

GAINING GROUND

MEMBER NEWSLETTER



UTAH OPEN LANDS | 31 MAY 2023 | MAY UPDATES

NEW PART OF THE WASATCH BACK PRESERVED

UTAH OPEN LANDS ANNOUNCES GENEROUS DONATION OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT ALONG THE WEBER RIVER

You can't take the ranch out of the man; and even though Rob Moore left Henefer after high school his roots are still in the ranch he grew up on. We are thrilled to announce the protection of 42 acres along the Weber River in Henefer with the generous donation of a conservation easement by Rob Moore and his family. The donation protects, forever, the 7x Bar Ranch Preserve. Native grasses, bald eagles, wild turkeys, and a diverse hawthorne/cottonwood forest call the pasture along I-84 in Summit County home.

This land has also been home to the same family for generations and Rob Moore, Executive Chairman of Big-D Construction, was intent on keeping it how he remembered it.

"I have fond memories of hauling hay with my grandfather and feeding the cattle in the winters on this property. I was raised riding horses all over the lands that belonged to my grandfather and now teaching my grandchildren to ride feels like things have come full circle" said Rob Moore.



"My career has been built on principles closely tied to the hard work and the common sense I learned working with my father and grandfather on this ranch," continued Moore. "Saving this piece of my heritage is a legacy that I want to leave for the next generation and the community."

For Utah Open Lands the protection of this landscape has regional significance. Views of the property can be seen from both the popular boating section of the Weber River and the Interstate. Water quality and riparian protection afforded by safeguarding this landscape enables continued flows all the way to the Great Salt Lake and the habitat found on the land provides for migratory and nesting birds. The icing on the cake is the multi-million dollar contribution made through the donation of the conservation easement.

"Protection of a property like 7X Bar Ranch has a rippling effect. Not only will the waters passing through this property eventually make it to the Great Salt Lake, but travelers will forever view the soaring eagles, roosting herons and osprey that rely on the protection of native meadows like this," said Wendy Fisher, Executive Director of Utah Open Lands. "To have a landowner like Rob Moore want to save this place, and also make such a generous contribution, is a rare commitment in this day and age."

As the first local land trust in the state, with its founding board and office focused on Summit County open space, protecting this critical piece of land along the Weber River carries forward what the organization started 33 years ago—the conservation of community landscapes that ensure a legacy for the next generation. "Working with Utah Open Lands was the right thing for me and my family," said Moore. "It's more than being able to trust them to safeguard this promise to past and present generations. I feel like I gained a couple of new friends as well!"

GRANT FUNDING SECURED FOR BONNEVILLE SHORELINE TRAIL CONNECTIONS

Utah Open Lands (UOL) has received grants to further expand the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and the unique landscape on which the trail lies. These grants, provided by the Utah Department of Natural Resources' Division of Outdoor Recreation, will help UOL acquire additional land for the trail. The Bonneville Shoreline Trail is a renowned 13.5-mile trail in Salt Lake City that offers stunning views and a unique blend of urban and wildlife experiences. UOL has been actively working to protect and connect the Bonneville Shoreline Trail since 2019, and these grants will play a significant role in securing new

linkages. The acquired lands will enhance connectivity along the trail, making it safer and more accessible for all. Aside from improving trail connections, this conservation effort also preserves critical winter habitat for elk and other wildlife. "We are grateful for the support of the Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant program," said UOL Executive Director, Wendy Fisher. "With this funding, we can continue our important work of protecting and preserving the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. Without this protection these connections are in jeopardy of being developed and lost.

TRYING TIMES SEMINAR SUCCESS

Recently issued IRS Notice 2023-30 which outlines safe harbor language for conservation easement deeds was the kick off for this year's successful "Trying Times: Conservation Easements and Federal Tax Law 2023" Seminar. Hosted in association with the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law and its Wallace Stegner Center, Utah Open Lands' Gaining Ground seminar series has become a go to for land conservation professionals.

This year featured two panelists from the IRS Office of Chief Counsel to provide valuable insights on the recently issued Notice and recent tax court cases. UOL's very own Wendy Fisher and board member (Robert W Swenson Professor of Law) Nancy McLaughlin rounded out a panel of seven distinguished experts who provided conservation easement challenges as well as drafting tips to a national audience of over 575 individuals.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 1ST: REGIONAL TRAILS MIXER

JUNE 7TH: SUMMER MUSIC SERIES AT THE FRONT

JUNE 13TH: ADVENTURE AWARE CLINIC AT THE FRONT

JUNE 21ST: WEED WHACK AND TRASH TAKEDOWN AT WHEADON FARMLAND PRESERVE

JULY 12TH: ENVIRONMENTAL WELLNESS VIRTUAL WORKSHOP WITH SALT LAKE COUNTY

JULY 15TH: NORTH ROUND VALLEY BIODIVERSITY SURVEY

REGIONAL TRAILS MIXER

THURSDAY JUNE 1ST, 2023 | 5:00-8:00PM | LEGACY LODGE (1325 LOWELL AVE, PARK CITY, UT 84060)



After a three-year hiatus, Mountain Trails Foundation is bringing back Park City's all-things-trails open house. Utah Open Lands will be attending the mixer and will provide updates on our recent protection of landscapes across the state (as well as their recreational value). This Regional Trails Mixer is 100% free to the public, so please join us for food, presentations on upcoming projects and initiatives – or just to catch up with long-lost trail buddies. Charge bar so don't forget your I.D. & Credit Card!

SUMMER MUSIC SERIES AT THE FRONT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7TH, 2023 | 6:00-8:00PM | THE FRONT CLIMBING CLUB - SALT LAKE CITY LOCATION

Summer is upon us and we're excited to be a part of The Front's Summer Music Series once again! As an Impact Coalition partner, Utah Open Lands will be tabling at the June 7th kick-off concert. Enjoy summer night climbing to the tune of local artists or simply hang out in the courtyard with an ice cold beverage and some great food. The Summer Music Series is free for all Front members. Guests are always welcome with a day pass. Come visit us at our table from 6PM to 8PM in the SLC Courtyard (1470 S. 400 W).



ADVENTURE AWARE CLINIC

TUESDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2023 | 6:00-8:00PM | THE FRONT CLIMBING CLUB- SALT LAKE CITY LOCATION



Looking to Leave it Loved this summer? Join UOL at the Front Climbing Club for a Castleton Tower video screening and Adventure Aware Clinic on June 13th. This event aims to promote safe and environmentally friendly outdoor recreation. Enjoy an informative talk, interactive sessions, and a chance to connect with the UOL team. Get Adventure Aware Guides, ask questions, and learn valuable insights. Challenge Your Inner Steward by becoming Adventure Aware this summer. Sign up for this clinic via the Front Climbing Club's [Event page](#).

LEAVE IT LOVED: WEED WHACK AND TRASH TAKEDOWN AT WHEADON FARMLAND PRESERVE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21ST, 2023 | 4:00-7:00PM | PARK AT 13965 SOUTH BANGERTE PARKWAY.



Visit Salt Lake and Outdoor Retailer are teaming up with Utah Open Lands and Salt Lake County to Leave it Loved at the Wheadon Farmland Preserve. The Weed Whack and Trash Takedown will be a hands-on opportunity to learn about effective weed removal techniques, such as solarization and how restoring native plants to the area helps reduce threats from wildfires. Visit Salt Lake, Utah Open Lands, Salt Lake County, Keep Nature Wild and Outdoor Retailer will be on hand and encourage you to sign up and be the volunteer force that will be enhancing the natural climate resilience of this 62 acre open space on the south end of the Salt Lake Valley.

ENVIRONMENTAL WELLNESS WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY JULY 12TH, 2023 | 12:00-1:00PM | VIRTUAL

Join us for an Environmental Wellness Virtual Workshop with Salt Lake County. Listen to Executive Director, Wendy Fisher, share how to Leave spaces Loved through the choices we make. Explore the concept of climate resilience and how you can Challenge Your Inner Steward.



NORTH ROUND VALLEY BIODIVERSITY SURVEY


SATURDAY JULY 15TH, 2023 | 9:00AM-1:00PM | PARK AT NORTH ROUND VALLEY TRAILHEAD



Join us at North Round Valley for a Biodiversity Survey (bioblitz)! By attending, you will play a crucial role in helping Utah Open Lands identify the diverse flora and fauna that call North Round Valley home. This event is organized in partnership with the Natural History Museum of Utah and Park City Municipal Corporation. This fun and free outdoor event is open to participants of all ages. Bring your keen observation skills and get hands-on practice in identifying plants and animals using the iNaturalist app. Explore the beauty of North Round Valley while contributing to citizen science!



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