



2018

ANNUAL REPORT


UTAH OPEN LANDS

SINCE 1990

Professor Valley - Mary Jane Canyon

Protected in perpetuity by Utah Open Lands -
1,280 acres in Grand County Utah, since 2007

INVESTING IN OPEN SPACE

“ ONE OF THE GREATEST
DIGNITIES OF HUMANKIND IS
THAT EACH SUCCESSIVE
GENERATION IS INVESTED IN
THE WELFARE OF EACH
NEW GENERATION. ”
Mr. Rogers

Community well being is tied to the land. Whether it's the sustenance of farming on the **Wheadon Farmland Preserve** or the healthy lifestyle that comes from access to trails on the **North Round Valley Preserve**. Open spaces are significant investments in the welfare of the next generation, and you sustain that investment. You have found time, money, and willingness to support the good work of Utah Open Lands. **Our 28-year mission** of open space preservation has demonstrated just how compelling permanent land protection is; **now 62,000-acres strong.**



(c) Paris Gore

LOOKING BACK

2018 - YEAR IN REVIEW

2018 has been a busy year at Utah Open Lands. It's the support from our friends, families, and community that helps us do what we do, year after year, and we would be remiss to not thank the village that stands behind us as we move forward in our pursuit of land protection. We work to protect the lands you love, and you help us do that work.

You made it possible to:

- Continue **Bonanza Flat Conservation Area's** conservation easement and management plan work.
- Kick-start the **Armstrong Snow Ranch Pastures** land protection campaign.
- Work toward a **\$48 million open space bond.**
- Advocate Wasatch County and Midway's **inaugural open space bonds** to champion over **\$15 million for open space preservation.**
- Chair a Legislative Task Force for the **Cottonwood Canyons.**
- Highlight the importance of **protecting our watersheds** and incorporate land conservation as an approach to **healthy, clean drinking water.**
- Continue a **conservation outreach** tradition with our annual **Gaining Ground Seminar**, with the help of the **Cultural Vision Fund** and the **S.J. Quinney Law School**. Landowners, attorneys, appraisers, land conservation professionals and the general public attended to learn about conservation easements, management plans, appraisals and more.
- Aid trail and open space efforts from **Draper's Corner Canyon** to the **Salt Lake City foothills** to the **Jordan River.**

2018

ENGAGING PARTNERSHIPS

THE UTAH OPEN LANDS COMMUNITY

Once the land is protected, the hard work begins.

A recent workday at the Hidden Hollow Nature Preserve in Salt Lake City spearheaded an effort with the city to name a native plant garden in **Hidden Hollow** after beloved educator **Ty Harrison**. Ty passed away in 2017. Over his career, Ty invested considerable effort in caring for and teaching about natural landscapes throughout Utah. One of his last acts was restoration of a valuable ecotone in **Hidden Hollow**. He lovingly hand-picked the native plants that went into the restoration. **We are proud to carry on his work.** With our key partners Salt Lake City Public Lands and Parks, Parley's Rails, Trails and Tunnels Coalition (PRATT), Sugar House Community Council, Tree Utah, BluGroup and the Utah Native Plant Society, **we envision an educational open space for future generations.** We recently planted 25 native trees and plants in Ty's Garden after receiving generous funding from PRATT and Salt Lake City Public Lands and Parks. **Utah Open Lands will continue to work with our amazing partners to care for Ty's Garden.**

On **Bonanza Flat Conservation Area**, Utah Open Lands secured a **\$150,000 grant from the Governor's Office of Outdoor Recreation** to build trailheads, restrooms and trails. We reached out to **Mountain Trails Foundation and Park City** in this effort to leverage the Park City public's investment in open space. We secured a stewardship grant from the **Beagle Charitable Foundation** and together with the outdoor grant we have leveraged Park City's initial purchase of the land.

Long term care of the land is a priority for Utah Open Lands. Each year, we visit every single property that we protect. Spending days on the land, meeting with land owners, conducting monitoring visits, and being the best stewards of the land that we can be. **Utah Open Lands exemplifies tangible land protection.** With over 62,000-acres of land and 92 individual conservation landscapes across Utah, the role of stewardship is as vast as its promise. We pride ourselves on our commitment to foster positive relations with our landowners and partners, and **we believe this is directly reflected in the health of the land.**



COMMUNITY MATTERS

SPOTLIGHT: LEWIS KOGAN

It's partners like Lewis Kogan who make the work we do at Utah Open Lands so rewarding. As the Trails & Natural Lands Division Director for Salt Lake City, Lewis knows the value of open space. **"When I came to Salt Lake City, what I found very surprising was this city's unparalleled geographic access to the outdoors."** Lewis has been an inspiration to Utah Open Lands' mission to protect and restore open space. His work on the Jordan River, Hidden Hollow Nature Preserve, and accessibility improvements to the trails above Salt Lake have led to a greater appreciation for open spaces in Salt Lake City. When he is not advocating for the land, he enjoys spending time in the outdoors with his friends and family, having "type-2-fun" all over the state of Utah.



"WHEN THERE IS AN IMPORTANT PROJECT THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, REGARDLESS OF THE ODDS, IT SEEMS THAT UTAH OPEN LANDS IS AMBITIOUS AND SCRAPPY AND PERSISTENT AND ABLE TO OVERCOME SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES IN PROTECTING IMPORTANT PROPERTIES."

Lewis Kogan

TIME GIVEN, LAND PROTECTED

We couldn't do what we do without the efforts of volunteers and supporters who give their time, money, and help to the cause.

Thank you for hosting **Open Houses** for **Armstrong Snow Ranch Pastures**.

Thank you to all of our **volunteer land monitors**.

Thank you for putting up door hangers for the **Hoe Down to Throw Down**.

Thank you for **planting trees** at **Ty's Garden** at **Hidden Hollow**.

Thank you for **sage restoration** at **Hi-Ute Ranch**.

Thank you for **volunteering on public committees**.

Thank you for **citizen science bird surveys** on **Bonanza Flat Conservation Area**.

Thank you for helping organize and implement **Portraits of Preservation**.

Thank you for **coming and speaking at public hearings**.

Thank you to all of our partners, volunteers and members for making land preservation forever a possibility. For a complete list of those in need of thanks, visit our website at UtahOpenLands.org

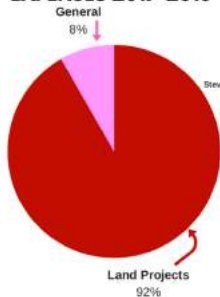
PROTECTING THE LAND

THE NUMBERS

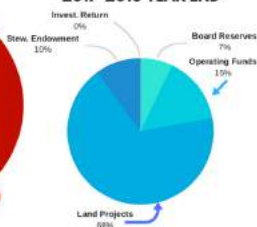
Only 12% of contributions received in 2018 were for general operations. 88% of contributions donated to Utah Open Lands were for direct land protection. Project donations only go towards land or easement purchases, as that is the commitment we make to you, our donors. Our general operations fund everything from fundraising efforts to meeting with landowners; from title investigation to contracting with appraisers; from working with environmental to mineral assessors. The behind-the-scenes work that gets projects to the table and preserved in perpetuity often comes out of our general operating funds, and designated stewardship or project related funding. We cover our team efforts, needed professional service, and program work from our general operations. Our general operations covers program work from community education to BioBlitzes to trail cleanup days. Through general operations, we are an expert resource for local leaders and professionals; providing seminars and presentations from college campuses to county council meetings to task forces on Capitol Hill.

Utah Open Lands has translated your donations directly into the protection of the lands you love.

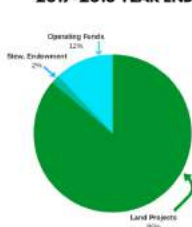
EXPENSES 2017-2018



NET ASSETS 2017-2018 YEAR END



REVENUE 2017-2018 YEAR END



CONSERVING TOMORROW

GETTING IT RIGHT

Utah Open Lands works diligently to see that every land and easement transaction is legally, ethically and technically sound. **Utah Open Lands' promise is to protect the land it conserves in perpetuity.** To help secure the perpetual conservation of land, our transactions must stand the test of time and withstand future challenges. The bedrock of **sound transactions begins with due diligence.** From the cost of purchasing a conservation easement or fee-owned parcel of land, there are numerous transactional considerations that must be accounted for in every project.

This foundation includes:

- Boundary Surveys
- Land Ownership Delineation
- Clear Titles
- Legal Review
- Water Rights Investigation
- Mineral Interest Potential
- Environmental Assessment
- Current Conditions / Analysis
- Baseline Documentation Report
- Conservation Easement Drafting
- Appraisal Documentation
- Final Recording



THE COST OF EACH ACRE OF LAND PROTECTION

The negotiation of a conservation easement takes time and there are necessary costs associated with a conservation easement even if the landowner is donating 100% of the value. From environmental impact assessments to stewardship, Utah Open Lands is required by the IRS to have the resources necessary to fulfill our commitment to enforcing the conservation easement and protecting the land in perpetuity. The costs associated with protecting a property increases when a fundraising campaign is needed to ensure the purchase of a conservation easement. These costs can range from \$10,000 to \$25,000 or more per project. Because Utah Open Lands' members support this organization these project costs are often absorbed by the organization as part of the fulfillment of our land saving mission.

ARMSTRONG SNOW RANCH PASTURES

WE'RE NOT DONE YET

DECADES IN THE MAKING

Utah Open Lands has spent the last 28 years creating meaningful community relationships. Our relationship with the Armstrong Family is a testimony to decades of dedication. Utah Open Lands understands the importance of intentional relationships.

Armstrong Snow Ranch Pastures is no exception.

PRESERVATION POTENTIAL

We are delighted to have the opportunity to preserve the Armstrong Family legacy through a forever protected conservation easement. **These pastures, have been in the family for generations,** and the cultural and historical story of this land is vital to the history and diversity of Summit County and Park City. These heirloom pastures are the home to sandhill cranes, town history and scenic vistas that mean more to us than the 3-lot-per-acre development that could be the future of this land.

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

Armstrong Snow Ranch Pastures is a Summit County gem, and it is at serious risk.

Planned development of this open space would result in a high density development.

Because of the conservation ethic of the landowners, Utah Open Lands has the opportunity to save this land from development at a reduced value of \$6 million, which, is 63% less than the appraised value. The purchase price of the conservation easement will forever safeguard this land.

Utah Open Lands has to finish raising \$1.8 million in order to safeguard these pastures in perpetuity, even though the Park City open space bond passed by 77%.

A COMMUNITY FOR CONSERVATION

We rely on strong support from the local community members to make our work possible.

Armstrong Snow Ranch Pastures will only become a protected property with community support.

Whether it be through a donation, or by hosting a fundraiser, Utah Open Lands needs your support in this final push to protect Armstrong Snow Ranch Pastures. You can trust that we will do everything in our power to make that happen, and we thank you for the role YOU play in protecting the lands you love.



BUILDING THE BONNEVILLE

There's something special about a city nestled in the mountains.

Imagine 500-acres of beautiful, natural foothills within the rapidly developing confines of Salt Lake City. Envision a place where you can spend your lunch hour walking along trails in the spring, looking for wildflowers; a place where you can escape the hustle of the city on your mountain bike to enjoy a Saturday ride. Consider a 15-minute drive from your home to a place where you can spot deer, hear spring songbirds, and watch hawks soar above the hills. Walk along a trail that follows mountain streams. Look out your front window to see an unbroken expanse of wild, natural lands.

In the Salt Lake Valley, this vision is a reality. **Utah Open Lands** holds a permanent conservation easement on **The University of Utah Heritage Preserve**, which forever protects this iconic landscape for current and future generations. In 2001, the University of Utah and Utah Open Lands had a vision to set this highly scenic land aside as a preserve for wildlife, for its scenic value, for watershed protection and for its abundant recreation opportunity. At the heart of the Preserve is the **Bonneville Shoreline Trail**, which connects permanently conserved lands by Utah Open Lands such as the **Bonneville Shoreline Preserve** in North Salt Lake to the **Grandeur Peak Natural Area**.

The Bonneville Shoreline Trail has been at risk since it's inception. Most of the trail goes through privately owned land. **Utah Open Lands** is pleased to announce that a significant portion of the trail is no longer in danger as **Utah Open Lands** and the **University of Utah** are adding an additional 5-acre property, known as the **University of Utah Bonneville Shoreline Addition**, to the existing **Heritage Preserve** which contains an important section of the **Bonneville Shoreline Trail**.

We look forward to the public using this new property as well as the existing **Heritage Preserve**, **Bonneville Shoreline Preserve** and **Grandeur Peak Natural Area**. With the future in mind, **Utah Open Lands** will continue to work to preserve trail connections and corridors along the **Bonneville Shoreline Trail**.

STEWARDED THE LAND

A BONANZA OF AN UPDATE

Utah Open Lands has been continuing our conservation work at the **Bonanza Flat Conservation Area**. We have been working closely with Park City on the Adaptive Stewardship Management Plan. We are honored to have the role of protecting and acting as steward to the land forever. Management and enforcement will be required to uphold the terms of the Conservation Easement. In employing sustainable management strategies, there will be transitions from historic patterns of use and behavior toward more mindful engagement with the land. Through proactive education and peer-to-peer nudges we will find ways to ensure that we are all positive stewards of the conservation values of **Bonanza Flat Conservation Area**. Striking a forward-thinking balance of use and protection on the land will be critical to its long term health and the conservation of the watershed that sits directly above the Town of Midway, Wasatch County and the Provo River.

While still a wild place, **Bonanza Flat Conservation Area** is a landscape in need of healing. Focusing on restoration of the land, the fundamental concepts that this management plan employs include: limiting impacts, compatible uses that achieve sustainability, and utilizing the carrying capacity of the landscape itself as a guide for management decisions. With the Conservation Easement as the fundamental guide, the **Bonanza Flat Conservation Area Adaptive Management and Stewardship Plan** provides a framework for comprehensive stewardship of the land.

PAYING IT FORWARD

2018 demonstrated how an investment in open space is an investment in the welfare of each new generation.

- On the **Gene and Deane Wheadon Farmland Preserve** that we protected in 1997, new farmers now have the opportunity to engage with the land and provide food for communities on a local level. The food they grow has the potential to **support refugee communities in Utah**.
- The **Charles Jewell and Erma S Richins Ranch Heritage Preserve**, protected in 2007, is home to one of the most productive sage grouse leks in northern Utah, and chick survival rates have improved over the last three years.
- A ranch we protected in 2001, now hosts a thriving population of rare **Columbia spotted frogs**.
- **Working with Park City and Mountain Trails Foundation**, a new trail to **Bloods Lake** was completed in 2018. Providing a stunning hiking trail experience, this trail shows the potential of what can be done with sustainable management of **Bonanza Flat Conservation Area**. Protection of the environment and sustainable recreation can, and will, go hand in hand.
- **The University of Utah Heritage Preserve** is playing a pivotal role in the overall protection of portions of the **Bonneville Shoreline Trail** that supports abundant recreation, keeping the foothills of Salt Lake City open and unspoiled.
- Through a grant from the **Division of Water Quality and Salt Lake County** a 1930s WPA program vault toilet in **Emigration Canyon** could be refurbished to preserve the historic sandstone structure and **provide a much needed facility for a recreation hub**, pending final community approval.
- Protected in 1998, **Luster Farm** along the stunning Colorado River in southeastern Utah, has been undergoing substantial infrastructure improvements to increase the long-term viability of agriculture there.

ON THE HORIZON

In 2018, we began negotiations on the preservation of over **2600-acres** of land across Utah.

These preservation projects will protect:

- **The last heirloom farm** in Park City.
- **Stunning red rock desert** near Utah Open Lands' **Castleton Tower Preserve**.
- **Critical connections** for the **Bonneville Shoreline Trail**.
- **New recreational opportunities** and access for the **Wasatch Back**.
- **A community bike trail** and a **Century Ranch** in Bear Lake.

STATE OF THE STATE

2019 is a year to watch at your local and legislative levels.

Utah Open Lands has worked diligently to raise awareness regarding the importance of supporting open space preservation. **That hard work has paid off**, but we continue to push. **Let your local representatives know** that YOU value and care about open space, as we continue our grassroots movement.

Watch for funding from the **LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Fund**. Utah Open Lands chaired a legislative task force subcommittee whose top recommendation was for **\$2 million in funding to preserve additional watershed lands in the Cottonwood Canyons**.

With **\$15 million** in Open Space Bonds to distribute, **Wasatch County and Midway** will be assessing what open spaces will be protected to safeguard the rural heritage and character of the communities. **Utah Open Lands** has been asked to share our expertise on how evaluation criteria and ranking protocols aid the process of saving land.

Utah Open Lands is supporting a multi-jurisdictional effort to ensure critical trail connections for the **Bonneville Shoreline Trail**.

Last year we reported on the **Sentinel Landscape legislation** which would designate open land as a protective buffer around **Camp Williams**. This year, look for funding that would create connections for community, and increase safety for the men and women who train at Camp Williams. **Utah Open Lands** has been asked to hold several of the **conservation easements** in this area. **Increasing trail networks and protecting ranching heritage** are just two highlights of this effort.

get involved!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I sign up to volunteer?

Visit www.UtahOpenLands.org and click on the Get Involved tab, or email k.maus@Utahopenlands.org

What happens when I sign up?

You will receive a welcome email, and we will store your contact information in our volunteer database, so that we can send you information of upcoming volunteer opportunities.

What if I can't volunteer consistently?

Whether once a week, month, or even a year, we appreciate any time you can donate to help us continue our mission.



Whether it's sporting a tee, serving pancakes, getting to know our lands or becoming a member, there are many ways you can become involved and volunteer with us.

With opportunities ranging from tabling at farmer's markets to artistic sessions outside in the fall colors, to 62,000 acres of land needing to be monitored on an annual basis, you can sign up to get involved today with outreach, stewardship, or both!



BOARD MEMBERS

Matt Steward *President*

Wendy Zeigler *Vice President*

Mark Raming *Secretary*

Joe Geroux *Treasurer*

Jeff Appel *Past President*

Adam Bahna

Brad Barber

Des Barker

Jon Boltax

Kathryn Eden

Kate Ferguson

Eric Lee

Ben Machlis

Nancy McLaughlin

Heather Ross



STAFF

Wendy Fisher *Executive Director*

Catherine Cargill *Deputy Director*

Mike Auger *Stewardship Director*

Katherine Maus *Conservation Associate*

Seychelle Marcus *Stewardship Assistant*

Ben Marolf *Senior Project Manager*





UTAH OPEN LANDS

SINCE 1990

Whether you live in Utah or have been lucky enough to visit, you are rejuvenated and inspired by the landscapes we protect. In preserving open spaces, recreation areas, and family farms, Utah Open Lands protects the heritage and experience of the land, both for today's communities and tomorrow's generations.

PROTECTING THE LANDS YOU LOVE

Utah Open Lands is a 501(c)3 non-profit land trust conservation association. Our mission is to preserve and protect open space in order to maintain Utah's natural heritage and quality of life for present and future generations. This is achieved by assisting private landowners, government agencies and communities in the voluntary preservation of the agricultural, scenic, recreational, historic and wildlife values of open land.



UTAH OPEN LANDS - TRUST
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