

Claire Riegelman, Executive Director, Clear Creek Land Conservancy, Golden, CO

Claire grew up surrounded by dairy and horse farms in the rural area northwest of sprawling Chicago before spending her high school years in the scenic Connecticut River Valley in western Massachusetts. The value and importance of open space and natural places were instilled in Claire at a young age by her family and a childhood spent playing outdoors. Going on to spend four years at Cornell University in the wilds of the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York solidified her desire to find balanced solutions for preserving our natural environment. Upon obtaining her degree in Natural Resources, she went on to pursue a law degree focusing on Natural Resources, Environmental and Land Use law from the University of Denver. After her first year in Colorado, Claire knew that she wanted to stay in such a wonderful state full of such fantastic outdoor adventures and outdoor oriented people. Claire gained land trust experience in Colorado through work for the Nature Conservancy and the Mountain Area Land Trust. Further, she has worked on contentious natural resource management issues while working for the National Park Service in the Environmental Quality Division, and as a licensed Colorado attorney, she has experience in legal ethics and civil and criminal law. In her free time, Claire is very busy mountain biking and hiking in the summer and alpine and Nordic skiing in the winter. She also thoroughly enjoys cooking and other kitchen based endeavors like canning and home brewing.