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One Woman's Ranching Legacy Conserved Forever

ARVADA, Colo. (Dec. 30, 2016) – Working as a one-woman show, Carolyn Durand has individually owned and operated the Jenkins Creek Ranch for nearly 50 years. In that time, she has managed the day to day operations and successfully conserved more than 1,280 acres of her ranch. This year, in partnership with the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), Carolyn was able to conserve the remaining 1,360 acres of her property, adding to a growing block of conserved land in Larimer County and ensuring that her ranching legacy would live on through the land for generations to come. Other supporters of this project included Larimer County's Open Lands Program and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO).

Jenkins Creek Ranch is located in northern Larimer County in the beautiful Laramie River Valley. The Laramie River Valley is a unique landscape surrounded almost entirely by mountains, including the Snowy Range to the north in Wyoming, the Medicine Bow Mountains to the west, and the Laramie Mountains to the east. A half-dozen large ranches still remain in the valley, each of them critically important to the agricultural viability of the area.

Like its neighboring ranches, Jenkins Creek Ranch is vital to the agricultural integrity of the valley, but it also contributes to this area of Larimer County in other ways. Several miles of creeks and rivers wind through the ranch, including more than one mile of the Laramie River and approximately one mile of both Forrester and Granny Creeks. Jenkins Creek Ranch provides unique public recreation opportunities. Camping opportunities are available at the Hohnholz Lakes Campground, managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and fishing opportunities exist along portions of Forrester Creek and the Laramie River.

"The Laramie River Valley was identified as a priority area in our 2015 Open Lands Master Plan because of its high natural resource and agricultural values. Larimer County is thrilled to partner with CCALT, GOCO and Mrs. Durand to conserve this significant property and its working landscape," said Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager for Larimer County.

The first portion of Jenkins Creek Ranch was successfully conserved in 2014. Since that time, CCALT has been able to complete multiple other conservation easements across Colorado. Completing the conservation of Jenkins Creek Ranch will mark CCALT's 500,000th acre conserved. As far as Carolyn Durand is concerned, "This conservation milestone is important to me because it means that when I am gone, my land will remain the same, and that can also

be said for nearly 300 other ranches and half a million acres. Future generations will be able to enjoy the land the way it is now, and that is so important.”

Carolyn’s dedication to the land and its heritage is unparalleled. The land is her family and her passion and she says that she just simply can’t imagine being anywhere else.

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.

Great Outdoors Colorado invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state’s parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO’s independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts, and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a Constitutional Amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 4,700 projects in urban and rural areas in all 64 counties without any tax dollar support. Visit www.GOCO.org for more information.

Larimer County Open Lands Program is funded by the ¼-cent Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax. The tax began in 1996 following a citizen’s initiative to acquire and manage open spaces. The Open Lands Program works with willing landowners to preserve and protect properties through fee simple and conservation easement transactions. For more information visit www.larimer.org/openlands

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