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Press Contacts:

Erik Glenn, Executive Director
Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
[303-225-8677](tel:303-225-8677)
eglenn@ccalt.org

US Army Veteran Selected for Conservation Internship with the Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust

Jon Byerly will be joining the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) as a Colorado State University (CSU) Conservation Intern this summer. A sophomore rangeland ecology major and veteran, Jon grew up amidst the wide open spaces and ranches of Montana.

Before enrolling at CSU, he served our nation in the Army from 2004-2013. Jon completed tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was attracted to CSU not only because of its rangeland ecology program, but also because of CSU's commitment to veterans' education and welcoming atmosphere. After graduation, Jon wants to apply his range management skills in a career that helps private landowners use sound practices in managing their lands.

Jon will be based out of CCALT's Steamboat Springs office and will assist with easement monitoring, baseline production and other conservation projects. The internship is a partnership between CCALT and the Private Lands Conservation Initiative in CSU's Warner College of Natural Resources. The partnership provides CSU students the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the conservation field while providing additional capacity for CCALT. The internship is supported by Mike and Jan Bohart.

In describing their motivations to support the internship Mike stated, "Having been involved in ranching all my life and knowing the importance of continuing good agricultural practices, supporting ranching livelihoods, and conserving lands, we were pleased to assist with this internship to prepare the next generation of stewards."

“CCALT is excited to partner with the Private Lands Conservation Initiative at CSU to provide internship opportunities to students like Jon. Internships like this are critical to developing future conservation leaders. We are thrilled that Jon will be a part of our team this summer and we look forward to providing him with opportunities to gain additional skills that will help him to achieve his educational and professional goals,” said Erik Glenn, executive director of CCALT.

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Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust protects Colorado's agricultural land, heritage and families for future generations by conserving working rural landscapes. For more information visit www.ccalt.org.