



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

2010 was our eleventh year of operation and RiGHT continues to grow as an organization. This year included several new accomplishments for us. We received national accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance, completed our first conservation easement in Costilla County, hosted two brand new events focused on connecting people to the land, and celebrated the successes of our *Rio Grande Initiative*, which has doubled the pace of conservation on the river corridor over the last three years!

We look forward to continuing this good work in 2011 with your support. Additional information on our organization along with a more detailed annual report is available on our website:
www.riograndelandtrust.org



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ORGANIZATION

Over the last year, we completed a new strategic plan to guide our organization through 2014 and received accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance. RiGHT now joins the top 7% of land trusts in the U.S. that have been accredited! Our community can be confident that RiGHT has earned the respect and stamp of approval from our national association for our practices, our standards and the quality of our conservation projects.

For the staff, we hired lisa knaggs as our Outreach Coordinator, Aaron Derwingson completed his fellowship with the Colorado Conservation Trust and will continue as RiGHT's Stewardship Director, and Executive Director Nancy Butler had her ninth year with the organization.

EVENTS & OUTREACH

2010 was a year to celebrate! Three years ago we began our *Rio Grande Initiative*, a collaborative effort to protect land and water resources along the river corridor. Since then we've helped protect over 24 miles of the river and over 13,000 acres of land – effectively doubling the pace of conservation from the prior twenty years! To celebrate this incredible achievement, we gathered in October at the Cross Arrow Ranch to recognize the landowners, funders, and partners that made it all possible.

We held several new events including our first plein-air paint out, where the public visited conserved ranches to observe artists in action, and our first photography workshop. With your generous donations to the Ray Wright Memorial Fund, RiGHT sponsored four scholarships to the local Conservation Camp and offered our first award at the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair.

As part of our ongoing educational work, RiGHT held two informational workshops on conservation easements, one in Saguache and one in Alamosa. More workshops are scheduled for 2011.

This was our third year hosting the “Keep the Rio Grande Grand” Fine Arts Benefit Sale and we had record sponsorship and attendance. Along with great local artists, this year's event featured foods donated by local producers and prepared by local restaurants.



LAND PROTECTION

RiGHT completed two conservation easement projects in 2010 permanently protecting 1,034 acres of land and over one and a half miles of the Rio Grande river corridor. These projects include our first easement in Costilla County and our first easement with limited public access. Both properties are working ranches and their protection contributes to the scenic beauty of our area, helps secure valuable agricultural land, and provides important wildlife habitat for a variety of species including the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout.



We want to thank the landowners for their generous contribution and our funders for making these projects possible. Thank you to Great Outdoors Colorado, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Farm and Ranch Protection Program, the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Habitat Partnership Program and the Moore Charitable Foundation.