



Photo by Charlie Johnson

ESTES VALLEY LAND TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

JULY 1, 2014



PRESERVING OPEN SPACE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

**A PRIVATE NON-PROFIT 501(c)(3) ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO
CONSERVING NATURAL LAND IN AND AROUND THE ESTES VALLEY**

Dear Members and Supporters:

As President of Estes Valley Land Trust I would like to express how much the Board and staff appreciate the support through donations and volunteer service you have provided to EVLT during 2013. Without your invaluable support we would be unable to accomplish our mission "to preserve and protect open space, valleys, wetlands, streams, ranch lands, and wildlife habitat in the Estes Valley and surrounding area."

In September 2013 a major flood event devastated large portions of the Estes Valley and surrounding communities, including many of the properties on which we hold conservation easements. This disaster, and the subsequent efforts to repair damaged areas and restore river corridors in a sustainable manner, caused us to re-evaluate and expand the methods we use to fulfill our mission. We are very proud to successfully protect in perpetuity, through conservation easements, 159 properties totaling nearly 10,000 acres, and we will continue to use conservation easements as our primary means of preserving the scenic views and wildlife habitats that make the Estes Valley an excellent place to live, work and vacation. However, we believe that our mission also extends to working with state and local agencies and landowners to protect public and private lands through outreach to these individuals and agencies. In a community that has no public agency advocating for open space, EVLT needs to fill that void and serve as your voice to influence decisions that will protect open space into the future. Accordingly, our staff is collaborating with the Town of Estes Park in developing sustainable master plans for the Fall River and Fish Creek corridors.

To support our landowners affected by the flood we are organizing work teams of energetic volunteers to assist with their recovery efforts. Also we have received a grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado to provide materials for reseeding flooded areas owned by our easement holders as well as other Estes Valley properties, and we are pursuing additional grants.

Ongoing stewardship of easement properties to ensure the preservation of their conservation values is a major element of our mission. Despite the challenges imposed by having numerous properties damaged or made inaccessible by the flood, all but a handful of the properties under conservation easement were monitored in 2013. Much of this work was conducted by over 100 dedicated volunteers who, under the supervision of our staff, donated 534 hours to support EVLT's mission. We have taken a major step in improving and broadening our capabilities in this area by hiring a fulltime stewardship staff person to oversee this portion of our work.

Public education on conservation issues is another important aspect of our work. In 2013 our Summer Breakfast Series educated 309 attendees about recent wildfires

and their effects on our community. The 2014 series focuses on the impacts of last year's flood and efforts to create a sustainable master plan for the river corridors. Also in 2013 we partnered with Larimer County to hold an Open House/Treasure Hunt at Hermit Park Open Space to teach families about the natural environment. Nearly 250 people, including 70 children, participated in this fun event on one of our public conservation easement properties.

We are very proud of the efforts of our staff and Board in conducting the process of applying for reaccreditation with the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC) and the State of Colorado. We were recently notified of the successful renewal of EVLT's accreditation by the LTAC and the State. This recognizes that that we are meeting very rigorous national standards of excellence, upholding the public trust and ensuring that our conservation efforts are permanent. Accreditation positions EVLT in the top tier of land trusts in the country.

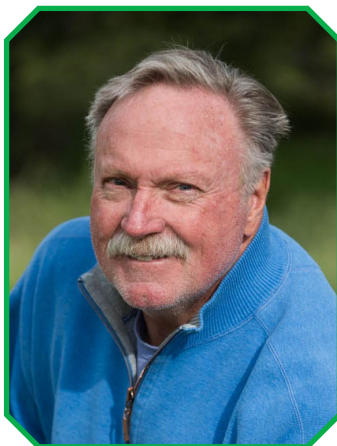
We continue to integrate technology into our operations, including expanding the use of GIS mapping and photo technology into our easement monitoring and documentation processes. We have also launched our website (www.evlandtrust.org) and created a presence in social media to provide information about us and what we represent to the community.

Our financial assets continue to provide support and growth. The graphs on the following pages clearly demonstrate the success of the financial management strategies that have been adopted by EVLT.

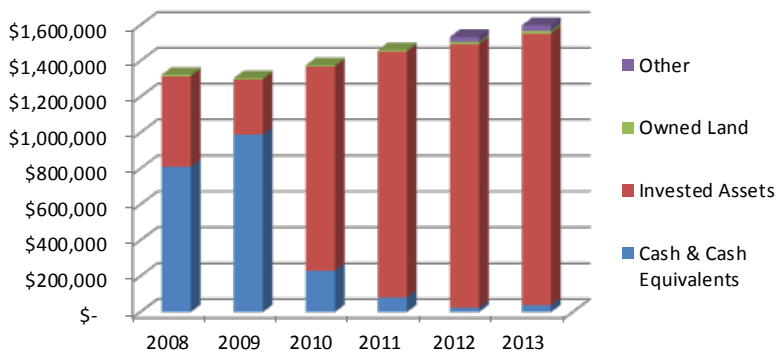
Our outstanding Board and staff are working hard to build on the successes of 2013. Our past successes are due, in great part, to the many and varied contributions of our members and volunteers. Once again, we very much appreciate your continued support. We hope you can find the opportunity to continue and increase your support of our efforts during 2014.

Jim Broomfield

President



Net Assets Grow

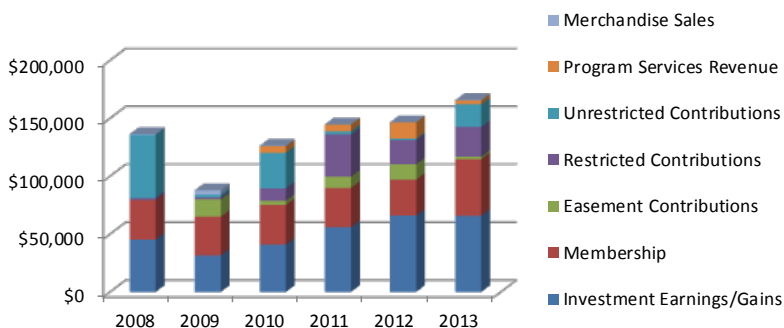


EVLT's invested assets continued excellent growth and positive cash flow throughout 2013, reflecting strong markets and sufficient cash flow. At year-end 2013, EVLT net assets were invested in portfolios of high-grade bonds and equities, and the portfolios' total rate of return for 2013 was approximately 9.75%, reflecting a conservative investment allocation which includes inflation protection for the future.



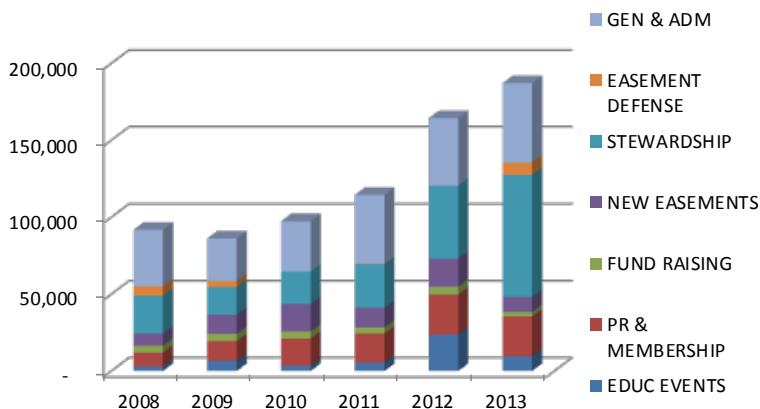


Revenues Increase



In 2013 revenues increased year-over-year by 13%, despite low interest rates in the general economy. Good investment returns continued to contribute to good revenue, but increases in contributions (both restricted and unrestricted) and membership boosted revenues for the year.

Profitable Bottom Line Continues



As revenues have increased, additional funds are being devoted to easement monitoring and acquisition, and strategic protocol was upgraded to ensure reaccreditation. Fund-raising costs as a percentage of total expenses were only 1.5% in 2013, well below Charity Navigator's benchmark of less than 10%. As a percentage of expenses, fund-raising and general and administrative costs at 29% are well below the American Institute of Philanthropy recommendation of less than 40%. Expenses exceeded income by approximately \$21,000 but unrealized gains of over \$91,000 more than made up the difference. Reinvestment of \$70,000 of unrealized gains will promote additional growth in the future.



2013 . . . A YEAR TO REMEMBER . . .

7



. . . AS THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER . . .



. . . TO ENSURE
NATURE'S BEAUTY WILL PREVAIL.

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The mission of the Estes Valley Land Trust is to preserve and protect open space, valleys, wetlands, streams, ranch lands, and wildlife habitat in the Estes Valley and surrounding area. Lands adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest are of special concern.