



**Working lands provide sustainable
landscapes by implementing innovative
conservation practices**

**Rick Danvir, Range & Wildlife Advisor,
Western Landowners Alliance**

the **WESTERN LANDOWNERS ALLIANCE** advances policies and practices that sustain working lands, connected landscapes, and native species.



www.westernlandownersalliance.org

- ✓ Promoting good policy foundations for flexible and practical best stewardship on working lands
- ✓ Influencing the implementation of policies via cooperation with land management agencies and decision leaders
- ✓ Creating and advocating for a West-wide community of landowners, managers, and advisors committed to landscape-scale conservation on working lands



Advancing
policies and practices
that sustain
working lands,
connected landscapes
and native species.

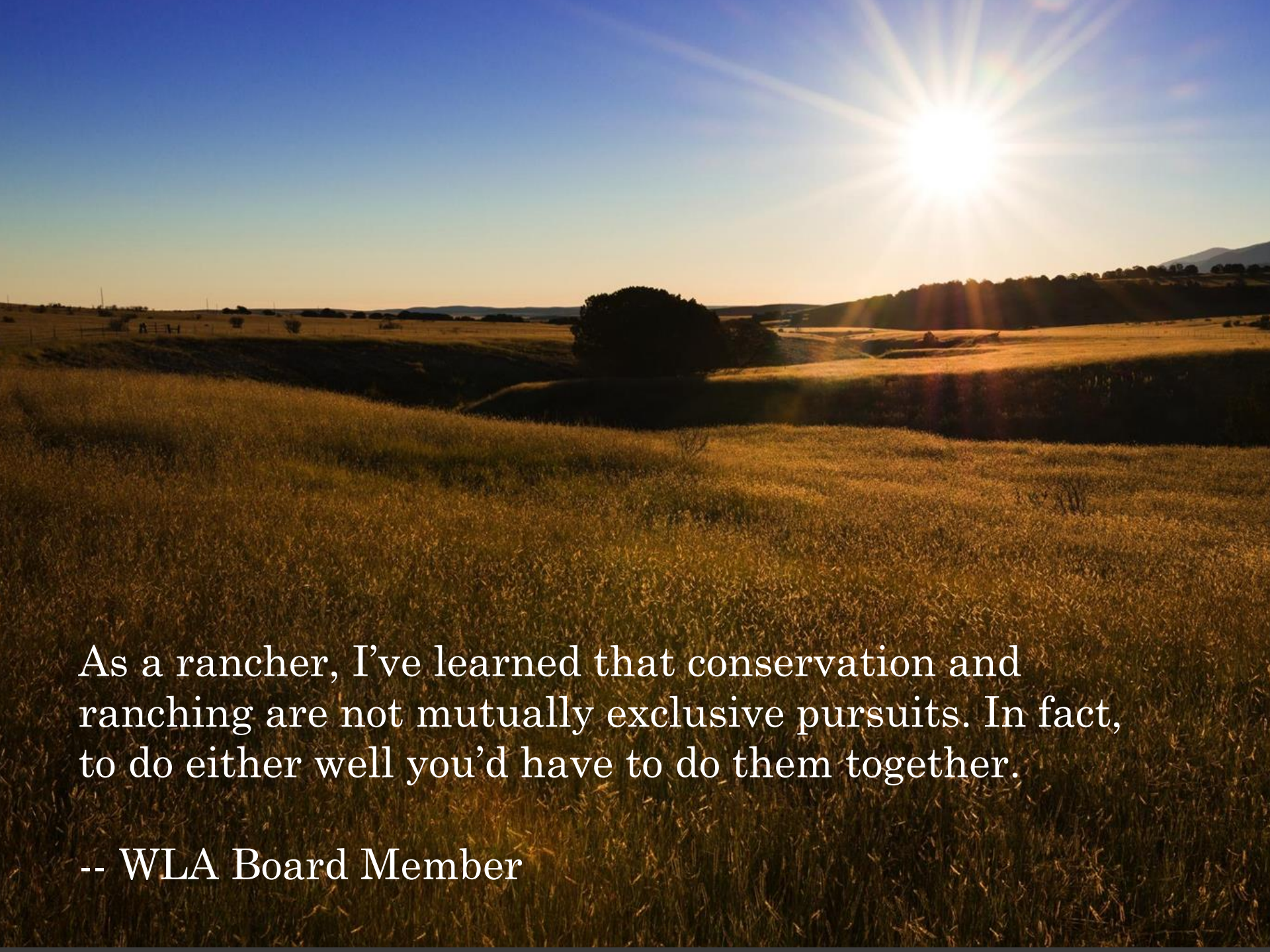


Innovative stewardship and conservation progress on working lands remains under-represented politically and socially, and is not sufficiently funded or valued by markets. We must change that.” –WLA Board Member



We are the stewards of our nation's resources. It is a daunting task and not one we should take lightly but what a power, what an opportunity, what a gift.

-- WLA Member



As a rancher, I've learned that conservation and ranching are not mutually exclusive pursuits. In fact, to do either well you'd have to do them together.

-- WLA Board Member

WORKING LANDS

Are essential to Western rural and urban economies
Sustain up to 80% of wildlife species
Provide the natural resources that feed, water and fuel the nation

And they are disappearing

Recommendations to Conserve and Restore Working Lands and Rural Economies

Invest in the West

Smart investments to conserve and restore working lands can yield positive returns for taxpayers and stimulate rural economies:

To create jobs and revitalize rural economies, re-invest in working lands and the natural resources they supply

Leverage public dollars with private landowner investment and cooperation

Invest in next generation ranchers and farmers



Build on Success

These programs work and can be expanded for even better outcomes:

Safe Harbor and CCAA assurance agreements

NRCS Working Lands For Wildlife

USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife

"All Hands All Lands" collaborative partnerships

Farm Bill Conservation Title



Get out in Front

Proactive investment can deliver better results at lower cost than reactive management driven by crisis and conflict:

Support pro-active, voluntary conservation to avoid species becoming imperiled

Prioritize forest health: fix the USFS fire budget

Improve collaborative frameworks within agencies

Design economic and tax policies to keep family farms and ranches intact



Work Together

Managing land is complex and requires holistic thinking, flexibility and adaptation:

A comprehensive strategy for federal lands restoration

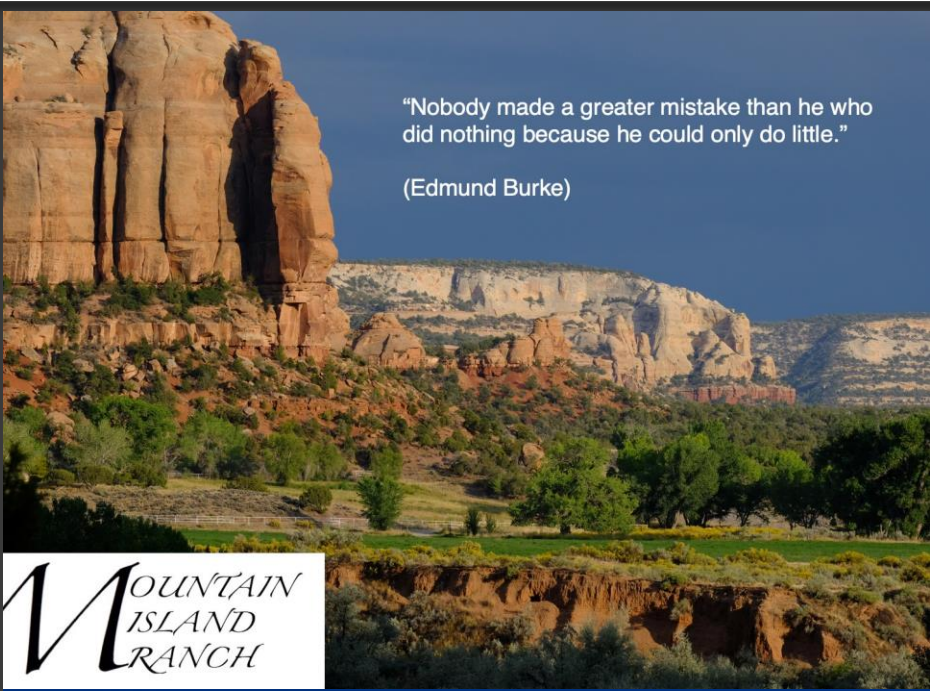
Habitat vs. single species conservation

Interagency coordination and improved outreach to landowners

Programmatic flexibility for adaptive management

Build relationships based on trust to achieve shared goals

Any good business reinvests in the people and resources that sustain it. As a nation, we ***must*** do the same



"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do little."

(Edmund Burke)

MOUNTAIN
ISLAND
RANCH



Mountain Island Ranch:

Family-owned for 45 years

Conservation easement

Produce certified organic beef and hay

**Holistic management
(planned, rotational grazing)**

**Habitat management for
Gunnison SG and mule deer**

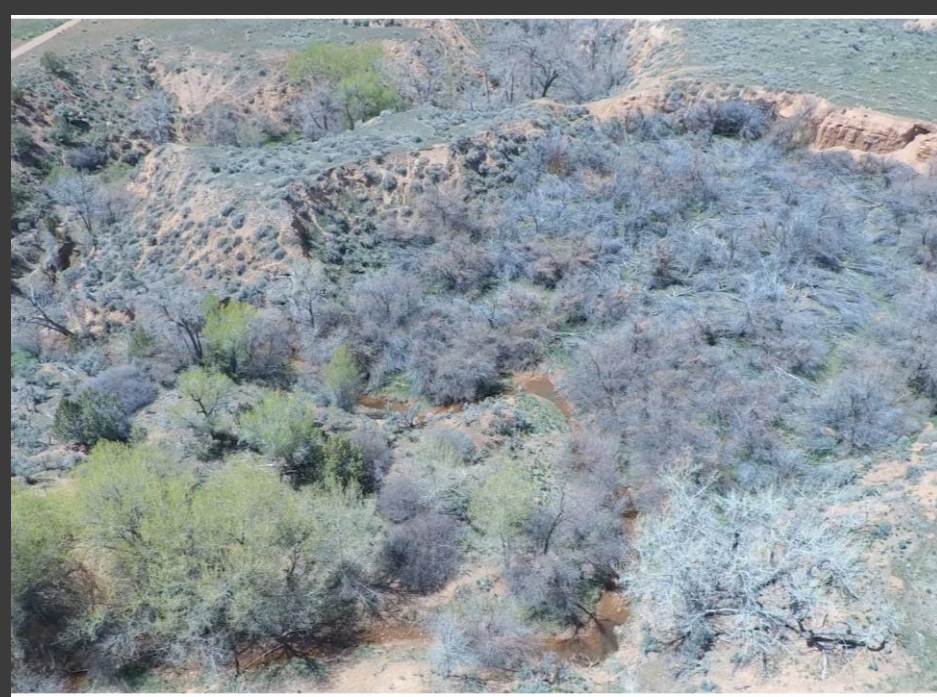
**Riparian restoration (remove
tamarisk and Russian olive)**



Native
cottonwood

Russian Olive

- Mechanical removal with machines and volunteer Conservation Corps.
- Herbicide applied to stumps, no cattle or hay production for three years to maintain organic certification



San Juan Ranch – San Luis Valley

George Whitten And Julie Sullivan

Working holistically with natural systems to improve soil health and plant productivity while reducing water use and saving money



Sustainable grazing and farming

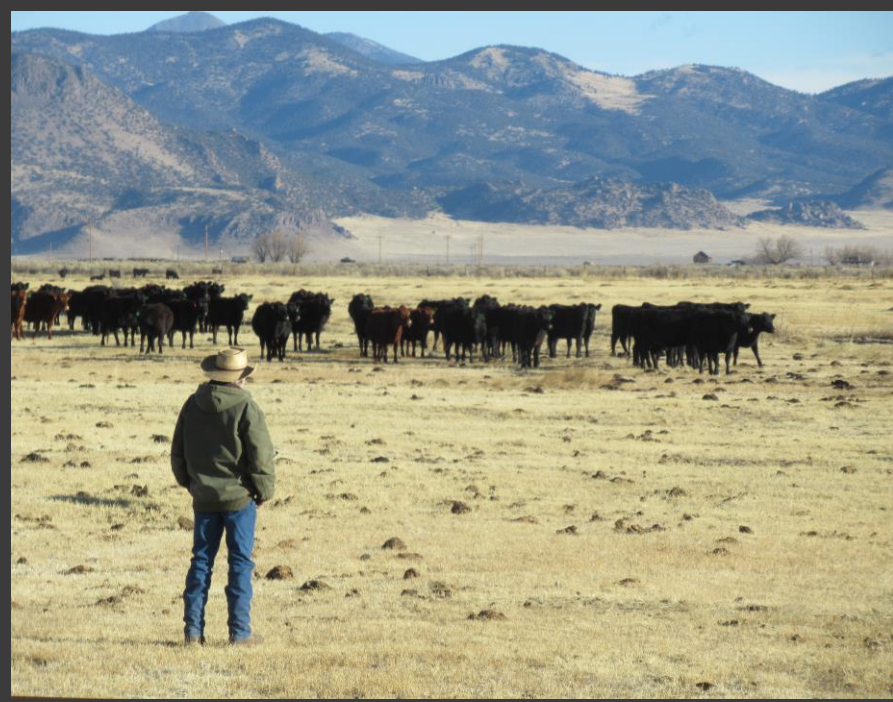
Grazing windrowed hay:

Less water, fuel, fertilizer inputs

Better nutrient cycle & soil organic

Replenish the aquifer – more water in than out

- Teach management approach to apprentices – hands on



Improving Soil Health in Western Colorado

No-till crop rotations using cover crops



Reduced tillage, inputs and water

Facilitate knowledge sharing

CSU scientists and farmers are working together to find solutions that reduce water use and improve crop yields



Stewardship Tours

*Hosted by WLA
landowner members*



STEWARDSHIP WITH VISION
CARING FOR NEW MEXICO'S STREAMS

Telling the Story

WESTERN LANDOWNERS ALLIANCE
— SHORT FILM SERIES —
**STEWARDSHIP
WITH VISION**
EP01 | JEFF LASZLO

westernlandowners.org





Thank you!

Western Landowners
Alliance



westernlandowners.org