Help Central Colorado Conservancy Create the Ark River Community Preserve!

Protect the Lands and Waters that Sustain Us

Near Twin Lakes, Colorado, is a rare opportunity to preserve one of the last undeveloped stretches of private property along the Arkansas River—protecting key wildlife habitat and opening a mile of river to public access.

This pristine area, now up for sale, is a prime spot for development. Yet we have an opportunity with the Ark River Community Preserve to protect this special place and welcome community members and visitors to fish in Gold Medal Trout Waters. To raft and kayak the sparkling riffles. To hike or bike or ride horseback on the future Arkansas River Stage & Rail Trail. To watch the river's morning mists from the Highway 24 scenic byway.

Former wildlife biologist and Chaffee County resident John Andrick owns and loves the surrounding canyon—90 acres of land. He has offered to sell it to the Conservancy so that it can be preserved forever. So that the bighorn and elk, the bears and bobcat and bald eagles, can continue to call it home. So that future generations can enjoy this land and water even more than we do today.

In only one year, the Conservancy has secured most of the $1.1 million total costs needed to buy and manage the property, through generous grants. **Now, we are working to raise the final $50,000 to complete the purchase and create the Ark River Community Preserve.** *We need your help.*

What the Preserve Would Do:

The proposed preserve would protect a mile of the Arkansas River, providing new public access to the river and to adjacent public lands.
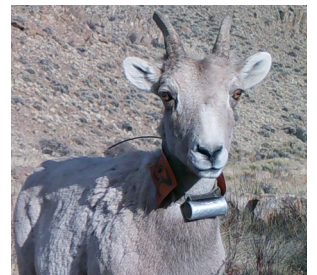
The property would be open to the public, through a partnership with the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area.

Where the Property Is Located:

One mile of the Arkansas River and shoreline north of Granite, where Highway 82 turns to Twin Lakes.

Who Will Benefit:

- **Wildlife** including bighorn sheep, elk, moose, mule deer, black bear, bobcat, mountain lion, and more whose lives depend on this habitat, wintering ground, and wildlife corridor.

- **Float and wader fishermen**, who gain a mile of permanent access to Gold Medal Trout Waters.

- **Bald eagles, ospreys, and red-tailed hawks** who hunt this stretch to feed their young.

- **Visitors** to the Top of the Rockies National Scenic Byway.

"This is an exciting project for Lake County, providing new recreation access for locals and for visitors and protecting a beautiful and highly visible reach of the Arkansas River."

– Sarah Mudge, *Lake County Commissioner*

- **Lake and Chaffee County** businesses that enjoy the economic benefits tourism brings.

- **Hikers, cyclists, and horseback riders** on the proposed regional Arkansas River Stage & Rail Trail, one of Colorado's 16 highest-priority trail projects; this section is now an important gap in the 64-mile pathway.

You can fish across the entire river with your fly rod. It's a small-river, intimate experience."

–Michael Atwood, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Aquatic Biologist

Why Partners Support the Preserve:

A model project, the Ark River Community Preserve advances the goals of many partners: Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, Lake County Open Space Initiative, Arkansas River Stage and Rail Trail, Central Colorado Conservancy, Lake County and its 2015 Comprehensive Plan, Top of the Rockies National Scenic Byway, Trout Unlimited, and the Upper Arkansas Restoration Project.

What's Next

Great Outdoors Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Program, Gates Family Foundation, Freeport-McMoRan Foundation Climax Mine Community Investment Fund, Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and National Trout Unlimited have given generous grant funding, providing $1,064,000 of the funds needed to buy and manage the properties. **Now we need the final $50,000 to make the preserve a reality.**

Please contribute today to create this community resource!

Please visit our website **centralcoloradoconservancy.org** to learn more. *We need your help to create this unique preserve!*

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CENTRAL COLORADO CONSERVANCY

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