

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/12/2023 2:42:16 PM

First name: Edie May & David

Last name: Phillips

Organization:

Title:

Comments: We strongly support the Locke Park Land Exchange which presents an excellent opportunity for land conservation for the benefit of the American people. The last remaining non-federal inholding located within the environmentally sensitive Locke Park boundary, habitat to numerous sensitive species, is to be exchanged for a less environmentally fragile parcel that has been privately developed and used for 103 years. Whereas the Locke Park private inholding has few restrictions on development and use, Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp will voluntarily grant a perpetual conservation easement to preserve the natural wonder of the area and limit the type of development that could spoil the seclusion felt there. Additionally, the USFS will retain a right-of-way along FS-198 to provide public access to the lands West of the parcel. Since 1957, RTALC has proven to be good stewards of this land owned by the American public. The voluntary granting of a perpetual conservation easement to Colorado Open Lands shows their intentions to continue this stewardship to the land and its neighbors. We believe this is clearly a good deal for the American people and the many species that make Locke Park their home.

Although we are not Colorado residents, our children have attended and/or been employed by Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp for over 20 years. It is a treasure that has welcomed people from across our country to retreat in the beauty and solitude of the Rocky Mountains. The possibilities created by this land transfer would mean so much to the future of a beautiful place that has been important to us as well as many other families. It is comforting to know that this transfer would ensure the RTALC experience for generations to come.