

# Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch owners honored

Larimer County Open Lands Program

A recognition award for stewardship of the environment and conservation efforts was presented to the owners of Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch by the Larimer County Open Lands Program at their monthly Open Lands Advisory Board meeting in Loveland, Colo., on Jan 27.

The Larimer County Open Lands Program honored Sylvan Dale Ranch as a ranching business managed by individuals who promote stewardship of the environment through practice, demonstration and education.

"This recognition award is so important not only because this family deserves to be recognized for their tremendous efforts in conservation, but because what they've achieved is an excellent example of how land preservation can be a viable financial option for working agricultural operations," said K-Lynn Cameron,

Larimer County Open Lands manager. Accepting the award on behalf of Sylvan Dale Ranch and the Jessup Family were Susan Jessup, husband David Armstrong and matriarch Mayme ("Tillie") Jessup.

Over half (1,865 acres) of their ranch has been protected with conservation easements and protective covenants through the Larimer County Open Lands Program, the Legacy Land Trust, and the Larimer County Rural Land Use Center over a period of six years. The Jessups have donated over \$1.3 million in land value towards these conservation efforts. The Jessups have also practiced and demonstrated stewardship to the environment through enhancing wildlife habitat and participating in educational and outreach events to show that ranching and stewardship of the environment go hand-in-hand.

"The owners at Sylvan Dale Ranch have a long-term vision for their lands. Thanks to them, the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon will be protected from development forever. We look forward to continuing this rewarding partnership," said Peter Kast, chairman of Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board.

Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch is a dude ranch surrounded by the beauty of the Rocky Mountains, the Big Thompson River and rolling hogbacks. It has been owned and operated since 1946 by the Jessup family, and operates as a year-round guest ranch and retreat center. The 3,200 acre ranch is located at the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon on U.S. Highway 34, on the way to Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. ❖

---

"Thanks to them, the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon will be protected from development forever."

— Peter Kast

---



Left to right: Peter Kast, Open Lands Board chair, Susan Jessup, Tillie Jessup, and K-Lynn Cameron, Open Lands manager.