



*Waterfall Koch Pond Ranch, conserved in December 2018.*

## **CSU Professor Leaves Legacy of Land** *Conserved ranch adds to 26,000 acre conservation block*

**Fort Collins, Colorado.** – If you've ever driven north from Ft. Collins, Colorado to Laramie, Wyoming, chances are you were on U.S. Route 287. The mostly single lane highway winds through the northern foothills of Colorado, eventually opening up on to the vast and flat Laramie plains. The highway is known for harrowing winter driving conditions, but unmistakable western views. Making up a piece of those views is the Waterfall Koch Pond Ranch, owned and operated by George and Sarah Siedel, and their son, Andrew.

Now technically part time, George Siedel is a former professor at Colorado State University. His career also includes time at Cornell University and Harvard Medical School. Professor Siedel specializes in reproductive physiology, but his land conservation ethic is equally important to highlight. In the earlier days of the conservation movement, George and his family conserved the first large portion of their ranch in northern Colorado with The Nature Conservancy. Today, in partnership with the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), an additional 207 acres were added to the family's conservation legacy.

The Koch Pond Ranch lies amid a large swath of nearly 26,500 acres of previously conserved land in the region. Cherokee State Wildlife Area (4 miles west of the property) and the Roosevelt National Forest are both close by and add to the intact landscape, benefitting both wildlife and people. George uses his ranch to graze cattle, raise hay, and host CSU students who are interested in agriculture. His hope for the property is to see it remain intact and in agricultural operation.

“With this conservation, George Seidel and his family have completed the protection of their ranches. Above all, George has listened to a higher calling—one that ensures the perpetuation of agriculture. He, his wife Sarah, and their son Andrew have given all Coloradoans a gift which will ensure, at least here in the Livermore Valley, that people and land will come together in producing both food and protecting nature’s gifts for the benefit of all,” said Rick Knight, CCALT Board Member and former professor at Colorado State University.

Conservation of the Waterfall Koch Pond Ranch was made possible with support from Larimer County Open Lands and The Nature Conservancy.

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**The Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT)** is a nonprofit land conservation organization whose mission is to “...conserve Colorado’s western heritage and working landscapes for the benefit of future generations.” For more information, visit [www.ccalt.org](http://www.ccalt.org)

**Larimer County Open Lands Program** is funded by the ¼-cent Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax. The tax began in 1996 following a citizen’s initiative to acquire and manage open spaces. The Open Lands Program works with willing landowners to preserve and protect properties through fee simple and conservation easement transactions. For more information visit [www.larimer.org/openlands](http://www.larimer.org/openlands)

**The Nature Conservancy** is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world’s toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. We are tackling climate change, conserving lands, waters and oceans at unprecedented scale, providing food and water sustainably and helping make cities more sustainable. Working in 72 countries, we use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners. To learn more, visit [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org) and [www.nature.org/colorado](http://www.nature.org/colorado).