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Skagit Land Trust Earns National Recognition – Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

(Mount Vernon, Washington) – The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, announced today that Skagit Land Trust has been awarded accredited status.

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



“Skagit Land Trust’s accredited status demonstrates our commitment to permanent land conservation,” says Molly Doran, Skagit Land Trust’s executive director “Our land trust is a stronger organization today having gone through the rigorous accreditation program.” Skagit Land Trust was founded in 1992. The Trust permanently conserves wildlife habitat, wetlands, agriculture and forest lands, scenic natural areas and shorelines throughout the mainland and islands of Skagit County. They do this entirely through co-operative projects with private landowners, agencies and other groups as well as via land purchases. Skagit Land Trust has protected 62 properties which includes 5500 acres of land and over 25 miles of river and marine shoreline.

Land is America’s most important and valuable resource. Conserving land helps ensure clean air and drinking water, food security, scenic landscapes and views, recreational places, and habitat for the diversity of life on earth. Across the country, local citizens and communities have come together to form land trusts to save the places they love. Community leaders in land trusts throughout the USA have worked with willing landowners to save over 37 million acres of farms, forests,



Skagit Land Trust receives their accreditation award at the national Land Trust Alliance conference.

parks and places people care about. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.

Skagit Land Trust was awarded accreditation this May along with five other land trusts from across the USA. These land trusts join 53 other land trusts from across the country that have been awarded accreditation since the fall of 2008. Accredited land trusts are able to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

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, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance established in 2006, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. The Alliance, of which Skagit Land Trust is a member, is a national conservation group based in Washington, D.C. that works to save the places people love by strengthening conservation throughout America. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission's website.

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org>

“It was a tremendous amount of work to undergo the process, but the founders, board, staff, volunteers, members and landowners who have worked with the Trust over the past 18 years laid a strong foundation. We have built on that foundation to become who we are – and are pleased to be recognized for our strength and programs that help ensure this wonderful place we call home, maintains its special natural qualities. We will display the accreditation seal with honor.”