

# what is ASPEN VALLEY LAND TRUST?

*Aspen Valley Land Trust (AVLT) is dedicated to preserving open lands for agriculture, wildlife, scenic enjoyment and recreation in the greater Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys. As the oldest land trust in the State of Colorado, AVLT is an acknowledged leader in the field. AVLT is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization guided in decision-making by volunteer members of the Board of Directors. Charitable contributions support our work.*

Scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, and working ranchlands make our area unique and beautiful. Yet these lands are being converted to development at an alarming rate. The decision to protect these lands is being made today by individual landowners. Their decisions will affect the experience we pass on to our grandchildren and the quality of life we all enjoy.

Most of the land conserved by AVLT has been donated by landowners through “conservation easements” – voluntary legal agreements that permanently preserve private property for scenic open space, agriculture, wildlife and recreation. Conservation easements are flexible tools for land conservation that allow the landowner to maintain ownership and control of the property, and to continue certain historic uses of the property, such as farming or ranching.

## **Vision Statement**

AVLT envisions a place where land, wildlife and people flourish, and where land is a treasure to be passed on forever.

## **Need**

Western Colorado’s tremendous natural beauty and a diverse and unconventional community make it a desirable place to live and work. Natural resource development together with the area’s popularity are resulting in the rapid conversion of open and agricultural lands to residential and commercial uses, threatening the natural and community qualities that make this an attractive place to live.

## **Beliefs**

Good land and its varied character are irreplaceable.

In experiencing nature’s magnificence, we understand our role in the world.

Human activity is compatible with some protected lands, but not with all.

