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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 24, 2016

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Eastern Sierra Land Trust Earns National Recognition
Accreditation Promotes Public Trust, Ensures Permanence

Now in its 15th year protecting critical wildlife habitat, historic working lands, and scenic open spaces across the Eastern Sierra region, local non-profit Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) today announced it has achieved renewed accreditation – a mark of great distinction in land conservation. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded ESLT this renewed accreditation, demonstrating its confidence that Eastern Sierra Land Trust’s conserved lands will continue to be protected forever.

Successfully completing the rigorous accreditation renewal process signifies that Eastern Sierra Land Trust’s work meets the highest national standards for excellence and permanence.

“The Land Trust Accreditation Commission is tough,” reflected ESLT Board Secretary Randy Keller, who played a key role in preparing the Land Trust for renewed accreditation. “It’s their job to ensure that land trusts across the country are ethical and deliver on their duty to protect conserved lands in perpetuity.

“Our renewed accreditation means that ESLT is doing it right. Landowners can be assured that when we agree to protect their lands forever, we will do it fairly and effectively.”

Eastern Sierra Land Trust partners with landowners who want to protect the natural values of their property for future generations. Since its founding in 2001, ESLT has helped conserve nearly 10,500 acres: from a mule deer migration corridor in Swall Meadows, to the Mono Basin’s iconic Conway Ranch, to important bird habitat at Black Lake – and much more.

And ESLT’s conservation efforts reach far beyond the legal land protection agreements they develop with landowners. “A crucial component of our work involves engaging the Eastern Sierra community and building a lasting culture of conservation,” shared ESLT Executive Director, Kay Ogden.

“We strive to educate people of all ages about the enormous benefit of protecting rural Eastside lands. By connecting residents and visitors alike to the land through projects and tours, we aim to cultivate a lasting appreciation for our region – and for the immeasurable value of its conservation, both for today and for many years to come.”

Eastern Sierra Land Trust was among 38 land trusts across the United States to achieve accreditation or to have accreditation renewed in August. ESLT joins the more than 350 accredited land trusts that demonstrate their commitment to professional excellence through accreditation, helping to maintain the public’s trust in their work.

“It is exciting to recognize Eastern Sierra Land Trust with this distinction,” said Tammara Van Ryn, Executive Director of the Commission. “Accredited land trusts stand together, united behind strong ethical standards ensuring the places people love will be conserved forever. This network of land trusts has demonstrated fiscal accountability, strong organizational leadership, and lasting stewardship of conservation land.”

Almost 15 million acres of farms, forests and natural areas vital to healthy communities – an area about the size of the state of West Virginia – are permanently conserved by accredited land trusts across the country.

Each accredited land trust must apply for renewal every five years and undergoes a comprehensive review as part of its renewal application. The rigorous process strengthens land trusts like Eastern Sierra Land Trust so they can help landowners and communities achieve their goals.

Eastern Sierra Land Trust works with willing landowners to protect vital lands in the Eastern Sierra region for their scenic, agricultural, natural, recreational, historical, and watershed values. To learn more about ESLT’s work and how to get involved, visit www.eslt.org.

About the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission inspires excellence, promotes public trust and ensures permanence in the conservation of open lands by recognizing organizations that meet rigorous quality standards and strive for continuous improvement. The Commission, established in 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts. For more, visit landtrustaccreditation.org.

About the Land Trust Alliance

Founded in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance is a national land conservation organization that works to save the places people love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents more than 1,100 member land trusts supported by more than 100,000 volunteers and 5 million members nationwide. The Alliance is based in Washington, D.C. and operates several regional offices. More information about the Alliance is available at landtrustalliance.org.

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Sample low-resolution images shown below with captions; high-resolution versions attached to email. For additional pictures, please contact Marguerite Merritt, Communications Director, at marguerite@eslt.org.



Caption: Eastern Sierra Land Trust's Black Lake Preserve is one of the organization's most recent conservation successes. This 514-acre parcel protects important bird habitat in the remote Adobe Valley. Photo © Bill Dunlap.



Caption: Achieving renewed national accreditation signals Eastern Sierra Land Trust's commitment to lasting conservation – and to ESLT, an important part of that is engaging the community in their ongoing land protection and habitat restoration work. Photo © Bill Dunlap.