



## LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund

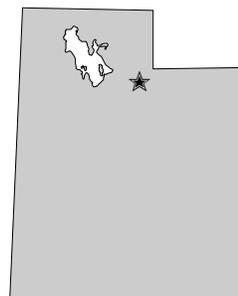
### Peaceful Valley Ranch



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**Description:** The 7,300-acre Peaceful Valley Ranch is one of Utah's most beautiful and historically significant ranches. The ranch represents a classic western landscape – rolling hills covered with scrub oak and sagebrush, rich riparian areas with large cottonwood trees, and a historic homestead complete with farmhouse, barn and a restored Pony Express station. The upper elevations of the property are dominated by lush meadows and aspen and conifer forests.

**Location:** The ranch is located in East Canyon, between the urban development of East Canyon Resort and Jeremy Ranch in Summit County, and is less than 15 miles from rapidly growing Salt Lake City and Park City, Utah.



**Acreage:** 5,510 acres

**Grant funding:** \$750,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$4,600,000

**Grant Awarded:** April 2000

**Land Ownership:** Private

**Conservation Easement Held by:** Utah Department of Natural Resources

### Public Benefits

**Historical Significance:** The Donner-Reed, Mormon Pioneer, California, Overland Stage and Pony Express trails all pass through the ranch on their way to the Salt Lake Valley.

**Viewshed/Scenic Quality:** Peaceful Valley Ranch is enjoyed in its current undeveloped condition by numerous auto sightseers, mountain bikers, and hikers that travel through the ranch on either State Highway 65 or the East Canyon Road.

**Water Quality:** Peaceful Valley Ranch contains a significant portion of the watershed for Ease Canyon Reservoir and East Canyon Creek which flows into the Weber River. This watershed will help preserve in-stream flows, maintain critical cool-water habitat for a variety of trout, and assure that the many tributaries and critical marshlands along East Canyon Creek continue to support the thousands of waterfowl that rely on Peaceful Valley.

**Wildlife Habitat:** Peaceful Valley Ranch contains critical wildlife habitat for elk, mule deer, moose, mountain lion, bobcat, red fox, bald eagle, golden eagle, and American kestrel.

**Recreation:** The ranch also functions as a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit. The state Division of Wildlife Resources helps manage the big game herds on the ranch and in return the owners allow people selected by the DWR to hunt on the property.

**Agricultural Land:** Peaceful Valley Ranch has functioned primarily as a livestock operation for the past century. Sheep, cattle and horses, along with feed crops and grains are raised on this property.

*To view other projects funded by the LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund, please visit our website: [www.governor.state.ut.us/quality](http://www.governor.state.ut.us/quality)*

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