



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Historic Monnahan Ranch, Present Lindsay Ranch - Conserved**



Photos: Courtesy of Lindsay Family

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is proud to have partnered with Joe and Kay Lindsay to conserve the 1,764-acre Lindsay Ranch of Deer Trail, Colorado, a property rich in natural resources and family history that has been managed as a cattle operation for over a century. The Monnahan family arrived in Deer Trail by train near the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with three cars loaded with horses, cattle, machinery, hay, wagons, buggies, chickens, and furniture. Kay's grandfather, Paul J. Monnahan, acquired his ranch, which included the portion of Lindsay Ranch in Arapahoe County, in the mid-1900s and laid the groundwork for many of the land improvements that remain today. Tom and Earlene Wall, Kay's great uncle and aunt, deeded the portion of Lindsay Ranch in Elbert County to Kay and Joe many years ago. Joe, formerly an electrician, and Kay, a registered dental hygienist, began ranching on the property in 2007. Their intent has been, and continues to be, to reassemble Paul Monnahan's ranch.

"As a multi-generational ranching family, we are proud of our heritage and our hard-fought work to preserve our way of life in a world where it is ever-diminishing," said Kay and Joe Lindsay. "To have the ability to work with CCALT to preserve our ranch with a conservation easement means that generations to come have the opportunity to continue that legacy. We hope our passion for the land will inspire not just our children, but those who come after them to be faithful stewards



of the land we love. We are grateful to NRCS and Arapahoe county for supporting us and this way of life through their generous contributions.”

The Lindsays utilize the Ranch and its abundant native shortgrass prairie to raise Red Angus cow/calf pairs. Approximately 97% of the Ranch is native shortgrass prairie, making it a unique conservation opportunity less than an hour from Denver. In addition to cattle, Joe also manages beehives for the production of honey.

“It has been a joy working with Joe and Kay and learning from them about the ranch and its history,” said John Gioia, CCALT Conservation Manager. “Their dedication to land stewardship is inspiring, and I look forward to visiting with them in the years to come. Thank you to the Lindsays for choosing CCALT as their partner in this effort and thank you to NRCS and Arapahoe County for their significant support.”

The Lindsays have worked extensively with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to install improvements and implement conservation practices, including participation in the Conservation Stewardship Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Support from NRCS has helped the Lindsays develop stockwater storage and delivery, install solar panels on water pumps, conduct weed management practices, experiment with interseeding to improve forage, install windbreaks, install fences, and rotationally graze their cattle. The NRCS is notably the lead funder of the conservation easement.

“Conserving prime, working agricultural lands is critical, especially as urban areas continue to grow and expand into what was once rural communities,” said Clint Evans, NRCS State Conservationist in Colorado. “Our Agricultural Conservation Easement Program provides an avenue and opportunity for ag landowners like Joe and Kay Lindsay to protect their property from urban encroachment and preserve it for agricultural use.”

Arapahoe County contributed \$200,000 through the Open Spaces program, which since 2004 has prioritized local agriculture and conservation efforts along the eastern portion of the county and the preservation of native landscape, wildlife habitat, and riparian areas spanning the county’s 805 square miles.

“We are thrilled to do our part to help protect the natural beauty and agricultural heritage of Lindsay Ranch in perpetuity,” says Commissioner Jeff Baker. “Conservation efforts like this are vital to the region’s economy and mission-critical for Open Spaces as we continue to protect working lands, natural landscapes and heritage areas right here in our backyard for the benefit of future generations.”

Funding for this conservation easement was provided by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Arapahoe County Open Spaces. Transaction cost assistance has also been provided by Arapahoe County.



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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 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service***

*USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. The Agency prioritizes conservation planning and uses conservation programs in the Farm Bill to implement most of its efforts including the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program which is designed to protect the agricultural viability, grazing uses and related conservation values of prime agricultural land by limiting nonagricultural uses of that land.*

***About Arapahoe County Open Spaces***

*Arapahoe County Open Spaces works to preserve natural and heritage areas, enhance neighborhood and regional parks, and build and maintain trails. Since its inception, the program has built or improved more than 76 miles of new trails, supported more than 180 park and trailhead projects, and conserved more than 31,000 acres of open space.*