

Identifying the Connections between Grand County's Endangered Historical Sites and Conservation Easements

Like all of Colorado's mountain counties, Grand County has experienced rampant development over the past decades. Driven by the county's tourist and real estate industry, along with last year's East Troublesome fire, such growth has endangered many of its historic sites and natural landscapes. All of which define Grand County's rural character and environmental condition. This internship will identify endangered historic sites within Grand County based upon the National Trust for Historic Preservation's general guidelines in identifying the location, history, and threat each site faces. Working within Colorado State University History Department's Public Lands History Center (PHLC), the intern will also find or create a map of conservation easements within the county to determine any potential overlap with historic properties. The connections between the conservation easements and endangered historic sites will assist the Grand County Historical Association (GCHA) in its work preserving the county's historical landscapes and sites. Doing so, will help guide conversations over how to balance Grand County's economic and community development with its natural resources and historic landscapes in a sustainable manner.