

For Immediate Release

CVEPA and TLR Receive Donation of Land for Future Generations

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In partnership with the Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Association (CVEPA), the Trust for Land Restoration (TLR) recently received a generous donation of 8.5 acres from long time Crystal Valley residents, Jeff and Janette Bier. The parcel sits upland of the recently conserved Marble Wetlands, and sets into process the long-term conservation of the one of the last highly visible private land puzzle pieces in the area.

This is not the first parcel donated by the Biers. A number of years ago, they donated two old mining claims on Sheep Mountain to the Trust for Public Lands for their High Elk Corridor program. A conversation with the donor of the Marble Wetlands inspired the additional contribution of the 8.5 acre parcel since it lays adjacent to the wetlands, United States Forest Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife lands.

According to Jeff “we felt the development of this claim would be detrimentally visible from East Marble, the Ski Area road, Lake View Estates and various properties along County Road 3. In our minds, the protection of the lower part of Raspberry Ridge outweighed any modest funds generated by a sale, hence the donation.”

This donation comes one year after the dramatic, last-minute conservation of 55 acres of pristine wetlands adjacent to Beaver Lake that was compromised by the potential liability from an obsolete smelter slag pile located on the property. CVEPA President John Armstrong engaged the resources of Pat Willits of TLR, based in Ridgeway, CO, Aspen Valley Land Trust, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) to ensure necessary environmental mitigation would take place at the wetlands and ensure acceptance of the deed. CVEPA's diligence and TLR's swift action meant the deed was recorded on December 31, 2021, within two hours of the donor's deadline.

Since then, TLR has worked with the CDPHE and Trout Unlimited to clean up the slag pile to standards set by the State of Colorado's Voluntary Clean-up Program. Loose slag has been buried and the hardened slag pile has been capped with inert road base. Visitors to the wetlands will have noticed the new fence and signage placed to discourage walking on the site. Approximately one mile of the Crystal River riparian corridor from Beaver Lake through to the historic Marble Millyard is now protected.

It is anticipated that the Town of Marble will become one of the partners engaged with preservation and management of the wetlands.

CVEPA and TLR join with residents of the Crystal Valley in thanking the Biers for their generosity and commitment to helping preserve part of the Colorado we all know and love.