



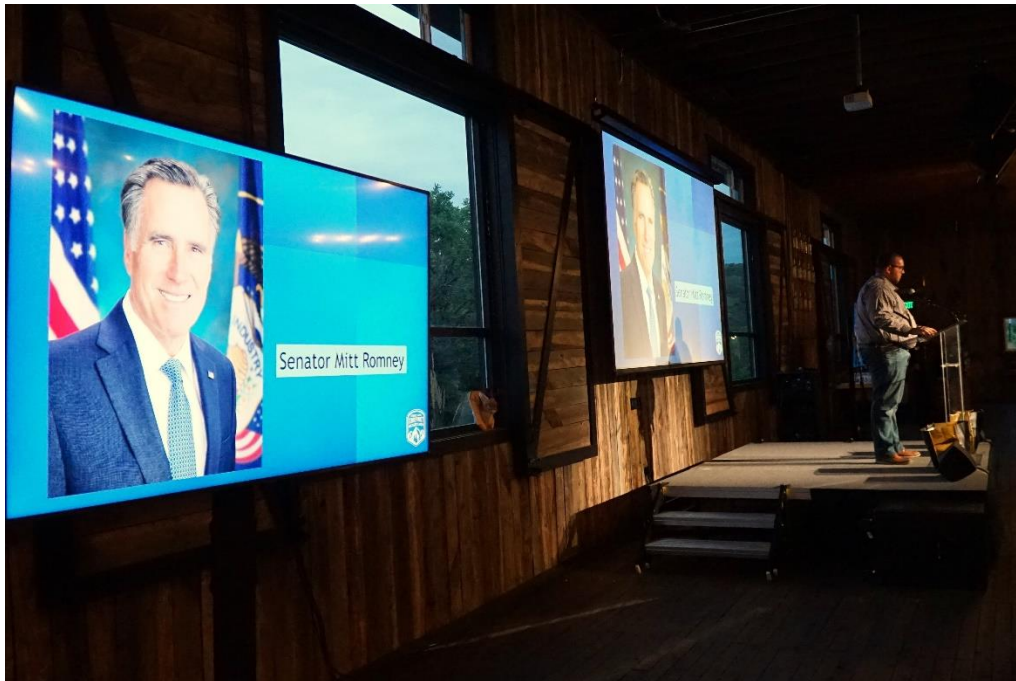
## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SENATOR ROMNEY, GOVERNOR COX, AND CONGRESSMAN MOORE SPEAK AT SUMMIT LAND CONSERVANCY EVENT**

*Utah's elected leadership endorses private land conservation at land trust's annual gala*



**(Park City, Utah) August 28, 2023** – Guest appearances by Senator Mitt Romney, Governor Spencer Cox and Congressman Blake Moore spoke to the importance of saving land as a way to address many of the major issues facing Utah's residents, at the Summit Land Conservancy's annual Blue Sky Bash on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

"The Conservancy's work to preserve open spaces is one of the best ways to maintain livable, vibrant communities," Governor Cox said in a video statement. "By working with so many people from diverse backgrounds, the Summit Land Conservancy is preserving land the Utah way – through collaboration, kindness, and finding common ground."



The governor's statement is echoed in the Conservancy's call to action for its new For The Future Fund. "The challenges facing us are larger than the things that divide us," says Summit Land Conservancy CEO, Cheryl Fox. "Land conservation solves so many of our current issues: open spaces provide wildlife habitat, farms and ranches sequester carbon and provide food, and every acre the Summit Land Conservancy protects is part of the watershed for the Great Salt Lake. We must keep that watershed intact."

Chandler Beutler, Senator Romney's Northern Utah Director read a statement on behalf of the senator: "Utah is blessed to have some of the most spectacular open spaces. It is great to know that this natural beauty will continue to be preserved for generations to come. The Summit Land Conservancy's approach of voluntary conservation and working with people instead of against them, is not just effective, it's healing."

Congressman Blake Moore, who represents Utah's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, which covers the northern parts of Summit County as well as Morgan and Weber Counties said, "I'm pleased to congratulate the Summit Land Conservancy on their new Certified Entity Status which will allow you to receive the resources you need to conserve our lands and protect the Great Salt Lake."



As Moore noted, Certified Entities are land trusts who are granted expedited access to federal dollars because they have proven that they can complete agricultural land easements, are nationally accredited, and have established stewardship programs. The Summit Land Conservancy was awarded Certified Entity Status in July 2023.

Moore went on to say that “We have a responsibility to steward our resources for years to come and the Summit Land Conservancy excels at doing just that.”

“The problems facing us are not new,” Fox explained. “Many people have seen this coming for years. At the Summit Land Conservancy, we are committed to doing our part to solve these problems, but we realize that we can’t do it alone. We understood that in order to be successful at this scale, we would need the support of Utah’s Leadership. We are so grateful and honored that Senator Romney, Representative Moore, and Governor Cox were all willing to speak on behalf of our efforts to save land here on the Wasatch Back at the Blue Sky Bash.”

The 2023 Blue Sky Bash, presented by Minky Couture and hosted at the Blue Sky Ranch, raised funds for land conservation all across the Wasatch Back. More information on the Summit Land Conservancy’s Utah Headwaters Initiative can be found at [www.wesaveland.org/forthefuture](http://www.wesaveland.org/forthefuture).

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## **About Summit Land Conservancy**

Founded in Park City in 1998 as a project of Leadership Park City, the Summit Land Conservancy works with Summit County's communities to protect and preserve land and water along the Wasatch Back for the benefit of people and nature.

In 2011, the Conservancy became the first land trust in the state of Utah to be nationally accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. It currently holds 49 permanent conservation easements and manages 2 preserves on over 13,000 acres of open space, much of it with public access in and around Park City. It protects swathes of Round Valley, Quarry Mountain, Empire Canyon, and the McPolin Farmlands, as well as farms and ranches along the Weber and Provo Rivers. It is currently working to preserve an additional 5,000+ acres across the Wasatch Back.

The Conservancy's goal when it started in 1998 was to raise money locally to save land locally, and that hasn't changed. Since 2011, the Conservancy has brought in over \$31 million federal dollars for local land conservation.

As a regional land trust, the Conservancy understands that open space is the heart of our rural and recreational communities. Area residents' sense of place is clearly defined by the shared landscapes that anchor them here. The mountains, trails, farms, and rivers connect people to each other and to the natural world. The Summit Land Conservancy cares for these lands forever, nurturing a healthy community that is founded on its strong connection to the places it has protected together.

More information is available on the Conservancy's website ([wesaveland.org](http://wesaveland.org)) and on Facebook ([facebook.com/WeSaveLand](https://facebook.com/WeSaveLand)), Instagram ([instagram.com/wesaveland](https://instagram.com/wesaveland)) and Twitter @Summit\_Land ([twitter.com/summit\\_land](https://twitter.com/summit_land)).