



TO: Dan Dertz, Director of Open Space and Natural Resources

THRU: Jeff Brauer, Director of Parks and Recreation

FROM: Maia Yates, Special Projects Analyst

DATE: November 8, 2024

TITLE: Colorado Open Space Alliance Blue Grama Award Presentation

SUMMARY

The Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) Blue Grama Award is an annual award program recognizing outstanding achievements in open space conservation, management and community engagement. This prestigious award pays tribute to projects, programs and individuals who have made significant contributions to the protection and preservation of Colorado's treasured spaces.

Castle Rock staff are excited to announce that Douglas County, the Town of Castle Rock and The Conservation Fund have received the Blue Grama Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Partnership in 2024 for the acquisition of Lost Canyon Ranch and permanent protection of 681 acres of open space.

The acquisition represents a remarkable conservation success that would not have been possible without partnership between Douglas County, the Town of Castle Rock, Douglas Land Conservancy, Great Outdoors Colorado and The Conservation Fund.

"Castle Rock residents regularly name the preservation of open space as a top priority in biannual community surveys. The Town is honored that COSA has recognized the great achievement toward that goal that was made possible through these committed partners coming together," said Town of Castle Rock Mayor Jason Gray.

Through this innovative collaboration, Lost Canyon Ranch — one of the last undeveloped large-acreage properties near Castle Rock — is now permanently protected as open space. This ecologically and historically significant land is preserved from development and the natural, scenic and cultural resources contained within the property will remain a vital resource for the residents Douglas County and Colorado.

COSA is a statewide organization of local and regional open space programs, working cooperatively to share information, create public awareness and foster partnerships needed to protect and preserve the special places of Colorado.