

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leopold Conservation Award in Utah to be presented to Harold Selman, Inc.

ST. GEORGE, Utah – Nov. 6, 2007 – Wisconsin-based Sand County Foundation, in collaboration with Utah Farm Bureau Federation and the Utah Cattlemen's Association, will present its \$10,000 Leopold Conservation Award to the Selman Family, whose ranching operations are located in Cache and Box Elder Counties near Tremonton, on November 8 at the Utah Association of Conservation Districts Annual meeting in St. George. The award is presented in six other states, but 2007 is the first year it will be presented in Utah.

“Sand County Foundation is pleased to partner with the Utah Farm Bureau and Utah Cattlemen's Association to bring the Leopold Conservation Award to their beautiful state,” said Dr. Brent Haglund, Sand County Foundation President. “The Selman Family stands out among the many private landowners in Utah and nationwide who are leading the way in modern conservation. Their ranching operation is a terrific example of how a well-run livestock operation can turn a profit while also protecting wildlife, soils, and other natural resources.”

Through four generations, the Selman family has gone out of their way to promote sustainable ranching and farming operations while conserving habitat and implementing model stewardship practices. The family's ranching legacy clearly demonstrates how a deeply ingrained family stewardship ethic has led to enhanced efficiency, increased production, and greater profitability.

The Selman story dates back to the 1940s when Harold and Dorthella Selman began ranching and farming in the Tremonton area. It was then taken over by their son, Fred, and his wife, Laura, who continue to manage the ranch. Their son, Bret, and his wife, Michelle also help on the ranch. The ranch is currently comprised of five main properties, including the 6,700-acre Four Mile Ranch and the Home Ranch, which includes a substantial community garden. Approximately 2,500 head of ewes and 125 head of stock cows are raised annually.

The family has employed numerous conservation practices through the years, including planting windbreaks for wildlife and bird nesting; rotational grazing; planting native vegetation; developing

alternate water sources to protect riparian areas; preserving water quality and quantity; and enhancing habitat for rare wildlife.

“We congratulate the Selmans for this award as well as the many other qualified applicants for their steps to foster conservation-minded agricultural practices,” said Leland Hogan, President of the Utah Farm Bureau Federation. “This award is further proof that conservation and production agriculture are mutually compatible in today’s society.”

The Selmans have also made a commitment to reaching out to a myriad of federal, state, and local land management partners, as well as the agricultural community and the general public. Bret is involved in the Utah Farm Bureau, Bridgerland Audubon, and the Division of Wildlife Resources Advisory Committee. Fred is Chairman of the Northern Utah Soil Conservation District. Laura has served on the Board of the Farm Service Agency and Northern Region Shrub-Steppe Working Group. The Selmans also often serve as spokespeople for ranching and conservation interests by working with local and state media to get information out to the public.

“The Selman Family was chosen out of a number of exceptional candidates who are leaders in conservation, economics and the community,” said David Allen, Sand County Foundation Vice President. “The pool of candidates is a reflection of the outstanding state of private land stewardship in Utah.”

There were three finalists for the Leopold Conservation Award. In addition to the Selmans, D.A. Osguthorpe and his Red Pine Land and Livestock operation from Summit County (among others), and Darrell Johnson and his Johnson Ranch from Tooele County will be recognized in St. George. The three finalists were chosen from among fifteen nominees by an independent panel of judges that included Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Leonard Blackham and Utah Department of Natural Resources Secretary, Mike Styler. Both the Osguthorpes and the Johnsons will receive a \$1,000 award from Sand County Foundation.

Given in honor of famed conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. In his influential book, *A Sand County Almanac (1949)*, Aldo Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage, which he called “an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity.” The award is presented annually in six other states: California, Colorado, Nebraska, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

In Utah, the Leopold Conservation Award is made possible in part by generous underwriting support from The Nature Conservancy and Rocky Mountain Power.

For more information, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org or contact Matt Hargreaves, Utah Farm Bureau Federation, 801-233-3003, matt.hargreaves@fbfs.com.

ABOUT SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION

Sand County Foundation (www.sandcounty.net) is a private, non-profit conservation group dedicated to working with private landowners to improve habitat on their land. Sand County's mission is to advance the use of ethical and scientifically sound land management practices and partnerships for the benefit of people and their rural landscapes. Sand County Foundation works with private landowners because the majority of the nation's fish, wildlife, and natural resources are found on private lands. The organization backs local champions, invests in civil society and places incentives before regulation to create solutions that ensure and grow. The organization encourages the exercise of private responsibility in the pursuit of improved land health as an essential alternative to many of the commonly used strategies in modern conservation.

ABOUT THE LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD

The Leopold Conservation Award is a competitive award that recognizes landowner achievement in voluntary conservation. The award consists of a crystal depiction of Aldo Leopold seated on a horse and a check for \$10,000.

The awards are presented to accomplish three objectives: First, they recognize extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation on the land of exemplary private landowners. Second, they inspire countless other landowners in their own communities through these examples. Finally, they provide a visible forum where leaders from the agriculture community are recognized as conservation leaders to groups outside of agriculture.

ABOUT THE UTAH FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

The Utah Farm Bureau Federation (Farm Bureau) is Utah's largest general farm and ranch organization, made up of 28 county Farm Bureaus and more than 21,000 member families. Its mission is to improve the net income of the state's farmers and ranchers and to represent, protect, and promote agricultural interests throughout the State of Utah. It seeks to find solutions to problems of the farm, ranch, and the rural community through political action, educational, and informational means. The Farm Bureau is a non-

governmental, non-partisan, voluntary membership organization, and its efforts are based on grassroots policies developed by members at the local, county, and state levels. Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide a safe and reliable supply of food, fiber, and fuel through responsible stewardship of their resources. It is affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation, the world's largest general farm organization, with more than 6 million family members in 50 states and Puerto Rico.

ABOUT UTAH CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Utah Cattlemen's Association is a cattle industry, member driven, organization formed in 1890 for the purpose of promoting and protecting the business of raising cattle in the State of Utah. The association works to uphold the rights of all persons engaged in the cattle business. Members are encouraged to improve the quality of cattle and beef produced and adopt good principles of management while caring for livestock and the land. The association represents cattlemen on state and local issues and is affiliated with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association on national issues.

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