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WORKSHOP

COUNCIL OF LAND TRUSTS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS INCENTIVES, TOOLS OF LAND CONSERVATION

By LAURA PROVOIN, THE EUREKA REPORTER

The North Coast Regional Land Trust will host the northern regional conference for the California Council of Land Trusts, Friday at the Fortuna River Lodge.

Jim Petruzzi, NCRLT executive director, said the workshop will be free of charge to the public, and suggested attorneys, financial planners, appraisers and landowners consider attending the event. He said the two speakers, conservation and tax attorney Ellen Fred and certified rural appraiser Chris Bell, will present the workshop about the tools and incentives of land conservation.

the mission is, but to help people get an understanding of the basics of how a land trust works."

He said many who work in real estate or have direct contact with landowners and potential buyers should understand the process involved and be aware of the opportunities for clients who want to see their land protected. He said the conference will be technical enough to be inter-

"As a land trust organization, our purpose is to conserve large landscapes for future generations to enjoy," Petruzzi said. "We tend to look at large working land, agricultural land like ranches, farmland and timber, to work with landowners voluntarily to preserve it."

Petruzzi said individuals from Mendocino, Del Norte, Siskiyou and Lake counties will attend, and said he is expecting 80 to 100 people.

He said landowners considering entering into a land trust or simply interested in learning more about the opportunities are welcome, but he would appreciate those intending to come to phone the NCRLT at 707-822-2242 beforehand, as refreshments will be provided.

NCRLT Project Manager Erik Wilson said many individuals from real estate industries will be attending to gain knowledge of the topic of land trust easements.

"When doing conservation, we are doing it as a community and there are a number of different people and interests involved," Wilson said. "This will do more than just give an introduction to what land trusts are capable of and what

esting and educational to the people in the professions that deal with land trusts.

Wilson said Fred will speak about recent changes in federal tax laws that increase the incentives for entering land trusts and litigation concerning conservation easements.

"Ellen Fred is a pretty incredible person," Wilson said. "She works for a San Francisco law firm, Coblenz, Patch Duffy & Bass, and she does a lot of conservation work. She serves clients on all aspects of conservation law, about customizing conservation easements. She is also very attuned to these new federal tax implications of conservation easements. She is certainly an expert in this. She has been doing it for many years."

Wilson said the workshop is sponsored by a number of local businesses, such as Coldwell Banker Cutten Realty, Emerald City Laundry Co. and Redwood Capital Bank.