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For Immediate Release: March 11, 2013

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Photos attached.



ESLT Receives Funding to help preserve Sinnamon Meadows

On March 7, 2013, Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) approved funding for one of Eastern Sierra Land Trust's (ESLT) current land conservation projects. Known as Sinnamon Meadows, the property is located in northern Mono County, and contains significant key wildlife habitat, watershed and scenic values. The grant funds received from SNC will provide a portion of what will be needed to complete the conservation easement acquisition on this important property.

"This project has been one of ESLT's priorities for many years. We were very happy when the private owner approached us about options for permanently preserving their land," says ESLT Executive Director Karen Ferrell-Ingram. "The property includes high elevation irrigated pasture grazed by livestock, as well as important habitat for the Bi-State population of greater sage-grouse, Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, and many other wildlife species." The property which is almost entirely surrounded by public lands includes mountain meadows, aspen groves, coniferous forest, springs, and several creeks.

"These working landscapes have a rich and important place in our region, so preserving that heritage is critical to our future," said SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham. "These lands provide not only economic benefits, but substantial natural resource benefits as well. These projects will help conserve or restore land and water resources valuable to those living downstream."

Agricultural conservation easements on working farms and ranches such as Sinnamon Meadows provide a win-win situation that allows the land to stay in private ownership, contributing to our local economy and tax base. Landowners benefit from the easement acquisition by being compensated for keeping their land in rural low intensity uses compatible with surrounding natural resources. The recent SNC grant award marks major progress towards the completion of this project. ESLT is currently pursuing match funding to complete this conservation easement.

ESLT works with willing landowners to preserve vital lands in the Eastern Sierra for their scenic, agricultural, natural, recreational, historical, and watershed values. For more information about this and other conservation easements, visit ESLT's website at www.eslt.org.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada region. The SNC, which receives no general fund tax dollars, has awarded approximately \$52 million in grants for projects including fuels reduction, conservation easements and acquisitions, and watershed and habitat restoration. Funding for these projects comes from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006.



Photo Caption 1: SNC awarded Prop 84 funds to ESLT to help preserve this northern Mono County property, which contains natural springs and important riparian habitat. Photo Credit: Stephen Ingram.



Photo Caption 2: The conservation easement would preserve stunning view of Dunderberg Peak near Virginia Lakes, as well as important habitat for the Bi-State population of greater sage-grouse and Sierra Nevada big horn sheep. Photo Credit: Aaron Johnson

