



WEST WISCONSIN

LAND TRUST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Wisconsin Land Trust Earns National Recognition

Accreditation Promotes Public Trust, Ensures Permanence

Menomonie, WI (Feb. 24, 2016) – West Wisconsin Land Trust, a regional land conservation organization based in Menomonie and serving western and northwestern Wisconsin, announced today that it has achieved national accreditation – a mark of honor in land conservation. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded the accreditation, signifying its confidence that lands conserved by West Wisconsin will be protected forever.

Accredited land trusts across the country have permanently conserved more than 15 million acres of farms, forests and natural areas that are vital to healthy, vibrant communities.

According to Bob Fitzwilliam, WWLT’s Executive Director, “National accreditation is the highest honor for land trusts and was the result of a rigorous, year long process where every facet of our work was examined against extremely demanding standards. Going through this process helps insure that our work will continue to be done at a high level of excellence as we serve the people of our region.

Since its founding 28 years ago the land trust has conserved over 30,000 acres across 18 counties. This has included placing conservation easements on 375 privately owned properties as well as helping to preserve iconic public properties such as Maiden Rock Bluff on the Mississippi, Menomonie’s Devil’s Punchbowl, and the Wert Family Nature Center in St. Croix Falls.



West Wisconsin Land Trust was among thirty-seven land trusts across the United States to achieve accreditation or to have accreditation renewed in February. WWLT joins the 342 land trusts that demonstrate their commitment to professional excellence through accreditation, helping to maintain the public's trust in their work.

“It is exciting to recognize West Wisconsin with this distinction,” said Tammara Van Ryn, executive director of the Commission. “Together, accredited land trusts stand united behind strong national standards ensuring the places people love will be conserved forever. In all, over 75 percent of private lands conserved by land trusts are now held by an accredited land trust.”

West Wisconsin Land Trust is a member supported non-profit conservation organization. Additional information about their work and becoming a member is available at www.wwlt.org and on Facebook.

About the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission inspires excellence, promotes public trust and ensures permanence in the conservation of open lands by recognizing organizations that meet rigorous quality standards and strive for continuous improvement. The Commission, established in 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts. For more, visit 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 places people love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents more than 1,100 member land trusts supported by more than 100,000 volunteers and 5 million members nationwide. The Alliance is based in Washington, D.C. and operates several regional offices. More information about the Alliance is available at www.landtrustalliance.org.

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