



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **All Good Things Take Time**

**ARVADA, Colo. (Dec. 29, 2016)** – For the past three years, the Sheridan family of Meeker, Colorado has been working to conserve their ranch in the White River Valley. This year, with funding support from Great Outdoors Colorado and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) was able to partner with the Sheridan family to officially conserve the 1,573-acre Bar Seven Ranch—a highly anticipated holiday gift for both the Sheridans and all of the partners involved.

The Bar Seven Ranch has been owned and operated by the Sheridan family since its founding in 1895. Paul Sheridan and his wife, Shannon, are the current owners of the ranch, taking over for Paul's father, Jim, in 2006. Known to most as "Buckshot," Paul is the fourth generation of the Sheridan family to operate the ranch that was started by his great-grandfather Frank E. Sheridan. Frank Sheridan also helped found the town of Meeker.

Ranching was not always Paul's dream job. After finishing his education, Paul moved to California for work and gave up ranching completely, distancing himself from both the ranch and the lifestyle that went with it. It wasn't until an extended trip back to Meeker that Paul reconnected with his roots. During his visit home, Paul noticed that there was a small insurance shop for sale in the town of Meeker. He decided then and there to buy the business and move back home to Colorado. Once the business was up and running, Paul's father would visit him at work every day and ask if he wanted to be involved in the ranch. To his father's delight, eventually, the answer was "yes."

Now, a father of four and proud rancher, Paul raises natural beef and grows hay on the property. To Paul and Shannon's delight, their son, who recently graduated from college with a degree in ranch management, has come home to the ranch and hopes to take over the family operation someday. In doing so, he is following in a long line of Sheridan footsteps and he represents the fifth generation of their family on the ranch.

"Congratulations to the Sheridan family and Bar 7 Ranch, one of the very few pioneer ranches left in the same family in the Meeker area of the White River Valley," said Ben Rogers, neighboring rancher and CCALT board member.

Paul notes that their family's primary reason for pursuing a conservation easement was "preservation of agricultural land, but they probably wouldn't have done this without his son's interest." This conservation easement will allow Paul's son and future generations of the Sheridan family to run the ranch and carry on Frank Sheridan's legacy.

The Bar Seven Ranch joins a growing block of other conservation easements in the area, and represents a critical piece in CCALT's White River Conservation Legacy. From a habitat standpoint, the Bar Seven Ranch is located in the largest remaining patch of greater sage grouse-occupied range for the Meeker/Whiter River population, the smallest of six designated greater sage grouse populations. The property is also prime habitat for greater sandhill crane and the Columbian sharp tailed grouse—both species of concern in Colorado. As conservation in this area continues and a larger block of agricultural land is protected, wildlife species will continue to thrive.

"Ranch families like the Sheridans are critical to ensuring that Colorado will always be defined by its natural beauty and western heritage. What they are doing through conservation is a gift to all Coloradans and to those who visit our great state. It is a privilege to work with ranching families like the Sheridans in our quest to build a bright future for all Coloradans," said Erik Glenn, CCALT Executive Director.

Even as generations grow and change, this conservation easement will ensure that the landscape of the Bar Seven Ranch, and the wildlife that depend on it, will stay the same. At a certain point in time, Paul Sheridan wasn't interested in life on the ranch at all, and now he can't imagine life anywhere else.

*Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) protects Colorado's agricultural land, heritage and families for future generations by conserving working rural landscapes. For more information visit [www.ccalt.org](http://www.ccalt.org).*

*Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) 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](http://www.GOCO.org) for more information.*

*The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the primary federal agency that works with private landowners to help them conserve, maintain and improve their natural resources. The Agency emphasizes voluntary, science-based conservation; technical assistance; partnerships; incentive-based programs; and cooperative problem solving at the community level.*

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