

### LeRay McAllister Fund

The Utah Quality Growth Commission administers the LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund, which was established by the Legislature through the Quality Growth Act of 1999. The Quality Growth Commission has set “defining principles” to ensure that public funds are used for projects that truly offer public benefits. Since 1999, the Commission has helped to conserve or restore over **33,509** acres of critical land throughout Utah. Grants have been approved in **13** counties. The approved grants total **\$8,835,223** in State funds, and have been matched with **\$43,372,714** of other funds — a leverage of greater than **one-to- five**.

#### CRITICAL LANDS PRESERVED

by STATE AGENCIES  
in the last ~5years

Acres Preserved	<b>LeRay McAllister Fund</b> <b>33,509</b>
Equivalent in size to:	Sandy & Draper Cities (33,664 acres)
Acres Preserved	<b>Forestry, Fire &amp; State Lands*</b> <b>25,193</b>
Area larger than:	Antelope Island State Park (28,022 acres)
Acres Preserved	<b>Dept. of Transportation</b> <b>2,230</b>
Equivalent in size to:	Woods Cross City (2,304 acres)
Acres Preserved	<b>Dept. of Agriculture &amp; Food</b> <b>29</b>
Equivalent in size to:	Utah's Hogle Zoo (42 acres)
Acres Preserved	<b>Div. of Parks &amp; Recreation</b> <b>475</b>
Equivalent in size to:	Brian Head Ski Resort (540 acres)
Acres Preserved	<b>Div. of Wildlife Resources</b> <b>7,534</b>
Equivalent in size to:	Hill Air Force Base (6,698 acres)
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>68,971</b>
Equivalent in size to:	Bear Lake State Park (71,680 acres)

\* projects that did **not** include the McAllister Fund

### State Land Conservation Efforts

In addition to the Quality Growth Commission, other state agencies have a charge to preserve critical lands. Some of these have done projects that used matching funds from the LeRay McAllister Fund. Other projects have been done using other funds entirely. The Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands administers the Forest Legacy Program, which uses federal funds to preserve private forestlands. The Division of Wildlife Resources preserves habitat and the Department of Agriculture & Food preserves prime farmland. The Utah Department of Transportation also preserves wetlands mitigation sites. Together, state agencies and the McAllister Fund have preserved **70,633 acres**.

### Non-Profit Conservation Groups

Several non-profit preservation groups are working within Utah to preserve critical lands, such as the Nature Conservancy, Utah Open Lands, Grafton Heritage Partnership Project, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the Trust for Public Land have preserved approximately **31,000** acres of sensitive lands in Utah over the last few years.

## Forest Legacy Program

The Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands administers the Forest Legacy Program. Through the 1996 Farm Bill, this program works to identify and protect environmentally important private forest lands that are threatened by present and future conversion to non-forest uses. The program is also intended to ensure that both the traditional uses of private lands and the public values of America's forest resources are protected for future generations.

The program uses local resources (i.e. LeRay McAllister Fund or landowner donation) to leverage federal funding which provides 75% of total needed for the establishment of conservation easements. Through the use of these easements, private landowners are able to continue to own and work their land, preserve the economic value, and protect forest lands from conversion to non-forest uses.

To date, **40,484 acres** of Utah's forested lands have been preserved through the Forest Legacy Program and LeRay McAllister Fund.

### FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM funds appropriated to Utah

**1998**  
\$171,000

**1999**  
\$1,220,000

**2000**  
\$1,800,000

**2001**  
\$4,200,000

**2002**  
\$2,300,000

**2003**  
\$3,600,000

**2004**  
\$4,250,000

## Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program

The Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and rangeland in agricultural uses. Working through existing programs, USDA partners with State, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value.

To qualify, farmland must: be part of a pending offer from a State, Tribe, or local farmland protection program; be privately owned; have a conservation plan for highly erodible land; be large enough to sustain agricultural production; be accessible to markets for what the land produces; have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services; and have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production.

For federal fiscal year 2003, over \$67 million was appropriated to the program. The funds are allocated to states based on needs and programs. Utah was allocated \$920,700. This was down from over \$1 million in 2002, partly due to the fact that Utah only used \$50,000 of the 2002 allocation. Yet in 2003, applications for FRPP funds were up, exceeding \$4 million in need. Since all FRPP grants must be matched by 50% of which on more than 25% can be landowner donation, the State would need to provide at least \$1 million to meet the need.

The lack of local matching funds is often the greatest hindrance to obtaining federal funds from programs such as the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 ("Farm Bill"), and the Forest Legacy Program.