



**Eastern Sierra Land Trust**

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## **California Deer Association Awards Grant to Eastern Sierra Land Trust**

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Bishop, CA— Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) announced that it has received a \$15,000 grant from the California Deer Association. The funds will support ESLT's work with willing landowners in the community of Swall Meadows in preserving important deer habitat.

The California Deer Association is a nonprofit, wildlife conservation organization whose principal goal is to improve our California deer herds and other wildlife through direct financial support for habitat improvement and research projects. Karen Ferrell-Ingram, Executive Director of Eastern Sierra Land Trust, said, "ESLT appreciates the ongoing support of the California Deer Association in this important partnership for wildlife."

The Round Valley mule deer herd migrates from their winter range to their summer range in the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada and back each spring and fall. Since the population crash that occurred in the early 1990s, the population has been slowly climbing to its current level of approximately 2,500 animals. This herd spends the winter in Round Valley before dispersing to widespread summer ranges in the mountains above, many traveling across the high mountain passes to the western slope of the Sierra. Swall Meadows is a rural community in southern Mono County that sits at the upper edge of the winter range and directly in the path of the annual migration route. In this area the migration corridor is geographically constrained to only 1.3 miles wide by the steep slopes of Wheeler Ridge and Rock Creek Gorge. Recognizing the importance of this residential area as critical wildlife habitat, the Eastern Sierra Chapter of the California Deer Association has helped ESLT partner with willing landowners to preserve over 100 acres in the migration corridor and winter range. By utilizing voluntary land protection agreements such as conservation easements, the land remains on the tax rolls, wildlife can access good habitat, and the landowners are compensated for extinguishing their development rights.

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. For more information, please call 760-873-4554 or visit [www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org).