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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dedication of Wildflower Ridge Trails: A Wild Landscape Close to Town

Grass Valley, CA – June 6, 2009 – Residents in the area west of Grass Valley along Rough and Ready Highway will soon have additional neighborhood trails thanks to the donation to the Nevada County Land Trust of over two miles of public trail easement by Deer Creek Partners, a partnership managed by Grass Valley's Gold Country Lenders. Dedication of the new trail was conducted at a local celebration event on National Trails Day, on Saturday June 6, 2009.

The trail easements will enable the Land Trust to extend existing trails along Rough and Ready Highway and Ridge Road as well as extension of the trail along the abandoned section of the Lower Rough and Ready Ditch. The trail easements also insure that the existing paths and trails covered by the easement will remain open to the public.

Against a rugged backdrop overlooking Deer Creek canyon, The Wildflower Ridge property includes 360 acres of oak woodlands, conifer forests, and hidden meadows. Wildflower Ridge, known locally also as Kenny Ranch, is a biologically rich and regionally significant area. One of the trails will take hikers along the 40-acre stretch of lava cap wildflower meadows, locally known as "Hell's Half Acre."

Wildflower Ridge is a planned development including 100 homes and nearly two thirds of the property - approximately 215 acres - to be left in permanent open space with more than 7 miles of trails.

"The meadows, forests and trails at Wildflower Ridge are a tremendous asset to our community," said Phil Lester, Chief Executive Officer of Gold Country Lenders. "They highlight our commitment to protecting our rural quality of life."

Existing trails along Rough and Ready Highway and the Rough and Ready Ditch are included in the easement which also provides connectivity with the existing public trail through the Twin Cities Church property. From the church east, the trail will be improved and extended to near A to Z Supply on Ridge Road. To the north and down slope, within the Deer Creek watershed, the Rough and Ready Ditch provides a peaceful setting among towering pines. The ditch, which originated in Nevada City, has been abandoned between Nevada City and the project area. The trail easement covers the segment on Kenny Ranch property and the Nevada County Land Trust plans to extend the trail to Public Land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with work beginning this fall. In the future, if easements from private property owners, and permits from BLM can be secured, the trail may be extended along the ditch to Slate Creek Road and beyond.

Work on the trails has already begun, with volunteers clearing a ¼ mile segment of the abandoned ditch in preparation for National Trails Day. Additional trail construction will resume this fall, after sufficient rain has

fallen. This is important so that soils are damp and can be graded and compacted properly, fire danger has passed, and it is cooler and more comfortable for the volunteers doing the work. Persons interested in assisting with the trail construction should contact the Nevada County Land Trust.

“We are very grateful to Deer Creek Partners for making this trail easement donation,” said Marty Coleman-Hunt, executive director of Nevada County Land Trust. “Trail easements are a direct investment by the donor in a local community amenity. Trails like the new one at Wildflower Ridge enhance the quality of life for all of us.”

The Land Trust has built and maintains over 10 miles of trails throughout our community. Trails are designed, built and maintained through volunteer work parties among Land Trust members, the “Adopt A Trail” program and other organizations such as Bicyclists of Nevada County, Save Our Historic Canals, the Boy Scouts, homeowners associations and local businesses. Land Trust trails are open to all residents of our community to use for exercise and enjoyment of nature. When people walk on a trail they meet their neighbors and take pride in the beautiful place in which we live.

Wildflower Ridge is a 100 home planned unit development that aspires to be the pre-eminent conservation community in the Sierra. The homes will be integrated into the beautiful environs with a significant interest in sustainability, reduced carbon footprint, solar orientation and, in general, a truly conscious effort to consider the environment in everything that we do in the best way available at that moment in time.
no quote is necessary, thanks

The Nevada County Land Trust is a 501c3, for the public benefit organization. The 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 visit our website, NevadaCountyLandTrust.org or contact Marty Coleman-Hunt, executive director at marty@nevadacountylandtrust.org or 530-272-5994.

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