

Castle Rock



Description: Castle Rock Ranch encompasses a number of habitat types from 5,500 feet in elevation, to over 9000 feet. The area also includes the Huff Creek Drainage. Phase one of the project was acquired in June of 2001, and two more phases will be acquired over the next few years.

Location: Eastern Summit County near the Wyoming border.

Acreage: 10,013 acres

Grant funding: \$900,000

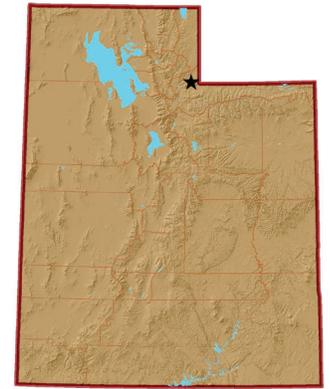
Total Project Cost: \$9,260,322

Grant Awarded: June 2001

Partners: Utah Open Lands, The Nature Conservancy, US Forest Legacy Program, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The Trust for Public Land

Local Support: Summit County, Rep. David Ure, Sen. Lyle Hillyard, Utah State Forester, Art DuFault

Conservation Easement Held by: Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands



Public Benefits

Water Quality: Huff Creek has its headwaters on the ranch. Huff Creek is one of the major tributaries of Chalk Creek, which feeds the Weber River and eventually provides drinking water to thousands along the Wasatch Front. Protecting these headwaters is critical to preserving water quality throughout the drainage.

Cultural and Recreational: Some hunting is permitted on the ranch, though generally it remains a private cattle ranch. It has been ranched continually since the 1850's and the Mormon Pioneer Trail corridor passes through the ranch. In the 1860's, the ranch was home to one of the original Pony Express stations. The ranch was once an important rail town - at one time it was large enough to have its own schoolhouse.

Wildlife Habitat: The ranch is a year round home to elk, deer, and moose. Ninety-nine species of songbirds have been identified on the ranch, as well as eagles, falcons, hawks, sage grouse and wild turkeys. Huff Creek, where it runs through the ranch, is critical habitat for Bonneville Cutthroat trout. Huff Creek and the surrounding Chalk Creek drainage contain the largest remaining habitat for Bonneville Cutthroat trout in Utah.

Agricultural: Castle Rock Ranch is a profitable cattle ranch that employs 20 people and adds considerably to Utah's agricultural economy. The ranch frequently hosts seminars on ranching, range management and various methods to enhance the bio-diversity and quality of ranch land while remaining profitable.