

Morgridge Family Foundation Land Stewardship Fellow

Colorado Open Lands (COL) is pleased to announce the acceptance of applications for a two-year Morgridge Family Foundation Land Stewardship Fellow in our Lakewood, Colorado office. The goal of COL's Fellowship Program is to provide a recent graduate with hands-on land conservation experience working for one of Colorado's premier land conservation organizations. The Fellow will assist COL's land stewardship staff in developing lasting relationships with landowners, ensuring conservation easement compliance, and promoting exceptional land stewardship. At the end of the two-year term, the Fellow will be well-positioned to pursue a career in land preservation in Colorado, whether with a land trust, a public agency, or another conservation organization.

Learning Objectives

The **two-year** Fellowship Program is designed to provide comprehensive exposure to the components of successful land stewardship, the techniques available for land preservation in Colorado, and an introduction to the agencies and people active in this arena. The Fellow will learn professional conservation easement stewardship skills from COL's experienced staff and will be part of a 7-person Stewardship team. This position involves working with landowners, including ranchers and farmers, across Colorado to support their stewardship of protected lands and to develop strong landowner relationships with COL.

In addition, the Fellow will receive broad exposure to other organizational activities, including conservation, philanthropy, and community engagement. The Fellow will also develop a strong working knowledge of conservation priorities, industry trends, and challenges specific to land conservation work in Colorado.

Primary Responsibilities:

Annual Conservation Easement Compliance Monitoring

- Monitor 50+ conservation easements annually, across Colorado, to ensure compliance. Properties range in size from 1-20,000+ acres.
- Monitoring includes hiking or driving around a conserved property using GPS to navigate and collect field data, documenting any changes to the property.
- Meet with landowners to discuss the conservation easement, any changes to the property within the last year, and their plans for the future.
- Complete thorough reporting of each monitoring visit.

Conservation Easement Stewardship

- Assist in the review and drafting of conservation easement reserved rights requests, amendments, and violations or other enforcement issues.

Organizational Involvement

- Participate in regular staff meetings, conservation easement project review, and events and community outreach activities.
- Help with the Stewardship department's contribution to Communications and Development (social media, field trips, etc.).

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree: emphasis in natural or environmental sciences, land use, planning, geography, or related field is preferred.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Strong organizational, time management, and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Ability and willingness to travel across Colorado, including some overnights (approximately 30% of time from June-September; fleet vehicle provided).
Valid driver's license.
- Willingness and ability to work in sometimes challenging field conditions in remote locations. Ability to work outdoors and navigate large farms and ranches independently, often in remote settings.
- Ability to communicate with diverse stakeholders.
- Competent with Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Access, Outlook, PowerPoint).
- A positive, engaging attitude, a sense of humor, and a commitment to COL's mission and the conservation of Colorado's natural landscapes.

Helpful qualifications:

- Land trust experience (volunteer, intern/extern, etc.).
- Experience with ESRI's ArcGIS computer mapping software and familiarity using GPS equipment.
- Experience working with agricultural producers and an understanding of the agricultural industry in Colorado or the western United States.

Compensation and Benefits:

- This position is a 2-year full-time (40 hours/week) position.
- Start date is flexible, ideally June 1st, 2022
- The salary range is \$42,000-\$45,000 commensurate with skills and experience.
- Colorado Open Lands offers a competitive compensation package, including 401k plan with match, health insurance (medical, dental, vision, and HSA), life and disability insurance, paid time off (sick leave, vacation, and holidays) and a collaborative, flexible work environment.

Application Instructions:

- Please send a résumé and cover letter to Cheryl Cufre, Director of Land Stewardship at jobs@coloradoopenlands.org. Please note where you saw the job posting.
- **The subject line should be in this format: "Last name, First name: Stewardship Fellow"**
- **This position is opened until filled.**

EEO Statement:

- Colorado Open Lands provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetics or other protected status. For information about Colorado Open Lands, please visit our website at www.coloradoopenlands.org.