



## Southern Alberta Land Trust Society

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **SALTS to Receive Donation of Conservation Easement OH Ranch plans to donate conservation easement to protect Pekisko rangeland**

Saturday, September 13, 2008

Longview, AB – The OH Ranch near Longview, Alberta, is to be protected from development through a combination of Heritage Rangeland designation and conservation easements. This action by the Seaman family, headed by D.K. ‘Doc’ Seaman, will preserve the natural character and ecological integrity of the landscape while still maintaining it as a working ranch. The Pekisko Ranch portion of the conservation easements will be donated to the Southern Alberta Land Trust Society (SALTS), while separate portions of the ranch will be donated to other conservation groups.

The OH Ranch is part of the iconic landscape of Southern Alberta with its spectacular foothills and mountain scenery. Besides being a key watershed, this landscape is also home to extensive wildlife populations, some of our last remaining native fescue grassland, and a number of species at risk.

“By taking this action the Seaman family is showing its true commitment to the conservation and stewardship of our foothills grasslands,” said Craig Smith, President of SALTS. “This significant gift, combined with the OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland announcement, is an example of how private property owners and the Alberta Government can work together to protect our environment and ranching heritage.”

A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and a qualified easement holder, such as a land trust, that limits the amount and type of development that can occur on a property to preserve its natural character, ecological integrity, agricultural potential and scenic values.

The Southern Alberta Land Trust Society (SALTS) is a locally-based, rancher-driven, non-profit organization with registered charity status, dedicated to preserving the ecological, productive, scenic and cultural values of southern Alberta's Eastern Slopes, prairie and foothill regions.

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