

Colorado

Year in Review 2024

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ON THE COVER Wildflowers along the Skinny Fish Lake Trail © Chris Helzer THIS PAGE Carlos Fernández © Lauryn Wachs/TNC OPPOSITE PAGE © Dave Hebert INSET LEFT TO RIGHT © Tegan May/TNC; © Anna Sofia Vera/TNC © Mike McDowell

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite memories of this past year is hiking with my nine-year-old daughter and her friends in the Holy Cross Wilderness. It was a beautiful day with bright blue skies, and everyone was in good spirits. During the hike, I heard my daughter and her friends discussing climate change. I stayed quiet as I listened to their conversation. While I expected to hear despondency, I instead heard their hope for the future, the actions they are taking, and the desire for more people to act on nature's behalf. It was inspiring!

I hope as you read our 2024 Year in Review you will find similar themes of action, partnerships, and hope. From our land conservation work in the Southern High Plains to our efforts to restore Western Dry Forests and rivers across Colorado...and from our tree-planting projects in Denver that combat climate change, to sustainability improvements on our preserves and properties, you'll see that partnerships are crucial to success. None of our work happens alone and none of it happens without your support.

As we face the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, we know that the best solutions come when more diverse voices contribute to and benefit from conservation decision-making. Our long-standing partnerships with ranchers and local communities, municipalities, public agencies, outdoor recreationists and more are pivotal. We are also proud of the relationships that we continue to build and deepen with Tribal Nations. Trusted relationships matter, and we will lead with science, integrity, and a fierce passion to leave Colorado and the planet in a better place for future generations.

The Nature Conservancy has ambitious 2030 goals, and your support inspires us to give our best each and every day to achieve them. Thank you for joining us on this journey and for your generosity that makes our work possible.

Sincerely,



Carlos E. Fernández, *Colorado State Director*

PROTECT
oceans, land and freshwater

PROVIDE
food and water sustainably

TACKLE
climate change



PROTECT: BOHART RANCH

The Bohart Ranch, the protection of which we initiated this year, is composed of shortgrass and sandsage prairie. These important ecosystems support numerous plant and animal species, including the ornate box turtle and swift fox. The property is also home to a long-standing cattle operation run by a local multi-generational family.

PROVIDE: STUDYING BOBOLINKS AT CARPENTER RANCH PRESERVE

TNC is using aerial drones to monitor heat signatures of ground-nesting bobolinks, a songbird facing declining numbers due to habitat loss. Agricultural producers can use the results to time their hay harvest so they do not harm bobolinks that are using irrigated hayfields for nesting.

TACKLE: GLOBEVILLE, ELYRIA-SWANSEA COALITION

TNC and coalition partners recently purchased land in Elyria-Swansea, an underserved neighborhood in Denver, and are working with the Tierra Colectiva Community Land Trust and others to make the community more resilient to climate change by growing a new green space and a food forest on the property.

FOR NEARLY 60 YEARS, The Nature Conservancy has been working in Colorado to help ensure a livable climate, healthy communities, and thriving nature. Our science-based strategies include protecting land and water, restoring our iconic forests, and bringing nature to cities. To date, we have helped to protect more than 1.6 million acres of land and 1,300 river miles throughout the state. **Learn more about our work at [nature.org/Colorado](https://nature.org/colorado).**





UPGRADING THE MAYBELL DIVERSION:

A Win for People and the Yampa River

For more than 100 years, it took sweat, toil, and determination to operate the old Maybell Diversion headgate on the Yampa River in northwest Colorado. Irrigators from Maybell Irrigation District had to trudge two hours through steep, rugged sagebrush country to manually open and close the rusted and broken metal headgate. It was an arduous task, and also crucial: Maybell is one of the largest irrigation diversions on the Yampa, providing water to about 2,300 acres of irrigated hay meadows in Moffat County.

The rock structure made navigation difficult for native and endangered fish and recreational boats, and the cumbersome headgates made it hard to control water flow into the Maybell Ditch. All of these issues triggered growing concern about protecting the Yampa River, especially as drought and the impacts of climate change threaten water supplies and habitats throughout the Colorado River Basin.

This year, farmers, recreators, and conservationists are breathing a sigh of relief because the Maybell diversion has undergone a major upgrade. Beginning in 2023, TNC worked with J-U-B Engineers and JHL Constructors to modernize and enable remote operation of the Maybell Ditch headgate and improve water delivery to agricultural lands. The engineering design and construction teams worked to

“The Maybell Diversion project proves that a bunch of rowdy cowboys can dang sure work with The Nature Conservancy and with groups who may be outside our box.”

– Mike Camblin, Moffat County Rancher and Maybell Irrigation District President

Maybell Diversion Project © JHL Constructors

ensure that boulder placement at the diversion would improve water delivery, enhance fish habitat, and remove barriers to boat passage.

The project involved years of collaboration among diverse partners—all united by the goal of using water more efficiently and protecting flows on the Yampa. “We’re excited to reach this huge milestone of a completely upgraded diversion,” says Jennifer Wellman, freshwater project director for TNC in Colorado. “Low flows on the Yampa threaten both people and nature, and this community-driven effort increases resilience to climate change, sustaining agriculture and benefiting threatened and endangered fish like the razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow.”

Today, the opening and closing of the Maybell headgate can be controlled remotely and is determined by a combination of water user needs and available flows into the Maybell Ditch. The Maybell Irrigation District also coordinates with the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the Division of Water Resources to guide water use in the Lower Yampa.

With a \$6.8 million price tag, the diversion and habitat improvements required significant teamwork and support. TNC and partners combined many sources of funding from state, federal and private entities, including significant grants from the Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART program; the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with support from Oxy, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and the Gates Family Foundation; the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and others. Wellman notes the new diversion is a long-term investment, “We worked closely with the local community, many partners and engineering experts on this new design, and we hope it lasts another 100 years.”

As Maybell water users enter a new era, communities throughout the Colorado River Basin are gaining experience with adaptation, innovation, and collaboration on similar projects. “The Maybell Diversion project proves to people that a bunch of rowdy cowboys can dang sure work with The Nature Conservancy and with groups who may be outside our box,” said Moffat County rancher Mike Camblin. “I can learn from them, and I hope they can learn from me also.”

TOP TO BOTTOM Old headgate at Maybell Diversion © Toby Hayman/TNC; Razorback sucker © Linda Whitham/TNC; The new diversion and headgate on the Yampa River © JHL Constructors



nature.org/colorado



Working Across Borders and Boundaries to Protect Grasslands

Nature knows no boundaries, and neither does The Nature Conservancy. The Southern High Plains stretch across five states—Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas—and to protect them, we are collaborating across state lines.

Spanning more than 71 million acres, the Southern High Plains are home to hundreds of plant and animal species, many of them struggling to thrive in the face of habitat loss, fragmentation, and climate change. Grassland bird populations, for example, have declined by 53% since 1970.

TNC science, however, has charted a strategy for healthy grasslands at an ecoregional level. And in only four years, our Southern High Plains Initiative (SHPI) has protected or improved management on more than 400,000 acres of land.

Managed through a multi-state TNC team, the Southern High Plains Initiative aims to catalyze conservation success in all five states by working

together. This year, for example, the team facilitated the acquisition of Buck Ridge Ranch outside of Raton, NM, extending a critical corridor of conserved land that spans from Fishers Peak State Park in southern Colorado to northern New Mexico. We are also moving forward with active projects in all SHPI states.

Here in Colorado, the SHPI team is pursuing an innovative partnership with the Department of Defense, the Colorado State Land Board, and two conservation partners: the Trust for Public Land and Palmer Land Conservancy. Tens of thousands of acres of high-priority conservation lands in the SHPI landscape are also critical for national defense purposes in southeast Colorado. For example, airspace over the Bohart Ranch serves as flight training areas for the U.S. Air Force Academy, while other open and natural lands provide benefits to the missions of the U.S. Army and U.S. Space Force.

Together, we developed SOAR (Security, Open space & Agricultural Resiliency), an initiative to protect properties in Colorado that are critical for conservation and national security. This year, we completed our first project—acquiring the initial 12,000 acres of Bohart Ranch, where cattle graze, pronghorn roam, and burrowing owls nest protected beneath the aspiring pilots, who have the air space to practice safely.

“Nature needs all the champions it can get, and SOAR is helping us to find unexpected allies with a common goal of conserved lands. Together, we will achieve much more than we ever could by working alone.”

– Matt Moorhead, Conservation Business and Partnership Development Advisor for TNC in Colorado

A New Vision for Zapata Ranch Preserve

The Nature Conservancy in Colorado is reimagining how we can leverage the spectacular Zapata Ranch Preserve and its buffalo herd. Our goal is to blend conservation efforts with meaningful engagement with Tribal Nations, Indigenous Peoples and historic Latino communities. Together, we can protect the unique biodiversity of the region.

This approach was born out of TNC’s Leveraging Our Lands Initiative, through which we are evaluating how to optimize ownership and management of our preserves to best support our conservation mission and values.

The unique and beautiful natural setting of the Zapata Ranch Preserve has drawn people to the area since time immemorial. It is part of the ancestral homelands for the Ute people and numerous other Tribal Nations and remains a place of cultural significance to many Tribes today. The San Luis Valley also has a rich and historic Latino culture.

Our immediate next steps will involve engaging with and listening to partners from Tribal Nations and Indigenous and local communities to explore potential uses of the Preserve as a cultural hub, shaping a bright future for the Preserve and the people who love it, along with the surrounding landscape.

We are partnering with InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC), a Tribal-led organization dedicated to restoring buffalo to Tribes across the country, to co-manage the buffalo herd beginning in 2025.

“Our vision for the Zapata will foster climate resilience and biodiversity conservation as well as elevate Indigenous voices and choices, a key part of TNC’s Indigenous Right Relations strategy,” says Nancy Fishbein, director of resilient lands for TNC in Colorado.

Buffalo are keystone species whose ecological role is integral to healthy lands, people, and plant and animal species across North America. Their restoration with Tribes is an essential step in repairing relationships that have been severed by European settlement. The animals represent a positive force toward spiritual and cultural revitalization, ecological restoration and conservation, food sovereignty, health, and economic development.

Through an ongoing collaboration between TNC, ITBC and Tanka Fund, 679 buffalo from TNC herds across the nation were returned to their ancestral lands and communities in 2023, including 40 buffalo from the Zapata Ranch Preserve in Colorado.



2024

YEAR IN PICTURES

▼ CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

TNC was proud to sponsor and participate in a panel at the Climate Action Summit in Aspen. © CLEER



◀ MOUNTAINFILM FESTIVAL

TNC Colorado was a new nonprofit sponsor at the Mountainfilm Festival in Telluride. © Alexa Garcia/TNC



◀ POUFRE RIVERFEST

TNC Colorado's young professionals group, the 13ers, sponsored and represented TNC at the Poudre RiverFest in Fort Collins. © Anna Sofia Vera/TNC



▲ RESTORATION WORK

TNC staff host a workshop with partners to share riparian restoration techniques. © Alix Pfennigwerth/TNC



◀ TRAIL CAMERAS

Trail cams at TNC's Phantom Canyon Preserve captured an abundance of wildlife. © Andrew Bushnell/TNC and Fernando Boza



INNER MONGOLIA ►

In September 2024, TNC Colorado and other TNC North America staff participated in a learning exchange with staff based in Inner Mongolia. They discussed similar grassland ecosystem challenges and solutions and visited areas where sheep and goats graze in the grasslands. © Terri Schulz/TNC



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The Power of Policy

Working to advance legislation and defend core environmental protections are critical to our ability to achieve our conservation goals. In fact, less than a year after the U.S. Supreme Court rolled back Clean Water Act protections for most wetlands in its *Sackett vs. EPA* decision, The Nature Conservancy in Colorado helped write and advocate for legislation to restore those protections. House Bill 24-1379 ensures that Colorado's most critical streams and wetlands remain protected.

"Policy strengthens the enabling conditions conservation needs to succeed," says Aaron Citron, associate director of external affairs for TNC in Colorado.

"We found a way to overcome a federal decision that threatened the headwaters of the four major river basins that originate in Colorado. This legislation will be a model for TNC chapters across the country."

In addition, TNC helped advance the recommendations of the Colorado River Drought Task Force. Senate Bill 24-197 creates new tools to improve stream flows and will help Tribal Nations access state water conservation and infrastructure funding.

A rapid transition to renewable energy resources is essential to tackling climate change and clearing our air. TNC science demonstrates that we can both meet our renewable energy goals and avoid impacts to the most sensitive natural and working lands. Senate Bill 24-212 provides resources to decision makers to help them make siting decisions that protect biodiversity and community needs while supporting a timely clean energy transition.

Senate Bill 24-126 supports conservation easements, which are critical conservation tools—particularly here in Colorado. These voluntary agreements protect lands and waters that hold high ecological value for communities who enjoy them. Working alongside Keep It Colorado, a coalition of land trusts, we helped pass legislation that increases the easement tax credit program by \$5 million annually, enabling more land to be conserved and benefiting both people and nature.

"Protecting our lands, rivers, and air quality is important for all Coloradans," says Citron. "These wins help Colorado ensure a more sustainable future."



TOP TO BOTTOM Sen. Dylan Roberts talks with TNC Colorado staff. © Carrie Segil/TNC; Community members plant herbs between solar panels at an agrivoltaics site in Boulder. © Rhianna Truex; Renewable energy © Joanna Kulesza; Staff visit the Colorado State Capital. © Carrie Segil/TNC



REDUCING OUR CLIMATE FOOTPRINT IN COLORADO:

Inside TNC's Sustainability Journey

Who might you find crawling around in an attic with a can of spray foam, researching electric vehicles, catching leaks, installing heat pumps, and ordering new signage for a TNC preserve? It's all in a day's work for Jon Ray Gardner, sustainability facilities manager for TNC in Colorado.

The Nature Conservancy takes great care in managing its preserves and properties. While this often comes in the form of monitoring the lands, waters, plants, and animals, it also means caring for the buildings and other infrastructure that exist on our properties across the state—from Fox Ranch Preserve near Wray to the historic Carpenter Ranch Preserve near Steamboat Springs. Being good stewards

of these properties is paramount to our work. Another priority is to incorporate sustainability practices and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our properties. We have a goal to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 to help in the fight against climate change.

"Part of my role at TNC is to keep track of general facilities and vehicle fleet maintenance and keep things working," says Gardner. "In that sense, I'm like any other facilities manager. What makes my role unique and particularly engaging for me is that I also get to focus on reducing carbon emissions from our systems and encourage cultural and behavioral change to reduce emissions in how we operate."

Gardner's approach is multi-phased, starting with energy efficiency projects like increased insulation and high-efficiency heating and cooling systems. The second phase is focused on electrification to replace systems that use fossil fuels—internal combustion engines and gas boilers—with electric equivalents, such as electric vehicles or heat pumps. The final phase is transitioning to electricity that comes from renewable energy sources like solar and wind.

Gardner has been able to leverage a variety of funding sources, from public grants to utility rebates to private donations, to support projects that make our preserves and properties more sustainable.

"All of this work is critical not only to reach TNC's operational carbon reduction goals, but also to contribute to the clean energy transition we so badly need to reduce dangerous climate change impacts," says Gardner.

With many more projects on his wish list, Gardner is excited for the future. "I'm grateful TNC Colorado had the self-awareness and foresight to recognize the need for this position," says Gardner. "I'm honored and stoked to be in this role and excited about the improvements we can make that can make a big difference."

LEFT TO RIGHT Carpenter Ranch Preserve © Anna Sofia Vera/TNC; TNC in Colorado's Sustainability Facilities Manager Jon Ray Gardner © Alexa Garcia/TNC; Carpenter Ranch Preserve © Jim Steinberg; Fox Ranch Preserve © Alexa Garcia



GROWING SHADE:

Empowering Communities to Build a Greener and More Resilient Future

Summer 2024 was the Earth's hottest on record. In cities, especially in underserved neighborhoods, the heat can lead to acute illness and death. While tornadoes and hurricanes may steal the headlines, heat is actually the planet's deadliest extreme weather phenomenon.

In Denver's Globeville neighborhood, the lack of trees and shade impact the health, safety, and comfort of the people who live there. Climate change is making things worse.

The Nature Conservancy in Colorado's Cities Program provides assistance and resources to address these challenges and has been working with partners for years to increase the tree canopy in Denver, with a focus on Globeville.

"In Globeville, the tree canopy is just 5 percent," says Chris Hawkins, cities director for TNC in Colorado. "For perspective, many affluent

neighborhoods have more than 30 percent tree canopy. That extra shade can bring down the temperatures by more than 15 degrees Fahrenheit—a meaningful difference."

Embedded in Globeville is the Birdseed Collective, a nonprofit community outreach organization whose mission is to improve social-economic standing through innovative arts, food relief, and community building programs. They also recognize the vital role that nature—and trees in particular—can play in safeguarding a healthy future for families.

"We envision a Globeville where resilience and health are rooted in our community's own voice and vision," says Anthony Garcia Sr., the Birdseed Collective's director. "Our narrative is one of empowerment, collaboration, and sustainable growth, driven by the aspirations and needs of the people who call Globeville home."



The Nature Conservancy's Colorado Cities Program proudly provides assistance and resources to the Birdseed Collective to support their community-led initiative to plant durable, natural solutions to a hotter climate and sustain a healthier quality of life.

"We're here to be allies for the Birdseed Collective and others who struggle with the heat and pollution that plagues their neighborhood," says Hawkins. "The Birdseed Collective is an incredible partner and we are inspired to help them achieve their vision, including through increased access to new federal and state funding, to build a more resilient and healthy community."

As partnerships and trees take root, Globeville moves closer to a future where nature and community can thrive together.

Colorado River Multi-State Trustee Gathering

Last spring, along the banks of the Yampa River, at the historic Carpenter Ranch Preserve near Steamboat Springs, TNC hosted a powerful forum. The first-ever Colorado River Multi-State Trustee Gathering was a huge success thanks to the diversity, enthusiasm, and commitment of its remarkable attendees. Hailing from six Basin states and Mexico, more than 100 TNC trustees and staff members arrived at the ranch ready to learn, network, and problem solve. The weekend offered them a deep dive into one of TNC's most urgent priorities: how to chart a better future for the lands, waters, and people of the Colorado River Basin.

Featured speakers at the event included TNC's CEO Jennifer Morris, Western U.S. and Canada Division Director Toni Hardesty, and TNC state directors from six Basin states, as well as from TNC's Mexico program. Attendees heard from TNC's Tribal trustees and partners who are deeply engaged in supporting Tribal sovereignty in the Basin. They also got a chance to trade ideas in breakout groups designed to deepen their engagement on Colorado River issues. Several staff and trustees embarked on a float trip down the Yampa, enjoying a truly up-close look at TNC Colorado's freshwater work.

This inaugural summit showcased the major progress TNC's Colorado River Program is making to protect flows and address the

complex challenges in the Basin—and how uniquely positioned TNC is to build diverse partnerships and find practical solutions that cross borders. In a special moment of celebration during the event—amid the cheers of trustees—TNC's Colorado River Program team received The Nature Conservancy's esteemed One Conservancy Award for contributions to conservation worldwide. This team's work on the Colorado River is being shared with TNC colleagues in Africa, Australia, South America, and across the rest of North America as a model for collaborative work at scale.

After the gathering, Carlos Fernández, TNC's Colorado state director, reflected with gratitude: "TNC Colorado was proud to host this landmark event in our headwaters state and to unite so many special people around this life-giving river system."

Hailing from six Basin states and Mexico, more than 100 TNC trustees and staff members arrived at the ranch ready to learn, network and problem solve.

LEARN MORE about our Colorado River work at [Nature.org/coloradoriver](https://www.nature.org/coloradoriver).





Creating a Diverse Conservation Workforce

The Colorado Conservation Fellowship was developed to implement a key pillar of Colorado's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan – Inspire & Invest in Future Conservationists. This pillar recognizes that, in the past, conservation efforts have often excluded many races, cultures, and identities. These inequities have had lasting reverberations on the composition of the conservation workforce.

This two-year fellowship program was launched in 2023 with partnership and support from Great Outdoors Colorado and private donors. Our initial three fellows are Andrea Torres, Anna Sofia Vera, Jacob Cook Garza. The Fellowship focuses on creating the conditions that will attract more individuals into conservation careers both at TNC in Colorado and within broader Colorado conservation community.

Through skill building, leadership training, mentorship, and networking, the Fellowship provides career growth opportunities for emerging professionals who embody diversity in its many forms while advancing our ambitious goals. With this Fellowship, TNC is creating pathways for conservation careers while improving our outcomes by bringing new perspectives to the table and engaging in mutually beneficial learning. Here are a few reflections from our Fellows:

“Stepping into a newly created fellowship was intimidating at first. Despite this, I am most proud of how I’ve embraced new spaces and opportunities. It took reminding myself that my lived and unique experiences make me who I am and drive the passion for the work I do.” – **Andrea Torres**

“I am most proud of how my personal and professional story has flourished at TNC. I’ve had the chance to connect my love for art, values-based storytelling, youth education and project management through meaningful projects across Colorado. I dove ‘into the deep end’ and have built special relationships with TNC staff, several of whom I consider close friends and invaluable mentors in my life.” – **Anna Sofia Vera**

“I am most proud of my ability to challenge myself. I came into the fellowship with curiosity and excitement but also fears and uncertainty. I have consistently pushed myself out of my comfort zone to grow both as a conservationist and as a person. I am proud of the risks I have taken that are helping forge a beautifully unforeseen path in conservation.” – **Jacob Cook Garza**



TOP TO BOTTOM Andrea Torres © Sam Erstad; Anna Sofia Vera © Daniel de Koning; Fellows, staff and partners attend the 2024 Colorado Parks and Wildlife Conference. © Jackie Miller/GOCO; Jacob Cook Garza © Kevin Mohatt



FORESTS OF THE FUTURE:

Building a Path to Resiliency

A new innovative national collaboration between TNC and the U.S. Forest Service is enabling TNC to expand the benefit of this work through the development of a robust and flexible prescribed fire workforce.

With funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, TNC has assembled over 100 personnel into prescribed fire support teams that can be flexibly deployed to advance critical fire management projects in National Forests across the nation. In Colorado, we have been able to secure and deploy these teams to help achieve fire management goals in the Arapaho, Roosevelt, Pike, and San Juan National Forests. We will support further work in each of these forests this fall. Among other benefits, the work of these crews helps to advance the forest management and community protection goals of The Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative, an organization that brings together partners from across the northern Front Range to strategically

prioritize, plan for, and implement forest management across jurisdictions and in a way that benefits both people and nature.

TNC is further supporting the growth of Colorado's workforce by partnering with The Ember Alliance, a local nonprofit, to train the next generation of fire leaders. We're doing this through a unique education program co-created with Front Range Community College.

“Our approach to supporting the safe and effective use of prescribed fire as a forest management tool in Colorado has evolved through the years,” says Rob Addington, TNC Colorado's forests and fire director, “but it has always been grounded in science, collaboration, and ecological resiliency. We recognize that having a well-trained and robust prescribed fire workforce both in Colorado and across the West is critical to reducing wildfire risks to communities and the environment at a scale that makes a difference.”

Colorado and states across the West have all had their fair share of catastrophic fires over the last decade. More than a century of fire exclusion, combined with insects, disease, and warming temperatures, have left millions of acres of forests at risk.

While the situation may seem daunting, fire itself can be part of the solution. As confirmed by a recent scientific study supported by The Nature Conservancy, the safe and effective use of prescribed burning can play an essential role in reducing fuels and restoring resiliency that improves conditions for communities, water and wildlife.

The Nature Conservancy has been working with partners across the country for more than 60 years to responsibly deploy prescribed fire as a tool for improving forest and grassland health.

TOP PHOTOS Elkhorn Creek prescribed fire on the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch outside Red Feather Lakes, Colorado © Lauryn Wachs/TNC






The Nature Conservancy in Colorado
 2424 Spruce Street
 Boulder, CO 80302
 nature.org/Colorado

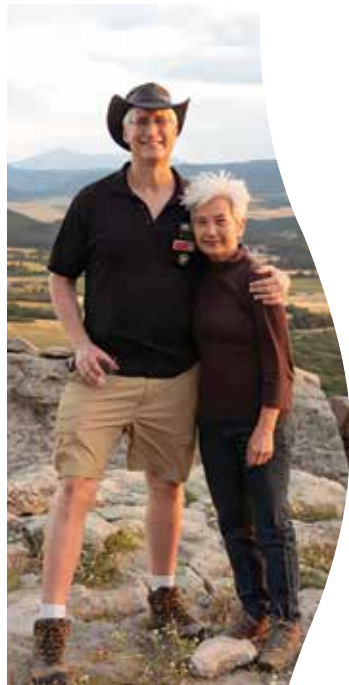
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 colorado@tnc.org

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Alan Clarke and Vanessa Dao © Amy Graziano



Leaving a Legacy

When Alan Clarke and Vanessa Dao began their long-term gift planning, The Nature Conservancy in Colorado was a natural fit. “We feel that it is our responsibility to cherish and preserve the diversity of life and beauty of our world and help make it a better place for future generations,” says Alan. “TNC is a uniquely capable and successful organization, and we know our gift will enable TNC to continue its critical work.”

Alan and Vanessa are part of TNC’s Legacy Club, whose members include TNC as a named beneficiary of their estate plans or make other long-term gifts to TNC.

Alan has been involved with conservation since childhood, developing a love for nature and the outdoors on family road trips and while roaming the fields and forests of rural upstate New York. Vanessa moved from a small village in Vietnam to Los Angeles, California as a teenager and quickly came to appreciate how crucial forests and mountains were to her well-being.

“Including TNC in your estate plans is an effective way to leave a lasting impact for the benefit of future generations,” says Alan. “This is typically not a difficult process, often as simple as listing TNC in a will or trust, or as an account beneficiary. A donor-advised fund is another useful tool to facilitate planned giving.”

Alan and Vanessa feel that TNC is a great choice to steward their gift: “The Nature Conservancy’s perspective and philosophy of partnering closely with people at the local level to understand their needs and interactions with wildlife and the land, while conserving broad regions across political and global geographic boundaries, resonates strongly with us. The accomplishments of TNC will continue to greatly benefit generations to come.”

TO PLAN YOUR CONSERVATION LEGACY

CONTACT Cynthia Weir | cynthia.weir@tnc.org | 303-444-2950

