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Northcoast Regional Land Trust Earns National Recognition
Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

(Arcata, California) – After an extensive evaluation, the Northcoast Regional Land Trust has been awarded accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. NRLT is one of 230 land trusts from across the country that has been awarded accreditation since the fall of 2008.

“We are proud that we have been able to earn the distinction of the accreditation seal; it is a testament to the quality of the organization and the work that we do,” stated Rees Hughes, board member of the Northcoast Regional Land Trust. “Any time that you are dealing with things in perpetuity the organization has to be strong. This is an affirmation of what we have been able to put into place for the duration.”

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is dedicated to the protection and economic viability of working landscapes, farms, forests and grazing lands, and to the preservation and protection of land for its natural, educational, scenic and historic values. NRLT works with landowners on a voluntary basis to promote stewardship of Northern California’s healthy and productive resource base, natural systems and quality of life. Founded in 2000, NRLT has worked with diverse partners to conserve over 25,000 acres of working ranchlands and open space and manages three fee properties for compatible agricultural and ecological purposes.

“Accredited land trusts account for 52% of the 20,645,165 acres currently owned in fee or protected by a conservation easement held by a land trust,” said Land Trust Accreditation Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. “Accreditation provides the public with an assurance that accredited land trusts meet high standards for quality and that the results of their conservation work are permanent.”

The accreditation seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation. NRLT is now able to display a seal of accreditation indicating to the public that it meets national standards for excellence, upholds the public trust and ensures that conservation efforts are permanent.

“Land trusts are gaining higher profiles with their work on behalf of citizens and the seal of accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission is a way to prove to their communities that land trusts are worthy of the significant public and private investment in land conservation,” noted Land Trust Alliance President Rand Wentworth.

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 land trusts to save the places they love. Community leaders in land trusts throughout the country have worked with willing landowners to save over 47 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.

“This has been a monumental effort by NRLT” commented Executive Director Lindsay Green. “Our land trust is a stronger organization today having gone through the rigorous accreditation program which will serve NRLT and our broader community for many years to come.”

About The Land Trust Accreditation Commission
The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. More information is available on the Commission’s website, www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

About The Land Trust Alliance
The Land Trust Alliance is a national conservation group that works to save the places people love by strengthening conservation throughout America. It works to increase the pace and quality of conservation by advocating favorable tax policies, training land trusts in best practices and working to ensure the permanence of conservation in the face of continuing threats. The Alliance publishes *Land Trust Standards and Practices* and provides financial and administrative support to the Commission. It has established an endowment to help ensure the success of the accreditation program and keep it affordable for land trusts of all sizes to participate in accreditation. More information can be found at www.landtrustalliance.org.