



Starbuck Ranch, Routt County

Routt County's Historic Starbuck Ranch – CONSERVED

STEAMBOAT, Colo (June 24, 2020) – The Colorado Cattlemen's Agriculture Land Trust (CCALT) is excited to announce the successful conservation of the Starbuck Ranch near Yampa, Colorado. The project was made possible through a partnership between the landowners, CCALT, the Routt County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program, and the Upper Yampa Habitat Partnership Program (HPP). This historic Routt County property is home to a multigenerational agricultural operation and conservation of its 703 acres facilitated a generational transfer.

Dorothy and Wilbert Clyncke came to Routt County from Colorado's Front Range in 1963, purchasing what is known today as the Clyncke Ranch. Together, with their son Richard Clyncke, Dorothy and Wilbert ran a cow/calf operation and raised hay to sell along the Front Range. In 1985, the Clyncke family acquired the adjacent Starbuck Ranch to expand their agricultural operation. Today, the Starbuck Ranch is owned and operated by Richard Clyncke's sons, Jeff and Gary Clyncke and their families.

The Starbuck Ranch is known by both Routt County locals and summer visitors – the property sits along a County Road with a public access point to the Routt National Forest and popular destinations like the Yamcolo and Stillwater Reservoirs, Bear Lake, and Flat Tops Wilderness. The property can also be seen from Highway 131, which serves as the main access route to Steamboat Springs from the I-70 corridor. Within 3.5 miles of the Starbuck Ranch, more than 5,000 acres of private land has already been conserved, making conservation of the Starbuck Ranch a vital component to completing landscape scale conservation in the area. This conservation project ensures that the Yampa Valley remains primarily agricultural in nature and will continue to attract residents and tourists alike to scenic, recreational, and cultural opportunities for years to come.

Home to more than just the Clyncke family – the Starbuck Ranch provides important big game and sage grouse habitat, and severe winter and summer range for elk and mule deer. Moose can be found on the

ranch year round. The property also supports high quality riparian habitat along the Bear River. The Bear River is one of three rivers that forms the beginning of the Yampa River in southern Routt County.

“CCALT can’t stress the importance of aiding our ranching families with intergenerational transfer enough. This is the time ranchland is its most vulnerable to conservation out of agriculture use, and in this new reality with COVID-19, we must all value our local agricultural land and producers as critical,” said Megan Knott, director of stewardship at CCALT.

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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 Purchase of Development Rights 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.*

About the Upper Yampa River Habitat Partnership Program *The Upper Yampa River Habitat Partnership (CPW) seeks opportunities to involve landowners and various land management agencies in developing and implementing projects to help resolve game demand conflicts and promote habitat improvement.*