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CSU PROFESSOR RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

TUCSON: On August 7, 2007, Edward Redente, Emeritus Professor of Restoration Ecology at the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University, was presented with the prestigious Theodore M. Sperry Award by the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) International.

At the formal awards banquet, held during SER's annual conference in San Jose, California, Dr. Redente said, "I am deeply honored to be the recipient of the Theodore M. Sperry Award. To me, this is one of the greatest awards that a restoration ecologist can receive because its roots can be traced back to the beginning of the field of restoration ecology. Ted Sperry, for whom the award is named, worked for Aldo Leopold, the father of restoration ecology."

Dr. Redente is the 10th recipient of the Theodore M. Sperry Award since 1994. According to George Gann, Chair of the Board of SER, the award recognizes "achievement in those elements and approaches that improve restoration programs. Recipients are acknowledged who are innovators and pioneers in restoration. Other restorationists 'stand on their shoulders' because they truly lead the way."

Dr. Redente has inspired colleagues, students and collaborators for more than a quarter of a century as a teacher, researcher, author and advocate for ecological restoration. While acting as Director of the Center for Ecological Risk Assessment and Management, he incorporated sound ecological restoration research that had originally been addressed to the academic community and made it applicable to practitioners and land managers. His role allowed him to influence the restoration practices of many different organizations, both public and private, in the United States. He received numerous research grants from various entities including the Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, the National Park Service and numerous mining companies.

Specializing in the ecology of disturbed lands, and with his personal interest in plant ecology and plant-soil relationships, Dr. Redente has improved the field of ecological restoration's understanding of the methods of restoring some of the more drastically disturbed ecosystems. For example, he helped to develop metal toxicity thresholds for many native plant species commonly used in mine land restoration projects.

Throughout his career, Dr. Redente has been prolific, authoring and co-authoring more

than 80 peer-reviewed articles and six book chapters related to the restoration of soils, heavily disturbed ecosystems, invasive species and rangeland ecosystems of the western United States.

During his tenure at Colorado State University, Dr. Redente served as Department Head of the Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Stewardship Department and Research Dean for the Warner College of Natural Resources. He became Associate Vice President for Research for the University, and was later asked to serve as Interim Dean of the College. Dr. Redente was also awarded the title of University Distinguished Teaching Scholar, a title held by only twelve active faculty members at Colorado State. After many years of teaching, research, writing and being an inspiration in the field, Dr. Redente retired this year. He leaves behind an impressive legacy.

“My accomplishments as a restoration researcher are the result of a considerable collaboration with talented students and colleagues over many years,” he said. “I share this award with all those who journeyed with me during the last 30 years as we advanced the research of the field of ecological restoration.”

Founded in 1988, the Society for Ecological Restoration International is a membership organization with members in 37 countries as well as 14 independent chapters across the globe. The mission of the Society is to promote ecological restoration as a means of sustaining the diversity of life on Earth and reestablishing an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture.

“Ecological restoration” refers to the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed.

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