



**Southern Plains Land Trust**  
GAINING GROUND FOR PRAIRIE WILDLIFE



## Grassland Carbon to Benefit Prairie Wildlife Refuges

### Southern Plains Land Trust (SPLT)

- SPLT is an accredited land trust that works to preserve the shortgrass prairie ecosystems of the southern Great Plains.
- SPLT's Raven's Nest Nature Preserve (nearly 5,000 acres) and Heartland Ranch Nature Preserve (nearly 25,000 acres) are protected through perpetual conservation easements held by Colorado Open Lands that safeguard biodiversity and prohibit cultivation. They are enrolled in the Climate Action Reserve (CAR) and generate over 15,000 carbon credits each year.
- SPLT is looking for attractive offers to purchase credits, at competitive prices per tonne and preferably multi-year purchases. We are offering vintages from 2022 forward for projects CAR1237, CAR1238, and CAR1299. All of these projects have been successfully verified multiple times. Contact SPLT directly to discuss purchase terms.
- Medford Spring Grassland Conservation and Heartland Ranch Phase 3 are special projects with NativeEnergy. For information on purchasing credits for these projects, CAR1328 and CAR1425, email: [jennifer.cooper@nativeenergy.com](mailto:jennifer.cooper@nativeenergy.com).

### A Truly Wild West: Protection for Valuable Native Ecosystems

- On SPLT preserves, one finds movie-set-quality, soul-stirring native prairie that evokes the old, wild west and inspires visitors to re-imagine the American Serengeti that the Great Plains once was. Bison thunder across thousands of unfenced acres. Human population densities are at frontier levels. Raptors and songbirds abound. SPLT preserves contain sweeping expanses of native grasslands hosting a wide variety of native wildlife, with dramatic rock outcroppings, lush canyons and bottomlands, juniper woodlands, and dozens of stream miles and springs.

- The varied terrain is home to rare, threatened, and endangered animals and plants. SPLT preserves provide refuge for at least 16 black-tailed prairie dog colonies, a keystone species critical to grassland health, which benefits imperiled animals such as the swift fox, ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, and mountain plover.
- The region experiences a fascinating phenomenon each fall: dispersal of male tarantulas in search of mates. These charismatic and long-lived spiders can be seen crossing the prairie en masse to create new generations of tarantulas.
- Scientists have documented rare plants and animals on SPLT preserves, which are managed for native biodiversity. One of these rare plants, Colorado green gentian, is found in southeastern Colorado and nowhere else on earth. SPLT's properties contain some of the largest populations of this extremely rare and beautiful plant.
- Heartland Ranch and Raven's Nest are located in Bent County, Southeastern Colorado, where risk of conversion to cropland is high because the value of cropland is 5 times that of grassland. This area is considered by scientists to be a biodiversity hotspot, given that species from the Central Shortgrass Prairie, Southern Shortgrass Prairie, and Chihuahuan Desert Ecoregions occur here. It is one of the most intact areas in the Great Plains.

## Protecting & Restoring Native Prairie

- SPLT reintroduced bison to its Heartland Ranch property in 2015, which is a native grazer and the U.S. National Mammal. Bison and black-tailed prairie dogs are two of the most ecologically important species in the Great Plains; among their most important role is to maintain grassland by limiting shrub and tree encroachment. Other native herbivores found on SPLT's refuges are elk, deer, and pronghorn. SPLT's aim is to restore the "American Serengeti" by protecting remaining wildlife and reintroducing species that historically occurred in the region. The animals are not hunted or raised for commercial purposes.
- SPLT allows public access to its preserves for educational and restoration purposes. SPLT works with the local public school and historical society and regularly hosts tours and workshops in order to give back to the local community.
- 100% of net revenue from offsets goes to furthering SPLT's mission of creating and protecting a network of prairie preserves that provide refuge for wildlife.



*Contact SPLT today for more information:  
email [splt@southernplains.org](mailto:splt@southernplains.org) or call 720-841-1757.*