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NEWS RELEASE

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WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONER DOUG RADEMACHER NAMED PRAIRIE PARTNER OF THE YEAR BY NATIONAL GRASSLANDS COUNCIL

WELD COUNTY, CO – Weld County Commissioner Chairman Douglas Rademacher was selected as Prairie Partner of the Year for 2013 by the National Grasslands Council and presented with the award on June 18 during the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Rademacher was nominated by Lori Bell, former Acting District Ranger for the Pawnee National Grassland, for his work on behalf of the grasslands. He committed to monthly meetings with the Pawnee National Grassland District Ranger in an effort to improve communication and understanding of grassland issues.



Commissioner Douglas Rademacher, center, stands with rangers from the Pawnee National Grassland. He was recognized as Prairie Partner of the Year for 2013 by the National Grasslands Council.

Reghan Cloudman, Public Affairs Specialist for Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, said this resulted in improved collaboration and partnerships. It also created a greater understanding of laws and regulations that Commissioner Rademacher relayed to constituents and provided a conduit to other county employees for the Forest Service to work with, including the Department of Public Works and the Sheriff's Office.

"I am honored to be recognized with this distinction," said Commissioner Chairman Rademacher. "The grasslands are a treasured part of Weld County. I was happy to be involved in improving communication."

Rademacher also provided project-specific support regarding recreational shooting. He participated in an informal round-table group and helped increase collaboration between Forest Service law enforcement and the Weld County Sheriff's Office, Cloudman said. He provided GIS support to the round table and support for the Baker Draw Shooting Area. Rademacher worked with the oil and gas industry, along with the County Public Works Department to improve the one-mile road leading into the shooting area. This allowed \$61,000 of the grant to be used for the site, rather than the road.

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