Ecosystem Services and the Ranches Bottom Line

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Building a Toolbox

- Landowners Support Voluntary Conservation Initiatives
- Landowners Support Incentivizing Conservation
- Cross Section of Support for Permanent and Temporal Tools
- Landowners Have a Track Record of Creating Tools
- Landowners are Asking for More Tools

- Highly successful land trust
- Assisted numerous landowners in livelihood preservation
- Protected ~500,000 acres of ranchland

- Market Based Conservation
- Active Conservation Pay for Performance
- Flexible and Stackable – Works Generationally
Regulations Aren’t Working – **Incentives Are!!!**

Desire for a Significant **INCREASE** in Conservation Implementation – **Landowners Want to Participate**

Allows Society to **Avoid Costs Incurred** in Absence of Services (e.g. regulation, resource treatment, etc)

Services Provide **Income**…**Income fuels the Economy**

**Decrease** in Civic **Funding** for Conservation

**Flexibility**
Conservation Benefits

- Secure conservation action across a wider geography to offset losses
- Recovery or restoration of environmental impact
- Increased knowledge of species distribution, abundance and habitat relationships for management decisions
- Restoration of important rangeland ecosystems on private and public lands
Business Benefits

- Keeps working lands in working hands = Economic Benefit
- Operational certainty for a variety of industries
- Long-term benefit of species not being listed or listed species being recovered
- Proactive approach in addressing the public’s species and habitat protection concerns

Maintains Land Use
Implement Market-Based Conservation and Ecosystem Programs

For the Benefit of Wildlife, the Environment, Landowners, and Regulated Community

Through Science, Assistance, Resources and Educational Efforts

Create a Community of Partners

Committed to Conservation and Stewardship of Land, Water, Air and Wildlife
Market-based conservation mechanism that will initially be used for mitigating greater sage grouse and mule deer habitat impacts from energy development.

Accomplished through a scalable, market-based conservation platform accommodating a wide array of environmental needs and usable by multiple investment sectors.

The long-term vision is to support the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of Colorado’s natural sources.
Exchange Objectives

- **Standardize a set of tools and protocols** to quantify habitat and species’ benefits from restoration activities
- **Provide a registry that tracks benefits and reports on progress** towards achieving permit requirements and conservation goals
- **Establish clear operation protocols** to validate projects and quantify, register, certify, and transfer associated credits
- **Establish a trading platform for credits**
- **Begin credit exchange transactions** in the summer of 2013
- **Facilitate an adaptive management process** to improve tools and protocols as new information becomes available
- **Provide regulatory assurances** for participating private landowners and development interests
The Business Case

• Improved cost efficiency
• Reduced regulatory risk
• Improved reputation, social license to operate
• Access to lending capital
• A more level playing field
• First movers advantage
• Larger, more meaningful conservation projects through aggregation of offsets
The Agriculture Case

• Direct involvement in the process and the outcomes
• New financial incentive for conservation
• More direct linkages to investors
• Reduced regulatory risk
• Larger, more meaningful conservation projects through landscape scale cooperation
The Agriculture Case

- Impacts more directly linked to scientifically quantified and verified outcomes
- Focus on outcomes, not just practices
- The possibility of larger projects through aggregation
- Integrated landscape conservation
- Net increases in conservation
- Expanded private investment in conservation
Thank You

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