



176 Home Street  
P.O. Box 755  
Bishop, CA 93515  
P: (760) 873-4554  
F: (760) 873-9277  
www.eslt.org

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September 28, 2012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 28, 2012**

**Contact Karen Ferrell-Ingram at 760-873-4554**  
**Photo Attached**



### **Karen Ferrell-Ingram Awarded the Last Best Place Award**

(Bishop, California) – On Friday, September 21, 2012, Eastern Sierra Land Trust Executive Director Karen Ferrell-Ingram was awarded the Frank Wells Last Best Place Award by the Sierra Nevada Alliance at their annual conference in South Lake Tahoe.

The Frank Wells Last Best Place Award goes to a leader who has exhibited outstanding leadership in protecting the Sierra's best places. The idea of a best place – that each of us carries a best place in our hearts – that part of the landscape that connects us and restores our spirits. We know these places when our passions are engaged to protect them and secure them for future generations.

In 2001, Ferrell-Ingram, with her husband, Stephen Ingram, were inspired to find a way to permanently protect their land in Swall Meadows, to ensure safe passage for the Round Valley mule deer herd and other wildlife who utilized the area on their annual migration. The Ingrams worked with other citizens and soon Eastern Sierra Land Trust was born. ESLT now celebrates almost 12 years of preserving over 7,500 acres of critical wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, and working farms and ranches of the Eastern Sierra.

“I think that by staying true to our community's dreams and values, and by really listening to our landowners and their needs, ESLT has been able to succeed and to be a truly public benefit organization,” stated Ferrell-Ingram. “I'm so grateful to all the individuals who have helped ESLT thrive, - landowners, board members, volunteers, staff, and donors.”

The award was given by the Sierra Nevada Alliance, an organization that unites individuals and groups behind a common vision – where natural and human communities coexist in harmony, a Sierra where residents and visitors alike understand and value the unique qualities of the range and protect the places they love.

Photo Caption: Geoff McQuilkin, board member of the Sierra Nevada Alliance, presents Karen Ferrell-Ingram, Executive Director of Eastern Sierra Land Trust, with the Frank Wells Last Best Place Award at the 19th Annual Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference, honoring her efforts to help preserve working farms and ranches and critical wildlife habitat in the eastern Sierra Nevada.