

Rosenbach named Outstanding Conservationist of the Year

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Bruce Rosenbach was honored as the Haxtun Conservation District 2008 Outstanding Conservationist of the Year at the recent Christmas dinner held Tuesday, Dec. 9 at KarDale's.



This award is one Rosenbach could have easily been recognized for many years in the past. An avid wildlife habitat enthusiast, he has literally changed the landscape in Phillips County with his numerous tree plantings, all the while encouraging many other landowners to help establish their own permanent pheasant habitats.

In 2002, Rosenbach was honored by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) as "Wildlife Landowner of the Year" for his outstanding contributions to wildlife habitat. That award was presented by Governor Bill Owens at the National Western Stock Show.

He has served as habitat chairman on the Phillips County Pheasants Forever Chapter since it began in 1991. Joe Crowder, NRCS, calculated that since 1992, the Phillips County Pheasants Forever Chapter has planted approximately 1250 miles or 2300 acres of tree and shrub rows. That is equivalent to planting a row on both sides of Interstate 70 from the Utah state line to the Kansas state line, plus both sides of Interstate 76 from the Nebraska state line to Denver.

Rosenbach has also served two consecutive terms as a supervisor on the Haxtun Conservation District's board of directors, helping educate the community on the many facets of conservation in agriculture. He led the way in bringing the DOW Walk-In-Hunting Access program to Phillips and Sedgwick counties.

Last year alone, Phillips County enrolled 28,000 acres in the program and participating landowners received payments totaling over \$50,300. Local businesses have also benefitted enormously with the influx of hunters visiting the community throughout the hunting season.

Rosenbach's latest interest lies in renewable energy and he has been instrumental in bringing "National Wind" to northeastern Colorado. NECO Wind, LLC (Northeast Colorado Wind, LLC) was formed in October, operating under the guidance of National Wind, which Rosenbach serves as advisory board chairman.

NECO Wind's community-based model provides many benefits to area landowners with a substantial share of the project's proceeds staying in the community, and is projected to be one of the largest projects in Colorado.

□ Whether a farmer, landowner, hunting enthusiast or business owner, Rosenbach has most

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likely impacted everyone in Phillips County in one fashion or another with his contributions to the community and the preservation of natural resources.