



COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

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2014 Colorado Leopold Conservation Award Recipient Announced

Arvada, CO –April 22, 2014– The Turkey Creek Ranch owned and operated by Gary and Georgia Walker has been selected as the recipient of the 2014 Colorado Leopold Conservation Award. The Pueblo-based ranch consists of approximately 65,000 deeded acres and is managed for both wildlife and livestock.

The acts of cattle ranching and wildlife management go hand in hand, and the life's work of the Walkers proves it. Under an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, they re-introduced Black Footed Ferrets, which were once thought to be extinct, in eastern Colorado.

"The Walkers' passion for caring for the habitat and rare plant species on their land, near a growing urban community, sets a remarkable example of conservation leadership," said Sand County Foundation President Brent Haglund.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award recognizes private landowner achievement in voluntary conservation. The Walkers will receive a crystal depicting Aldo Leopold, and \$10,000 at the Colorado Cattlemen's Association's Protein Producers Summit on June 16 in Colorado Springs.

The award recognizes private landowner achievement in voluntary conservation. It is presented annually by Sand County Foundation, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, Peabody Energy, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, and American AgCredit.

"The Walkers balance a love of the land and a dedication to preserving wildlife with cattle ranching," said Gene Manuello, President of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association. "The fourteen years of sustained drought have put unfathomable pressure on producers in southeastern Colorado; the Walkers' forethought and planning included the installation of pipelines, water storage tanks and stock ponds which have played an integral part in the long-term viability of the Turkey Creek Ranch as a home to livestock and wildlife."

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The Leopold Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. It inspires landowners through these examples and provides a visible forum where farmers, ranchers and other private landowners are recognized as conservation leaders. In his influential 1949 book, "A Sand County Almanac," Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage, which he called "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity."

Award applicants are judged based on their demonstration of improved resource conditions, innovation, long-term commitment to stewardship, sustained economic viability, community and civic leadership, and multiple use benefits.

The Leopold Conservation Award is possible thanks to generous contributions from many organizations, including Peabody Energy, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assoc., American AgCredit, The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Farm Credit, DuPont Pioneer, The Mosaic Company, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is the state's only nonprofit trade organization exclusively representing Colorado's cattle producers. Founded in 1867, CCA is the nation's oldest state cattlemen's association.