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**Mary Adelzadeh, Stewardship Council Employee, Singled Out for Environmental Leadership**

***Honorees Receive Audubon/Toyota TogetherGreen \$10,000 Fellowships***

San Mateo, Calif., October 11, 2010 –Today the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) announced that Land Conservation Specialist Mary Adelzadeh is one of 40 recipients of a national fellowship that will boost the number of hands-on conservation opportunities available to young people across the United States, and advocate for innovative neighborhood approaches to renewable energy.

Supported by a conservation alliance between Audubon and Toyota, the *TogetherGreen* Fellowship offers specialized training in conservation planning and execution, the chance to work and share best practices with gifted conservation professionals, and assistance with project outreach and evaluation. Each Fellow receives \$10,000 towards a community-focused project to engage local residents in conserving land, water and energy, and contributing to greater environmental health. Adelzadeh’s fiscal sponsor is the Foundation for Youth Investment. ([www.foundationforyouthinvestment.org](http://www.foundationforyouthinvestment.org))

Adelzadeh’s *TogetherGreen* fellowship will allow her to examine Native American best practices of the past and present that will help promote conservation leadership among Native American youth. She will work with Native American youth providers to identify program elements that are most useful in encouraging cultural and environmental conservation. She will then convene a summit of these organizations to share how these indicators can strengthen and demonstrate the effectiveness of their programs.

“Mary has the passion and the skills to propose and implement innovative ideas and approaches for engaging people and achieving important cultural and conservation results, said Stewardship Council Executive Director Allene Zanger. “This Fellowship will allow her to build on the Stewardship Council’s efforts to strengthen outdoor programs for Native American and other underserved youth.”

Adelzadeh received her B.S. in environmental biology and management from the University of California, Davis and her M.S. in resource policy and behavior from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She has dedicated her career to working with tribal, federal, and state governments, in addition to non-governmental organizations to conserve cultural and natural resources. Adelzadeh currently serves as a land conservation specialist with the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council. In this capacity, she is responsible for supporting the development and implementation of land conservation plans for approximately 140,000 acres in the Sierra Nevada

and Cascade ranges of California.

Fellowship recipients were chosen from a large pool of highly qualified individuals. Half of the *TogetherGreen* Fellows come from within Audubon's far-reaching national network; half channel their environmental efforts through other organizations. All were required to have at least six years of experience in conservation, environmental education, policy, or related issues; a demonstrated passion for conservation and a proven track record of reaching previously underserved audiences. Applicants also need to express a desire to learn and grow. An advisory committee composed of conservation professionals and experts in environmental education, communications, outreach, and conservation planning made selections.

For the complete list of the 2010 *TogetherGreen* Fellowship recipients, please visit [www.TogetherGreen.org/fellows](http://www.TogetherGreen.org/fellows).

The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) is a private, nonprofit foundation. Established in 2004, its mission is to protect and enhance more than 140,000 acres of watershed lands, and invest in efforts to improve the lives of young Californians through connections with the outdoors. The Stewardship Council brings together the expertise of leading conservation, natural resource management, business, and public officials to undertake this historic conservation effort for California. A unique and collaborative endeavor, the Stewardship Council's Board of Directors unites a broad range of interests to guide the development and execution of a Land Conservation Program and a Youth Investment Program to benefit current and future generations of Californians. Our core values are collaboration, stewardship, discovery, sustainability and leadership. For more information about the Stewardship Council please visit the website: [www.stewardshipcouncil.org](http://www.stewardshipcouncil.org).