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City of Steamboat Springs receives two State Honor Awards from Colorado Preservation, Inc.

Steamboat Springs, Colorado— The City of Steamboat Springs and Yampatika received a State Honor Award for the preservation planning and exemplary use of the range of preservation treatments (restoration, preservation, rehabilitation and reconstruction) in stewarding and adapting the Legacy/Hutchinson Ranch as the Yampatika Environmental Learning Center.

Starting in 1988 with the State Honor Award and adding the Dana Crawford Award in 1990, Colorado Preservation, Inc. has recognized accomplishments in the areas of preservation, rehabilitation, promotion, philanthropy, and leadership. Each year CPI honors the efforts that have made exemplary contributions to the saving of Colorado's built heritage.

The 130-acre Legacy/Hutchinson Ranch was homesteaded in 1898 by Elizabeth Hutchinson and consists of six structures. Steamboat Springs acquired the ranch in 1999 and placed a conservation easement on the property as the City Council recognized the importance and significance of preserving the valley floor for agricultural use and open space.

“The partnership between the City of Steamboat Springs and Yampatika has been inspirational in the promotion of historic preservation,” CPI Executive Director James Hare said. “The ability to utilize historic buildings and landscapes for the benefit of the whole community is a great way to involve many people in learning and appreciating historic preservation.”

Yampatika opened its Environmental Learning Center at the City owned historic Legacy/Hutchinson Ranch in the summer of 2009. Placing an emphasis on collaboration, Yampatika has worked and continues to work with city staff, volunteers and other partners to involve all ages in the utilization of the ranch.

Steamboat Springs was also a partner in the State Honor Award given to Dan Corson, the Intergovernmental Services Director of the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (History Colorado), along with the preservation commissions of Aspen, Breckenridge, Crested Butte, Steamboat Springs and Telluride for the Ski Towns Forum for meeting the challenge of incorporating new construction while protecting historic resources in established historic districts.

Dan Corson has served preservation and the state of Colorado for decades. During that time he has earned the respect of preservationists statewide as well as the federal and state agencies he regulates. He has also established an information partnership between the preservation commissioners and staff from five of Colorado's most vibrant and historically significant ski towns;

Aspen, Breckenridge, Crested Butte, Steamboat Springs and Telluride. At the forum they mutually examine and develop solutions for the protection of historic buildings and the incorporation of new construction within the bounds of each town's historic core.

Meeting annually at the opening of the Saving Places Conference for numerous years, the result has been a sharing of experiences that have benefited each community and also the field of historic preservation in general by examining and establishing design guidelines that have become the model for many similar communities nationwide. By working together, the representatives from the planning and/or preservation boards of each of the 5 ski towns handle some of the state's toughest design review issues. Despite strong financial and public pressure from ski developers, businesses and private property owners, they have been able to establish clear procedures for preservation and the rehabilitation of historic structures that also effectively direct and inform the design of new construction.

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