



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact:

Erik Glenn, Executive Director
Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
[317-407-4295](tel:317-407-4295) eglenn@ccalt.org

Conservation Success in Eastern Colorado

ARVADA, Colo. (Aug. 17, 2017) – A conservation project nearly five years in the making, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust has successfully partnered with the Turecek family to conserve more than 5,000 acres of their Stacked Lazy Three Ranch east of Denver, Colorado. The project was made possible with support from a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Protect Initiative grant.

In Colorado, conservation easements are an important tool that ranching and farming families utilize to conserve vital agricultural land and assist in the transition of ranches from one generation to the next. Conservation easements aren't right for every family or operation, but they are an effective tool for many agricultural families. The Turecek family began considering a conservation easement on the Stacked Lazy Three Ranch in 2012.

Perhaps Colorado's most underappreciated landscape, the eastern plains are actually one of Colorado's most ecologically significant habitats. These grasslands support thousands of diverse species. Unlike other ecotypes in Colorado, 87% of prairie grasslands are privately owned, meaning conservation efforts to combat the startling rate of grassland habitat loss must come from private landowner efforts. The Turecek family is among several families leading that effort.

In 2016, the family and operation were recognized as the Colorado winners of the Leopold Conservation Award. The Tureceks have taken their conservation ethic to the next level by converting hundreds of acres of marginal farm ground back to native grass pastures, installing over 50,000 feet of terraces, repairing wetland areas, and planting thousands of trees. Now conserved, the ranch will remain in this undeveloped state forever.

"The Turecek family represents the very best of production agriculture. They are outstanding stewards of the land, passionate advocates for conservation and genuinely good people," said Erik Glenn, executive director of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust. "Their love for the land and their family is evident in every decision that they make, resulting in outstanding management decisions that produce one of the most well run farming and ranching operations in Colorado."

"Conserving critical land in Colorado through our Protect Initiative is one of GOCO's top priorities," said Chris Castilian, executive director of Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). "We're proud to support this important conservation effort that the Tureceks have undertaken to protect an integral part of what makes Colorado great."

The Stacked Lazy Three is the first property in the three ranch Agate Prairie Conservation Legacy Project to be completed. The project aims to conserve important components of the open space, grassland ecosystem, and western heritage of Elbert County and will build on almost 60,000 acres of existing conserved private land in the area.

###

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.

Great Outdoors Colorado invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO's independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts, and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a Constitutional Amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,000 projects in urban and rural areas in all 64 counties without any tax dollar support. Visit www.GOCO.org for more information.