

For Immediate Release
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Colorado Leopold Conservation Award® Program Seeks Nominees

Arvada, Colo. – (January 4, 2017) Applications are now being accepted for the prestigious Leopold Conservation Award® honoring agricultural landowners in Colorado who demonstrate outstanding stewardship and management of natural resources.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the \$10,000 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](#), [Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association](#) and [American AgCredit](#).

Applications are due by **February 27, 2017**. Finalists and recipient will be announced by April. For complete application information, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org.

In his influential 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo 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."

"The outstanding agricultural landowners we honor with the Leopold Conservation Award exemplify what it means to be leaders in conservation for the benefit of our environment," said Kevin McAleese, Sand County Foundation President.

President of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Tim Lehmann noted that "keeping working lands in working hands yield amazing conservation results for the environment, society and our economy. The Leopold Conservation Award celebrates this ideology and is advanced through those who apply for this amazing recognition and honor."

"The Leopold Conservation Award is a powerful reminder that production agriculture has both the opportunity and the responsibility to give back to the land," said Terry Lindley, Chief Marketing Officer of American AgCredit.

"Tri-State and its member electric cooperatives are proud to support the Leopold Conservation Award," said Mike McInnes, chief executive officer of Tri-State. "The environmental stewardship recognized with the award reflects the strong conservation ethic of rural communities and their electric cooperatives."

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 Colorado award is sponsored by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assoc., American AgCredit, The Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, The Nature Conservancy, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ABOUT THE LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD

The [Leopold Conservation Award](#) is a competitive award that recognizes landowner achievement in voluntary conservation. The award consists of \$10,000 and a crystal depicting Aldo Leopold. Sand County Foundation presents Leopold Conservation Awards in California, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

ABOUT SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION

Sand County Foundation (www.sandcountyfoundation.org) is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to working with private landowners across North America to advance ethical and scientifically sound land management practices that benefit the environment.

ABOUT COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

As the only organization exclusively representing the state's more than 12,000 beef producers, CCA serves members by speaking out on behalf of Colorado's beef producers and landowners to state and national legislators, agencies, media and consumers. The association is primarily funded through voluntary membership dues contributed by its members. coloradocattle.org

ABOUT COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

Recognizing the need to help Colorado's ranching and farming families protect their agricultural lands, in the face of growing development and economic pressures, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association in 1995 formed the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT). To date, CCALT has partnered with hundreds of ranching families in the protection of more than 500,000 acres. ccalt.org

ABOUT TRI-STATE GENERATION & TRANSMISSION ASSOCIATION

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Assn. is a wholesale electric power supplier owned by the 44 electric cooperatives and public power districts it serves. Tri State Generation & Transmission Assoc. generates and transports electricity to its member systems across Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming. tristategt.org

ABOUT AMERICAN AGCREDIT

Founded in 1916, American AgCredit is part of the nationwide Farm Credit System, and is the nation's 6th largest Farm Credit cooperative. American AgCredit specializes in providing financial services to agricultural and rural customers throughout California, Nevada, Central Kansas, Northern Oklahoma, Central and Western Colorado, and Northern New Mexico –as well as to capital markets customers in 30 states. agloan.com

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