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Colorado Premier of *America's Forests with Chuck Leavell* to air Jan. 25 on Rocky Mountain PBS *Series Demonstrates How Vital Forests are to Well-being and Economic Health of Communities*

DENVER, Jan. 18, 2018 – Colorado takes the stage in the next episode of the new national TV series, *America's Forests with Chuck Leavell*. The series explores challenges, opportunities and innovations happening in America's forests, and the Colorado episode will air on Rocky Mountain PBS on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. MST.

Chuck Leavell may be best known as the keyboardist and musical director for The Rolling Stones, but he is also an educated and enthusiastic forestry advocate, conservationist and tree farmer. As host of the new series, Leavell serves as the on-camera guide, travelling across the country to interview people who are passionate about the gifts we get from our woods and exploring creative solutions to complex problems impacting this important natural resource.

"The search for solutions to the problems of sustainable growth, climate change and energy conservation is increasingly inspiring thought leaders to look at one of America's finest resources -- our forests," said Leavell. "Whether for building or for recreation, our forests are good for the economy and for the spirit."

Colorado is featured in the second episode in the series and includes segments on the therapeutic value of our forests, the importance of forests to our water supply and the innovative ideas on turning the wood from forests devastated by the mountain pine beetle epidemic into musical instruments, skis, snowboards and sustainable building applications.

Using the episode as inspiration, conversations on forest health, management and utilization with voices that represent a variety of perspectives will take place during a special film premier event on Jan. 24 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. A private VIP reception will kick off the event and include remarks from Leavell, Governor John Hickenlooper, Tony Tooke, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and Chris Topik, Director of Forest Restoration at The Nature Conservancy. At 7 p.m., the public is invited to a showing of the Colorado episode and an intimate fireside chat hosted by Leavell alongside Brian Ferebee, Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region of U.S. Forest Service; Jim Neiman, President and CEO of Neiman Enterprises; and Paige Lewis, Deputy Director/Director of Conservation of the Colorado chapter of The Nature Conservancy. A limited amount of tickets is still available to the film premier and fireside chat by RSVP'ing online at [/tiny.cc/chuckleavallcolorado](http://tiny.cc/chuckleavallcolorado).

"Public and private partners across the country are working hand-in-hand to both care for and create sustainable solutions using wood from our forests. This important work is vital to a healthy forest environment that provides world-class recreation, wildlife habitats and scenic beauty," said Bruce Ward, president of Choose Outdoors. "Through the stories in the series and special events, we hope to educate and inspire citizens to become everyday champions."

The series is produced by Choose Outdoors and 42 Degrees North Media and the Colorado episode was made possible with support from the U.S. Forest Service, Denver Water, Colorado State Forest Service,

Intermountain Forest Association, El Pomar Foundation, Rocky Mountain PBS and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Visit americasforestswithchuckleavell.com, follow along on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, or contact Bruce Ward, President of Choose Outdoors, at bruceward1@gmail.com or 303- 917-1476.

About the Series

America's Forests with Chuck Leavell captures the breadth of our nation's woodlands – both public and private. It features different stories that demonstrate how important forest habitats are to the well-being and economic health of communities across the country. The series will present individuals who embody this passion for the woods, from architects to artists, from climbers to carpenters. Visit americasforestswithchuckleavell.com.

About Chuck Leavell

Chuck Leavell is one of a kind. His musical career includes work with The Rolling Stones, but also with Eric Clapton, The Allman Brothers Band, John Mayer and a host of others. AND he is acclaimed as a conservationist, environmentalist, author and tree farmer. After studying forestry by correspondence and doing much of his homework while riding a tour bus with the Fabulous Thunderbirds in the mid '80s, Chuck and wife Rose Lane Leavell turned her family's plantation near Macon, Ga., into what has become a textbook and award-winning tree farm. He is also the co-founder of The Mother Nature Network www.mnn.com, the world's leading environmental website.

About the U.S. Forest Service

The Forest Service is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that manages 193 million acres of land, roughly the size of Texas. The Rocky Mountain Region includes 17 national forests and seven national grasslands located in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. For more information, visit www.fed.fs.us.

About Choose Outdoors

Choose Outdoors is a national nonprofit, "Connecting All Americans to our Public Lands through Recreation." It encourages the appreciation of, and support for, all public lands. Visit Chooseoutdoors.org to learn more.

About Rocky Mountain Public Media

Rocky Mountain Public Media is Colorado's largest statewide, member-supported, multimedia organization and the parent company of Rocky Mountain PBS and KUVU Jazz. Rocky Mountain Public Media reaches 98% of the state's citizens through television, radio and digital platforms. A non-commercial media organization by and for the people of Colorado, we create high quality local and multimedia content through Regional Innovation Centers in Denver, Colorado Springs, Durango, Grand Junction and Pueblo. Our enriching journalism, educational and cultural programming connects and engages citizens for lifelong impact. RMPBS, started in Denver in 1956 as Colorado's first public television station, is now a statewide television network, with stations in Denver (KRMA), Pueblo/Colorado Springs (KTSC), Steamboat Springs (KRMZ), Grand Junction (KRMJ) and Durango (KRMU). Visit us rmpbs.org/home.

About The Colorado State Forest Service

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) provides professional forestry assistance, wildfire mitigation expertise and outreach and education to help landowners and communities achieve their forest management goals. The CSFS is a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University and provides staffing for the Division of Forestry within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. For more information, visit www.csfs.colostate.edu or follow the agency online via Facebook, Twitter or YouTube.

**Photos available upon request*

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