

NORTH COAST LIFE

Northcoast Regional Land Trust earns national recognition

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ARCATA — 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,” said Reed Hughes, board member of the 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 percent 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,” said Land Trust Alliance President Rand Wentworth.

According to the Trust, 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, 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,” said 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.” For more information, visit <http://www.ncrlt.org>.