

SAVING AMERICA'S WORKING LANDS

A National Conference Hosted by American Farmland Trust

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Session: Conservation Tax Credits: A Primer

SPEAKERS



Brendan Boepple

Director of Conservation

Colorado Cattlemen Agricultural Land Trust

Dr. Andrew (Andy) Seidl is Professor of Environmental and Development Economics and Nutrien Distinguished Scholar of Agricultural Sciences at Colorado State University (USA). He is also Senior Technical Advisor, UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). Andy holds faculty appointments in the Colorado School of Public Health and the CSU School of Global Environmental Sustainability and on the faculty advisory board of the Salazar Center for North American Conservation. Previously, Seidl was Head, Global Economics Programme, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Switzerland, Natural Resource Economist, Brazilian Center for Agricultural Research in the Pantanal (CPAP-EMBRAPA), Brazil, and Commodity Analyst, UN-FAO, Italy. Andy's work focuses on natural resource-based economic development, biodiversity finance, and private lands conservation policy. Dr. Seidl holds a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Florida, USA.



Mike Strugar

Director

Conservation Resource Center

Mr. Strugar is an attorney specializing in real estate law and land conservation techniques. He has a law degree, as well as a master's degree in Natural Resource Management, both from the University of Michigan. Mr. Strugar practiced real estate law for ten years as an associate, and later partner, at Holme Roberts & Owen, a national law firm. In 1993 he established the Conservation Resource Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping communities and governmental entities deal with matters involving land conservation. Working in Colorado, he established the nation's first functioning exchange for transferring Conservation Tax Credits. In 2002, he established a similar program for transferring Conservation Tax Credits in Virginia, and in 2008 established a third program in New Mexico. In 2011 he also began transferring credits in Georgia. Through these programs he has facilitated the transfer of over 1,500 credits valued at over \$200 million. He has served as an adjunct Professor of Law at University of Denver Law School, teaching courses in Land Conservation Law, and as an expert witness in cases involving conservation easement credits..



Facilitator

Cris Coffin

Senior Policy Advisor; Director, National Agricultural Land Network
American Farmland Trust

Cris helps guide AFT's federal and state policy engagement. She also directs the National Agricultural Land Network, which supports state and local governments, land trusts,

agricultural service providers, planners, and conservation organizations and builds their capacity to advance farmland protection. From 2015 to 2018, Cris served as policy director for Land For Good, a New England-based organization with which AFT often collaborates. But before that, Cris served as AFT's New England director for fourteen years. She has held several positions in the U.S. Senate, including as professional staff on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and as chief of staff to Senator Herb Kohl. She has worked for Resources for the Future and the Vermont Department of Agriculture. Cris co-chairs the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative and serves on her town's Agriculture Commission. Cris farms part-time with her husband, running a small, pastured poultry operation in western Massachusetts. She is an alumna of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and holds a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University.