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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 3, 2016

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**Eastern Sierra Land Trust Awarded \$1 Million Endowment by the Tambour Foundation**

Now entering its 15<sup>th</sup> year of land conservation, local non-profit Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) recently announced that it has received the largest gift in the organization’s history – one that will have a major effect on its capacity, and as a result, the future of protected lands in the Eastern Sierra.

The Tambour Foundation, a small, private charitable foundation focused on educational, environmental and other advancement opportunities around the world, has granted \$1 million to Eastern Sierra Land Trust to seed a new endowment fund. By bolstering ESLT’s long-term financial security, this new Tambour Endowment will have a transformative effect on the organization by ensuring that it can continue its work protecting the Eastern Sierra’s wildlife, habitats, landscapes, and rural heritage forever.

The gift was motivated by longtime ESLT members and advisors Roger and Ruth MacFarlane, who have been ardent supporters of ESLT’s conservation efforts for many years. The MacFarlanes approached the Tambour Foundation on ESLT’s behalf. “ESLT has done extraordinary work in protecting and preserving treasured agricultural land in the Eastern Sierra,” Ruth MacFarlane shared. “We are delighted to help ensure their long-term growth and stability, and we wish them continuing success.”

Eastern Sierra Land Trust works with willing landowners to conserve their land’s scenic, agricultural, natural, recreational, historical, and watershed values, and the voluntary legal agreements they design together are binding in perpetuity. Of course, planning for perpetuity poses significant challenges – particularly for small, grassroots non-profits such as ESLT who operate on a tight budget. The Tambour Endowment Fund helps ensure that ESLT will always be around to maintain the critical resources of the working and wild lands they’ve helped to protect.

ESLT Executive Director Kay Ogden calls the gift, “a sea change.” From her perspective, “the Tambour Endowment will have a massive, long-term impact on our organization – and this entire region – by allowing us to plan for the challenges and opportunities that the future will hold.”

As the new destination for bequests and long-term gifts made by supporters, ESLT plans to grow this endowment fund over time, utilizing the annual interest stream to support operational needs. This will permit ESLT to introduce cutting-edge program enhancements, purchase specialized equipment, and upgrade technology to help better engage Eastern Sierra residents and visitors in the Land Trust’s mission.

Eastern Sierra Land Trust will always rely heavily on the support of the community to continue the work the Land Trust began 15 years ago. “Without our members, past successes would never have come to fruition – and future successes will never be possible,” explained Ms. Ogden. Member donations continue to be the lifeblood of the organization, enabling ESLT to pursue new land conservation opportunities, continue restoration and stewardship projects, and advance their work to educate local schoolchildren about birds, bees, and the natural world. They help make it possible, “to provide everyone with the opportunity to connect with our magical Eastern Sierra lands, and experience the joy of protecting them forever.”

Since 2001, Eastern Sierra Land Trust has partnered with concerned landowners to help permanently safeguard their land against the threat of future development. ESLT is committed to encouraging a healthy balance of land uses that preserves the region’s rural identity, sustains a strong local economy, and protects vital natural areas for generations to come.

“I cannot express enough how incredibly grateful we are for the support provided by the Tambour Foundation and Ruth and Roger MacFarlane,” Ms. Ogden continued. “We’re celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year – and now, thanks to their generosity, we can plan on many more such celebrations. We are excited to take on new challenges, and can’t wait to see what the future will bring.”

*The Tambour Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals, and applications are permitted by invitation only. For more information about Eastern Sierra Land Trust’s conservation efforts and how you can get involved, please visit [www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org).*

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Sample low-resolution picture with caption below; high-resolution version is attached to email. For additional images, please contact Marguerite Merritt at [marguerite@eslt.org](mailto:marguerite@eslt.org).



*The new Tambour Endowment Fund will enhance Eastern Sierra Land Trust’s capacity to protect the region’s scenic open spaces, wildlife habitat, and generations-old family farms and ranches.*