

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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K Ranch Conserved McFarlane Adds to Northwest Colorado Conservation Legacy



Photo: Provided by CCALT Staff

Dinosaur, Colo. (December 29, 2021) – The Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is proud to announce the 13,934-acre K Ranch Conservation Easement. Located in Moffat County, Colorado and Uintah County, Utah, the K Ranch serves as a year-round cow/calf operation.

The K Ranch has been managed as a cattle operation since the time of Colorado’s statehood in 1876. The ranch once served as a stage stop along what is now U.S. Route 40. Today the ranch is actively managed for cattle and wildlife. The three units of the ranch surround and adjoin the 62,600-acre K Ranch public land grazing allotments administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Surrounded by public lands, the K Ranch conservation easement is critically important to the health and functionality of wildlife habitat in the region. The ranch offers substantial concentration and production areas for elk, mule deer, and pronghorn. The Utah portion of the property is adjacent to the Snake John Reef, where a release of black-footed ferrets

occurred in 2011, which was only the second such introduction in Utah history. The white-tailed prairie dog, a primary source of food for the ferret and Utah Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as well as burrowing owl can be found on the western portion of the property. The ranch features suitable habitats for production and brooding for 18 species of birds of concern, most notably, the greater sage-grouse.

Building on the importance of this ranch for the wildlife habitat it offers, the ranch also shares a boundary with Dinosaur National Monument, spans three major drainage basins (the Green, the Yampa, and White River Basins) and surrounds the BLM's Moosehead Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and BLM's Bull Canyon, Willow Creek, and Skull Creek Wilderness Study Areas. As such, this private voluntary conservation effort enhances a landscape of state and national significance.

The conservation of the K Ranch offers substantial acreage in an area of Colorado where little private land conservation has occurred. In fact, this represents the first privately held conservation easement in Uintah County, Utah! With an abundance of public land in the vicinity and the ranch's extensive grazing leases, an easement supporting the operation will ensure that cattle production can continue on over 50,000 acres.

"The K Ranch is really a gem and a once in a lifetime conservation project. I feel so fortunate to have played a small role in protecting this landscape." noted Megan Knott, Director of Stewardship for CCALT. "We are immensely grateful for the McFarlane's continued dedication to agriculture and conservation."

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."

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