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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Change in Rural Colorado Conversation: Loving Our Land**

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO  
**March 23 from 6-8 p.m. MT**

Colorado Humanities and the Regional Economic Development Institute at Colorado State University offer a series of free, online conversations about the challenges and opportunities facing rural Colorado. 'Loving Our Land,' the second event in the series, will focus on natural resource assets, water headlands, and conservation efforts. Join us on **March 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. MT** to hear from featured panelists Sonja Chavez from the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, Heather Knight from the Center for Collaborative Conservation, Wade Shelton from the Trust for Public Lands, and Mike Lester from the Colorado State Forest Service.

Moderated by Dr. Dawn Thilmany, this community conversation will share the successes and challenges of Colorado's programs to protect our natural resources. In short presentations, panelists will talk about how their organizations invest in the water, lands, and forests of the state and will lead a conversation about key trends they believe will guide policy and programs in the Colorado natural resource sector. After the panelists present, the conversation opens to questions and comments from our live audience.

**To learn more or register, visit [coloradohumanities.org](https://coloradohumanities.org).**

The first panel in this series explored the public health crisis and shifting demographics in rural Colorado with Dr. Stephan Weiler, Elizabeth Garner, Kat Papenbrock, Dr. Michael Seman, and Greg Thomason discussing the challenges in economic innovation faced by rural Coloradans during the COVID era. Moderated by Dr. Dawn Thilmany, this community conversation recording is available to view on Colorado Humanities' [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts.

Colorado Humanities is the only Colorado organization exclusively dedicated to supporting humanities education for adults and children statewide. Celebrating its 47th year and its 17th year as host for the Colorado Center for the Book, Colorado Humanities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Library of Congress Center for the Book, the Smithsonian Institution, and the national award-winning educational nonprofit Motheread, Inc. Colorado Humanities works with partners throughout

the state to design and implement programs that best meet each community's needs. Colorado Humanities' goals are to improve education, strengthen cultural institutions, and enrich community life by inspiring the people of Colorado to explore ideas and appreciate our diverse heritage.

The Regional Development Economic Institute at Colorado State University is an engaged research enterprise that aims to understand, analyze, and inform economic development strategies particularly in struggling regions in both rural and urban areas, especially in Colorado.

To learn more, visit [coloradohumanities.org](http://coloradohumanities.org) or call 303.894.7951.

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**For more information and interviews**, please contact Gina Huett at [ghuett@coloradohumanities.org](mailto:ghuett@coloradohumanities.org) or 720.346.1311 cell