



Quality Growth Commission

2019 Legislative Brief

Utah's enviable economic success in recent years also yields one of the state's greatest challenges: growth. As Utah retains and attracts the best and the brightest individuals, demand for housing increases, traffic congestion worsens, open spaces are lost, and air quality and water availability are threatened. In short, the very quality of life that makes Utah so attractive will likely be diminished if we do not take proactive steps to preserve it. As such, the Quality Growth Commission recommends that the Legislature take steps to preserve the state's quality of life in the face of continued growth through continued support of the LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Conservation Fund.

Preserve prime agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, and watersheds through the LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Conservation Fund

"Quality growth" is not just about planning for great communities with a mix of housing types and a mix of transportation options. Quality growth is also having the vision to know what NOT to develop. As so much of our state is being developed and redeveloped into more intense urban uses, residents yearn for the open natural and agricultural lands that contribute meaningfully to their quality of life and community character. It also requires the public sector working with willing landowners to create solutions that provide a high quality of life for generations to come through preserving pristine watersheds, recreation areas, prime agricultural lands for food production, and the culturally significant open lands that provide community character and a sense of place.

The LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund allows landowners who desire to keep their lands in agricultural production, wildlife habitat, or pristine watershed condition a financially feasible way to do so. While state dollars are usually only a small portion of the total project costs, they provide a critical match that can be leveraged many times over from other sources and provide a benefit to all Utahns who enjoy local food, wildlife, clean air and water, and the improved quality of life and community character that such working lands provide.

"Over the last decade the State of Utah has done an outstanding job with economic development. In many cases corporations relocate to Utah for a better culture and quality of life for their company. More often than not, quality of life is defined by quick access to open space and recreation. As a state it is important to maintain and increase our open spaces



with the same vigor as economic development efforts! Utahns want to maintain a high quality of life. The state's open spaces and access to recreation need to grow at a similar rate as infrastructure."

Tom Adams – Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation

LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Conservation Fund by the numbers

114
Projects

23
Counties

>93K
Acres

Since 1999, the Quality Growth Commission has used \$21.9 million from the LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Conservation Fund to leverage nearly \$200 million to preserve or restore lands in 23 of Utah's 29 Counties. Over 93,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat, watersheds, and prime agricultural lands have been preserved to date.

Statewide Commission, Statewide Impact

Current Commissioners, Projects Funded by County, & 2019 Requests



Kerry Gibson,
Commissioner
of Agriculture



Brian Steed,
Dept. of Natural
Resources



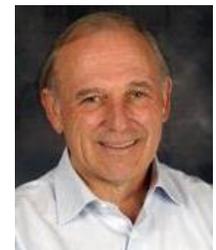
Greg Todd,
Duchesne County
Commission



Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City Council



Jenney Rees,
Cedar Hills City Mayor



Jim Bradley,
Salt Lake County Council



Wade Garrett,
Utah Farm Bureau



Andy Beerman,
Park City Mayor



Kent Bushman,
Utah Farmers Union



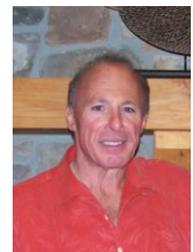
Randy Day,
Utah Association
of Realtors



Ashley Korenblat,
Private sector at-large



Jeff Scott,
Box Elder County
(Confirmation pending)



Ron Iacono,
Utah Home Builders

2019 LeRay McAllister Project Request Locations

- **Logan City** – Logan River wetlands mitigation and floodplain conservation and recreation access
- **Avon, Ut** – Ranchland and wildlife habitat along the Little Bear River in Cache County
- **Summit County** – Unique ranchland and wildlife migration corridor in Echo Canyon
- **Coalville** – Farmland along the Weber River
- **Coalville** – Farmland adjacent to I-80
- **Millcreek City** – Natural open space and trail access along the Jordan River
- **Cottonwood Heights** – Natural open lands and trail access for Bonneville Shoreline Trail
- **Alta** – Natural open space for watershed protection near Alta
- **Midway** – Working dairy and outdoor classroom along the Provo River that provides rural character for Midway City.
- **Provo City** – Water quality buffer and bird habitat near Utah Lake
- **Iron County** – critical condor and big game habitat, sheep grazing, Virgin River headwaters
- **La Verkin City** – Confluence Park natural vegetation restoration

