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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 14, 2014

Contact: Aaron Johnson, Lands Director, or  
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### Generous gift to Eastern Sierra Land Trust Preserves Historic Property

In the final days of 2013, Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) received a generous gift of an important conservation property located in the hills south of Bridgeport. This 40-acre parcel, which includes a length of Green Creek, was gifted to ESLT by the David and Elva Sinai Foundation Inc. of Reno, Nevada. By partnering with ESLT, the trustees of this family foundation have ensured that this special place will remain as open space forever.

“ESLT is deeply grateful to the Sinai Foundation for their donation of the Green Creek property,” commented ESLT Executive Director, Kay Ogden. “We are committed to protecting this spectacular place by ensuring that future land uses are compatible with its historical and natural values. Thanks to the enormous generosity of the Sinai Foundation, this parcel's stunning scenery, historic significance, and its wealth of vital resources will be preserved for public enjoyment for generations to come.”

In an extended tradition of family charitable giving, John Sinai and his son, David Sinai - both longtime, prominent Nevada lawyers - laid the cornerstone years ago for the David and Elva Sinai Foundation to set over to the public domain certain historic Mono County mining properties. Since David Sinai's death in 2006, the current trustees of the Sinai Foundation, Theodore J. Schroeder and David J. Reese, have worked with colleagues Elaine Alexander, Greg James, Patrick Mooney, James Pace, Laure'l Santos, and Aline Sinai to preserve the historic Sinai Green Creek 40-acre site for public benefit.

Mr. Reese was particularly interested in the site based upon his avid love of the outdoors, and Mr. Schroeder - having been raised in Lone Pine - was naturally interested in ensuring the public's enjoyment of this beautiful and historic site. They are pleased to announce that the site is now in the hands of ESLT and that the public will have the opportunity to appreciate the property for years to come.

Protecting this important riparian corridor, its water resources, and the habitat it contains has long been a priority for ESLT. Entirely surrounded by public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the landscape is home to a number of ecologically-significant native plants, and is dominated by aspen groves, Jeffrey and pinion pine woodlands, and sagebrush scrub. Various animals frequent the area, such as mule deer, black bear, and beaver, and it offers vital habitat to several notable bird species, including the northern goshawk and the Bi-State greater sage grouse.

As the site of one of the earliest hydroelectric power plants in the United States, the parcel's historic significance makes the preservation of this property of particular significance to the region. The power plant operated from 1893 until 1941, and supplied electricity over a 13-mile line to power the stamp mill at the Bodie mines, and later further north to mines in the Patterson District. The property still contains the cement foundation for the generators, which are now located in the Mono County Museum in Bridgeport, CA.

As stated by ESLT Lands Director Aaron Johnson, “The recreational and educational opportunities at this site are remarkable. With the completion of this project, we can ensure that the property's important natural and historical qualities continue to be available to the public.”



Funding in support of this project has been provided by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, an agency of the State of California.

*ESLT works with willing landowners to preserve vital lands in the Eastern Sierra for their scenic, agricultural, natural, recreational, historical, and watershed values. ESLT's goal is to preserve a healthy balance of land uses that can be sustained forever, ensuring both a strong local economy and environment. For more information about ESLT's mission and preserved lands, visit our website at [www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org).*

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High resolution images available by contacting ESLT at (760) 873-4554. Sample low-resolution images are shown below.



Photo 1 © Roger D. Reading





Photo 4 Caption: The Power House at Green Creek. Located downstream from Dynamo Pond, this parcel's historic significance dates back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.



Photo 5 Caption: The Green Creek Power Plant operated from 1893 to 1941, and was the first hydroelectric power plant in the Western United States.