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**THE PACIFIC FOREST AND WATERSHED LANDS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
HOSTS WORKSHOPS FOR POTENTIAL 2009 YOUTH GRANT APPLICANTS**

*Organizations focused on increasing youth's access to the outdoors
are encouraged to attend and apply for funding*

San Mateo, Calif., Jan. 10, 2009 – The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) today announced it will host a series of workshops designed to inform interested nonprofit organizations of its 2009 grant-giving plan and how they can apply for funding. Organizations focused on increasing youth's access to the outdoors are encouraged to attend the workshops which will be held in January and February throughout Northern and Central California.

In 2009, the Stewardship Council will grant over \$2 million in funding to parks and programs focused on increasing youth's access to the outdoors.

“The Stewardship Council's grants program is a great opportunity for organizations working with youth to obtain the resources they need to help get children outside,” said Steve Hagler, Youth Investment Director for the Stewardship Council. “We encourage all youth service organizations, as well as city and county park districts to attend our workshops and learn more about the Stewardship Council's grants program.”

The Stewardship Council serves to benefit Californians throughout Northern and Central California as a land conservation and youth investment foundation. Through their Youth Investment Program (YIP), the Stewardship Council contributes to the development of California's underserved youth by funding efforts to engage them with the outdoors and keep them active, healthy and educated. The Stewardship Council provides grants to parks and programs, enabling them to increase youth's access to the outdoors.

Grant funds for 2009 will be awarded in four categories:

- **Catalyst Fund:** Nurturing small grassroots organizations to improve access to outdoor experiences (program funding for \$15,000 and under)
- **Impact Fund:** Sparking innovation and lowering barriers (program funding from \$15,000 - \$50,000)
- **Initiative (formally Collaboration) Fund:** Lowering barriers to connecting youth to the outdoors (program funding from \$50,000 - \$150,000)
- **Infrastructure Fund:** Building parks and playgrounds (infrastructure funding up to \$200,000)

Grant Workshop Information:

San Francisco, Calif. Monday, January 12, 2009 11 a.m. to noon California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco	Fresno, Calif. Wednesday, January 21, 2009 11 a.m. to noon Fresno Veterans Memorial Auditorium 2425 Fresno Street Fresno
Sacramento, Calif. Thursday, January 22, 2009 1 to 2 p.m. Sierra Health Foundation 1321 Garden Highway Sacramento	Red Bluff, Calif. Tuesday, January 27, 2009 2 to 3 p.m. Tahema County Library 645 Madison Street Red Bluff
Bakersfield, Calif. Thursday, January 29, 2009 2 to 3 p.m. Kern County Community Foundation 1626 19 th Street, Suite 14 Bakersfield	Oakland, Calif. Monday, February 2, 2009 11 a.m. to noon Preservation Park-Ginn House 1233 Preservation Park Way Oakland

The Stewardship Council encourages parks districts and organizations to learn more about the Youth Investment Program by calling 650-344-9072 or visiting http://www.stewardshipcouncil.org/youth_investment/index.htm

For more information about the Stewardship Council please visit the Web site: www.stewardshipcouncil.org.

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