



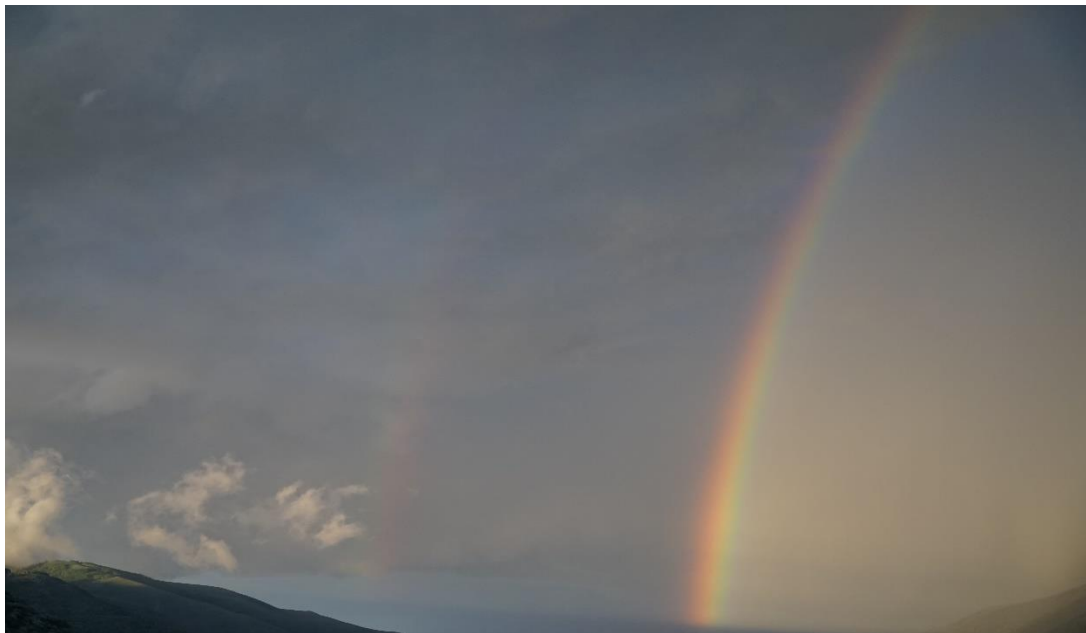
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SUMMIT LAND CONSERVANCY ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN TO SAVE LAND "FOR THE FUTURE"

The For the Future Fund will triple the acres protected by the Conservancy over the next five years



(Park City, Utah) May 16, 2023 – The Summit Land Conservancy officially announced an effort to raise \$20 million "For the Future," at Tuesday's Conservation Breakfast, a fundraising event sponsored by Deer Valley Resort to promote local land conservation. The For the Future Fund is part of the Conservancy's larger \$100 million Utah Headwaters Initiative. The

Conservancy's goal is to leverage donations from individuals with governmental funds to save more land across the Wasatch Back and triple the acres they protect over the next five years.

The Utah Headwaters Initiative, conceptualized by the Summit Land Conservancy in 2019, focuses on enhancing the agricultural and environmental resources within the headwaters of the Weber, Provo and Bear River Watersheds, which are three main tributaries to the Great Salt Lake. Due to climate change and ongoing severe drought, Great Salt Lake could disappear within the next five years unless significant action is taken. The conservation of natural lands will support watershed protection by maintaining important elements of the water cycle, such as groundwater recharge and minimizing the accumulation of runoff and pollutants.

"There's a deep connection between land and water. Water flows through land, under land and over land," said Summit Land Conservancy CEO, Cheryl Fox. "Summit Land Conservancy recognizes this connection and is actively working to protect mountains, and meadows across the Wasatch Back. Utah is confronting a crisis that will have ramifications across the hemisphere. The Conservancy is in a special position to help solve these problems through voluntary land preservation."

The Summit Land Conservancy is actively talking with landowners across the Wasatch Back, from Wasatch to Weber County, to protect approximately 36,000 acres of critical landscapes within the Great Salt Lake Watershed. While agriculture is one of the largest water users, it also is the most readily available source of water. Organizations like the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food are currently making investments in agricultural water optimization: the process of using farmland water more efficiently while allowing agriculturalists and producers to keep their water rights. Summit Land Conservancy hopes that by saving well-managed agricultural lands it creates opportunities for landowners to direct water back into rivers and away from development and municipalities.

Over the next five years, every dollar donated to Summit Land Conservancy will contribute to the For the Future Fund and campaign. The Conservancy aims to raise approximately \$20 million from individual donors leveraging those funds with landowner donations, bequests, foundations, and state and county open space dollars. The For the Future Fund will create a Quick Strike Revolving Fund which will allow the land trust to purchase critical lands outright to get property off the market. Revolving Funds will be replaced with conservation dollars from other partners so those funds can be used over and over again.

"The Summit Land Conservancy is uniquely poised, with partners, relationships, institutional knowledge, and well-honed tools to meet this challenge," said CEO, Cheryl Fox. "The Conservancy is making the choice to step up and do our part to solve the crisis of the lake, mitigate climate change, and protect the beautiful healthy lands of the Wasatch Back. We know that our efforts alone won't solve these problems, but we know it's time to put aside differences and work together, as friends, to save land for the future."

People can learn more about the For the Future Fund and campaign by visiting www.wesaveland.org/forthefuture.

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About Summit Land Conservancy

Founded in Park City in 1998 as a project of Leadership Park City, the Summit Land Conservancy works with Summit County's communities to protect and preserve land and water along the Wasatch Back for the benefit of people and nature.

In 2011, the Conservancy became the first land trust in the state of Utah to be nationally accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. It currently holds 49 permanent conservation easements and manages 2 preserves on over 13,000 acres of open space, much of it with public access in and around Park City. It protects swathes of Round Valley, Quarry Mountain, Empire Canyon, and the McPolin Farmlands, as well as farms and ranches along the Weber and Provo Rivers. It is currently working to preserve an additional 5,000+ acres across the Wasatch Back.

The Conservancy's goal when it started in 1998 was to raise money locally to save land locally, and that hasn't changed. Since 2011, the Conservancy has brought in over \$31 million federal dollars for local land conservation.

As a regional land trust, the Conservancy understands that open space is the heart of our rural and recreational communities. Area residents' sense of place is clearly defined by the shared landscapes that anchor them here. The mountains, trails, farms, and rivers connect people to each other and to the natural world. The Summit Land Conservancy cares for these lands forever, nurturing a healthy community that is founded on its strong connection to the places it has protected together.

More information is available on the Conservancy's website (wesaveland.org) and on Facebook (facebook.com/WeSaveLand), Instagram (instagram.com/wesaveland) and Twitter @Summit_Land (twitter.com/summit_land).

