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5th Generation Colorado Ranch Conserved

ARVADA, Colo. (February 2, 2018) –The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) has partnered with the Routt County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Board and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) to conserve a historic family ranch in Routt County. The Knott Ranch is located near Oak Creek, Colorado, just south of Steamboat Springs.

The Knott family has owned and managed the Knott Ranch for four generations, with a fifth and relatively new generation beginning to be involved. Two-year-old Ella Mae Knott and her infant brother, Collin, follow four generations before them on the Knott Ranch. This is the property that their father and grandfather grew up on and where two sets of their great grandparents are buried. Parents, Tyler and Megan Knott, and grandparents, Bernard and Debra Knott, operate the ranch together. While Ella is only two, she still gets taken along to check calves and monitor irrigation. The family has already fully immersed the children in the ranching lifestyle of northwestern Colorado.

The 2018 conservation easement conserves 630 acres of the Knott Ranch, including the ranch headquarters, irrigated hay meadows, and sweeping vistas. The conservation easement will ensure that Ella and Collin's generation has the opportunity to manage the family ranch; it builds on the family's 2011 conservation easement which protected 1,310 acres, and once again demonstrates the Knotts' dedication to conservation. Routt County is a conservation priority for CCALT, and to date, the land trust has conserved more than 30,000 acres in the county.

"The Knott Ranch represents the opportunity to embody CCALT's mission of conserving working landscapes and western heritage. It will allow a 4th generation to pass the ranch onto the 5th generation and beyond," said Molly Fales, CCALT director of conservation transactions. "The ranch is also adjacent to national forest and the Trout Creek Recreation Area, adding huge public benefit and making it spectacular wildlife habitat, particularly for big game."

"My dad wants to see this place become a Centennial operation," says Tyler Knott, "and conservation easements will help us achieve that goal."

"Conservation of the Knott Home Place will ensure the long-term viability of an agricultural operation that has been prominent in the Trout Creek Valley for close to a century. Protection of this ranch will help maintain Routt County's rural character and protect a wide variety of conservation values including diverse wildlife habitat, open space and scenic views for all to enjoy," said Claire Sollars, chair of the PDR board.

Properties like the Knott Ranch, are particularly special to CCALT because they connect conservation to people in a way that not all conservation projects can. By placing their ranch in a conservation

easement, the Knott family will not only leave a legacy of land in Routt County, but they will also leave a legacy of family and a chance for Ella and Collin to follow in the family's footsteps and carry on this way of life.

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Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust conserves Colorado's western heritage and working landscapes for the benefit of future generations. For more information visit www.ccalt.org.

Routt County PDR Program has, to date, completed 54 conservation projects totaling 40,598 acres. For more information, please contact Helena Taylor at Routt County, 970-879-0108.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife HPP is funded by revenue from the sale of big game licenses. The program works through local communities to develop partnerships among landowners, land managers, sportsmen, the public and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to reduce conflicts caused by deer, elk, pronghorn and moose to agriculture. HPP also assists CPW to meet game management objectives for deer, elk, pronghorn and moose.