

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! It was a great year and we look forward to continuing this good work in 2011 with your support.

LAND PROTECTION



We 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. In new ground for us, these projects include our first easement in Costilla County and our first easement with limited public access. Both of these projects were long in the making (we began talking with one of the landowners over ten years ago!) and were especially satisfying to complete. Both properties are working ranches and their protection contributes to the scenic beauty of our area and helps secure valuable agricultural land.



River Valley Ranch III by Mike Blakeman

Both properties also provide important wildlife habitat for a variety of species including songbirds, waterfowl, deer and elk as well as 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. We received funding from 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Aaron Derwingson,
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lisa knaggs,
Assistant Events Coordinator

CONSULTANTS

Gigi Darricades,
Legal Counsel

Rio de la Vista,
*Co-Coordinator,
Rio Grande Initiative*

Conserving Our Land, Water, and Way of Life
in Colorado's San Luis Valley

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. To date 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 previous 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 in 2010 including our first plein-air paint out, an event where the public visited conserved ranches to observe artists in action, and our first photography workshop. Thanks to your generous donations to the Ray Wright Memorial Fund, RiGHT sponsored four scholarships to the local Conservation Camp and offered our first “Conservation Excellence” award at the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair

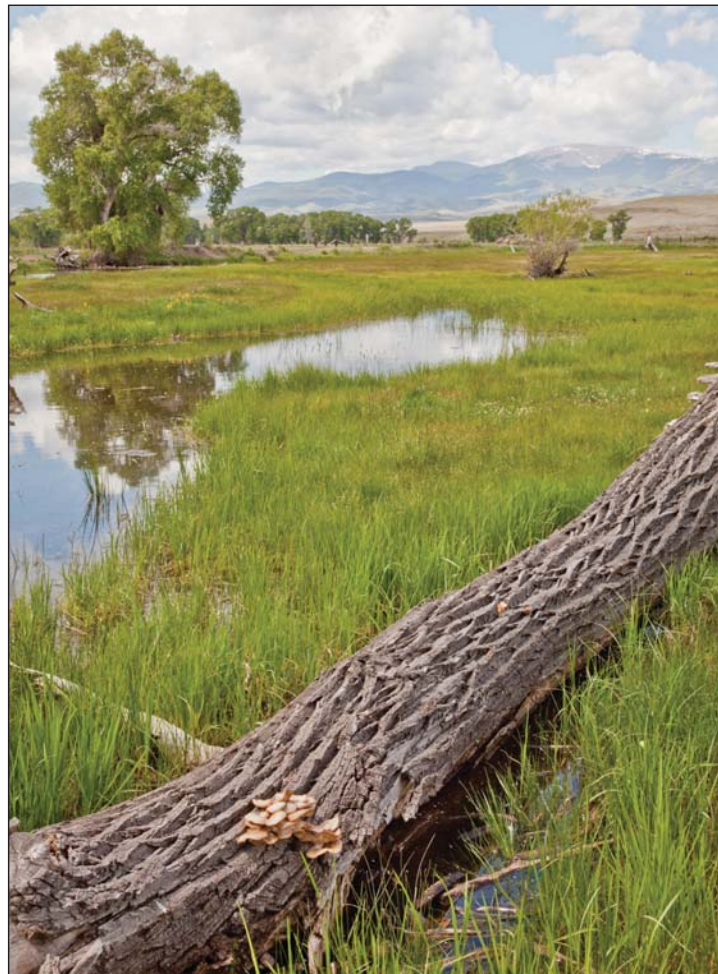
As part of our educational work, we hosted two informational workshops on conservation easements, one in Saguache and one in Alamosa. Both events were well attended by local landowners, real estate professionals, accountants, and interested citizens. More workshops are scheduled for 2011.

2010 was our fourth year participating in the Stuffed Stocking Gala & Auction here in Del Norte. The fundraiser is a coordinated effort between RiGHT, the La Vereda Foundation, and the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce. It was a great night of community fun helping raise over \$10,000 for the three organizations

This was RiGHT's 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 also featured a full selection of local foods donated by producers here in the San Luis Valley and prepared by local restaurants. This was a great addition to the event and we're excited to continue sharing the connection between our conservation work and the food we eat.



 Gilmore Ranch by Rio de la Vista



 River Valley Ranch III by Mike Blakeman

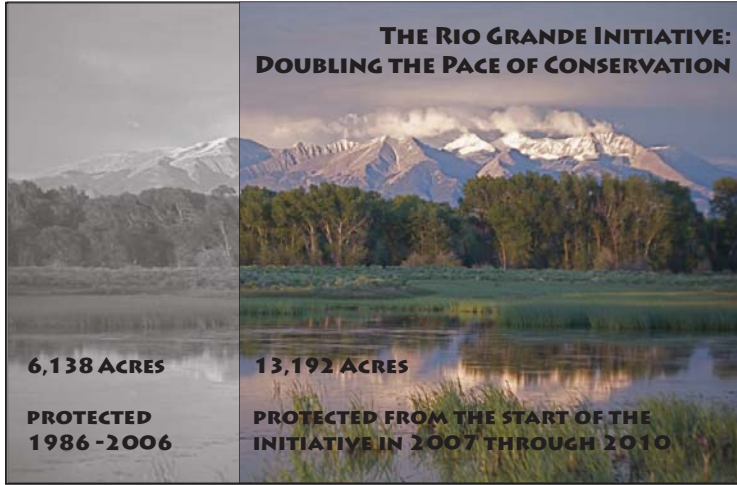
ORGANIZATION

2010 was our eleventh year of operation and RiGHT continues to grow as an organization. Executive Director Nancy Butler had her ninth year with RiGHT, Aaron Derwingson stayed on as Stewardship Director after his Colorado Conservation Trust Fellowship concluded, and we hired Lisa Knaggs as our Outreach Coordinator. We completed a new strategic plan to guide the organization through 2014 and began revising and updating many of our materials.

In 2010, RiGHT was selected as one of two land trusts in Colorado to participate in a pilot Community Engagement Program with the Colorado Conservation Trust. We've held several informative meetings and are continuing our efforts to engage more people in our work.

Perhaps the organizational highlight for 2010, we received recognition from the Land Trust Alliance when we became one of 113 accredited land trusts out of 1,700 land trusts nationwide! With accreditation, 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 conservation projects.

RIO GRANDE INITIATIVE



This was the third year of our *Rio Grande Initiative* - a collaborative effort between RiGHT, Ducks Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy to protect working ranches, water rights, and wildlife habitat along the river corridor. We have a focused effort on the river because it is home to some of our oldest ranches, contains a vast amount of important wetlands and riparian habitat that is critical to wildlife in the entire Valley, and it faces the greatest threat of development.

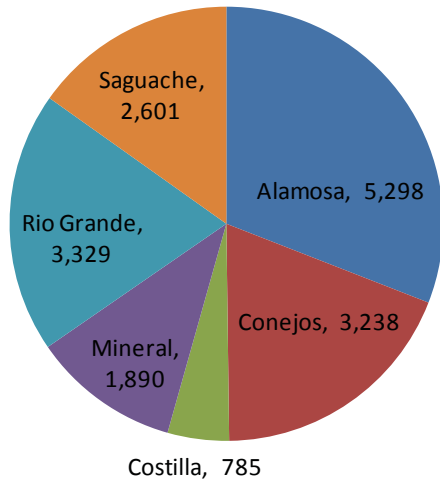
Thanks to this focused effort, we've been able to double the pace of conservation on the Rio Grande, protecting 13,192 acres in the last three years compared to 6,138 acres in the previous twenty. This success has created additional demand and 2011 brings new opportunities for more conservation along the iconic landscape of the Rio Grande.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME	2009	2010
Board Contributions	\$2,200	\$2,650
Corporate Donations	\$7,750	\$13,750
Grants	\$134,812	\$144,303
Individual Contributions	\$6,266	\$9,306
Interest Income	\$4,148	\$1,500
Memorial Contributions	n/a	\$5,523
Program Income	\$82,750	\$95,500
Special Events	\$24,087	\$12,895
TOTAL INCOME	\$262,013	\$285,427

EXPENSES	2009	2010
Audit	\$17,975	\$11,215
Accreditation/Certification	\$7,700	\$6,510
Conferences	\$797	\$1,730
Equipment	\$784	\$0
Insurance	\$3,312	\$3,138
Interest Expense	\$90	\$25
Office Supplies	\$4,599	\$4,719
Organizational Memberships	\$1,785	\$2,705
Staff & Consultants	\$185,528	\$178,484
Postage	\$2,200	\$2,221
Printing	\$3,650	\$6,244
Property Taxes	\$3,410	\$3,236
Rent & Utilities	\$5,085	\$5,668
Special Events	\$8,309	\$7,138
Telephone & Internet	\$3,297	\$3,582
Travel, Food & Lodging	\$8,942	\$9,586
Workshop Expense	\$0	\$498
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$257,463	\$246,679

ACRES PROTECTED BY COUNTY



To date, RiGHT has protected 17,141 acres in the San Luis Valley through 24 conservation projects.

We have brought over \$16.2 million in federal, state, and private funding into our area for conservation.