



News Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact
Jeanne Beaudry
Jeanne@savetheland.org; 303-679-0950
The Mountain Area Land Trust

Colorado's Mountain Area Land Trust Earns National Accreditation *20-Year-Old Organization Among Just 10% of Land Trusts Nationwide to Achieve This Distinction*

EVERGREEN, COLORADO — The Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT) -- which conserves lands and waters in Jefferson, Clear Creek and Park Counties – announced today that it has achieved land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

By earning this coveted accreditation, MALT joins just 180 of the nation's 1,723 land trusts to be awarded this important seal of approval since 2006, when the Land Trust Accreditation Commission was established as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

Accredited land trusts are able to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet tough national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. Accreditation is a mark of distinction in land conservation.



“Earning accreditation is an important milestone for MALT,” said Jeanne Beaudry, MALT’s Executive Director. “The accreditation seal of approval tells our partners, our donors, our landowners and the public that our organization is well-run, financially-sound, trustworthy and able to ensure our conservation achievements will endure for future generations.”

Headquartered in Evergreen, MALT works to conserve scenic vistas, natural areas, wildlife habitats, working ranches and historic lands from the foothills of Denver to the high elevation grasslands of South Park. This year, the organization is celebrating its 20th anniversary, as well as the conservation of its 20,000th acre of land.

“Accredited land trusts meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever,” said Land Trust Accreditation Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. “The accreditation seal

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lets the public know that the accredited land trust has undergone an extensive, external review of the governance and management of its organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect land.”

Conserving key lands and waters helps maintain the quality of life that makes Colorado and our local communities such great places to live, work and play. Since 1992, MALT has helped protect many iconic parcels of land, including Noble Meadow, which adjoins the Elk Meadow Open Space, the Beaver Brook Watershed, which is now part of the Arapahoe National Forest near Evergreen, and numerous scenic parcels in South Park from Kenosha Pass to Fairplay.

“Earning the right to display the accreditation seal of approval is a great honor,” said Beaudry. “It speaks volumes about the quality of our team, our board and our commitment to conservation. For 20 years, MALT has played an important role conserving land around many of our mountain communities. Accreditation lets those communities and all our other supporters know that we’ll be here for another 20 years, and beyond.”

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About the Land Trust Accreditation Commission:

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission, established in 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission’s website, www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

About The Land Trust Alliance:

The Land Trust Alliance, of which MALT is a member, 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. 2012 marks the 30th anniversary of the Alliance. More information can be found at www.landtrustalliance.org.

Headquartered in Evergreen, Colorado, the Mountain Area Land Trust works to conserve scenic vistas, natural areas, wildlife habitats, working ranches and historic lands from the foothills of Denver to the high elevation grasslands of South Park. This year, the organization is celebrating its 20th anniversary, as well as the conservation of its 20,000th acre of land. Visit MALT on the Web at www.savetheland.org.