



## Leadership Changes at CCLT

May 6, 2009

Since the legislative session is ending today, I have bittersweet news. I will be leaving CCLT as of May 15, 2009. I have been offered a unique opportunity to join the private sector that I simply can't pass up. I will be joining [Accenture](#) (an international Fortune 500 company) on a federal contract with FEMA to redesign their flood and disaster [mitigation program](#). I am truly sorry that I have not been able to tell more of you personally, but CCLT has been guarding the news until the close of the legislative session and I have kept very busy tying up loose ends.

While this is a good step for me professionally and personally, I cannot overstate how much I will miss all of you in the conservation community. I never cease to be inspired by your passion and professionalism. And while we have always had a strong community, I feel like the stresses of the past few years have brought us together even more as a family. I have been so proud to have a leadership role in a community that took a stand for good practices and responsibility, transparency, and accountability for public funding of conservation easements and open space (all this when we see how tolerance of bad practices and sloppiness in other industries can bring down an entire economy). Our collective work to support aggressive enforcement and create and implement HB1353 is truly a model.

Thank you for all your support in getting through this legislative session. The budget attacks that started about a month ago are over for now due to your hard work (see CCLT's upcoming May 7 e-newsletter for a full legislative wrap-up). Unfortunately, I expect the fight over the expense of the conservation easement tax credit and even Great Outdoors Colorado to reemerge. These challenges could emerge as soon as a possible summer session but definitely for the 2010 legislative session. That is why I am so glad to be leaving the organization in good hands. CCLT has a strong staff and fantastic Board of Directors.

We also have an excellent plan moving into place that will ensure continuity until the new Executive Director comes on Board. Many of you know that John Swartout, previous Executive Director of Great Outdoors Colorado joined

CCLT's Board in January. Well, John has generously agreed to step into an interim leadership position for the next few months during the search. I am very excited about this development and know that John will be in touch with many of you to begin outreach to legislators and other leaders.

I am very proud of the impact and growth that CCLT has experienced over the last few years. As you know, we were even named "Conservation Organization of the Year" for 2008. However, my job and ability to get things done would be non-existent if it wasn't for all of you who work so hard to preserve the natural heritage that makes this state so special. We are a team and I truly appreciate the trust you have all put in me.

Please know that I will not be that far away, and that there is still a lot I can do as a volunteer. For example, I would be delighted to join one of our member groups as a Board member and will be available to help with public policy advice.

**Please keep in touch.** My personal email address is [jill.ozarski@gmail.com](mailto:jill.ozarski@gmail.com) and you can always find me on my cell phone at 720-289-2688. My last day in the office will be May 15, although I will be on vacation for a significant period between now and then.

And finally, the posting for CCLT Executive Director will go out shortly. Please help us recruit strong candidates!

All my best,  
Jill Ozarski, Executive Director