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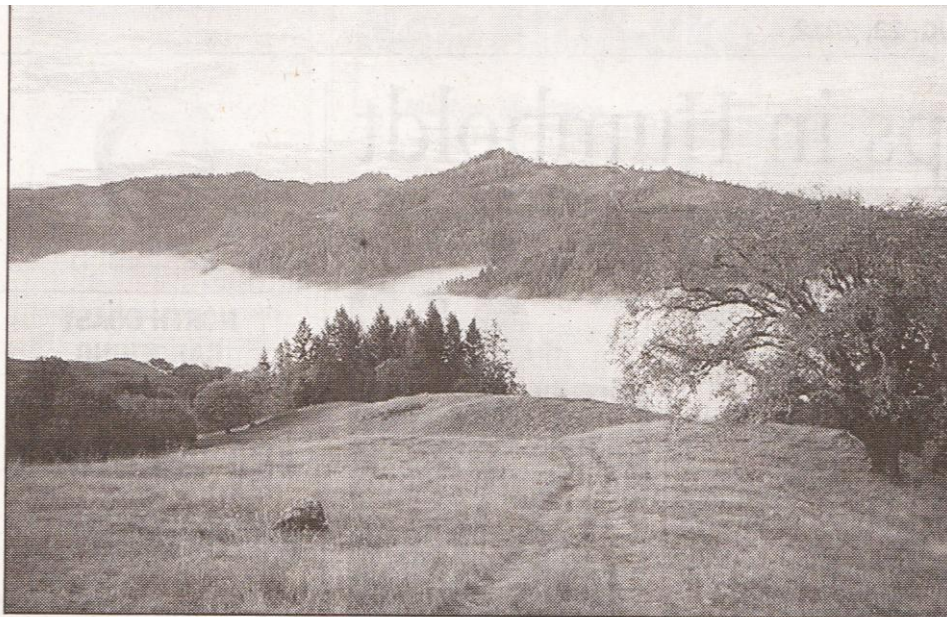
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HOME & GARDEN



SUBMITTED

Above is Grizzly Mountain Ranch, a private parcel of land managed by the Northcoast Regional Land Trust in cooperation with owner Ross Burgess. NRTL has a donated conservation easement on 1,131 acres of the property to maintain it as a contiguous parcel in perpetuity. The trust is currently applying for accreditation and has requested public comments. For more information and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org/component/content/article/289.

Northcoast Regional Land Trust pursuing national accreditation

The Times-Standard

It has been over 120 years since the first land trust was established in the United States, but the last two decades have seen these trusts proliferate widely, and they now form one of the fastest growing and most successful conservation movements in American history.

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust, based in Arcata, is a nonprofit organization 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. The trust 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.

According to the 2010 Land Trust Alliance census, there are over 1,700 land trusts nationally, with nearly 200 in California alone.

With the increase of land trusts, efforts are being made to establish standards of good practice. Accreditation provides special recognition of land trusts that are engaged in the long-term protection of land in the public interest.

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is applying for accreditation, which would make the organization the first land trust on the North Coast to earn this distinction. The trust, now more than 12 years old, has been

involved in land conservation and conservation planning in Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte counties, protecting over 25,000 acres of wild and working landscapes.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs.

"When your work involves protecting natural spaces and working lands forever, it is critical that your organization also be capable of lasting forever," said board member Rees Hughes. "The accreditation process is one way of helping to ensure that NRTL is strong organizationally and solid financially."

The commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments regarding candidates for accreditation. Comments must relate to how the land trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards, see www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org/component/content/article/289.

Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn.: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3138; (mail) 112 Spring St., Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's application will be most useful if received by Oct. 28.