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**Cover:** Photo of Max Macdonell by Tyler Stableford. From "The Farmers" project.

**“What is the American West?**

**It is space.**

**And if the spaciousness goes,  
something is gone out of our  
image of ourselves that can  
never come again.”**

*- Eric Sevareid*

# ASPEN VALLEY LAND TRUST

2017 ANNUAL REPORT & HIGHLIGHTS





## DO YOU REMEMBER?

### A note from Suzanne

Do you remember the moment you fell in love with the natural world? Was it a single moment or a series of moments that added up to a lifetime of love?

I grew up in a subdivision, full of houses, but surrounded by open land – big land. Sweeping fields, the lowing of cattle, and the kewing of bluebirds as winter slowly melts into spring.

I remember watching ranches along the main valley floor being gobbled up by sprawl as one development after another chopped them to pieces. In high school, I remember a distinct moment of panic when I realized this might happen to my home valley, right there in Old Snowmass.

I couldn't bear the thought of this big, open landscape – so rich in life and space, so familiar and inspiring – becoming something else.

Then my mom clipped a story about a “land trust”: Aspen Valley Land Trust, to be specific. I'd never heard of such a thing, but it walloped me with overwhelming excitement. There is hope!

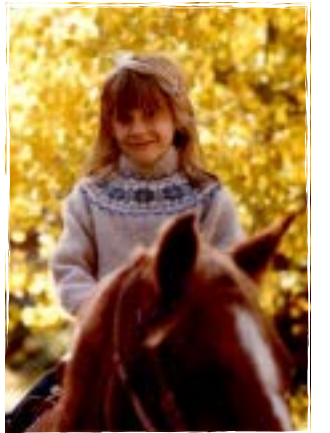
I had no idea that I would someday work for that land trust, and no idea that my first land conservation project would be the ranch where I spent a good portion of my childhood mucking stalls, moving horses, and laughing with friends.

Today, I'm honored to share this work with you, and recognize the people who not only founded this land trust some 50 years ago, but all those who have supported and participated in this good work ever since.

**It is because of you that there is still open land on our valley floors, hope in our hearts, and connection in our natural world today. Thank you.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Stephens'.

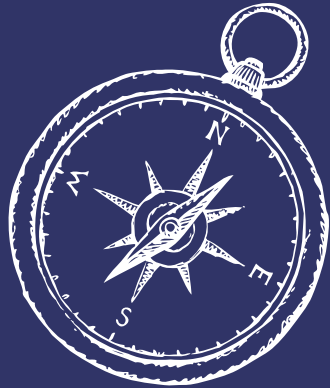
Suzanne Stephens  
Executive Director



## YOU ARE CONNECTING KIDS WITH NATURE

“Education is not filling of a pail,  
but the lighting of a fire.”

-William Butler Yeats



*Want to help more  
kids connect with  
nature's magic?*

Contact us:  
(970) 963-8440 / [avlt@avlt.org](mailto:avlt@avlt.org)

**Right:** In August 2017, 22 educators from seven local schools attended a two-day teacher training at Basecamp, igniting ideas for many new outdoor education programs in the near future.

## SPARKS FLY FOR THE FUTURE

**Basalt High School experiences Chapin Wright  
Marble Basecamp for the first time**

When math teacher Jake Strevig first heard about Basecamp he jumped at the opportunity to learn more.

Jake advises a crew of students at Basalt High School. He imagined Basecamp's remote locale, tucked away at the edge of the Maroon Bells Snowmass Wilderness, would be the perfect place for his crew to engage in a unique shared experience – an adventure that would simultaneously connect them with nature and each other.

Jake and crew spent a day at Basecamp in May 2017. They hiked in, moved logs, chopped wood, and built a campfire together. These were new experiences for many of the students – experiences that have sadly become harder to find in our increasingly busy world.

Their visit marked a milestone for the Basecamp project. Basecamp has served Aspen Middle School as an outdoor education resource for half a century. But the visit by Jake and crew was uniquely important; they became the first new school to use the property in 50 years.

Basalt High School's visit represented a big step towards realizing the vision of ensuring every child in our region has an opportunity to unplug from a world full of distractions and experience mother nature's recharge.

**Thank you for creating a brighter future for our children.**







## WHEN PROTECTING IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

### One man's generosity shines on Silt River Preserve

In 2015, Gerry Pace walked into our office with a big idea. He had just inherited a modest sum from his aunt and wanted to put it towards improving a place he loves.

Years earlier, while working as the Public Works Director for the Town of Silt, Gerry helped create the region's first large-scale public river park at the Silt River Preserve. In 2009, AVLT and the Town of Silt partnered to enable the Town's purchase of 130 acres of Colorado River frontage adjacent to downtown Silt.

But the vision had always been to go a step further by improving public access and restoring the health of the land and wildlife habitat. The town lacked the resources to make these improvements, so the preserve's potential went untapped for many years.

Lucky for everyone, Gerry Pace had fallen in love with the place. Knowing that Silt operated under a tight budget, he asked if AVLT would hold his donations and disperse the funds to Silt as a match to any resources the Town put into the property.

Gerry's generosity is catalyzing a full-scale renewal of the preserve. Thanks to Gerry, we are at it again – collaborating to realize the full vision for the park.

Your support is critical to making this project happen. Thank you for helping us dust off this diamond in the rough for people and critters of all stripes to enjoy.

**The Silt River Preserve Fund was founded in memory of Evelyn and Ferrin Harsch. Your contributions are welcome.**

## YOU ARE BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY

In 2017, you helped raise more than **\$1.5 million** to fund **five** amazing community projects. Thanks to you, our communities will have new trails, kids will have more outdoor education opportunities, critters will have protected habitat, and our rivers will be healthier.



*Want to volunteer for a community project?*

Contact us:  
(970) 963-8440 / [avlt@avlt.org](mailto:avlt@avlt.org)

**Left:** "Colorado Gold." An autumn scene at Silt River Preserve as captured by artist Dan Young.





## YOU DID IT!

**Community responds to save Carbondale's iconic red-rock experience**

**You saved the face of Carbondale.** The private land at the base of Red Hill is very visible as you enter and leave Carbondale. It was also commercially zoned and for sale at a reduced price. The iconic entrance to Carbondale could have easily featured mini-storage or a convenience store. But you saved it! Thanks to you, Carbondale's prominent red rock face will always be scenic and welcoming.

**You are providing access and improving the Red Hill experience.** The Carbondale community has had a long-standing interest in addressing the dangerous and unpleasant jumble of trail users and vehicles along County Road 107. We have heard plenty of stories of near misses between cars, bikes, pedestrians and pets. Thanks to you, new trail connections to the BLM's Red Hill Recreation Area will reduce these conflicts and improve the Red Hill experience for everyone.

**You may have even saved a life...**

## THANK YOU!

Your massive outpouring of support saved Red Hill in less than five months. People from up and down the valley stepped up and contributed \$1.35 million to fund the project.

Special thanks to the Town of Carbondale, Red Hill Neighbors, Ruth Pfeider, Jeff Bier & Coldwell Banker Mason Morse, Nancy Quisenberry, and the Red Hill Council for helping lift this project into reality.

See next page for a full listing of Red Hill donors.

## READY TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY?

*You can help plan and build the new Red Hill connector trails!*

- Planning meetings will be announced in Spring 2018.
- Volunteer trail building begins in July and August.

*Join us!*



*Find out about conservation projects, programs and events.*

Subscribe to our email list at  
***avlt.org***





**Lead donors:** *(Gave \$10,000 or more)*

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🏠 *Gave \$1,000 or more*

Watercolor & charcoal painting by Brian Colley



**Below:** Fritz Benedict's Ranch on Red Mountain, Aspen, 1948. Photo courtesy Aspen Historical Society, Ringquist Collection.



## ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

**At our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Land Gala, we honored a few of our founders and conservation pioneers**

Turning 50 years young gave us an opportunity to reflect on the incredible lineage of community members with the audacity to begin saving land, and those that have supported and inspired our work ever since...

### **JOHN DOREMUS (founder)**

In 1966, John led a group of committed and persistent citizens to form the Pitkin County Parks Association (AVLT's predecessor). Their mission was to advocate for the environment, educate the community, and spearhead local open space and trails initiatives. John served on the Board of the Parks Association and its land holding arm, Park Trust, for more than 25 years, seeing it through an evolution to the valley-wide land trust we are today.

### **FRITZ & FABI BENEDICT (first land donors)**

Fritz and Fabi Benedict shared their reverence for the land with the community by donating over 250 acres of open space, parks and trails in the Hunter Creek Valley, Smuggler Mountain, Stillwater east of Aspen, and beyond. The land they gifted was an investment in the public and recognition of the power of open space to calm the mind and celebrate nature as the ultimate architect.

### **GEORGE & PATTI STRANAHAN (first easement donors)**

In 1981, George and his Flying Dog Ranch business partner Richard McIntyre donated AVLT's very first conservation easement. Their foresight ushered in a new era of land conservation in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River valleys. Since that first easement, George and Patti have conserved over 560 acres in Lenado as well as their former home ranch in Woody Creek.

*Are you ready to lead  
the next generation of  
conservationists?*



Doremus Family



Benedict Family



Patti Stranahan



## 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS

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## THANK YOU SPONSORS

**When local businesses lead, the lands you love get a lift**

All told, 29 organizations provided in-kind and financial contributions in 2017, creating momentum to connect kids to nature, protect critical wildlife habitat, and assist local families with conserving their land.

**If you would like to become a local business leader for conservation, contact Jeff at (970)963-8440 or [jeff@avlt.org](mailto:jeff@avlt.org).**

## BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

**Thank you Alpine Bank!**

We want to make special mention of Alpine Bank, who became the title sponsor and host our 50th Anniversary Land Gala and underwrites this annual report.

As a long-standing supporter of the community and the land trust, Alpine Bank has been committed to sustainability and stewardship of our environment and communities for the last 45 years. We are delighted to have them as a partner.



**Alpine Bank**  
Member FDIC

## Thank you donors & volunteers!

**You turn ideas into reality**

We would simply not exist without you. It really is you who protects what we love most about this special place we live. Thank you for preserving our wild-lands, working lands, and connections to land in Western Colorado.

**Please see our full listing of contributors below.**

## WHERE FINE ART MEETS RANCHING

The nationally recognized Powers Art Center sits in the middle of a 340-acre ranch just east of Carbondale. The historic ranch was conserved by Ryobi Foundation in 2017, forever protecting the art center's spectacular view.

Will Grandbois photo courtesy Post Independent

Ryobi Foundation Ranch helps keep a local ranching family's legacy on the land alive. Current ranch manager Sean Martin is a descendent of the ranch's original owner.



# 2016

## Founders' Circle: (\$100,000 & over)

### Anonymous

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We apologize for any misprints or omissions.

# 2017

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- ★ Gave for last 5 consecutive years
- ★★ Gave for last 10 consecutive years
- ★★★ Gave for last 15+ consecutive years



# 2016

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Gary Benson, *in honor of  
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Temple Glassier & Mark Drummond  
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Henry Lord  
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Peter Nichols  
Robert & Marci Pattillo  
James & Hensley Peterson  
Pat Spitzmiller  
Roark & Linda St. Romain, *in memory of  
Kea Hause*  
Andrew Steketee, *in memory of Kea Hause*  
Suzanne & Jeff Stephens  
Peter & Joan Ziegler

## MEMBERS *(11-1, 2016 through 12-31, 2016)*

### Wildflower Members: (\$1-\$249)

Anonymous  
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Ginni Galicinao *for CW Marble Basecamp,*  
*in honor of Joy Galicinao*  
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Casady Henry  
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Bill & Melanie Livingston  
William & Mary Jane Lockwood, *in memory of  
Kea Hause - with LOVA Board's appreciation*  
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Lisa & Jonathan Lowsky  
Ken & Joani Lubrant  
Howie & Nora Mallory  
Lisa Markalunas  
Julia Marshall  
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Bob McCormick  
Holly McInain  
Janet & Bob Mineo  
Rebecca Mirsky  
Elsa Mitchell  
Dick Moebius  
Tom & Carolyn Moore  
Leah & Bill Moriarty  
Elizabeth Moss *for CW Marble Basecamp*  
*in honor of Jamie, Rob & Gretchen Horn*  
Shannon Murphy  
Marjory Musgrave & Frank Peters  
Kristie Nackord

We apologize for any misprints or omissions.

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Mark & Jocelyn Shelton, *in memory of  
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Melissa Waters  
Polly Whitcomb  
Hans Widmer  
Pierre & Beth Wille, Tyrolean Lodge  
Zanin Family Foundation

We apologize for any misprints or omissions.



# 2017

## Trailblazing Members: (\$500-\$999)

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- Dawn Barton-Welles
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- Robert & Suzanne Macgregor
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- ★ Scott & Ingrid Rolles
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- SGM, Inc.
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- Bari & Eric Stahl
- Bill Stirling
- Pam & Shannon Sweeney

- ★ Gave for last 5 consecutive years
- ★★ Gave for last 10 consecutive years
- ★★★ Gave for last 15+ consecutive years

## MEMBERS (1-1, 2017 through 3-16, 2018)

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- ★ Amy & Doug Throm
- Tamara Tormolen & Marc Breslin
- Richard Turner & Karen Alleger
- Mark & Anne Uhlfelder
- Lucas & Morgan Warth
- Hugh & Mary Wise
- ZG-Chicks Advised Fund of ACF

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- ★ Tracy & Robert Bennett
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- ★ Alan Bershenyi
- ★ Debby & Michael Brady,  
*in memory of Lathrop Strang*
- Wesley Brown
- Tom & Jody Cardamone
- Annie Chapman
- Sonny Conley
- ★ Barbara Conviser
- ★ Anne Cooke & Steve Pfeiffer
- ★ David Corbin
- Mark & Lauren Cornish
- Art & Allison Daily
- Mary Dominick-Coomer & Sven Coomer
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- David Ellis
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- Ashley Feddersen
- ★ David Fleisher & Gina Berko
- Sallie Golden
- Peter & Barbara Guy
- ★★ Casady Henry
- ★★★ Kristen Henry
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- Cil Klamper
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- Skippy Mesirov
- Marjory Musgrave & Frank Peters
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- Mark & Melissa Sumera
- Annie Teague
- John Wilcox
- Fred Wooden
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- Bruce & Lida Arendale
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- ★ Nathaniel Bates
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- Donny Birnkrant
- Glykeria Bitounis, *in honor of  
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- Bill Boortz
- Ginny Brannon
- Steve & Geri Briggs

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- Gena Buhler
- Shelley Burke & Al Nemoff
- Tim Burns & Jenny Lang
- Barbara Bussell
- Oni Butterfly

- ★★ Roger & Helen Carlsen
- Rory & Lucy Cerise
- Georgia Chamberlain
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- Sally Cole
- Mary Conover & Kenyon Fields
- Heinz & Karen Coordes
- ★★ John & Susan Cottle
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- Susan Cuseo, *in memory of Lathrop Strang*
- Paul D'Amato & Beth Cashdan

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- Stephen Douglas
- ★★ Carol Duell, *in honor of  
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Luna Duell & Caroline Duell for Mother's Day*

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- Kathy & Greg Feinsinger
- Max Fischer, *in memory of Kea Hause*
- Kathy Flanigan
- Marguerite Flett
- GINNA & Tim Francis
- Mark Fuller & Penny Atzet
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- ★ Sara Garton
- ★ Richard & Susan Gessner

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- Anne Goldberg
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- Jay Harrington
- Susan Harris
- ★★ Richard & Jane Hart
- Sarah & George Hart
- ★ Michael Hassig & Olivia Emery
- ★ Adele Hause, *in memory of Kea Hause*
- Jud & Carol Hawk *for CW Marble Basecamp*
- Jamin Heady-Smith
- Chris & Stefani Heaphey
- George Hendrix

- ★★ Teddy Hill & Elizabeth Penfield
- ★ Ann Hodges
- ★ Susie Hoeppli
- Stanley Hoffberger
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- Charles & Sandy Israel
- Wayne & Jo Ives
- Sue Jackson
- ★★ Louise Jackson
- Louise Jackson & Sandy Jackson *for CW Marble  
Basecamp, in memory of Gregory Durrett*

- ★ Glen & Lynne Jammaron
- ★★ Jim Jensen & Jeannie Russell
- ★★ Greg & Sean Jeung
- Sandra & Peter Johnson
- Shael Johnson
- ★ Deborah Jones & John Katzenberger
- Nancy Kahn
- ★ Jackie Kasabach
- Gideon Kaufman
- Bill Kight
- Linda Koones
- Amy & Nicholas Krick
- Chad Kumbier
- Land + Shelter
- ★ Bill & Carol Lightstone
- Jennifer & Greg Long
- Henry Lord
- Amory Lovins & Judy Hill Lovins
- Ken & Joani Lubrant
- ★ Max Macdonell
- ★ Lisa Markalunas
- Lisa Markalunas, *in memory of  
June Kirk & Marshall Hall*
- Dan & Elissa Markoya
- Joan Matranga
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- Tim & Donna McFlynn
- Wendy McNulty
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- Duane & Lisa Raleigh
- Katherine Reppa
- ★★ Rachel Richards
- Holly & Dan Richardson
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- Dwayne & Margaret Romero
- Sheryl Rosenbloom
- David & Heidi Roupp *for CW Marble Basecamp*
- Greg & Patti Rulon
- Diana Rumsey, *in memory of June Kirk*
- Loren & Mary Ryerson
- ★ Edward Sands

We apologize for any misprints or omissions.



# 2017

## Wildflower Members: (\$1-\$249 continued)

- ★ Mike Sawyer
- Michelle & Dieter Schindler
- Barbara Schomaker
- Renny & Judy Schoonmaker
- ★ Tam & Sue Scott
- Lee Sheftel
- Mark & Jocelyn Shelton
- ★★★ Carolyn & Dick Shoet
- Marty Silverstein
- Jon Sirkis
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- Katy & Sasho Sorli
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- ★★ John Stickney & Lee Beck
- Bridget Strang
- Scott Strang
- Edward Sullivan
- ★★ Henderson Supplee
- ★★ Jennifer & George Tempest, *in memory of Kea Hause & Lathrop Strang*
- Tony & Sheila Thelen, *in memory of Kea Hause*
- ★ Armand & Nancy Thomas, *in honor of the Rumph Family*
- ★ Dr. Nancy Thomas & Dr. Roger Davis
- Lewis Thompson
- Andrea Traul & Ian Carney
- ★★ Robert Tures & Christine Chisholm
- ★ Chuck Vidal
- ★ Craig & Becky Ward
- Matthew Webster
- Sylvia Wendrow
- Cynthia White
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- Dale Will
- Pierre & Beth Wille
- Anita Witt
- Luis & Aimee Yllanes
- ★ Theresa Zelenka & Gregg Velasquez
- Antonia Zurcher
- Clifford Zwillich

- ★ Gave for last 5 consecutive years
- ★★ Gave for last 10 consecutive years
- ★★★ Gave for last 15+ consecutive years

## MEMBERS, DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

(1-1, 2017 through 3-16, 2018)

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The Snowmass Village Recreation Center  
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### Amazing Volunteers

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We apologize for any misprints or omissions.



Sketch by Raleigh Burleigh

Join us at  
**The Ranch at  
Mountain Primal**  
in Emma, CO

A summer celebration to benefit the conservation of our most valuable local landscapes.

*Ticket sales and info to follow at [avlt.org](http://avlt.org)*





## PROTECTING PARADISE

**Sometimes the best steward is a private landowner who loves a place deeply**

Such is the case with the Bershenyi family at 640-acre Lazy V Quarter Circle Ranch located along the headwaters of Three Mile Creek above Glenwood Springs.

Lazy V's aspen groves and wetland meadows provide critical habitat for elk and a huge diversity of other wildlife. A 15-year effort to protect the ranch was completed in 2017.

**Thanks to your support, this long-time local family will be able to continue protecting a place that is as important to their heritage as it is to the critters of the lower Roaring Fork Valley.**

## WHAT IS IT YOU LOVE ABOUT THIS PLACE?

**With a planned gift, your love can last forever**

Is it the ranch-lands with spring calves and wide-open views? The bugle of an elk in the fall? The trails and fresh air?

No matter your passion, your gift can make sure this place remains one-of-a-kind – and there is no better time. A gift through your appreciated assets or will, including real estate, can make sure that more trails, wildlife habitat, ranch-land, and rivers are conserved for now, and forever. That's a gift that will keep on giving, for generations to come...



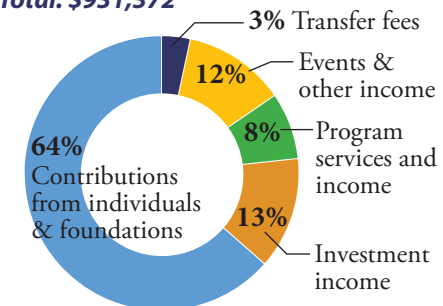
Aspen Valley Land Trust is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to protect land for wildlife, agriculture, scenic enjoyment and recreation in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River valleys.

## YOU ARE INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The following information reflects the operating activities of AVLT. Analysis is based on unaudited draft financial statements for 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017. Figures do not include capital funds nor land acquisitions and projects. Copies of audited financial statements are available for 2016 and prior years by contacting AVLT at [avlt@avlt.org](mailto:avlt@avlt.org) or (970) 963-8440.

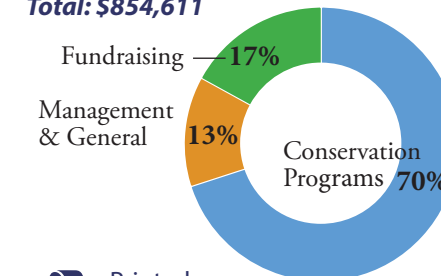
### Sources of Operating Revenue

**Total: \$931,372**



### Use of Operating Funds

**Total: \$854,611**



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