

# NEW MEXICO LAND CONSERVANCY

Conserving Land. Preserving Heritage.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **New Mexico Land Conservancy Earns National Recognition** *Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission*

Santa Fe, New Mexico – Today, the New Mexico Land Conservancy, a statewide non-profit land trust, announced that it has been awarded accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

“Pursuing and successfully achieving accreditation demonstrates our commitment to sustainable land conservation that benefits the entire state,” says Scott Wilber, Executive Director of the New Mexico Land Conservancy. “Accreditation provides the public with an assurance that a land trust meets the high standards for quality and that the results of its conservation work are permanent.”

Founded in 2002, the New Mexico Land Conservancy is dedicated to helping people conserve the lands they love. The trust works with private landowners, communities, conservation organizations, and public agencies to protect significant wildlife habitat, productive agricultural lands, scenic open space, cultural and historic resources, and recreational lands at community, watershed and landscape scales. The New Mexico Land Conservancy’s long-term goal is to protect, directly or in partnership with others, one million acres of high conservation value lands throughout the state. To date, the organization has already helped private and public landowners conserve over 145,000 acres of land throughout the state.

Of the approximately 1,700 land trusts operating in the country, less than 20% of them have been awarded accreditation since 2008. Notably, the approximately 300 land trusts that have now been accredited account for more than three quarters of the total land area conserved by land trusts. The Land Trust Alliance and the New Mexico Land Conservancy believe that land

conservation helps ensure and sustain clean air and drinking water; local agriculture and food production; scenic landscapes and views; cultural, historic and recreational sites; and habitat for the diversity of life on earth.

Across the country, local citizens and communities have come together to form what is now a national movement to save the places they love. Community leaders in land trusts throughout the country have worked with willing landowners to protect over 47 million acres of farms, ranches, forests, parks, open space and other places people care about. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical natural, cultural and agricultural resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.

Our land trust is a stronger organization today having gone through this rigorous accreditation program,” said Wilber. “We believe that accreditation will enhance our credibility with donors and the general public; and should better enable us to achieve our land conservation, stewardship, fundraising and organizational development goals.”

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#### About the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, New York, awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. See a complete list of all recently accredited land trusts online at <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/land-trust-locator>. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission’s website, [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org).

#### About The Land Trust Alliance

Founded in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance is a national land conservation organization that works to save the place people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents 1,200 member land trusts supported by more than 5 million members nationwide. The Alliance is based in Washington, D.C., and operated several regional offices. More information about the Alliance is available at [www.landtrustalliance.org](http://www.landtrustalliance.org).

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