



COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

For Immediate Release
E-Mail: info@coloradocattle.org
www.coloradocattle.org

Contact: Amy Bader
Ph: (303) 431-6422
Fax: (303) 431-6446

Leopold Conservation Award to be presented to Pipe Springs Ranch

ARVADA, Colo. – May 23, 2011 – The Wisconsin-based conservation organization Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, the Colorado Agricultural Land Trust, Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. and Peabody Energy; is proud to name Pipe Springs Ranch of Springfield, Colorado as the recipient of the 2011 Leopold Conservation Award in Colorado.

"The McEndree siblings and their families have a strong connection to, and a great sense of responsibility for, the natural resources that are in their care," said Brent Haglund, president, Sand County Foundation. "Their commitment to pass these values on to the next generation, through a remarkable amount of agricultural education and outreach, is truly exceptional."

Siblings Jo Ann McEndree, Kaye Kasza, Steve McEndree and Cathy Tebay are fourth generation ranchers who are committed to leaving a sustainable operation for their descendents. A large part of their land stewardship involved 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. This has also resulted in an increase in wildlife. A herd of deer makes its home on the ranch, along with a few elk, foxes and the occasional bear. The population of songbirds and pheasants has also increased dramatically.

Future plans for the ranch include more water lines and fencing to create even smaller pastures, and shorter, more intense grazing periods. By purchasing temporary fencing materials the family will be able to split a section into quarters for grazing purposes. The 4-5 days of grazing per year in each quarter section allow for adequate regrowth of natural grasses during the remainder of the year.

The \$10,000 Leopold Conservation Award will be presented to Pipe Springs Ranch on June 21st at the Colorado Cattlemen's Association's Annual Convention in Steamboat Springs.

The Leopold Conservation Award in Colorado is sponsored by Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc., the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Peabody Energy, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and Farm Credit.

For more information, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org, or contact Beka Gill, info@coloradocattle.org.

ABOUT THE LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD

The Leopold Conservation Award is a competitive award that recognizes landowner achievement in voluntary conservation. The award consists of an Aldo Leopold crystal and a check for \$10,000. In 2011, Sand County Foundation will present Leopold Conservation Awards in Nebraska, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Colorado, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and California.

The awards are presented to accomplish three objectives: First, they recognize extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation on the land of exemplary private landowners. Second, they inspire countless other landowners in their own communities through these examples. Finally, they provide a visible forum where leaders from the agriculture community are recognized as conservation leaders to groups outside of agriculture.

www.leopoldconservationaward.org

ABOUT SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION

Sand County Foundation is a private, non-profit conservation group dedicated to working with private landowners to improve habitat on their land. Sand County's mission is to advance the use of ethical and scientifically sound land management practices and partnerships for the benefit of people and their rural landscapes. Sand County Foundation works with private landowners because the majority of the nation's fish, wildlife, and natural resources are found on private lands. The organization backs local champions, invests in civil society, and places incentives before regulation to create solutions that ensure and grow. The organization encourages the exercise of private responsibility in the pursuit of improved land health as an essential alternative to many of the commonly-used strategies in modern conservation. 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 by speaking out on behalf of Colorado's more than 12,000 beef producers. www.coloradocattle.org

ABOUT COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

In 1995, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) formed the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT). CCA Recognized the need to help Colorado ranchers and farmers protect their agricultural lands in the face of growing development and economic pressures. 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. www.encana.com