

LIVING LEOPOLD: THE LAND ETHIC AND A NEW AGRARIANISM

In 2009, we celebrate the centennial of the arrival of the great American conservationist Aldo Leopold to the Southwest as a ranger with the U.S. Forest Service. Over the course of a diverse and influential career, Leopold eloquently advocated a variety of critical conservation concepts including wilderness protection, sustainable agriculture, wildlife research, ecological restoration, environmental education, land health, erosion control, watershed management, and famously, a land ethic.

Each of these concepts resonates today – perhaps more so than ever as the challenges of the 21st century grow more complicated and more pressing. But it was Aldo Leopold's emphasis on conserving whole systems – soil, water, plants, animals, and people together – that is most crucial today. The health of the entire system, he argued, is dependent on its indivisibility; and the knitting force was a land ethic – the moral obligation we feel to protect soil, water, plants, animals, and people together as one community.

After Leopold's death in 1948, however, the idea of a whole system broke into fragments by a rising tide of industrialization and materialism. Fortunately, today a scattered but concerted effort is underway to knit the whole back together, beginning where it matters most – on the ground. Leopold's call for a land ethic is the root of what is being called a new agrarianism – a diverse suite of ideas, practices, goals, and hopes all based on the persistent truth that genuine health and wealth depends on the land's fertility.

In Latin, *agrarius* means 'pertaining to land' and this resurgent movement includes a dynamic intermixing of ranchers, farmers, conservationists, scientists, and others who aim to create a regenerative economy that works in harmony with nature. It starts with land health and local food production – the foundations of ecological and human well-being – and extends to watershed rehabilitation, riparian restoration, progressive cattle management, biodiversity conservation, open space protection, and much more.

Aldo Leopold is the spiritual mentor to this hopeful effort.

Agrarianism is on the rise for three main reasons: first, it requires that we feel "the soil between our toes," as Leopold put it, meaning it requires an intimate understanding of how land actually works. In turn, this encourages what Leopold saw as the role of individual responsibility for the health of the land. "Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal," he wrote, and "conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity." In other words, the new agrarianism is ecological – it blends scientific understanding of land health with local knowledge into a manageable whole. One goal of this blending is to build resilience, which is the ability to handle shock and change – a good idea for the 21st century!

Second, it's economic. Unlike environmentalism, which never developed an economic program to go along with its preservation and human health programs, agrarianism is a practical retort to industrialism. It confronts our economy, the source of most environmental ills, and thereby gives the average American an alternative to participating in an unsustainable model of economic growth. It's not theoretical either – it exists and it works, as evidenced by the many examples of good stewardship across the nation.

Third, the new agrarianism walks the talk of a land ethic. It encompasses soil, plants, animals, and people, striving for a harmonious balance between all. "There is only one soil, one flora, one fauna, and one people, and hence only one conservation problem," Leopold wrote in *A Sand County Almanac*. "Economic and esthetic land uses can and must be integrated, usually on the same acre." A land ethic means coexistence – between urban and rural, domestic and wild, people and nature, bread and beauty.

Additionally, and perhaps just as importantly, a new agrarianism sparks joy. It requires care and affection and love and laughter to succeed, including affection for one another.

Although it is difficult to quantify how big this movement is today, it is easy to explain why agrarianism is on the rise: we are all agrarians now. Our health and wealth depends on what we choose to eat, how we produce our energy, where our water comes from, who benefits from sustainable practices – and each has its root in the land.

As we edge deeper into the challenges of the 21st century, the issues of resilience, coexistence, food, and hope, couldn't be more important.



Courtney White, Executive Director

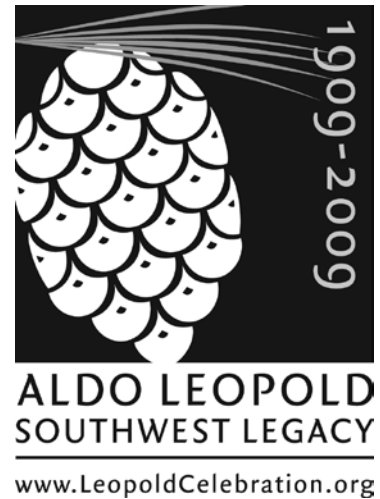
ALDO LEOPOLD WRITING CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE ALDO LEOPOLD CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Aldo Leopold is most widely known as the author of *A Sand County Almanac*. Published in 1949, the book is a classic in Western literature. Leopold believed that our idea of “community” should be enlarged to include non-human elements such as soils, waters, plants, animals, “or collectively: the land.” He called this “the land ethic” and asserted our economic well-being could not be separated from the well-being of our environment. As part of the land ethic Leopold also believed it was critical for people to have a close personal connection to the land. Today, we can look to Leopold’s ideas and writings to guide us in understanding how to address our pressing environmental issues and make decisions about our future.

Students were asked to write a letter to Aldo Leopold telling him how or why his writings are important today. Students were encouraged to read at least one essay by Aldo Leopold prior to writing their letter. Suggested readings included: “Thinking Like A Mountain,” “Good Oak,” and “The Outlook.” All students enrolled in grades 6-12 in public, private, and home schools in the state of New Mexico were eligible. First place winners in each grade group, 6-7, 8-9, and 10-12, received a cash award.

**The Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration thanks all 465 students who submitted essays and congratulates to our three winners:
Tita VanFleet, Zena Stevenson and Sierra Smith.**



Tita VanFleet is a 7th grader from Cottonwood Valley Charter School, Socorro, New Mexico.

Dear Aldo Leopold,

In “Good Oak”, you said, “There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.” We have become disconnected from the animals and land that nurture us. Economics control our view of the world. We rely on supply and demand, but we never think about how our resources will be affected by our needs and desires.

You described your tree in “Good Oak” as a witness to changes in the land. Not only was it lucky to survive the rabbits and other obstacles, but it stood long enough to see eighty years of change—and not only minor events, but permanent changes to the land. We are all part of a cycle, and that cycle cannot continue without the balance of man, land, and animal coexisting in harmony.

On a recent camping trip to Snow Lake, I stepped out of the tent, and was greeted by an amazing view. The hills, covered in yellow grass, flowers and pine-trees, rolled behind the lake. They cast their dazzling reflection on the water. The ducks left “V’s” behind them as they swam across the lake. Fish jumped in little arches catching bugs. In that moment, I felt a connection to the land. I knew it was important then, but after reading “Thinking Like a Mountain,” I understand the true importance of that view.

Your land ethic is important today, because I can’t imagine a shopping mall replacing Snow Lake. To preserve our resources, we need to think ecologically instead of economically. Making the land our priority will protect it from further destruction. If we don’t conserve what we have now, there will be nothing left in the future.

Sincerely,
Tita VanFleet

Zena Stevenson is an 8th grader from Eagle Nest Middle School, Eagle Nest, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Leopold,

I really enjoyed reading your essays. They go very deep and leave you thinking for hours afterwards. I believe that the theme of these essays and of *A Sand County Almanac* —‘land ethic’—is still very important. Land ethic makes me think first of connections—with animals and plants all around us, and each other. Connections like those are always important. Life today is pretty crazy— all hustle-bustle and rushing around. In all that chaos, we can sometimes forget to slow down and remember where it all comes from and remember other parts of the land around us. It is always important, no matter how high-tech and busy the age happens to be, to listen and watch for little things - like connections - like a howling wolf or a baby tree or the distant winds on the mountaintops.

As an example, say someone is building a house. It’s a still, warm desert evening and a dry wind rolls lazily across the butte. As the last worker puts down

his shovel, the far-off yip of a coyote flies across the mesa. The worker’s head turns automatically towards the lonely sounds, and he isn’t thinking of the job or of dinner at home. His thoughts are with the coyote, and he is imagining its life on the dusty butte among the yucca and cactus, running under the hot sun and clear starts. And he looks down at the shovel in his hand and think, “what might that coyote think of this?”

That is land ethic to me—stopping to think about the other parts of your environment, to care for them and share life with them. We are part of a bigger picture of life - and disregarding the other parts is a huge mistake. Land ethic is about balance and respect, connection, and vision. That is always important, whether it’s yesterday, today, tomorrow, or fifty years from next week.

Thank you for your wonderful ideas, and I look forward to finishing *A Sand County Almanac*.

Your Friend,
Zena Stevenson



Sierra Smith is a 12th grader from Bosque School, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Leopold,

It is 2009. I’m sitting in a damp field, simply waiting; the ominous belches of thunder seem to indicate that the sky will soon be crying. As you once said, the mountains hold secrets deep within, do the skies as well? Can the skies feel what we, the human race, is doing to possible destroy every inch of the versatile beauty it possesses?

The natural world, a world outside of our familiar day to day, wants to be heard and seems to radiate with knowledge, this is a world some will see, but will never experience. This is the path less traveled, where roads don’t lead the way but where you do. Where street signs aren’t indicators of direction but where the North Star is. Where home isn’t temperature regulated and your work isn’t done for you but where you can’t escape the weather and the only way to do something is to do it yourself. You are no longer surrounded by tall buildings and the faint smell of gasoline but a raw beauty, no words or pictures can

depict accurately. Higher and farther you must go to be able to see clearly not only the panorama of rugged mountains, graceful hills, and endless skies but also the affect your life has on another world right outside your backyard.

Mr. Leopold, although what you wrote so many years ago seems ancient to the modern generation, the message holds a deeper meaning today, as we battle ourselves in trying to preserve a world where things are less trivial and where a gust of wind may be telling us more than we know. We live in a world where we have sought to deprive our surroundings and give little back in return. This is the time to educate humanity on the positivity of preservation, not for us, but so that our children’s children can have the opportunity to see perfection in something that is not man-made. I want to say thank you, you have forewarned us of our power, and now it is our choice as to whether we use this power for good or for bad.

Sincerely,
Sierra Smith

THE QUIVIRA COALITION

“Our mission is to build resilience by fostering ecological, economic, and social health on western landscapes through education, innovation, collaboration, and progressive public and private land stewardship.”

The initial purpose of The Quivira Coalition, which was founded by a rancher and two environmentalists in June, 1997, was to offer ‘common sense solutions to the grazing debate,’ principally by broadcasting the principles of ecologically sensitive ranch management.

The debate at the time was marked by extreme polarization on both sides, resulting in gridlock at a variety of levels. We sought to break this gridlock by advocating a new set of tools: grassbanks, dormant season grazing, planned grazing, restoration, collaboration, and education.

We took a vow not to do lawsuits or legislation. Nor would we be mediators or facilitators between extremes in the grazing debate. Instead, we concentrated on creating a ‘third position,’ outside the continuum of brawling. We called this position The New Ranch and we invited others to join us.

Our goal was to work in the ‘radical center’ - a neutral place where people could explore their interests instead of argue their positions - and at the grassroots, literally the ‘grass’ and the ‘roots,’ where we believed, trust needed to be built anew.

Today, we believe the challenges of the 21st century, including climate change, food security, water scarcity, rising energy costs, biodiversity decline, and a general crisis in human well-being as ecosystem services deteriorate world-wide, require a new type of conservation response.

An important element of this response is *resilience*, which the dictionary defines as “the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.” In ecology, it refers to the capacity of plant and animal populations to handle disruption and degradation caused by fire, flood, drought, insect infestation, or other disturbance. Resilience also describes a community’s ability to adjust to ongoing change, such as shifting economic conditions, or a steady rise in temperatures.

Our strategies for building resilience are:

(A) Improving land health by managing land, conducting restoration projects, encouraging land literacy, consulting with land owners, and providing land health services; (B) Diffusing knowledge and innovation by sharing ideas and practices that work with diverse audiences through a variety of educational programs;

(C) Building local capacity among individuals, landowners, associations, watershed groups, and communities; (D) Promoting the concept of ‘conservation with a business plan’ by working at the nexus of sustainable agriculture and ecology; and (E) Strengthening diverse relationships among people, between people and land, and between ecological processes.

Specifically, we accomplish our mission through:

An Annual Conference: This upbeat event has become a successful forum for a ‘radical center’ of ranchers, conservationists, public land managers, and members of the public. Previous themes have included: Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide; Innovation and the Next Generation; and Building Resilience. Speakers have included: Wendell Berry, David Kline, Bill deBuys, Patty Limerick, Richard Louv, Deborah Madison, Jonah Western, and many others.

The New Ranch Network: We have assisted over fifty landowners, grazing associations, and other community organizations through a small grants program and a network of consultants and specialists. We have helped them to: host a low-stress livestock clinic; write a watershed plan; hire herders; conduct monitoring; attend workshops; and promote local food. As an example, we have been deeply involved with the Ojo Encino Chapter of the Navajo Nation, which is trying hard to remain resilient in the face of numerous challenges.

Educational Workshops, Clinics, and Classrooms: We have conducted over 100 educational events around the Southwest and collaborated with over fifty organizations and many landowners. Workshops have included: water harvesting from rural roads, planned grazing, reading the landscape, drought management, monitoring, riparian and upland restoration, grassfed beef production, land health, and many others.

Publications: We have over 60 publications to our credit, including field guides, books, bulletins, newsletters, journals, reports, programs, and conference proceedings. Two books, *The New Ranch Handbook* (2001) and *Forging a West That Works* (2002) were selected for distribution by the University of Arizona Press. Our most recent publication is “*Let the Water Do the Work*” by Bill Zeedyk and Van Clothier (2009),

which details an innovative strategy for restoring incised channels.

Riparian Restoration Demonstration Projects: Comanche Creek, Cedro Creek, the Dry Cimarron River, and the Mora River are substantial, innovative and collaborative restoration projects that have successfully healed many miles of damaged creeks and rivers. Designed by Bill Zeedyk, these projects demonstrate not only the power of “nature to heal nature,” but also the power of the collaborative process.

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Conservation and Ranch Leadership and Youth (CARLY). This new Program fosters the next generation of agrarian leaders by (1) placing New Ranch Apprentices on progressive ranches for 1-2 years; and (2) creating a local internship opportunities (3-4 months) at The Quivira Coalition. Our first ranch Apprentice, Amber Reed, started at the San Juan Ranch, in southern Colorado, last April. Our interns, Justin Cook and Avery Affholter, spent the summer with us learning the Quivira model of conservation.

STAFF

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During the Spanish Colonial era, mapmakers used the word “Quivira” to designate unknown territory beyond the frontier.

*Affiliations of the board members are listed to convey the breadth of experience that these individuals bring to the governance of The Quivira Coalition.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

This conference is made possible through the generous support of:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We especially want to acknowledge the help and support, throughout the year and at the 2009 conference, of the following individuals:

<i>Avery Affholter</i>	<i>Todd Graham</i>	<i>George Long</i>	<i>Sheryl Russell</i>
<i>Mike & Daniel Archuleta</i>	<i>Gen Head</i>	<i>Maryann McGraw</i>	<i>Kim Schiffbauer</i>
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<i>Nansy Carson</i>	<i>Nina Horochowski</i>	<i>Mary Maulsby</i>	<i>Mollie Walton</i>
<i>Justin Cook</i>	<i>Trish Jenkins</i>	<i>Deborah and Nils Myrin</i>	
<i>Craig Conley</i>	<i>Jim C. Williams</i>	<i>Tarry Pesola</i>	

Many thanks to Cullen Hallmark for all his work on behalf of The Quivira Coalition.

We also send a special thank you to our 2008/2009 workshop volunteers, partners and supporters:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ✦ Audubon TogetherGreen Fellowship ✦ Bat Conservation International ✦ Bradshaw-Knight Foundation ✦ Cañon Bonito Ranch ✦ Cañon Rio Creations, LLC ✦ The Christensen Foundation ✦ Cibola NF, Sandia Ranger District, Sandia Ranger Station ✦ Cimarron Watershed Alliance ✦ Community Bank, Santa Fe ✦ The Conservation Fund ✦ CS Ranch ✦ Direct Mailing Services, LLC ✦ Dixon Water Foundation ✦ Drylands Solutions, Inc. ✦ Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation ✦ Earth Works Institute ✦ Embassy Suites, Albuquerque, N.M. ✦ Environmental Protection Agency ✦ Four Corners Institute ✦ Healy Foundation ✦ I.T. Partners, Inc. ✦ Liz Claiborne/Art Ortenberg Foundation ✦ McBride Foundation ✦ McCune Charitable Foundation ✦ McNultyZahm, LLC ✦ Messengers of the Healing Winds Foundation ✦ New Mexico Community Foundation ✦ New Mexico Department of Game and Fish ✦ New Mexico Environment Department ~ Surface Water Quality Bureau ✦ New Mexico Trout | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ NRCS-CIG ✦ Ojo Encino Rancher's Committee ✦ Panta Rhea Foundation ✦ Paper Tiger, Santa Fe ✦ Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District, USFS ✦ Pritzlaff Ranch ✦ Questa Ranger District, Carson NF ✦ Quivira Coalition Board of Directors ✦ Rainbow Ranch ✦ Rangeland Hands, Inc. ✦ Resource Management Services, LLC ✦ River Source, Inc. ✦ Rio Puerco Watershed Alliance ✦ River Source, Inc. ✦ Sandy's Services, LLC ✦ San Juan Ranch ✦ Santa Fe Watershed Association ✦ Sopris Foundation ✦ Southwest Grassfed Livestock Association ✦ Steve Vrooman Restoration ✦ Stream Dynamics, Inc. ✦ Sulica Fund ✦ Taos Soil and Water Conservation District ✦ Thaw Charitable Trust ✦ Trout Unlimited - Truchas Chapter ✦ US Forest Service, Region Three ✦ USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service ✦ USDA NRCS Las Vegas Office ✦ Wind River Ranch ✦ Wolf Springs Ranch ✦ Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, LLC |
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LET THE WATER DO THE WORK: HEALING INCISED CHANNELS WITH INDUCED MEANDERING

Wednesday, November 4 - *Sierra Ballroom*

7:00 am	Registration - Lobby
8:30 am	Opening remarks by Courtney White, Executive Director, The Quivira Coalition
	<u>Session I: (Sterling Grogan, moderator)</u>
8:45 am	<i>"The Legacy of Luna Leopold -- Channeling Watershed Thought"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Warshall, conservationist and former student of Luna Leopold, Tucson, AZ
9:30 am	<i>"Channel Incisions: Causes, Consequences, and Cures"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larry J. Schmidt, watershed consultant, Minden, Nev., former Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service, National Stream Systems Technology Center, Fort Collins, Colo.
10:00 am	Morning Break - Lobby and Poster Session Review - Sierra Ballroom
10:30 am	<i>"Let the Water Do the Work: Concepts and Fundamentals"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill Zeedyk, Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, Sandia Park, N.M. Van Clothier, Stream Dynamics, Silver City, N.M.
12:00 noon	LUNCH - Sandia IV-VIII
	<u>Session II: (Reid Bandeen, moderator)</u>
1:00 pm	<i>"Sticks and Stones in Riparian Zones: Hand Built Structures"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gene Tatum, Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, Albuquerque, N.M. Glenda Muirhead, Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, Albuquerque, N.M.
1:30 pm	<i>"The Use of Heavy Equipment in Stream Channel Restoration"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Carson, Rangeland Hands, Inc., Santa Fe, N.M.
2:00 pm	<i>"Monitoring Isn't as Boring as it Sounds"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Vrooman, Steve Vrooman Restoration Ecology, Santa Fe, N.M.
2:30 pm	<i>"Maintaining and Repairing Induced Meandering Structures"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Craig Sponholtz, Dryland Solutions, Inc., Santa Fe, N.M.
3:00 pm	Afternoon Break - Lobby and Poster Session Review - Sandia Ballroom
3:30 pm	<i>"History of Induced Meandering at Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephen Monroe, Hydrologist, National Park Service, Flagstaff, Ariz.
4:00 pm	<i>"Mesteño Draw Ranch: Using Best Management Practices to Restore Land Health"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joan Bybee, Mesteño Draw Ranch, Mountainair, N.M.
4:30 pm	<i>"Using Inducing Meandering Techniques on the Sapello Watershed"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Reichert, Tierra y Montes SWCD, Las Vegas, N.M. Nina Wells, NMED - SWQB, Santa Fe, N.M.
5:00 pm	Let the Water Do the Work Celebration: Acknowledgements, Book Signing, Refreshments and Cash Bar

DUNG BEETLES, BATS, BEAVER, WOLVES, AND ELK – OH MY! CREATING HARMONY BETWEEN LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE

Wednesday, November 4 - *Sandia I, II and III*

7:00 am	Registration - Lobby
8:30 am	Opening remarks
8:45 am	<u>Session I: DUNG BEETLES</u> <i>"Dung Beetles Like it When Poop Happens: How They Benefit Both Land and Profit"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Patricia Richardson, University of Texas, Austin
10:15 am	Morning Break - Lobby <u>Session II: BATS</u>
10:45 am	<i>"What Do Bats & Cows Have in Common? Or, Improving Water Quality and Access for Wildlife and Livestock at Range Water Developments"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dan Taylor, Bat Conservation International, Calif.
12:15 noon	LUNCH - Sandia IV-VIII <u>Session III: ELK and BEAVER</u>
1:30 pm	<i>"Profitably Managing Rangelands for Wildlife Conservation, Diversity, and Abundance"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rick Danvir, Deseret Ranch, Woodview, Utah
3:00 pm	Afternoon Break - Lobby <u>Session IV: WOLVES</u>
3:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timm Kaminsky, Mountain Livestock Cooperative, Alberta, Canada.

READING LEOPOLD: THE LAND ETHIC ALOUD. ESSAYS, EXCERPTS, AND REMINISCENCES OF ALDO LEOPOLD.

7:00 pm to 9:30 pm	Sandia Ballroom This evening will feature ranchers, conservationists, scientists, land managers, and others reading their favorite passages from the writings of Aldo Leopold. Participants include: Estella Leopold, daughter of Aldo Leopold; Linda Hasselstrom, Gary Nabhan, Bill deBuys, Curt Meine, and Clare Kazanski. Three students from the Aldo Leopold Writing Contest will read their winning letters to Aldo Leopold telling him how or why his writings are still important today. Linda Hasselstrom and Gary Nabhan will be signing their newest books in the Lobby after the reading.
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CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, November 5

7:00 am	Registration - Lobby
8:15 am	Opening remarks by Courtney White, Executive Director, The Quivira Coalition - Sandia Ballroom
	<u>Session I - Land Health</u>
8:30 am	<i>"Charismatic Soil Wildlife, Your Mineral Cycle in Action"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Patricia Richardson, soil scientist, University of Texas, Austin
9:00 am	<i>"Nature's Second Chance - Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steve Apfelbaum, Applied Ecological Services, Brodhead, Wis.
9:30 am	<i>"The Cates Family Farm: Our Community of Creatures Great and Small"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Dick Cates, grassfed beef rancher and professor, southern Wis.
10:00 am	Morning Break - Lobby
	<u>Session II - Conservation</u>
10:30 am	<i>"Walking Between the Wild and the Back 40"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Julie Sullivan, environmentalist and rancher, San Juan Ranch, Saguache, Colo.
11:00 am	<i>"Ecosystem Services and Markets: What Would Leopold Think?"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Sally Collins, Dir., Office of Ecosystem Services & Markets, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.
11:30 am	<i>"Land Ethic Yes, But what about Energy?"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Randy Udall, energy expert, Basalt, Colo.
12:00 noon	LUNCH - Sierra Ballroom and Atrium
12:00 to 1:30 pm	<u>Student Poster Session</u> - Lobby (see page 12)
	<u>Session III - Sustainable Agriculture</u>
1:30 pm	<i>"Don't Forget the Old Agrarianism!: A Young Amish Family's Perspective on Horse Farming in the 21st century"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tim and Katie Kline, Amish farmers, Mt. Hope, OH
2:00 pm	<i>"Managing Horses on the Navajo Nation for a Sustainable Future"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tammy Herrera, Ojo Encino Chapter of the Navajo Nation, Cuba, N.M.
2:30 pm	<i>"Navigating Sustainability: Perspectives for the Future"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jen Johnson, 5th generation rancher and graduate student at the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management, Texas• Amber Reed, Quivira Coalition CARLY apprentice at the San Juan Ranch, Saguache, Colo.
3:00 pm	Afternoon Break - Lobby
3:30 pm	Speaker Panel: Questions and Testimonials from the Audience , moderated by Courtney White
5:00 to 6:00 pm	Book Signing - Ocatillo Room <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courtney White, Linda Hasselstrom, Gary Nabhan, Steven Apfelbaum, Dick Cates, Bill Zeedyk and Van Clothier
7:30 pm	Quivira Community Campfire: Amateur Talent and Serious Social - Sierra Ballroom (performer sign-up in Ocatillo Room)

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, November 6

7:00 am	Registration - Lobby
8:15 am	Opening Remarks and Announcements
	<u>Session IV - Restoration</u>
8:30 am	<i>"Preserving the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation: a Case for Restoration"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jed Meunier, great grandson of Leopold and graduate student at CSU, Ft. Collins, Colo.
9:00 am	<i>"Stuff I have Learned"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chet Vogt, rancher and winner of the 2008 Leopold Conservation Award, Elk Creek, Calif.
9:30 am	<i>"The Art of Scientific Tinkering: Restoring Land Health in a Wilderness Area with Fire and Axe"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. Craig Allen, USGS, Los Alamos, N.M.
10:00 am	Morning Break - Lobby
	<u>Session V - Beauty</u>
10:30 am	<i>"Natural Beauty, Land Health, and the Still Unlovely Mind"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. Rick Knight, professor of Biology, Ft. Collins, Colo. <i>"Portraits of Grasses"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Matilda Essig, artist, Elgin, Ariz.
11:00 am	<i>"The Art of Re-connecting People, Places, and Processes with Watershed Restoration"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Craig Sponholtz, riparian restoration specialist, Dryland Solutions, Inc., Santa Fe, N.M.
11:30 am	<i>"The Goose Who Trades His Feathers"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Linda Hasselstrom, author and rancher, Hermosa, S.D.
12:00 noon	LUNCH - Sierra Ballroom and Atrium
	<u>Session VI - Land Ethic</u>
1:30 pm	<i>"The Evolution of a Land Ethic on Carrizo Valley Ranch"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sid Goodloe, rancher, Capitan, N.M.
2:00 pm	<i>"Learning Through Doing: Reflections on the Role of Personal Experience in Building an Ethical Relation to the Land"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Clare Kazanski, great granddaughter of Aldo Leopold, Environmental Defense, Washington, D.C.
2:30 pm	<i>"Where's Aldo?: Ranching to Sustain Wild Biodiversity while Producing Tacos sin Carbon"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gary Nabhan, author and research social scientist, University of Arizona, Tucson
3:00 pm	Afternoon Break - Lobby
3:30 pm	Speaker Panel: Questions and Testimonials from the Audience , moderated by Courtney White
3:00 to 5:00 pm	Auction Settlement - Ocatillo Room
6:30 pm	Clarence Burch Award Banquet and Radical Center Awards - Sierra Ballroom

STUDENT POSTER SESSION

Students from Albuquerque schools: Bosque School, Rio Grande High School and Albuquerque Academy, will be on site to present their posters and answer any questions Thursday, November 5th from 12:00 noon through 1:30 pm.

Students were asked to answer the following questions from a youth perspective:

“Why is a land ethic relevant in the 21st century?”

“What would Aldo Leopold say about our various predicaments if he were alive today?”

“What would a student tell him if he were here now?”



Student poster presentation at The Quivira Coalition's 6th Annual Conference, January 2007.

Photo by Gene Peach

EXHIBITORS

ALDO LEOPOLD CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION & ALDO LEOPOLD FOUNDATION

EARTH WORKS INSTITUTE

GREEN FIRE TIMES

HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL

NATIONAL CENTER FOR APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY (NCAT)

NEW MEXICO CATTLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

NEW MEXICO LAND CONSERVANCY

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC LANDS ACTION NETWORK

NEW MEXICO SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

NRCS - GRAZING LANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

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BOOKS FOR SALE IN THE OCATILLO ROOM



BOOKS ON AND BY ALDO LEOPOLD:

- *Aldo Leopold's Southwest* - Editors David E. Brown and Neil B. Carmony - \$24
- *The Essential Aldo Leopold - Quotations and Comments* by Meine & Knight - \$24
- *The River of the Mother of God and other Essays by Aldo Leopold* - Edited by Susan L. Flader and J. Baird Callicott - \$22
- *Aldo Leopold His Life and Work* - Curt Meine - \$29
- *Aldo Leopold - for the Health of the Land* by Aldo Leopold - Edited by J. Baird Callicott and Eric T. Freyfogle - \$24
- *Aldo Leopold's Odyssey* - Julianne Newton - \$24
- *Round River - from the Journals of Aldo Leopold* - Luna B. Leopold - \$34
- *A Sand County Almanac* - Aldo Leopold - \$15

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Steven Apfelbaum*

- *Nature's Second Chance* - \$25

Richard Cates, Jr.*

- *Voices from the Heart of the Land* - \$25

Linda Hasselstrom*

- NEW RELEASE! *No Place Like Home: Notes from a Western Life* - \$24
- *Feels Like Far: A Rancher's Life on the Great Plains* - \$22 (hardcopy) and \$12 (paperback)
- *Between Grass and Sky: Where I Live and Work* - \$18
- *Bison: Monarch of the Plains* - \$24
- *Bitter Creek Junction* - \$12

Richard Knight and Courtney White

- *Conservation for a New Generation* - \$29

Curt Meine

- *Correction Lines* - \$29

Gary Nabhan*

- *The New Edition - Coming Home to Eat* - \$16
- NEW RELEASE! *Heritage Farming in the Southwest* - \$9
- *Where our Food Comes From* - \$24

Bill Zeedyk and Van Clothier*NEW RELEASE!

Let the Water Do the Work: Induced Meandering, an Evolving Method for Restoring Incised Channels - \$50

OTHER

Michael Belshaw

- *A Kiwi in Cowboy Country* - \$5

Dan Dagget

- *Beyond the Rangeland Conflict* - \$20

Kirk Gadzia and Nathan Sayre

- *Rangeland Health & Planned Grazing Field Guide* (2009 Reprint) - \$2.50

Shannon Hayes

- *Farmer & the Grill* - \$12
- *The Grassfed Gourmet Cookbook* - \$18

Helene Hovanec & Patrick Merrell

Barnyard Games & Puzzles - \$5

Quivira Coalition

- *Forging a West that Works* - FREE

Nathan Sayre

- *New Ranch Handbook* - FREE

Rae Taylor

- *Black Grace* - spoken word poetry/music CD - \$18

Brian Walker and David Salt

- *Resilience Thinking* - \$24

Courtney White*

- *Revolution on the Range* - \$24

Bill Zeedyk and Jan-Willem Jansens

- *An Introduction to Erosion Control* (2009 reprint) - \$2.50

*authors signing books Wednesday and/or Thursday

SILENT AUCTION

During a silent auction, bids are submitted in writing. All proceeds from this silent auction benefit The Quivira Coalition's Education and Outreach Program. Silent auction items are located in the Ocatillo Room. Bidding begins at noon Wednesday, November 4th and ends at 1:30 Friday, November 6th. Winners will be announced at 3:00 pm Friday, during the plenary session. Settlement time is between 3:00-5:00 pm in the Ocatillo Room. Our appreciation and gratitude go out to those who have donated services or products for this fund raiser.

ONE DAY OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION

- Steve Carson, Rangeland Hands, Inc.
- Van Clothier, Stream Dynamics, Inc.
- Kirk Gadzia, Resource Management Services, LLC
- Bill Zeedyk, Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, LLC

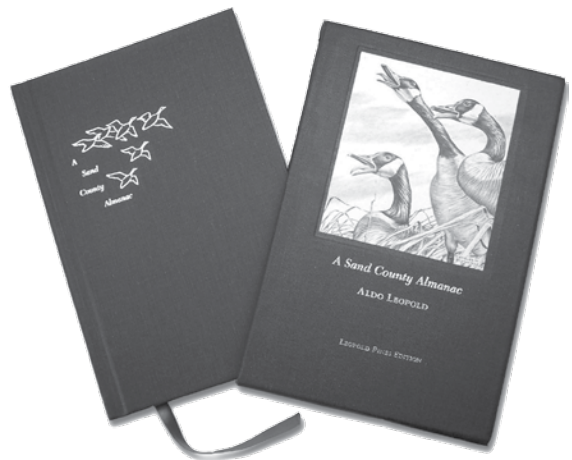
FRAMED PRINTS

- *Aldo Leopold Overlook, Gila Wilderness* by Maryann McGraw
- *Autumn View of Pueblo Colorado Wash* by Maryann McGraw
- Prints by Craig Sponholtz
- *Annual Grama Head*, print by Matilda Essig

OTHER ITEMS

- *A Sand County Almanac*: Special Leopold Pine Edition and related items donated by the Aldo Leopold Foundation
- One year of delicious organic milk provided by Organic Valley
- Rawhide reata, quirt, and rommal made by a Sonoran braider along the Rio Sonora in Mexico, donated by Rick Knight.
- 25 lbs of organic beef provided by the San Juan Ranch, Colo.

For the first time, Leopold's classic is printed on paper made from pines the family planted together in the 1930s and 40s. The Leopold Pines Edition is a hardcover facsimile of the first edition of *A Sand County Almanac* printed in 1949, featuring a new introduction by Leopold's surviving children, archival photos of Leopold at the 'Sand County' farm, and an afterword telling the story of the Leopold pines. The books are designed to endure. A slipcase protects the book, and both the book and slipcase are cloth-bound hardcover with silver embossing. The Leopold pine paper and other materials are archival quality. The binding is fully sewn and includes a ribbon page marker.



THE QUIVIRA COALITION'S 2009 RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN THE RADICAL CENTER

The Third Annual Recognition Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center is dedicated to the “four legs” of The Quivira Coalition’s original “chair” – ranchers, conservationists, civil servants, and researchers. We wish to recognize those individuals in each category who have shown remarkable and enduring leadership in the difficult job of working in the radical center – the place where people are coming together to explore their common interests rather than argue their differences, as author and conservation leader Bill deBuys has described it.

We believe that the radical center is where real change happens – on the “actual landscape of the back forty” as Aldo Leopold put it. But change needs strong leadership, especially in this era of seemingly endless partisanship. We think the time is right to honor those who have advanced the cause of the radical center with integrity, vision, and determination – sometimes against long odds. On behalf of the Board and staff of The Quivira Coalition, we are honored to award the “Outstanding Leadership” Awards for 2009 to:

- ✦ RANCHING - Bill McDonald, Sycamore Canyon Ranch, Douglas, Arizona
- ✦ CONSERVATION - James Honey, Sustainable Northwest, Portland, Oregon
- ✦ CIVIL SERVICE - Frank Hayes, US Forest Service (Retired), Duncan, Arizona
- ✦ RESEARCH - Tom Moody and Stephanie Yard, Natural Channel Design, Inc., Flagstaff, Arizona

Each has inspired us with their dedication to family, community, healthy lands and advancement through their teaching, writing, research, service, work and good humor. Through their efforts and leadership they have been a strong voice for the common bonds that bind us together. We are proud to honor these fine individuals.

The Radical Center in Action:



THE CLARENCE BURCH AWARD

The Clarence Burch Award is given by Andrew Dunigan and the Dunigan Family to honor the memory of Andy Dunigan's grandfather, an innovative and enterprising rancher who courageously embraced new ideas and methods of "doing business." The award recognizes individuals, organizations and others who have led by example in promoting and accomplishing outstanding stewardship of private and/or public lands.

The goals of the Burch Award are consistent with the mission of The Quivira Coalition and its New Ranch paradigm, i.e., to explore innovative ideas in ranch management and build bridges between ranchers, environmentalists, public land managers, scientists, and others with the goal of restoring western rangelands collaboratively.

CLARENCE BURCH (1906-2000)

Rancher, teacher, conservationist, activist, international diplomat, and public servant to five governors, Clarence Burch lived an enviable career full of innovation, dedication, curiosity, and good humor. He was a man very much of his time, and yet miles ahead of it as well.

The eldest of nine children, Clarence was born in Bromide, Oklahoma, in what was then Indian Territory. Raised on various farms and ranches, he developed a love of the land that grew to become a passion for a lifetime. "My grandfather had an innate sense for natural forces," says Andy Dunigan. "Land was in his blood. Every discussion always started with a question about the weather."

One area that Clarence applied his "can-do" attitude to was water. While serving as Director of the Division of Water Resources in the 1940s, he traveled to every seat of Oklahoma's 77 counties to assess municipal and rural water needs. Shortly thereafter, with Clarence's encouragement, and over the objections of the oil companies, Governor Roy Turner signed the state's first groundwater restrictions into law.

"I made the statement then and still do that water is more important than oil," Clarence said in an interview. "I think time will show me to be right in that."

He was a careful steward of his own land as well. "He knew that all he had to sell on his ranch was grass," recalls his son Tom. "So, he took care to do the job right." His grandson agrees. "He understood that land has its limits," recalls Andy. "And he emphasized collaborative solutions to natural resource problems."

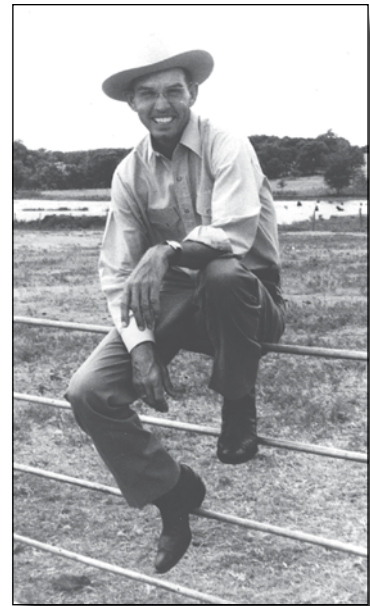
For his energy and leadership, Clarence was honored in 1955 with inclusion in a group of American farmers and ranchers that conducted a ground-breaking tour of the Soviet Union during the depths of the Cold War.

Clarence's people skills extended to his family as well. Andy remembers him as an "extremely warm, charismatic man who got along with people from all walks of life."

A son-in-law, Jim Wilson, says Clarence could "carry on a conversation on any topic" and did so right up to the end of his life.

Perhaps Andy sums up his grandfather's qualities best: "Clarence embodied what we call today 'The Radical Center.' He was more than just a rancher. He was a public servant, an activist, and a man very concerned about the land and sustainable practices. He was a remarkable man."

We at The Quivira Coalition are proud to honor Clarence Burch with an Annual Award.



Clarence Burch

2009 CLARENCE BURCH AWARD NOMINEES*

- **TOM AND MIMI SIDWELL**, JX Cattle Company, Tucumcari, New Mexico

“The JX Cattle Company meets every criteria for the Clarence Burch Award by demonstrating innovative and sustainable methods of land stewardship, contributing significantly to education about sustainable use of natural resources, and promoting and implementing the collaborative process in resolving land stewardship conflicts. Early adopters of holistic management, the Sidwells manage their ranch for multiple goals, including wildlife, land health, natural beef, and education...It would be difficult to adequately describe how much improvement they have made on their current ranch along the Caprock in east central New Mexico. However, in spite of some severely dry years the range condition and trends are dramatically improving by their hard work and careful planning and intense management.” For their efforts, the Sidwells earned the statewide Society for Range Management’s *Excellence in Range Management Award* for 2008.

- **LINDSEY DAVIES**, Bureau of Land Management, Burns District, Oregon

“Lindsay Davies is an exceptional example of a dedicated land manager developing collaboration to achieve innovative landscape-scale restoration. She has organized and implemented a 73,386 acre restoration project that spans both public and private land...Lindsay has a greatly improved relations between the public land managers and private landowners by developing restoration plans that meet the needs of both. Her dedication to making sure that the livestock ranchers are involved in the decision-making process on when and where the restoration activities would be applied has fostered a strong collaboration between the BLM and ranchers that will make other projects easier in the future.”

- **LEANDREW AUSTIN**, rancher, Navajo Nation, New Mexico

“If you are not used to walking around the desolate rangeland of the Navajo Nation, you might not think the Austin ranch is anything special. But all you have to do is look at the difference between the land inside and outside the Austins’ fence. Inside: a variety of scrubby forbs and grasses; outside: cattle-churned clay punctuated by the occasional saltbrush... LeAndrew’s heart is in this patch of high desert, which has been in his family since the Navajos returned from the Long Walk in 1868. He is sincere when he says he wants it to be the best ranch it can be, and a sanctuary for wildlife as well. He can’t wait for the day when he can quit his day job at the McKinley Mine and spend his days out here with his herd of organically raised, grass-fed Angus cattle. I think you would have to live on the Navajo Nation for a while before you appreciate how significant this is.”

- **THE ALTAR VALLEY CONSERVATION ALLIANCE (AVCA)**, southwest of Tucson, Arizona

“Born from a commitment to keep the 500,000 acre Altar Valley as an unfragmented and healthy working landscape, AVCA has engaged scientists, environmentalists, landowners, and a long list of public agencies to enhance and restore the valley’s grasslands and wildlife habitat, improve watershed functioning, protect open space, conduct research, and find solutions to complex environmental and political problems – all in the spirit of the radical center. When AVCA formed 14 years ago, the Altar Valley could well have served as a poster child for the so-called Rangeland Conflict...The problems facing the valley constituted a veritable Gordian knot, but made an order of magnitude more difficult by the proximity to the explosive growth of Tucson... Today, the Altar Valley is still open, still working, and much closer to AVCA’s goals than many of us thought possible just five years ago.”

*excerpts from nomination letters

MADISON VALLEY RANCLANDS GROUP

In 1996 a group of long-time Montana ranchers began talking about the future of their agricultural valley. They faced a series of issues that focused their attention: large elk herds consumed forage on private lands that was reserved for cattle; wolves had been recently released next door in Yellowstone National Park and would soon make their way into the valley; environmentalists were suing to end livestock grazing on public lands; noxious weeds were crowding every corner of the valley; and ranches were being carved into subdivisions. Lying off the northwest corner of Yellowstone, their way of life in the Madison Valley was being increasingly threatened. They kept discussing these issues amongst themselves, and their concern grew.

But what to do about all this? These ranchers hoped to steer the course of the valley's future by creating a forum where people could come together and discuss community/valley concerns and also present ideas for solving those problems. From these discussions, the 501(c)3 Madison Valley Ranchlands Group (MVRG) was born. Even today, the notion of a bunch of ranchers forming a not-for-profit conservation organization is a head turner, but back then it was truly radical. Seeking diversity in their discussions and ideas for solving problems, MVRG invited government agency representatives, hunters, absentee ranch owners, as well as environmental groups to the table. Perhaps by getting enough different minds on an issue, a path forward may be found.

Working with these collaborators, MVRG launched multiple ventures to help work through the issues. It formed a committee to coordinate noxious weed control efforts across the valley's nearly one million acres. It formed a Range Riders program where cowboys placed on summertime grazing allotments would keep ranchers' cattle safe from wolves and grizzlies. MVRG would oversee the Range Riders, and area environmental groups helped fund the program. MVRG then tackled the controversial topic of unregulated population growth. It hosted a series of public forums where valley growth could be discussed. The result of these forums was the county's adoption of a growth policy action plan. Each year, it also hosts Living with Wildlife workshops to teach new subdivision residents how to reside within such an ecologically abundant setting. MVRG then invited state wildlife personnel, hunters, and landowners to discuss the valley's rapidly growing elk herd. Through a multi-year dialogue, the group began facilitating increased public hunting on private lands to help bring herd growth rates in line with desired objectives.

Through their efforts, MVRG learned that the collaborative process provides a meaningful way to engage people with divergent viewpoints. Folks may not always get along, but they can move forward together on important topics. When people learn to work with one another, new opportunities are formed.

MVRG is now embarking on farm to fork programs, locally produced alternative energy, and recently launched its own eco-tourism company - Madison Valley Expeditions.

Through all its efforts, MVRG has kept its eye on its ultimate goal: providing a good future for agriculture, people, and critters of the Madison Valley. — *Todd Graham*

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LAND & WATER CAMPAIGN

Many thanks and appreciation to all those who contributed in 2008/2009 to The Quivira Coalition's "Land & Water" Campaign!

Major

Audubon TogetherGreen Fellowship

Philip A. Barrett

The Christensen Fund

The Dixon Water Foundation

Healy Foundation

Judith McBean Foundation

McCune Charitable Foundation

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Center for Whole Communities

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C. Diane Bell	Kathleen Holian	The Schwennesens, Cold Creek Ranch
Amanda Beno	Lauren Ivison	Gene Simon, River Ranch
Krista Bonfantine, Arid Land Innovation	Greg Titus and Janet Jarratt	Tom & Susan Simons
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Howard Gebel	Maryanne Mott	
	Gilbert Motta, Motta Beefmaster Cattle	
	The Nature Conservancy	
	Mary Orr	
	Paul Orzech	
	Dave and Linda Overlin	



A West That Works

Writing, photography, ideas, and musings...by Courtney White

Courtney's Writing

- Essays
- The Back Forty
- Revolution on the Range
- Chronicle of Consequences
- Canyonlands
- Archives

Speaking and Consulting

- Bio and Photo
- Contact

Also

- The Quivira Coalition

Recent Writing

Living Leopold: the land ethic and a new agrarianism

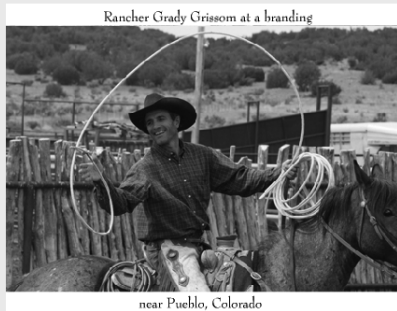
Published as an op-ed in various publications, October, 2009

"Bread and beauty grow best together." – Aldo Leopold

In 2009, we celebrate the centennial of the arrival of the great American conservationist Aldo Leopold to the Southwest as a ranger with the U.S. Forest Service. Over the course of a diverse and influential career, Leopold eloquently advocated a variety of critical conservation concepts including wilderness protection, sustainable agriculture, wildlife research, ecological restoration, environmental education, land health, erosion control, watershed management, and famously, a land ethic.

Each of these concepts resonates today – perhaps more so than ever as the challenges of the 21st century grow more complicated and more pressing. But it was Aldo Leopold's emphasis on conserving whole systems – soil, water, plants, animals and people together – that is most crucial today. The health of the entire system, he argued, is dependent on its indivisibility; and the knitting force was a *land ethic* – the moral obligation we feel to protect

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Rancher Grady Grissom at a branding

near Pueblo, Colorado

Along the Frontier: musings from west of the 100th meridian

"Lessons from a Dry Land"

10/15/09 - While driving home from a Spring Break visit to Phoenix with my family, we were engulfed in a dust storm east of Flagstaff straight out of *Lawrence of Arabia*. In all my many miles driving around the West, I had not encountered such a tempest. Sure, it had been a dry winter, but the thick, swirling dirt conjured a thought: if the nation has slipped into the Great Depression II, as some say, then this storm felt like the Dust Bowl redux.

I wondered: could this be an early sign of climate change at work?

My thoughts turned to Wallace Stegner, the late, great chronicler of the West's frontier irresponsibility. 2009 marks the centennial of his birth, and as I watched the dust recede behind us, I could easily imagine him tsk-tsking "I tried to tell you."

For most of his life, Stegner pounded on an elemental truth

COURTNEY WHITE'S

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"I took the plunge and created a web site! It contains past writing, current musings and a smattering of photography – all in the spirit of 'A West That Works.' Check it out when you have a moment – and let me know what you think." - Courtney

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