



Finalists Announced for 2008 Leopold Conservation Award in Utah

SANDY, Utah –September 5, 2008 – Sand County Foundation, the Utah Farm Bureau Federation and the Utah Cattlemen’s Association are proud to announce the finalists for the 2008 Leopold Conservation Award in Utah.

The Leopold Conservation Award, named in honor of world-renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, is comprised of \$10,000 and a Leopold crystal. The award is presented annually in seven states to private landowners who practice responsible land stewardship and management.

“These finalists were chosen from a number of exceptional, well-deserving candidates,” said Dr. Brent Haglund, Sand County Foundation President. “This is proof that Utah ranchers’ long-standing ethic of conservation continues to flourish.”

The 2008 finalists (in alphabetical order):

- Karl & Raymond Heaton – Kane County
- Butch & Jeanie Jensen – Carbon County
- Darrell Johnson – Tooele County
- D.A. Osguthorpe – Summit County

The 2008 Leopold Conservation Award recipient will be recognized Nov. 13 at the Utah Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in Layton, Davis County.

“We are very excited to announce the finalists for this award on behalf of the farmers and ranchers of Utah,” said Leland Hogan, President of the Utah Farm Bureau Federation. “This award, however, is great for all of Utah because the recognition and funding helps to preserve and enhance our open space. Utah’s farmers and ranchers have a long history of land preservation and a deep commitment to preserving Utah’s natural resources. As stewards of the land we want to ensure that history continues well into the future.”

The panel of judges for 2008 was comprised of:

- Roger Banner – Utah State University, College of Natural Resources
- Leonard Blackham – Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- Randy Parker – Utah Farm Bureau Federation
- Mike Styler – Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Brent Tanner – Utah Cattlemen’s Association

The 2007 award recipient was the Selman Family of Cache and Box Elder Counties.

For more information, please visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org or contact Matt Hargreaves, 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 on private lands. The organization backs local champions, invests in civil society and places incentives before regulation to create solutions that endure 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. In 2008, Sand County Foundation will present Leopold Conservation Awards in Wisconsin, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Texas, Utah and California.

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 6.5 million family members in 50 states and Puerto Rico.

ABOUT THE 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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