



ORIENT LAND TRUST

Valley View Hot Springs

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A Colorado 501(c)(3) Corporation

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Contact: Amy Trainer, OLT Executive Director, 719-256-4886

VILLA GROVE – Orient Land Trust (OLT) is excited to announce the donation today of 350 acres on the west-facing slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, including the historic Valley View Hot Springs, by Neil & Terry Seitz.

The biologically diverse hot springs parcel is a treasure, and includes over a dozen natural hot springs, is home to a rare high-altitude stream orchid as well as fire flies and a wealth of wildlife and natural beauty.

OLT founders Neil & Terry Seitz purchased the hot springs parcel in 1979. In 2001, they created Orient Land Trust with the goal of preserving the clothing-optional hot springs along with its special surroundings. The Seitzes operated Valley View Hot Springs until 2004 when they turned over its management to OLT. Today, they donated the hot springs parcel and surrounding land totaling 350 acres.

“Our personal goals of preserving the hot springs, the surrounding area and naturism are coming to fruition through nearly a decade of hard work by the OLT staff, the OLT board of directors and countless supporters,” says Neil Seitz. With this donation, land conservation values and naturism at Valley View Hot Springs will be preserved forever. Development at the hot springs will be limited and will fit in with the rustic, natural background. Terry Seitz added that, “Valley View Hot Springs is a cherished part of many people’s lives. We are confident that under the protection of Orient Land Trust, it will remain a truly unique and beautiful haven for people to enjoy forever.”

“Orient Land Trust is really blessed to be the beneficiary of Neil & Terry’s vision. Their charitable giving is unprecedented,” says Amy Trainer, OLT Executive Director. “We are working with The Nature Conservancy to grant a conservation easement on 1270 acres of OLT lands, including the hot

springs parcel, to insure that Neil and Terry's land conservation goals will be carried forward for future generations," says Trainer.

The Seitz donation today comes shortly after OLT's acquisition of two additional parcels totaling 320 acres that lie within the Valley View Hot Springs view shed, and which are adjacent to BLM land. This brings the total acres being permanently protected by OLT to 1780.

Orient Land Trust is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to the preservation of natural and biological resources, agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, open space, and historic and geologic features of the northern San Luis Valley for the enjoyment of current and future generations.