

News Release



Western Energy Alliance
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Neal Stanley Honored as 2011 Wildcatter of the Year *Governor John Hickenlooper joins in commemorating Western oil and gas leader's life-time achievements*

(Denver) – Last night, Western Energy Alliance (formerly IPAMS) was joined by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper in the unveiling of Neal Stanley as the 2011 recipient of its most prestigious award, *Wildcatter of the Year*.

The title *Wildcatter of the Year* is reserved only for the most elite leaders in the oil and gas industry whose entrepreneurial spirit and exploratory work in new fields have contributed significantly to America's energy security and the betterment of society. The term "wildcatter" originates from the 1880s when independent speculators ranged across the West in hopes of discovering new or unproven oil reserves. The *Wildcatter of the Year* is not only a leader in industry, but a role model in the community as well, demonstrating leadership both on and off the oil and gas field. 2011 marks the 30th anniversary of this prestigious award.

With over thirty-five years in the industry, Stanley began his career with Amoco Corporation in 1975, one of the country's largest oil companies at the time. He later joined Terra Resources/Pacific Enterprises as an engineer and rose to Regional Vice-President. Stanley also served as the Western Region Senior Vice-President of Forest Oil Corporation. In 1991, he founded Teton Oil & Gas Corporation where he presently serves as Owner, in addition to his role as Director at Great Western Oil and Gas.

A 2009 inductee of the *Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Hall of Fame*, Stanley has served on the corporate board of Delta Petroleum, Pure Energy Services, and National Fuel Corporation, and volunteered for over twenty years on the Board of Directors for Western Energy Alliance. Stanley is a decorated U.S. Army veteran and continues to volunteer as a tour guide at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. He resides in Denver with his wife Marie Stanley.

"Our state's future is bright because we have bold, visionary leaders like Neal Stanley," said Governor John Hickenlooper. "Neal has dedicated his career to the energy industry, helping fuel job growth in Colorado and making our state a world-class provider of energy resources. He stands in great company as the latest *Wildcatter of the Year*."

"Neal is a man of great character, achievement and humility. His vision, generosity and tireless efforts to foster community have blessed the West and our nation. He leads by serving; planting countless trees, under whose shade he will never rest," said Marc W. Smith, Executive Director of Western Energy Alliance.

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About the Award:

Nominations for *Wildcatter of the Year* are based on the unique contributions and accomplishments of one industry individual, particularly regarding: (1) successful longtime natural gas and oil exploration and production in the West, (2) community service, and (3) support of oil and natural gas industry activities and organizations.

The announcement was made during Western Energy Alliance's annual Wildcatter Gala on April 30th held at the Denver Performing Arts Center. A "who's who" of independent natural gas and oil producers in the West, over 650 oil and natural gas and community leaders attended the gala to join in congratulating Stanley on this lifetime achievement recognition.

Neal Stanley joins an elite group of *Wildcatter of the Year* recipients. Prior award winners include: H.A. True, Frederick Mayer, Samuel Gary, Thomas Vessels, James Wallace, William Goodin, Conley Smith, Harvey Yates, Wayne "Dusty" Biddle, George Anderman, William Barrett, Edward Ackman, John Snyder, George Fancher, Robert Bayless, Raymond Duncan, Robert Nance, Rex Monahan, Donald Wolf, F.H. "Mick" Merelli, Cortlandt Dietler, Thomas Petrie, Kenneth Luff, Harry Trueblood, William Ballard, Neil "Mick" McMurry, James Lightner and Peter Dea.

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About Western Energy Alliance

Western Energy Alliance, founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the West. More information on Western Energy Alliance and its members is available at www.westernenergyalliance.org.