



COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

"Representing the interests of Colorado's beef industry since 1867"

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Finalists announced for 2011 Leopold Conservation Award in Colorado

ARVADA, COLO. – April 20, 2011 – Sand County Foundation, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. and Peabody Energy are proud to announce the finalists for the 2011 Leopold Conservation Award in Colorado.

The Leopold Conservation Award, named in honor of world-renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, is comprised of \$10,000 and a Leopold crystal. The award is presented annually in eight states to private landowners who practice responsible land stewardship and management.

"The Leopold Conservation Award got its start in Colorado, and, year after year, the finalists prove to be exceptional stewards of the land, water, and wildlife that are part of their farms and ranches," said Dr. Brent Haglund, Sand County Foundation President. "The Leopold Conservation Award serves as an annual reminder of the tremendous work Colorado farmers and ranchers are doing for agriculture and conservation."

The 2011 Leopold Conservation Finalists are:

The Fox Ranch

The Andrews family (Don and Myrna; Nathan, Rachel and Ryan) have been farming and ranching in Yuma County for five generations. Some of the conservation practices in use by the family are planned grazing systems with water facilities and cross fencing, enhanced irrigation management through the use of a sprinkler, and practices to control soil erosion that benefit the ranch. The family is also passionate about wildlife management and water conservation.

Wineinger-Davis Ranch

The Wineinger Ranch began in 1938 with a cow herd on 400 acres. Since then, the ranch has grown to over 12,000 acres. The ranch successfully integrates not only the needs of a successful and productive beef operation, but the habitat needs of a suite of shortgrass prairie wildlife species. In 2004, the ranch entered into a perpetual conservation easement with the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Colorado Species Conservation Partnership Program. As part of this partnership, the ranch has protected 12,245 acres of intact native shortgrass prairie and riparian ecosystems.

Pipe Springs Ranch

Siblings Jo Ann McEndree, Kaye Kasza, Steve McEndree, and Cathy Tebay are the fourth generation of their family to own ranchland; and they are committed to leaving a sustainable operation for their descendants. A large part of their land stewardship was placing pipelines to distribute water across their 14,737 acre ranch. As a result, they created smaller pastures and were able to plant two windbreaks to offer protection for both livestock and wildlife. This allows for shorter grazing periods, which increases the productivity of the soil and plants.

Wagon Wheel Ranch

The Rogers family (Francis and Mary; Kenny and Jody) are part of a multigenerational farm that currently has three generations actively involved in the operation. The Rogers family is continually seeking opportunities to improve their operation and natural resources. For example, rotational grazing systems have been implemented to maximize forage resources and pasture utilization. The ranching operation also looks at ways to diversify their operation through their natural resource base. The Wagon Wheel Ranch took part in a wind resource evaluation and is currently exploring avenues that would allow them to capture environmentally-friendly wind energy production for both their operation and potentially, for their surrounding community.

The Leopold Conservation Award in Colorado is made possible through the generous support of the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc., Peabody Energy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and Farm Credit.

The 2011 Leopold Conservation Award recipient will be honored Tuesday, June 21 at the Colorado Cattlemen's Association's Annual Convention in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

For more information, please visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org or contact the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, (303) 431-6422, info@coloradocattle.org.

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ABOUT SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION

Sand County Foundation is a private, non-profit conservation organization dedicated to working with private landowners to improve habitat on their land. In the spirit of Aldo Leopold, author of *A Sand County Almanac*, the Foundation encourages the exercise of private responsibility in the pursuit of improved land health. www.sandcounty.net

ABOUT COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is the state's only nonprofit trade organization exclusively representing Colorado's beef producers. Founded in 1867, CCA is the nation's oldest state cattlemen's association. CCA serves its members through legislative representation, research and education, information distribution, public relations, issues management, and allied group cooperation. <http://www.coloradocattle.org/>

ABOUT COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

Recognizing the need to help Colorado ranchers and farmers protect their agricultural lands, in the face of growing development and economic pressures, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association

in 1995 formed the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT). To date, CCALT has protected 228 ranches, covering more than 350,000 acres. <http://www.ccalt.org/>

ABOUT ENCANA OIL & GAS (USA) INC.

EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. is a leading North American energy company that produces approximately 4.4 billion cubic feet of gas equivalent per day. More than 80 percent of which is natural gas. The organization strives to be a trusted community contributor and is committed to benchmark practices in safety and environmental stewardship, ethical business conduct, and community responsibility. <http://www.encana.com>

ABOUT PEABODY ENERGY

Peabody Energy's products fuel approximately 10 percent of America's, and 2 percent of the world's electricity. The company serves customers in 21 nations representing more than half the world's population. Peabody achieves strong productivity and safety results and continues to receive the industry's highest honors for land restoration and environmental stewardship. www.peabodyenergy.com