

# CHAMA PEAK LANDOWNER ALLIANCE CHARTER

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*Revised February 1, 2011*

## **Overview**

The **Chama Peak Landowner Alliance** (“The Alliance”) is an association of conservation minded landowners who are interested in working together on common issues and problems in the southern San Juan Mountains of Colorado and New Mexico. The Alliance is unique in the region because it contains a concentration of contiguous, large expanses of wildlands. Land ownership, management, and use are very diverse but the landowners in this region share a common desire to keep this spectacular landscape healthy and unfragmented through land stewardship efforts.

Members of the Alliance represent a land area that runs from the headwaters of the Navajo River in south Archuleta County, Colorado and the Conejos River system to the Brazos headwaters and Rio Nutrias in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. The membership currently consists of a land bloc of approximately 200,000 acres but is continually growing and adding members. Elevation ranges from over 12,000 feet and the Continental Divide to around 7,000 feet. This elevation gradient results in many vegetational zones from alpine to pinyon/juniper/sagebrush and makes this an important region to protect in order to promote ecological and economic resiliency and biological diversity on the landscape. The land area is located, but may not be limited to, both sides of the Continental Divide and contains several watersheds including the Navajo, Chama, Conejos, Los Pinos, Rio Grande, Brazos, Nutrias, and Vallecitos river systems.

This area, due to its diverse nature, is home to a wide variety of wildlife and plants, and provides year round habitat for many species. The area includes north-south movements of both mule deer and elk. The protection of these movement corridors is important for these species’ survival. The elk population is one of the largest in the country and the hunting revenues generated are important to many families, ranches, cultures, local and rural communities and their economies, and county and state governments. The Alliance area has boundaries that include the San Juan, Rio Grande and Carson National Forests. The area also contains several New Mexico State Parks, Wildlife Areas, and the Jicarilla Apache Reservation.

The Alliance evolved as a way for landowners to unite for coordinated conservation through collaboration, communication, and a unified response to land management issues. Landowners are uniquely positioned to balance the many challenges of responsible land management and also to adapt quickly to advances in environmental science and changing business climates. Members have a mutual concern for the health

and open space future of the land. The members are conscientious, knowledgeable, and experienced land stewards and managers who are concerned with many resource issues, loss of economic revenues, and threats to critical renewable natural and wildlife resources. One threat is the ongoing landscape fragmentation taking place in the region and its effects on sustainable land-use practices and ecosystems. Another concern is the declining productivity, loss of biological diversity, and increasing risk to many ecosystems in the region. Many members of the Alliance are taking a proactive and progressive approach to ecosystem and economic health and sustainability by implementing a variety of land improvement practices that are driven by good science and a strong conservation ethic.

## **Mission Statement**

The Chama Peak Landowner Alliance is an association of conservation-minded landowners working collaboratively to practice and promote ecologically and economically sound land management in the southern San Juan Mountains of Colorado and northern New Mexico.

We support environmentally responsible and sustainable resource management that ensures a thoughtful and holistic approach to provide healthy, diversified and sustainable ecosystems and wildlife populations. The Alliance engages in a wide variety of efforts to improve land management so the area's forests, streams, wildlife and other natural resources will flourish. This endeavor can be achieved successfully by building trust, partnerships, and working together to achieve positive benefits for all.

## **Communication and Tools for Land Conservation**

The Alliance provides a forum and network for improving many aspects of land ownership and management by sharing ideas and encouraging cooperative resource management of fire, timber, insect and noxious weeds, wildlife, and water.

In addition to facilitating communication and sharing information about land management tools with landowners, the Alliance will utilize legislative and policy tools to accomplish its goals. It will seek funding for land conservation tools to assist landowners in acquiring conservation easements, habitat and watershed restoration, and wildlife habitat improvements.

## **Cooperators**

The southern San Juan Mountains are a mix of public, private, and tribal lands. In order to achieve our goals we will work with partners such as, but not limited to, state wildlife agencies, public land managers, counties, and non-governmental organizations to cooperatively conserve this landscape. The Alliance will invite official Cooperators to support our efforts and determine how to work across jurisdictional boundaries.

## **Job Responsibilities of the Alliance Representative (s)**

The Alliance's main staff person will be a "Representative" that works on behalf of the Alliance to:

- Keep current and informed on government legislation and regulations that affect Alliance members and their land.
- Explore grant opportunities, cost-share programs and financial and technical assistance from government agencies and private organizations.
- Be a point of contact for various agencies or organizations that would like to make proposals and partner with the Alliance.
- Maintain communications with members by phone, e-mail, and in writing. Schedule and organize one annual meeting with agenda.
- Facilitate setting up votes when necessary and record any proclamation or resolution resulting from said vote.
- Monitor region for significant land sales so the Alliance may elect, at its option, to facilitate conservation easement and/or purchase by preferred entity.
- Actively pursue enrolling other members with strategically important land and agreeable to the Alliance philosophy.
- Attend meetings and conferences that align with the Alliance's mission and goals and report back to Alliance members with updates, summaries, and opportunities.
- Use technology aids and possible website development to support Alliance member updates, summaries, and opportunities.

## **Founding Landowners**

*(Original Charter signed August 20, 2010)*

*Michael Rivera, Henry Rivera*  
*Representing*  
**ABV Ranch, LLC.**

*David Harris and Peter Harris*  
*Representing*  
**Brazos Box Ranch**

*Lesli Allison*  
*Representing*  
**Banded Peak Ranch**

*Dennis Schutz*  
*Representing*  
**Catspaw Ranch**

*Edward Jeb Binkley*  
*Representing*  
**Binkley Ranches**

*Dr. Richard and Susanne Gooding*  
*Representing*  
**Chromo Mountain Ranch**

*Robert and Lisa Ferrell*  
*Representing*  
**El Barranco, LLC**

*Dick Ray and Henry Carey*  
*Representing*  
**High Country Ranch**

*Eugene and Janet Moya*  
*Representing*  
**Moya Brazos Ranch**

*Lesli Allison, Dennis Schutz*  
*Representing*  
**Navajo Headwaters Ranch**

*Aaron Jones*  
*Representing*  
**Rancho Lobo Ltd.**  
**Rancho Del Oso Pardo Inc.**

*Mel and Paula Kurth*  
*Representing*  
**Rancho Escondido de Chama**

*Betty and Raymond Shahan*  
*Representing*  
**Shahan & Sons Partnership**

*Donald and Fern Shahan*  
*Representing*  
**Spring Creek Ranch**