



*Fisher Meadows Ranch, Routt County conserved December 2019.*

## **Stranahan Legacy Lives on Through the Land**

**STEAMBOAT, Colo (December 10, 2019)** – In life, Stephan Stranahan was passionate about land, specifically the Upper Elk River Valley. An Ohio native, Steve fell in love with Northwest Colorado and became committed to conserving a landscape and a community that were important to him. Leading by example, Steve conserved nearly 2,000 acres of his own land and facilitated countless other conservation projects over the years. Last winter, at the age of 85, Stephan Stranahan passed away, but his well-known legacy of land conservation lives on through the work of his family and the conservation of another northwestern Colorado property, the Stranahan family's Fisher Meadows Ranch.

Fisher Meadows Ranch is located in the Upper Elk River Valley near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Locals and visitors alike are familiar with Fisher Meadows Ranch because it straddles County Road 62 near Steamboat Lake State Park. While the property sits at the center of one of the most conserved regions of our state, this agriculturally productive valley is incredibly scenic, and in close proximity to many recreational opportunities – making it a strong candidate for residential development. Protecting this landscape was a top priority for Steve. After his passing, Steve's wife, Anne, and their children picked up Steve's work with the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust to secure the conservation of the ranch and Steve's legacy.

**In December 2019 the 436-acre Fisher Meadows Ranch was permanently protected and ensuring it will remain intact for the benefit of future generations.**

The conserved ranch supplies habitat for big game as well as smaller mammals and birds. A tributary of the Elk River also flows through the property, contributing prime riparian habitat. Conservation of the property builds on the existing 7,500+ acres already conserved in the area by the Yampa Valley Conservation Partnership, a program of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust. The conservation easement was made possible by \$475,000 in funding from the Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Program, and the Stranahan family's willingness to donate a significant portion of the easement value.

During his lifetime, Steve Stranahan helped cultivate a conservation legacy in northern Routt County that will preserve the essence of the valley for years to come. Without his foresight, visitors to Steamboat Lake State Park and surrounding areas might see a vastly different landscape. Jay Fetcher, a local rancher, CCALT founder, and friend of Steve Stranahan, noted that "from the corner of Routt County Road 62A, there are less structures visible today than there were 100 years ago, as homestead parcels aggregated and conservation easements were placed on the land."

"The Fisher Meadow parcel was a critical gap in the conserved landscape" added CCALT's Megan Knott, "The commitment this community has to make conservation happen at a landscape level, hand in hand with agriculture, is worthy of national accolades".

Steve cared deeply for the land and was a strong advocate for its protection. Thanks to the hard work of Steve and his family the character of this special place will live on and Steve's legacy will live on with it.

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**About the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust**

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."

**About the Routt County PDR Program**

To date, PDR has completed 55 conservation projects totaling 40,738 acres. For more information, please contact Kendra Alfieri at Routt County, 970-879-0108.