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**Celebrate Conservation**

*Eastern Sierra Land Trust to Host Their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lands & Legacy Weekend*

Rich in natural beauty and a strong agricultural tradition, the Eastern Sierra is steeped in the legacy of the Old West. Wildlife habitat is abundant and diverse, supporting fisheries, migrating deer herds, and important bird flyways. Historic working farms and ranches are vital to the region’s rural character and local economy.

Yet each year the Eastern Sierra faces increasing pressure to subdivide and develop in ways that threaten these very values that make the region so unique.

That’s where Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) comes in. Through conservation partnerships with concerned landowners, ESLT works to safeguard the Eastern Sierra’s treasured lands for humans and wildlife alike – for today, and for generations to come.

Eastern Sierra Land Trust turns 15 this year, and ESLT members and friends have much to celebrate. Thanks to growing community support, nearly 10,500 acres of critical wildlife habitat, scenic marvels, and agricultural resources have been conserved on 21 unique properties in the Eastern Sierra. And there’s so much more in store for the years ahead.

Join Eastern Sierra Land Trust this summer as they celebrate the Eastern Sierra’s *Lands & Legacy!* In recognition of their 15 years of conservation success, Eastern Sierra Land Trust invites the community to join in the festivities at their 8<sup>th</sup> annual *Lands & Legacy* celebration weekend and fundraiser, taking place July 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>.

ESLT’s *Lands & Legacy* is an opportunity for supporters to gather together and raise a glass to honor the work they make possible to protect the Eastern Sierra’s treasured lands. Bringing together friends from across the state and beyond, it gives conservation advocates everywhere an occasion to dream big.

Hosted by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, ESLT’s 8<sup>th</sup> annual Benefit Dinner will be held on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> in view of the High Sierra at Mammoth Mountain's Parallax Restaurant. The evening will include a delicious coursed dinner, plenty of time to mingle with friends, and a Paddle Raise - which allows guests to contribute directly to the conservation projects that they care about most.

Dinner attendees are also invited to join Eastern Sierra Land Trust that same weekend for one of two tours on the lands that their support helps protect. On the afternoon of Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>, ESLT will lead guests on a tour of an ongoing conservation project in scenic Bridgeport Valley; and the morning of Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, they will explore ESLT’s remote and beautiful Black Lake Preserve – home to a diverse array of rare birds and other wildlife.

Tickets for *Lands & Legacy* are now available for a minimum donation of \$125 per person (with a 10% discount offered to ESLT members), and the majority of each ticket purchase is tax-deductible. Space is limited, and will sell out quickly; anyone interested in attending is encouraged to visit [www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org) or call (760) 873-4554 to reserve their place today.

For area businesses interested in supporting conservation, sponsorship opportunities with a variety of benefits are also available; to learn more, email Kay Ogden, ESLT Executive Director, at [kay@eslt.org](mailto:kay@eslt.org).

*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](http://www.eslt.org).*

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



*Caption: The Lands & Legacy Celebration is Eastern Sierra Land Trust's annual "Party of the Year": an occasion for conservation supporters to come together and toast the important work they make possible.*



*Caption: During the Lands & Legacy Celebration Weekend, attendees will have the chance to join ESLT on one of two exclusive tours and explore the spectacular Eastside lands that their support helps protect.*