



## COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

For Immediate Release  
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### **Leopold Conservation Award Seeks Nominees** *Colorado Landowners Who Exemplify Land Stewardship*

Arvada, Colo. January 11, 2012 - Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA), the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc., and Peabody Energy, seeks nominations for the 2012 Leopold Conservation Award in Colorado.

"Through this partnership, we have had the pleasure of honoring nine outstanding agricultural families in Colorado," said Brent Haglund, Sand County Foundation President. "These families are representative of the tremendous conservation work of ranchers and farmers across Colorado, and we look forward to recognizing many more of them through the Leopold Conservation Award."

The Award, which is comprised of \$10,000 and an Aldo Leopold crystal, recognizes Colorado landowners who demonstrate outstanding stewardship and sustainable management of natural resources. The Leopold Conservation Award is presented in honor of famed conservationist and author Aldo Leopold who called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

"Those who conserve while working their land on a daily basis deserve to be recognized, as they provide the highest level of conservation and services to society," stated Terry Fankhauser, Executive Vice President of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association. "CCA is honored to be a partner in this award, but even prouder to recognize the backbone of our county – America's Ranching and Farming Families."

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

The Leopold Conservation Award will be presented at the Colorado Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 in Loveland, CO.

The nomination deadline is **March 16, 2012**. For more information, visit [www.leopoldconservationaward.org](http://www.leopoldconservationaward.org), or contact the Colorado Cattlemen's Association at [info@coloradocattle.org](mailto: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 California, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

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

Past Leopold Conservation Award winners from Colorado include:

2003 Capps Ranch : Frankie and Sue Menegatti – Walsenburg, C O

2004 Rusk Hereford Ranch: Randy and Claricy Rusk – Westcliffe, CO

2005 McNeil Ranch: Mike and Cathy McNeil – Monte Vista, CO

2006 Bohart Ranch: Dick and Sandra Tanner – Yoder, CO

2007 San Isabel Ranch: Bet Kettle, Mike and Sara Shields – Westcliffe, CO

2008 Coleman Ranches: Jim and Frances Coleman, Tim and Teddi Coleman – Saguache, CO

2009 Mesa de Maya Ranch: John and Carolyn Doherty – Kim, CO

2010 Stanko Ranch: Jim and Jo Stanko – Steamboat Springs, CO

2011 Pipe Springs Ranch: McEndree Family – Springfield, CO

#### 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](http://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. <http://www.coloradocattle.org/>

#### ABOUT COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

Established by the membership of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association in 1995, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) protects productive agricultural lands and the conservation values they provide by working with ranchers and farmers, thereby preserving Colorado's ranching heritage and rural communities. <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. [www.encana.com](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](http://www.peabodyenergy.com)