



# Virgin River Land

**Preservation Association**

**'09 Annual Report**

**Our Mission:** Working with communities and landowners to preserve southwestern Utah's heritage of scenic vistas, open lands, and quality of life

# From the **President**

---



It has been 17 years since the Virgin River Land Preservation Association was established. While at times it has felt like we have been working against impossible odds, the satisfaction felt when we partner with a landowner to permanently protect land keeps us working. The current national economic condition we are all facing has made fund raising more difficult, yet land conservation projects appear to have been stimulated by these conditions. There has been an increase in inquiries from land owners wanting to protect their land as open space.

Our challenge is to keep up with these potential projects. To meet these needs we have embarked on a fundraising campaign to increase the organization's capacity to do more. The Association has a new office in St. George located at 435 East Tabernacle. Our website is up and running and we invite you to visit us at [www.virginriverland.org](http://www.virginriverland.org).

We have started work on several outstanding projects: the East Entrance to Zion National Park, the Virgin River Riparian Corridor, and an important addition to Confluence Park. We are grateful for the support we receive from new and long-standing partners: the landowners who have placed conservation easements on their land, larger conservation organizations—including The Nature Conservancy, Trust For Public Lands, and The Conservation Fund—who share their resources and expertise, our dedicated members, volunteers, and the generous donors who help make ends meet and enable us to have staff. Without their help, this work could not be done.

As president I can't express my thanks enough to all of them, and thanks to all of you who support the VRLPA as we continue to work in Southern Utah for open space preservation. With your help we are making a difference for the future.

*William S. McMurrin*

William S. McMurrin  
President

## The Year In Review:

# Land Conservation



Thanks to many generous gifts and the support of the Utah Quality Growth Commission, the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service, we were able to raise the funds necessary to purchase a second conservation easement in **Pine Valley Meadows**, and initiated the purchase of a third easement on adjoining acres.

These easements protect the historic agricultural uses in the meadows, the character of the townsite and the setting of the historic white chapel, riparian habitat, and groundwater that supplies municipal well water for the county's largest cities.



**Preserving southwestern Utah's heritage of scenic vistas, open lands, and quality of life**



**East Zion Entrance Corridor**

We began work with landowners in two exciting new project areas—the east entrance of Zion National Park, and in the riparian corridor downstream of the park. The scenic and ecological qualities of these parcels are outstanding and their protection will benefit our communities for generations to come.



**Virgin River Riparian Corridor**

# The Year In Review: Stewardship

In addition to acquiring conservation easements, Virgin River Land worked to fulfill our stewardship responsibilities on the approximately 2750 acres currently under easement or owned by the association.



**Babylon Mill**



**Smith Mesa**

## The Year Ahead:

# Capacity Building

## Strategic Plan 2010-2013

**Build Capacity to Conserve More Land, to Involve More People,  
and to Create Stability**

### What Makes Us Different?

VRLPA has achieved incredible results with a pioneer can-do attitude on a shoestring budget. With no publicity or fanfare, using effective partnerships, avoiding common environmental labels by working positively with respect for people of diverse convictions, this small, very local group is expanding the protection of privately-owned open lands in a fast-growing area. There is no going back, only one chance ever to conserve critical lands. We thrive on “doing remarkable work under impossible odds,” and we need to do more. This will require building our capacity.

### 1. Land. Conserve more of the most important, most threatened land

- Focus on protecting boundary and entry corridors of Zion National Park
- Increase the number of successfully completed projects

### 2. People. Increase local involvement in and awareness of voluntary land conservation

- Increase the number of people currently participating in VRLPA (members, board, committees, staff, volunteers)
- Be a presence in every community in our service area as a resource and partner for open space protection

### 3. Organization. Create a structure of permanence with stable financial support

- Secure a permanent physical home
- Build economic stability through developing and implementing an effective fundraising program
- Create organizational permanence to fulfill our conservation obligations—an organization that outlives the people involved
- Develop capacity to remain flexible, fast on our feet, opportunistic
- Develop a strong board supported by new talent and effective committees



# The Year In Review:

# Financial Highlights

Years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2009	2008
Cash	\$123,451	\$49,536
Office Equipment	563	720
Conservation Easements	2,082,286	2,082,286
Land	305,620	305,620
Water Rights	127,375	127,375
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,639,295</b>	<b>\$2,565,536</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>1,298</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,637,687</b>	<b>\$ 2,564,238</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,639,295</b>	<b>\$ 2,565,536</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions (cash and in-kind)	\$ 8,480	\$ 7,160
Contributions—restricted for projects	2,500	300
Grants	100,000	0
investment income and interest	442	1,445
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 111,422</b>	<b>\$8,905</b>

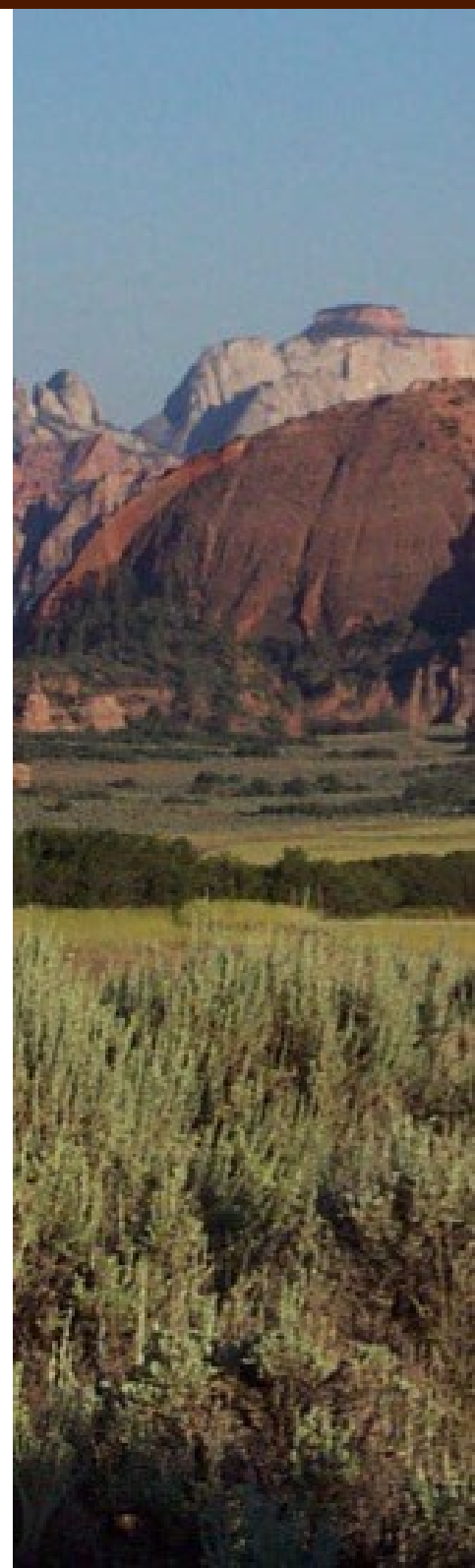
### EXPENSES

Conservation easement purchases	0	0
Conservation and Stewardship Programs	32,278	30,123
Management and fundraising	5,696	4,343
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 37,974</b>	<b>\$ 34,466</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 73,448</b>	<b>(25,561)</b>

The condensed financial statement presented above reflect Virgin River Land Preservation Association's financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2009 which have been prepared by Savage, Esplin & Radmall, PC, Certified Public Accountants.

## FINANCIAL NOTES

A \$100,000 grant was received from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, which will be used to assist the Virgin River Land Preservation Association purchase conservation easements in Pine Valley Meadows. The Utah Quality Growth Commission has committed \$230,000 and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has committed \$425,000 toward this acquisition.



**In Closing:**

**Thank You!**



**Thank You....simple but meaningful words**

Without you, our work is not possible

**Special thanks to:**

Savage, Esplin & Radmall  
Tabernacle Development  
Infowest  
Jensen Property Management  
Allan C. Beezely, P.C.  
George S. and Dolores Doré  
Eccles Foundation  
Suzanne Dandoy, Secretary

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Utah Quality Growth Commission  
The Conservation Fund  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trust For Public Land  
Our Landowners  
Our Members  
David Pettit Photography, cover photo

and, our volunteer Board of Trustees who continue to give more than could be expected:

William McMurrin, President  
Christopher Blake, Treasurer  
Timothy Bywater  
Joy Cooney  
Louise Excell  
Dennis Kay  
L. Jackson Newell  
Kent Peterson (on leave until 2011)