



# Preserving our Vital Lands



**EASTERN SIERRA LAND TRUST  
ANNUAL REPORT 2011**



## From the Executive Director and President

---

Dear Friends,

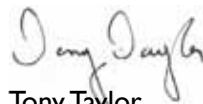
2011 was a banner year for ESLT. Highlights included celebrating our 10th birthday, receiving accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance's Accreditation Commission, and increasing the total number of conservation easements to fifteen.

Yet these achievements didn't happen overnight. They are instead the culmination of years of effort and diligent behind-the-scenes work on the part of ESLT staff, Board, and volunteers. The accreditation process alone involved years of planning and paperwork. The reward for this effort was a seal of approval confirming that ESLT meets national standards of excellence in land conservation, upholds the public trust, and ensures permanent conservation. Only 135 of the 1,700 land trusts in the U.S. have received this distinction, and we are proud to be among them.

This year's conservation achievements are the result of years of working with individual landowners, attorneys, appraisers, state and federal funding agencies and others to coordinate the many components that result in a successful conservation easement. One of our agreements took three years to complete, while another took nearly a decade. The kind of work we do requires us to take the long view, as land protection agreements are complex, and unforeseen delays are inevitable. In this challenging economic climate, state and federal funding for conservation easements has become harder to secure, leading to even longer delays in project completion.

Yet despite these delays, we are achieving permanent protection for beloved Eastern Sierra landscapes. Slowly and steadily, we are making progress in the race to preserve the area's working farmlands and wildlife habitat. Our success would not be possible without our loyal volunteers and members, whose sustained support enables us to conduct this ongoing work. Thank you for being here for us and for joining us on this long journey. Here's to more shared conservation successes in the coming decade!

In trust,



Tony Taylor  
President



Karen Ferrell-Ingram  
Executive Director



*President of the Board, Tony Taylor, cuts the cake at ESLT's 10th birthday party.*

## Working to Preserve our Vital Lands - in 2011

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS in 2011

Tony Taylor, President  
Orrin Sage, Vice President  
Rick Kattelmann, Secretary  
Sid Tyler, Treasurer  
Bill Bramlette  
Rosanne Higley  
Jan Hunewill  
Marie Patrick

### ADVISORS

Dave Doonan  
Jacques Etchegoyhen  
Steve Frisch  
Nate Greenberg  
Rusty Gregory  
Linda Hess  
Sandy Hogan  
Byng Hunt

### Geoff McQuilkin

George Milovich  
Duke Ostendorf  
Pete Pumphrey  
Doug Ross  
Terry Gooch Ross  
Tim Sanford  
Brian Stange  
Ann Wong

### STAFF in 2011

Karen Ferrell-Ingram,  
*Executive Director*  
Hillary Behr, AmeriCorps  
Serena Dennis  
Heather Freeman  
Aaron Johnson  
David Woodruff

# 2011 Conservation Successes

ESLT completed five conservation projects in 2011, protecting over 1,500 acres and increasing to fifteen the total number of properties conserved by our land trust. In addition to preserving working farms and ranches and expanding wildlife habitat, these projects also brought over \$3.5 million in state and federal grants to the Eastern Sierra. This financial support represents an important investment in our region and significant support to the local community. Visit our website for more information on these and other completed projects: <http://www.eslt.org/Pages/ComplProjects.htm>

---

## Working Farms and Ranches

---

### Cinnamon Ranch Conservation Easement

**Preserving the Rural Character and Prime Soils of Mono County  
602 acre Alfalfa Farm in Hammil Valley Preserved**



Located in Hammil Valley at the foot of the White Mountains, this 602-acre organic alfalfa farm was founded in 1864 by William Hamil. In 1900, the land was acquired by the Sinnamon family, ranchers from northern Mono who capitalized on the Bodie gold mining boom. With a railroad station and county road servicing the ranch, it became a significant crossroads. Current owners Richard and Barbara Moss purchased the property in 1970. Its scenic value provides travelers along Highway 6 with a taste of Mono County's rural character, an important part of the county's economy and regional identity. Funding for this project was provided by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and ESLT.

---

### Centennial Ranch Conservation Easement

**Local Ranchers Preserve Working Lands  
Historic Cattle Ranch Preserved in Bridgeport Valley**

This 718-acre easement adds to the 6,390 acres of Centennial Ranch holdings already under easement in the Bridgeport Valley, one of California's largest and last remaining undeveloped mountain meadows and the site of the largest wetland complex in the Eastern Sierra. One of the valley's earliest ranches, Centennial Ranch has been utilized for livestock production for 150 years. Currently managed as irrigated pasture for cattle by owners Dave Wood, John Lacey, and Mark Lacey, the ranch also contains habitat important to a diversity of wildlife, bird, and plant species. Visitors travelling Highway 395 enjoy outstanding vistas of the Sierra Nevada and the valley's open ranchland. The addition of these 718 acres extends conserved private agricultural lands to the northern end of the valley, ensuring continued agricultural operations, viability of the local economy, and preservation of the valley's scenic open spaces and Western heritage. Funding for this project was provided by the Department of Conservation's California Farmland Conservancy Program, the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, and the California Department of Transportation's Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program.



# 2011 Conservation Successes continued

## Critical Habitats

To ensure that wildlife have room to roam and travel between summer and winter ranges, ESLT works with landowners to permanently protect critical habitat on their land. With the decline of local mule deer herds in the last 20 years, preservation of watersheds, summer range areas, and winter forage is critical to species' survival. Conservation of mule deer habitat benefits many other wildlife species as well. In 2011, ESLT preserved over 220 acres of critical wildlife habitat in Sonora Junction and Swall Meadows.

### Willow Flat Conservation Easement



Near Sonora Junction in northern Mono County, this 60-acre donated easement includes half a mile of the Little Walker River and is part of an important migration route and summer range utilized by the West Walker mule deer herd. The property provides juniper and lodgepole pine forest, sagebrush scrub, wet meadow, and montane riparian habitats suitable for a diversity of wildlife such as the Northern goshawk and threatened California wolverine and American badger. Over 44 varieties of birds utilize the property, which also provides habitat for sage grouse, mountain lion, mountain beaver, and jackrabbit.

The property possesses outstanding recreation and scenic values, including views of Mt. Emma and the High Sierra. It has been in landowner Tina Bundy Nappé's family since her parents Gus and Jeanne Bundy purchased it in 1974.

### Naylon Conservation Easement



Located at 6,500 feet elevation in the heart of Swall Meadows, this 104-acre easement provides dramatic views of the Wheeler Ridge and preserves critical habitat for the threatened Round Valley mule deer herd. The property ensures the availability of winter forage and maintains a corridor to ensure safe deer passage during the biannual migration through Swall Meadows. Originally granted to James C. Sherwin under the 1881 Homestead Act and part of Joseph Swall's extensive early 1900's apple orchard, the property is an important part of Eastern Sierra agricultural history. Five acres of Joseph Swall's

historic orchard remain productive, with trees continuing to produce fruit. Easement funding was provided by the California Deer Association and the California Wildlife Conservation Board. The easement provides for property owners Bob and Lee Naylon to retain property rights while limiting future development.

### Swall Wildlife Preserve



At the base of the Wheeler Ridge, this 60-acre property comprises the last of the 1,000 acres settled by Joseph Swall in 1910. With dramatic views of the Owens Valley, Sierra Nevada, and White Mountains, the property harbors montane riparian habitat as well as Great Basin sagebrush scrub dominated by antelope bitterbrush & big sagebrush. Along with adjacent land owned by the California Department of Fish & Game and existing ESLT conservation easements, this property helps to ensure safe passage for wildlife species and is a strategic link in the mule deer migration corridor. The property was owned by John

and Ivie Wilson, longtime landowners in Swall Meadows. John is the great-grandson of Owens Valley pioneer Joseph Swall. The acquisition was made possible through a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board and the cooperation of the California Department of Fish & Game.

# Community Connections

## Offering You the Opportunity to Connect with Your Treasured Lands



*Birding at Benton Hot Springs Ranch Conservation Easement.*



*Learning about apples at Naylor Conservation Easement.*



*Round Valley Spring, watercolor by Lynn Marit Peterson.*

Over 2,600 individuals participated in ESLT's Community Connections program in 2011. Events included wildlife and wildflower field trips, gardening workshops and events, and brown bag lunch presentations on wildflowers, home composting, beekeeping, raising backyard chickens, and preserving garden produce. ESLT's AmeriCorps member taught environmental education to over 230 students through restoration projects, field trips, workshops and youth programs on easement lands. Students from elementary school through high school enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the natural world through planting herbs and flowers, identifying birds, and learning about collaborative environmental management. ESLT also participated in the Great Sierra River Cleanup on the Owens River.

### Life Upon the Land

ESLT's Life Upon the Land series shared the history of the farmers and ranchers who settled in the Eastern Sierra in the mid-1800's. This land heritage was commemorated in numerous events throughout the year. ESLT's birthday party celebrated 10 years of land preservation, and an autumn event at the Naylor Conservation Easement paid tribute to the property's history as an apple orchard, with tastings and demonstrations. ESLT celebrated local ranching culture with an evening of Western music and cowboy poetry at the Mammoth Extravaganza. Family Day at Crowley Hilltop Preserve celebrated the 33-acre preserve's ecosystem through hiking, tracking, foraging for wild edibles, pinyon pine needle tea, and arts and crafts with pine cones and feathers.

### Art for Conservation

ESLT partnered with over 60 artists to host the 3rd annual Art for Conservation Show & Sale in Mammoth Lakes. Artwork included scenes from working farms and ranches, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation and the many human and natural landscapes of the Eastern Sierra. As in previous years, fifty percent of all art sales went to support ESLT's land conservation work.

# Stewardship

ESLT conducted annual monitoring of its conservation easements to note changes to the land and compliance with easement requirements. ESLT also commenced fieldwork to enhance habitat for a native fish species that once inhabited the ponds at Benton Hot Springs Ranch, an ESLT easement. Begun in 2010 in partnership with landowner Bill Bramlette, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish & Game, this restoration project aims to re-establish a population of speckled dace in the property's ponds. Field data was collected in March, and an intrepid four-person crew later worked to manually remove hard-stem bulrush, an invasive aquatic plant. By replacing the bulrush with native three-square rush, removing the non-native and predatory Sacramento perch, and reintroducing the native speckled dace, the project aims to improve habitat for a variety of native wildlife.

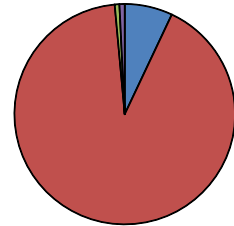
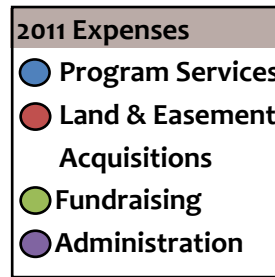
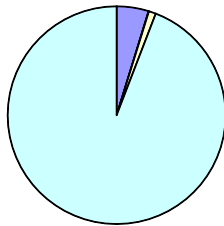
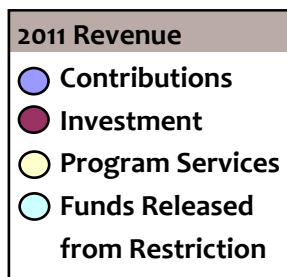


# Financial Summary

Unrestricted Revenue	2010	2011
Contributions (individual, corporate, and foundation)	\$158,734	\$186,192
Investment Interest and Gains (loss)	\$3,608	\$2,371
Program Services/Events	\$40,410	\$41,457
Funds released from restriction (including land and easement acquisition grants)	\$217,066	\$3,702,829
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>\$419,818</b>	<b>\$3,932,849</b>

Expenses	2010	2011
Program Services (land conservation and education)	\$277,110	\$271,191
Land & Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$3,537,912
Fundraising	\$42,614	\$26,512
Administration	\$29,324	\$29,722
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>\$349,048</b>	<b>\$3,865,337</b>

Independent Accountants: Gilbert Associates, Inc., David Ljung, Shareholder



## Special Thanks to our Conservation Partners



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program



## Our Members January to December 2011

Eastern Sierra Land Trust's success in preserving vital lands in the Eastern Sierra is made possible due to the inspiration of our founders, the dedication of our board, staff, and volunteers, and the generous support of individuals, businesses and foundations. We gratefully acknowledge our supporters who have made gifts in 2011.

### Corporate & Foundation Sponsors

#### \$5,000 and over:

The California Deer Association  
Edison International  
The John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation  
The Jiji Foundation  
The Little-Kittinger Foundation, Inc.  
Roger I. and Ruth B. MacFarlane Foundation  
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area  
Pelago Corporation  
The Old House at Benton Hot Springs

### Stewardship Circle

#### \$2,500 and over:

Sharon and Malcolm Clark  
Douglas and Martha Duncan  
Richard A. and Maria O. Grant, Jr.  
Rusty and Bonnie Gregory  
Rick Kattelmann and Sally Gaines  
Peter and Patricia Morris  
Paul and Katharine Page  
Genny Smith  
Margaret Songster  
The Swimmer Family Foundation  
Tony and Sherryl Taylor  
Sid and Betsey Tyler

#### \$1,000 - \$2,499:

Luca and Alisa Adriani  
William H. and Susan M. Baribault  
Bill and Diane Bramlette  
Caldera Investments  
Charles H. Comfort, III  
Regina Fink  
Barbara and Albert Garlinghouse  
Barbara Hodgkin and Howard Weaver  
Stephen Ingram and Karen Ferrell-Ingram  
Scott and Mary Kemp  
Nancy Light and Chris Fichtel  
Lorraine E. Masten and Mike Loughman  
Edmund and Jan Ostendorf, III  
Orrin and Cindy Sage  
Derek Taylor  
Kathryn and Dan Watson  
Speed Weed  
C. Dana White

#### \$250 - \$999:

Jo Bacon  
Joseph and Marjorie Bailey  
Nona T. and R. Steve Barker  
Dennis Barton  
Herb and Phyllis Benham

**Tracey Bowers-Stidham**

**and Lawrence Stidham**

**Blake and Andrea Brown**

**Nancy and James Burke, Jr.**

**Karin Carrington and Rita Lustgarten**

**Brian A. Clamp**

**Cynthia Clamp and Maryann Zylstra**

**Marian T. Cropp**

**John Evarts and Marjorie Popper**

**Lynne M. Foster**

**Ken and Dorothy Gardner**

**Robert and Karen Gardner**

**Roger and Diane Getts**

**Neal Gottlieb**

**Rosanne and Thomas Higley**

**Gerald and Karen Hoefner**

**Heidi Hopkins**

**Jane and Jack Ingram**

**Henning and Grethe Jensen**

**Chuck and Margarita Lande**

**Hollis Lenderking**

**Ethan and Joanne Lipsig**

**Scott and Lisa McKenzie**

**John and Sandra Mitchel**

**Karen Moore**

**Sam Mudie and Patty Glaser**

**Leontine B. Nappe**

**Paul and Antje Newhagen**

**Ruth Norris and John Shores**

**John and Margaret Overland**

**Marie Patrick and Michael Lofthus**

**Gena Pennington**

**Richard Perloff**

**and Margaret Mudy-Perloff**

**Wayne Pfeiffer**

**Michael and Lenore Roberts**

**Donald and Joanne Sage**

**Fred and Wendy Salter**

**Samuels Foundation, Inc.**

**Jean Schuyler**

**James and Elaine Smith**

**Sorensen's Resort**

**Maggie and Arch Stokes**

**Hank and Susan Stoutz**

**Avon Swofford**

**Michael Weber**

**and Frances Spivy-Weber**

## **\$100 - \$249:**

**Dr. Michael Adams**

**and Jeanne Falk Adams**

**Hilda Adler**

**Leslie and Rick Anderson**

**Mark Baker**

**Craig Behrens and Patricia Price**

**Alton and Barbara Bertschinger**

**Tom and Sheri Bohigian**

**Michael and Judy Bornfeld**

**Martha Breed**

**Michelle D. Brodie**

**Erik Bruce**

**Joan M. Carroll**

**Philip and Margaret Cavanaugh**

**Leslie Chapman**

**Cheryl Chipman and Garry Oye**

**Stephen and Sharon Commins**

**Contoocook Valley**

**Board of Realtors**

**Jack and Kathy Copeland**

**Country Gardens/City Spaces**

**William C. Cox and Barara Cameron**

**Dan and Leslie Dawson**

**Peter De Laura**

**William and Bernadette DeYoung**

**Duaine and Barbara Duff**

**Jerald and Trish Dunlap**

**East Fork Partners, LLC**

**Jack Ferrell**

**Morris and Mary Fiorina**

**John and Patsy Fiske**

**Liz Fleming**

**Julie Fontaine**

**David Grah**

**Paul A. Grishaber**

**Gerhard Hahne**

**Robert and Nadine Hall**

**Steve Harris**

**Scott and Claudia Hein**

**Rob Hendrickson and Carola Ingram**

**Grover and Caroline Heyler**

**Jan Z. Hintermeister**

**Tom and Julie Anne Hopkins**

**Janet and Stan Hunewill**

**Carol and John Ingram**

**Gregory James**

**William H. Johnston**

**William and Aggie Keese**

**James and Nancy Kenzik**

**Jud and Jeanne King**

**Alvin and Susan Lapp**

**Donald E. Lewis**

**Georgia Lowe**

**Kathleen Lucich and Walt Matell**

**Peter Mann**

**Barbi and Bert Marcum**

**Lawrence Marquart**

**James and Roxane Mattinson**

**Robert and Charlene Mattos**

**Skyli McAfee and Steven Morgan**

**Shawn McAlister**

**Neil and Ase McCarroll**

**Anthony McEwan**

**John and Mary McGurke**

**Roberta McIntosh**

**Ernest and Lyn Messner**

**John and Marcia Moore**

**George and Frances Murakami**

**Hannah Murray and Nelson Sanchez**

**Kathy Ogren and Robert Shepherd**

**Maidie Oliveau**

**Robert and Jane Parker**

**Rock Creek Lakes Resort**

**Doug Ross and Teresa Gooch Ross**

**Timothy B. Sanford**

**Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen**

**Warren Schacter**

**Lisa and Ted Schade**

**Mollie J. Scott**

**Sarah C. Sheehan**

**Roland Smith**

**Gerould H. Smith, Jr.**

**Robert and Tomika Sollen**

**John and Susan Stavlo**

**Bill and Sherry Taylor**

**Daniel M. Tellep**

**Henry and Elizabeth Thumann**

**Charles and Jean Tucker**

**Barbara Wagner**

**Noreen and Mark Wilbur**

**James and Kay Wilson**

**Ann Wong and Jerry Wise**

**Chip Wood**

**and Lee Ann Buchanan Wood**

**Kai Zinn**

*We apologize for any inadvertant omissions or errors on this list.  
Members are listed alphabetically by last name in each category.*

P.O. Box 755 • 176 Home Street • Bishop, California 93515  
Phone (760) 873-4554 • Fax (760) 873-9277 • [www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org)

