

Colorado Cattlemen's
Agricultural Land Trust



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HISTORIC NORTH PARK RANCH PROTECTED

Traditional ranching family continues to protect land for future generations

DENVER – The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) along with the David Meyring family, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and KeepItColorado have protected a portion of the spectacular 7,500 acre Spicer/Coyte Ranch in North Park. The easement protects 1,320 acres of highly productive irrigated hay meadows, sagebrush rangeland and alkali wetlands. In addition, the Meyring's protected 520 acres of the ranch with CCALT in 2007. This remarkably resilient ranching family plans on continuing to place portions of the property under easement until the entire ranch, along with the multitude of conservation values it hosts, is forever protected.

The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board generously awarded a \$500,000 Lottery grant to the project. In addition, CCALT secured \$347,500 in matching funds from Doris Duke Charitable Foundation through the Colorado Conservation Partnership in order to make this easement purchase a reality.

“We are very pleased that GOCO and the Colorado Conservation Partnership have provided funding to purchase the conservation easement in addition to that we have donated,” said David Meyring. “We are also pleased that the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust is holding this easement. They are an organization with goals and objectives very similar to ours; to protect our agricultural lands for continuing production.”

This is CCALT's second purchased conservation easement completed in the North Park area by a traditional ranch family. The Coyte Ranch is located approximately 22 miles southwest of Walden and is highly visible to travelers along Colorado Highway 14. The ranch provides important habitat for a wide array of wildlife species, including winter range for elk, pronghorn and deer, nesting populations of sage grouse and the occasional moose. It is adjacent to two State Wildlife Areas and the easement will help provide a natural buffer to those public lands. The easement will ensure the ranch

remains intact and is passed on to the next generation and that habitat for species identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan will be protected.

“The Meyring family has been ranching on this property for more than a century. Their long-time stewardship shows both economic and ecological stability, as the property also contains high quality habitat for wildlife including the Greater Sage-Grouse, big game and migratory waterfowl. This easement will help to ensure that their management continues for the next century,” said C.J. Mucklow, CCALT Board Member and CSU Extension Agent in northwest Colorado.

North Park is the last intact mountain ranching community in the state and provides a unique conservation opportunity in Colorado. North Park consists mainly of large, privately-owned ranches that are highly agriculturally productive, as well as publicly-owned lands managed by the Colorado State Land Board, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Conservation easements provide landowners with an effective tool for keeping their land in the family and preserving our agricultural heritage,” said natural resource attorney Kent Holsinger who represented the family.

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Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) helps Colorado's ranchers and farmers protect their agricultural lands and encourage continuing agricultural production for the benefit of themselves, their families and all of Colorado's citizens. To date, CCALT has partnered with landowners in the protection of 202 ranches covering more than 320,000 acres. For more information visit www.ccalt.org

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) is the result of a citizens initiative passed in 1992. It receives up to half of Lottery proceeds. GOCO's mission is “to help preserve, protect, enhance and manage the state's wildlife, park, river, trail and open space heritage.” To date, GOCO has awarded \$3.15 million for projects in Jackson County.

Colorado Conservation Partnership envisions a Colorado in which our finest farming and ranching lands, unique wildlife habitats, world-renown recreational landscapes, scenic vistas and open spaces are permanently protected for current and future generations. For more information visit www.KeepItColorado.org

Pictures Available Upon Request

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