



## National Accreditation for ESLT

In the very early days ESLT adopted as its “operating system” the standards and practices developed by the Land Trust Alliance. This meant that we had a road map to follow as we set up all our systems for nonprofit management, land conservation, and preserved lands stewardship. Last year we took the next step of having all of ESLT’s systems and projects reviewed by an expert outside organization, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. I’m very happy to report that this review has resulted in national accreditation for Eastern Sierra Land Trust!

This should be reassuring news for all our members, supporters, and landowners because it is further confirmation that ESLT preserves land effectively and permanently, utilizes member contributions efficiently, and has earned the trust of the public. ESLT is committed to maintaining this standard of excellence and will prove that commitment in five years when we renew our membership in the elite club of accredited land trusts.

■ Karen Ferrell-Ingram,  
ESLT Executive Director



ESLT Executive Director Karen Ferrell-Ingram (second from right) with other grant recipients, SNC board members and staff at the March 3 Governing Board meeting.

## Your Vote Helps Preserve Land Prop 84 Grant Funding awarded to Eastern Sierra Land Trust

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has awarded more than \$790,000 to ESLT to preserve vital lands in the Eastern Sierra. At the Governing Board meeting on March 3, SNC awarded twenty-nine Proposition 84 grants for a total of \$10 million.

Karen Ferrell-Ingram, Executive Director of ESLT, said, “The support of SNC allows ESLT to assist landowners in keeping more than 1,000 acres productive and whole forever.” The funding awarded by SNC will be used as matching funding for two projects in Mono County that will preserve scenic views, creeks and wetlands, and agricultural lands in perpetuity.

Financing for the implementation of the SNC’s programs comes from Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act. Approved by California voters like you in 2006, SNC was allocated a total of \$54 million of Proposition 84 funds for grant distribution. SNC is a California state agency created by bi-partisan legislation and signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2004. It was created with the understanding that the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada and its communities are closely linked and that the Region and the State of California would benefit from an organization providing a strategic direction.

*Preserving agricultural lands, like this organic alfalfa farm in Hammil Valley, is important to maintaining the water quality of the watersheds of the Eastern Sierra.*



## ON THE WILD SIDE

### Swainson's Hawk

Next time you drive Route 6 to Hammil Valley, look for the Swainson's hawk, a graceful and streamlined raptor. As you drive by Montgomery Creek Ranch, an organic alfalfa farm that was preserved in partnership with ESLT in 2005, you might spot this dark colored buteo wheeling overhead and scanning the alfalfa fields for prey. You will be lucky to see one, as this bird is listed as threatened in the state of California.

Historically, *Buteo swainsoni* was common and widespread in California.

After undergoing a drastic decline in the past century, the hawk is listed as threatened by CA Department of Fish and Game. As agricultural lands are lost to residential and commercial development, habitat for this hawk becomes more scarce.

As you scan the sky for this raptor, look for a dark bird a little larger than a red-tailed hawk with a long banded tail and pointed wings. Seen from below, this hawk can be spotted by characteristic light inner feathers and body, although it has variable coloration.

Swainson's Hawks arrive in California after a migration of up to 6,000 miles from their wintering grounds in South America. They scout out large open grasslands with groups of trees for nesting. They find the best forage on native grasslands, lightly grazed pastures, and hay and alfalfa fields, such as can be found in Hammil Valley.

■ *By Hillary Behr, ESLT AmeriCorps member*



*ESLT is currently working to preserve additional acres of agricultural land in the Hammil Valley, where the Swainson's Hawk will have a refuge in the Eastern Sierra with plenty of open fields, trees for nesting, and a great view. Photo by Nancy Overholtz.*

### ESLT Greetings and Farewells

We'd like to welcome our 2011 Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership member, **Hillary Behr**. Since graduating with a degree in Environmental Conservation Studies from the University of New Hampshire, Hillary has enjoyed helping people of all ages connect with the natural world through environmental education both in New Hampshire and California. Hillary loves exploring new places, growing food, skiing, camping, and teaching kids. Say hello to Hillary at your next ESLT event!

We announce with regret the departure of **Mary McGurke**, **Outreach and Development Director**, who worked at ESLT for over two years. Mary has accepted a middle school teaching position in order to pursue her dream of being a teacher. "I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the amazing staff, board, volunteers, and community at ESLT. It was such a rewarding experience to help raise awareness and resources to preserve vital lands in the Eastern Sierra," said Mary. "I look forward to staying involved as a member and a volunteer. Thank you!"

We would like to thank **Sid Tyler** for taking on the job of treasurer for ESLT. Since joining the Board of Directors in 2009, Sid has given generously of his time and expertise in helping ESLT preserve land in perpetuity. Many thanks to **Rosanne Higley** for her time as treasurer. We are glad she is continuing on with the Fund Development Committee and with event organization. Thank you both!

*Eastern Sierra Land Trust works with willing landowners to preserve vital lands in the Eastern Sierra region for their scenic, agricultural, natural, recreational, historical, and watershed values.*

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## The Path to Perpetuity

Did you know that your will can be a simple and lasting way for you to support the work of ESLT for years to come? ESLT is committed to maintaining its preserved lands forever in perpetuity and your bequest could help ensure that future generations will enjoy these lands. A bequest is one of the most forward-looking gifts you can give to ESLT and your heirs. By designating a set amount or percentage of your estate to ESLT, you can guarantee that ESLT's efforts to preserve the wild and working lands of the Eastern Sierra forever will succeed. Supporting ESLT through your will is the ultimate gift to future generations. Please contact ESLT at [info@eslt.org](mailto:info@eslt.org) for more information.

## ESLT Gardenfest

Thursday, May 12, 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Come celebrate the beginning of the 2011 growing season with ESLT! As part of our Food First Program, we are hosting our second annual Gardenfest in the ESLT Garden. Along with preserving productive farmland in the Eastern Sierra, ESLT also promotes local and sustainable food systems, and the people who run them. Our goal is to build interest and support for local farms and backyard gardens. Not only do these gardens produce food for our community, they build and conserve rich soils, provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, and are a part of the scenic *(continued on pg. 4)*



*Have a burning garden question you'd like answered? Come to the ESLT Gardenfest and ask a Master Gardener!*

### Membership Milestones

Thank you to all who recently sent contributions in memory or in honor of your family, friends, and loved ones. Such gifts pay tribute to these special people by helping us keep the Eastern Sierra a beautiful place now and for future generations – a true gift in perpetuity.

**Suzanne Baker** gave in honor of her parents who introduced her to this magnificent area when she was a child. **Marian Cropp** donated in honor of her brother, Tony Taylor. **Gary and Susan Gulbransen** joined in honor of Cleo Miles. **Shawn McAlister** donated in memory of Adele Reed. **John Robinson Jr.** and **Harriet Greff Robinson** donated in memory of William Tension of Gardenville, NV and Arthur Black of Bridgeport, CA and Smith Valley, NV. Donors wishing to remain anonymous gave in honor of **Marie Patrick, Sarah Spano, Herb and Phyllis Benham** and in memory of **Jeff Straub. Luca and Alisa Adriani** of Chase International donated for 1% for the Planet.

Thank you to the following members who gave ESLT gift memberships to friends: **Jane and David Richardson** gave a gift membership to John, Rose and Martha Olver and to Robert Richardson to help save the Swall Meadows orchard for the mule deer herd. **Wendy Seignemartin** gave a gift membership to Tiffany McCall to help preserve the wild lands her and her son love so much. **Susan Jizba** gave a gift membership to Diane Marion. *(continued on pg. 4)*

## Founding Member Spotlight: Bruce Horn and Blythe Ousterman



*ESLT founding members, Bruce Horn and Blythe Ousterman, seen here enjoying McGee Creek Canyon one fall afternoon, support preserving open spaces forever in the Eastern Sierra.*

Bruce and Blythe are in the core group of ESLT's founding members, being active supporters of the mission of land conservation since 2002. The diverse open space separating the small towns full of unique character appeals to them. Bruce first became acquainted with the Eastern Sierra through Sierra Club Service Trips. He says, "I was so attracted to the area and lifestyle that I bought my first house here, in Mammoth, after finishing graduate school in 1994." Blythe's introduction came in her early 20's through week-long backpacking trips on the eastside that keep her coming back for more serene, enjoyable back-country experiences. Why do Bruce and Blythe continue their support of ESLT after nearly 10 years? "We continue to support ESLT for their real progress in acquiring easements, their clear and straightforward mission, steady execution and good communications," Bruce responds. With a base in the Mammoth Lakes area, they continue to enjoy the great Eastern Sierra open spaces with Nordic skiing, cycling and backpacking. Supportive members such as Bruce and Blythe make a difference in preserving lands in the beautiful Eastern Sierra.

*(continued from pg. 3)*

landscape of the Eastern Sierra.

Organizations that promote local gardening and food production, such as Master Gardeners, the Community Garden project, Sierra Bounty, 4-H, and local farms will be at Gardenfest. This means that you can get gardening tips, learn where to buy local farm products, and purchase starts from 4-H all in one place! Bring your extra seeds to participate in our free ESLT Seed Swap. We will have games and activities for kids, food and drinks, and music. Come get inspired and celebrate gardening in the Eastern Sierra!

*(continued from pg. 3)*

**Corporate Matching Gifts** (listed alphabetically)

**Members:** Erik Bruce, Thomas and Judith Cerny, Mitch and Sarah Hendrickson, Jan Hintermeister, Bruce Horn and Blythe Ousterman, Susan Jizba, Ernest and Lyn Messner, Tony Taylor, James Yurchenco.

**Corporations:** Adobe Systems Inc. Matching Gift Program, Boeing Company Gift Matching Program, Chevron Humankind, Fannie Mae SERVE, GE Foundation, IBM, Microsoft Matching Gifts, Motorola Foundation, Samuel Goldwyn Foundation, Steelcase Foundation.

**You're invited to a Western Roundup  
at ESLT's Mammoth Mountain Extravaganza  
Saturday, June 25, 2011**

Cowboy poetry, live music, auction, and storytelling. Invitation to follow.

**Save the Date! ESLT's 3rd Annual Art for  
Conservation Show and Sale  
Opens Saturday, June 25, 2011**



*Photo by Rick Kattelmann.*

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