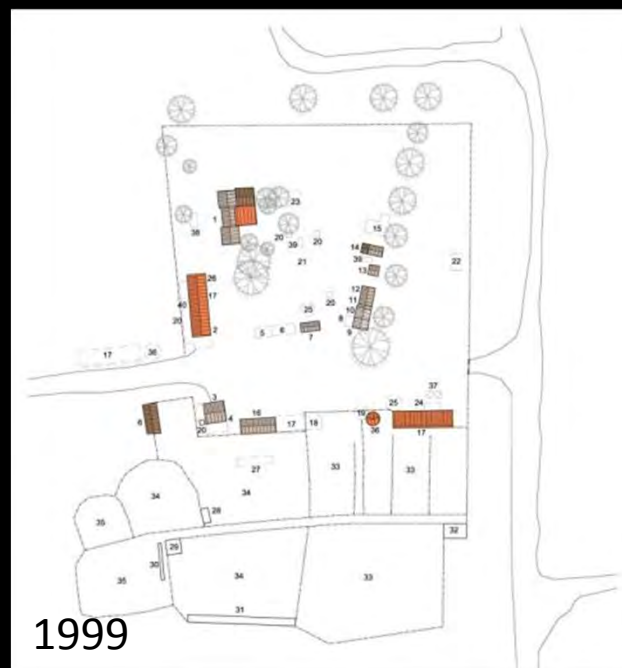
1890



1912



1947



1999

# Case Study • Hayden Ranch





## Partners

Lake County Open Space Initiative

Colorado Mountain College

Colorado Preservation, Inc.

Colorado Center for Community Development

# Who is funding the project?

- Colorado Preservation, Inc
- Colorado State Historical Fund
- UCD, College of Architecture and Planning











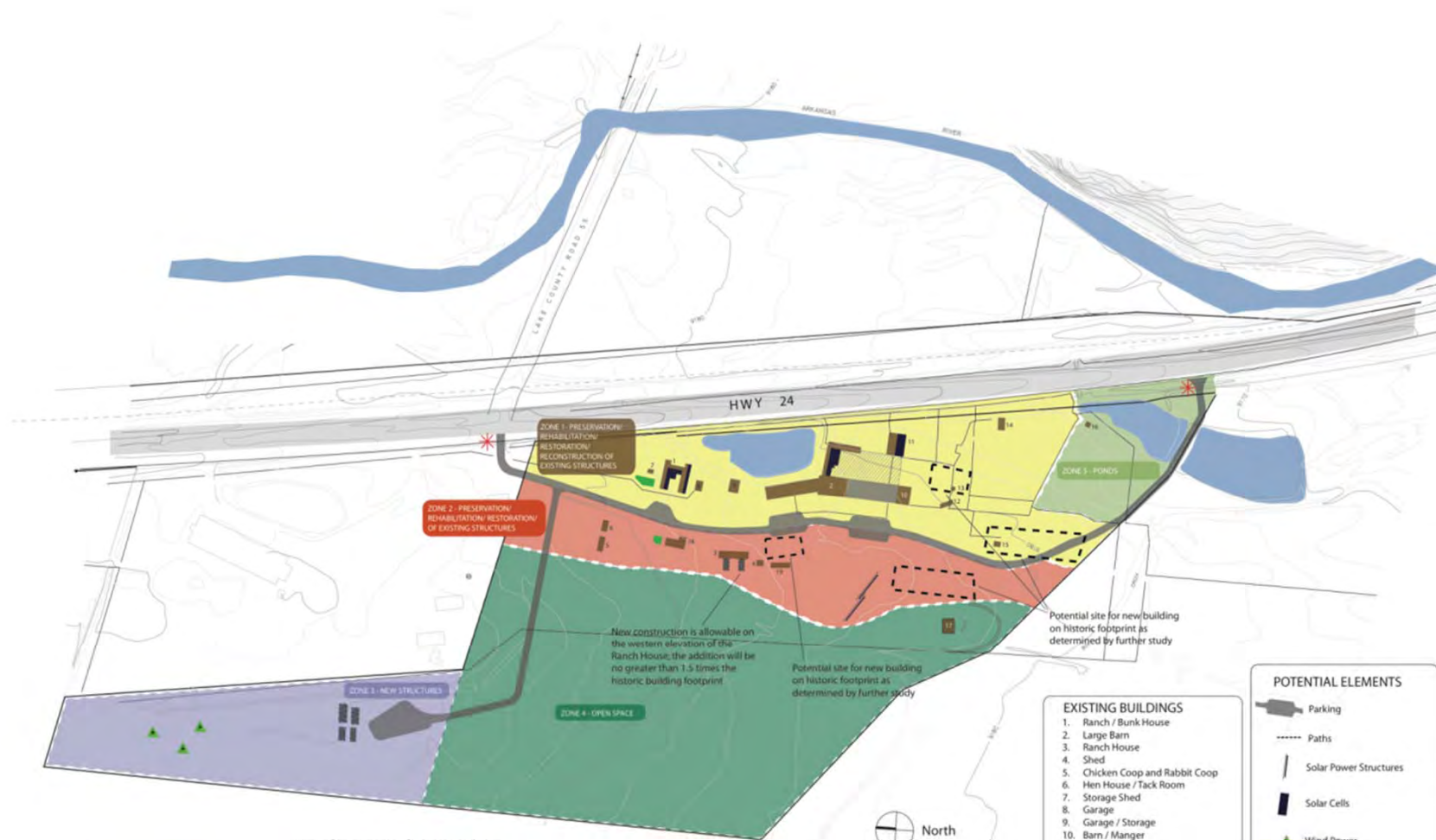








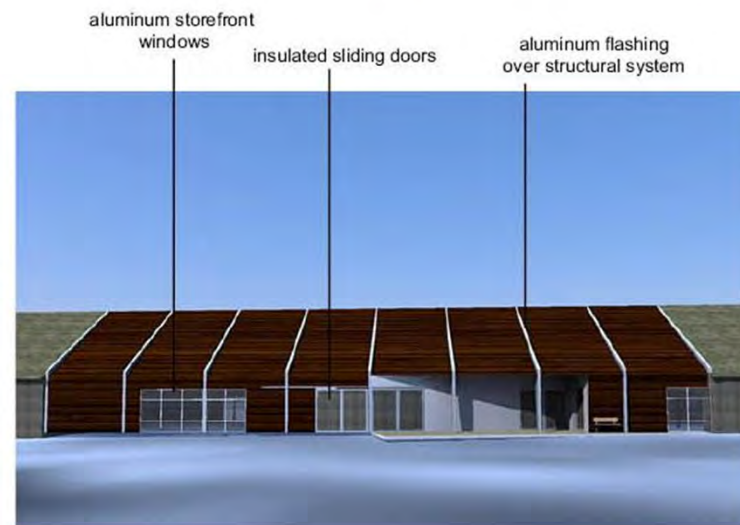
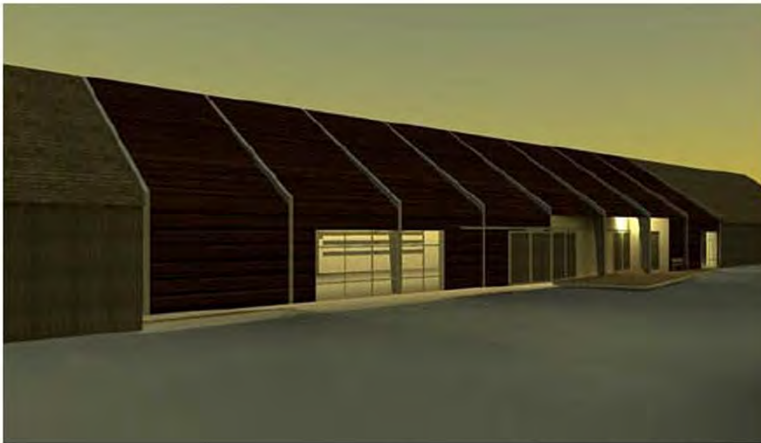




### Hayden Ranch Site Plan

Project Manager: Judith Bergquist  
 Prepared By: Marise Fratinardo  
 Mark Sullivan  
 Eric Pearce  
 Project Contacts: Colorado Preservation Inc.  
 Colorado Mountain College

December 2006



DESIGN DEVELOPMENT









The only proper way to learn about and understand the landscape is to live in it, look at it, think about it, explore it, ask questions about it, contemplate it, and speculate about it. It emphasizes things anyone can see, the vernacular, common, ordinary, everyday things of the people who live on the land, because these things make the landscape what it is. *John Fraser Hart*









**Campstool Ranch**  
Devil's Tower





**Campstool Ranch**  
**Devil's Tower**



**Basin Ranch**  
**Elk Mountain**



**Vickers Complex**  
**Elk Mountain**





**Brush Creek Ranch**  
North Platte River Valley





# Clarendon Ranch Bighorn Mountains





**Padlock Ranch**  
Tongue River Valley





**Shepperson Ranch**  
**Greybull River**





**Switchback Ranch**  
Absoraka Mountains





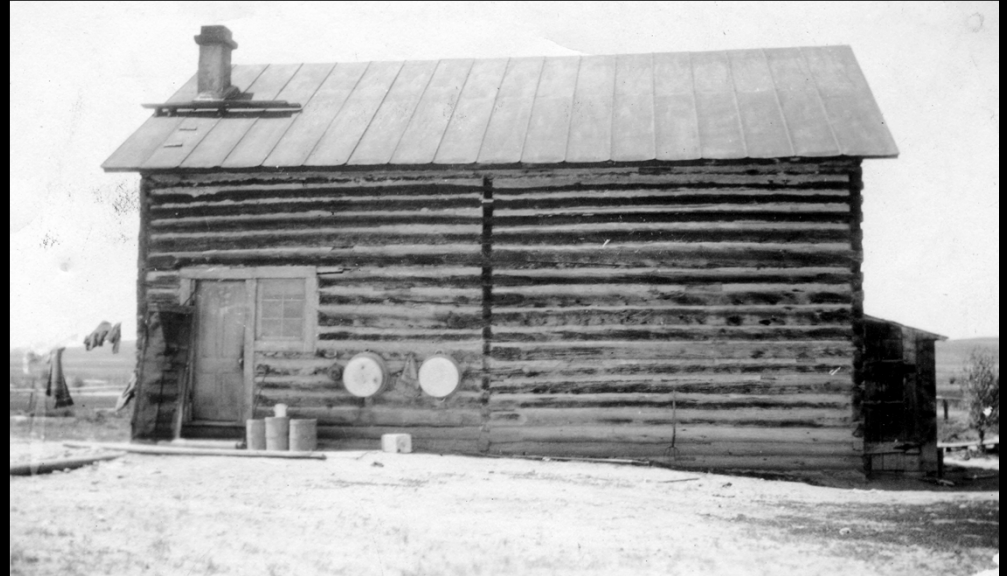
# Sommers-Grindstone Ranch

## Green River Valley





## Sommers-Grindstone Ranch





**Hovendick Ranch**  
Popo Agie River Valley

# Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust

[www.wsgalt.org](http://www.wsgalt.org)