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Nevada County Land Trust Earns National Recognition

Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

August 10, 2009 (GRASS VALLEY, CA) – The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, announced today that Nevada County Land Trust has been awarded accredited status.

“Accredited land trusts meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever,” said Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. “The accreditation seal lets the public know that the accredited land trust has undergone an extensive, external review of the governance and management of its organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect land.”

“Nevada County Land Trust’s accredited status demonstrates our commitment to permanent land conservation,” says Joe Byrne, president of the Nevada County Land Trust Board of Directors. “Our land trust is a stronger organization today having gone through the rigorous accreditation program.”

Nevada County Land Trust was founded in 1991 and works in Western Nevada County. The land trust has worked with 20 conservation-minded landowners to protect 5,000 acres of open space, working farms and forests in the region. Nevada County Land Trust has also built more than 10 miles of public community trails for all to enjoy the scenic beauty of this special place.

Land is America’s most important and valuable resource. Conserving land helps ensure clean air and drinking water, food security, scenic landscapes and views, recreational places, and habitat for the diversity of life on earth. Across the country, local citizens and communities have come together to form nearly 1,700 land trusts to save the places they love. Community leaders in land trusts throughout the country have worked with willing landowners to save over 37 million acres of farms, forests, parks and places people care about. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.

Nevada County Land Trust was awarded accreditation this month along with 18 other land trusts. These land trusts join 59 other land trusts from across the country that have been awarded accreditation since the program began in the fall of 2008. Accredited land trusts are able to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance established in 2006, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. The Alliance, of which Nevada county Land Trust is a member, is a national conservation group based in Washington, D.C. that works to save the places people love by strengthening conservation throughout America. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission's website, www.landtrustaccreditation.org. More information on the Alliance is available at www.landtrustalliance.org.

"We are proud to display the accreditation seal which distinguishes us as having met the rigorous standards and practices set out by the Land Trust Alliance and provides assurance to our members and our community that our conservation efforts are permanent," continued Byrne. "During the year-long accreditation process nearly every aspect of our organization was assessed for compliance. The process was daunting but we learned a great deal about the important public benefit of the work that we do."

Nevada County Land Trust is a 501c3, for the public benefit organization. Nevada County Land Trust exists to create a balance between nature and the needs of the people who make a life and a livelihood here. Our mission is to enrich the deep community connection with our land - today, tomorrow and forever. For more information, see our website, <http://www.nevadacountylandtrust.org> or contact Marty Coleman-Hunt, Executive Director at marty@nevadacountylandtrust.org or 530-272-5994.