# Conservation Provides Public River Access

**Land Trust Focused on Eagle River Projects**

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**Dear Scott,**

As the leaves turn and autumn in the Rockies is upon us, we hope you are enjoying the great outdoors and the spectacular fall colors!

## Providing Public River Access through Land Conservation

Public access to our rivers and streams is a priority for our community. Our active, outdoor lifestyle in Eagle County and the Central Rocky Mountains revolves as much around our waterways as it does around our mountains. The Eagle River is a hub of activity for our residents and guests, and the river serves as a prime economic driver for our local outdoor recreation and tourism-based economy. It is extremely important that we protect and preserve access to our Eagle River for people - for ourselves, our future generations and our economic well-being. But let's not forget, we cannot talk about providing access to rivers and streams without talking about permanently protecting the lands that surround them. Your access to your Eagle River means that we must save and conserve riverfront land and protect properties that border the river.

Several marquee conservation projects led by The Eagle Valley Land Trust, in partnership with Eagle County's Open Space Department and local municipalities, and with the support of Vail Resorts and our philanthropic investors, have preserved important lands along the Eagle River for the benefit, education and enjoyment of our locals and guests. We are proud to protect the integrity of the Eagle River while providing public access to the river through conserved lands.

- Miller Ranch Community Open Space - 32.5 acres and over 1 mile (that's over 17 football fields!) of Eagle River access.
- Eagle River Preserve - 72 acres and a half-mile (over 8 football fields!) of Eagle River access.
- Duck Pond Open Space - 62 acres and over two-thirds of a mile (11 football fields!) of Eagle River access. The newest permanent conservation area for our community!
- The Minturn Boneyard - 4 acres and a quarter mile (4 football fields!) of Eagle River access. This property was recently acquired by the Town of Minturn. The Town is working with the us to permanently protect the land and its prime river access forever. We look forward to finalizing this new conservation project for the people of Eagle County.

The Land Trust and our conservation partners are excited about our positive and successful work to save the natural spaces and special places that provide public access to our rivers, creeks and streams. We are especially proud to preserve and protect lands along our Eagle River for the benefit of the people of our community. Your local Land Trust will continue to work tirelessly to save land adjacent to and near the Eagle River and other important local waterways so the residents and guests of Eagle County will always have access to their rivers, forever.

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## Land Trust, ECO Trails and Vail Resorts Team Up at Duck Pond

On Saturday, Sept. 21 the Eagle Valley Land Trust and ECO Trails partnered with Vail Mountain and Beaver Creek Resort for the fourth annual Vail Resorts Echo Day, facilitated through the Vail Resorts Echo program. More than 225 Vail and Beaver Creek employees, friends and families planted 250 trees and shrubs, removed over 60 cubic yards of noxious weeds, and performed trail work on over 2,600 feet of new public trails at the Duck Pond conservation area between Gypsum and Dotsero on Highway 6.

This land is the newest permanent conservation area in the community. Purchased by Eagle County's Open Space Department in late 2012, the amount of important work to reclaim and restore the property, as well as the work to create the public ECO Trail bike path through the property, was a tall order. We could not have done it without the hard work of over 225 volunteers from Vail Resorts and the wonderful team leaders and coordinators of the Echo program. It was amazing to see what an army of dedicated volunteers could accomplish in one day! Thank you Vail Resorts Echo!

Click here to see more photos of the Echo Day Volunteers in action!

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## Did you know...?

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Eagle Valley land Trust was one of the first 50 land trusts to be accredited in the country. We are pleased to announce the Land trust is applying for renewal of our national accreditation. A public comment period is now open. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on

pending applications. Comments must relate to how Eagle Valley Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see. http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the

Land Trust Accreditation Commission
Attn: Public Comments
36 Phila Street, Suite 2
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
(fax) 518-587-3183

Comments on Eagle Valley Land Trust's application will be most useful if received before January 3rd, 2014.

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Yours in conservation,

**Eagle Valley Land Trust**

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