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Conservation Award nominees sought

December 29, 2015 by [Niki Turner](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

RBC I 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 March 8. 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, the Sand County Foundation president.

"Ranchers are the original environmentalists. The Leopold Conservation Award recognizes a long history of caring for the land while rewarding ranchers who are excelling in their holistic approach of stewardship," says Bob Patterson, president of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association.

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, DuPont Pioneer, The Mosaic Company and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. 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.

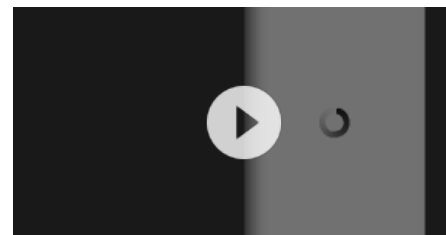
Sand County Foundation presents Leopold Conservation Awards in California, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

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MEEKER I Meeker resident Aubrey Walsh, a 2012 graduate of Meeker High School and currently a senior at the University of