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CONTACT:

Bronwyn Hogan
(650) 863-3210

bhogan@stewardshipcouncil.org



**The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council
Announces Selection of 11 Planning Units for Round 1 of
Land Conservation and Conveyance Process**

Pilot Process Work Is Ongoing

San Mateo, Calif., April 14, 2009—The Stewardship Council, a land conservation and youth investment foundation, announced today that it will begin work on the conservation and conveyance of watershed lands located at 11 planning units in three watershed areas. While planning and conveyance work continues on the four pilot planning units (Bucks Lake, Doyle Springs, Kennedy Meadows, and McArthur Swamp), the Stewardship Council chose these 11 planning units for the next round based on their location within three distinct watershed areas, and the geographic distribution of these watershed areas across the region. Planning units not yet selected will be placed in future rounds.

The 11 Round 1 planning units are:

Pit-McCloud River Watershed Area:

Fall River Valley, Shasta County
Fall River Mills, Shasta County
Hat Creek, Shasta County
Lake Britton, Shasta County

Feather River Watershed Area:

Butt Valley Reservoir, Plumas County
Humbug Valley, Plumas County
Lake Almanor, Plumas County
Mountain Meadows Reservoir, Lassen and Plumas Counties

Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Area:

Blue Lakes, Alpine County
Lower Bear Area, Amador County
North Fork Mokelumne River, Amador and Calaveras Counties

The next step in this process will be to solicit, through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), qualified organizations that are interested in holding conservation easements on the 11 planning units, as well as eight additional planning units located within the same three watershed areas. The intent of this approach is to ensure that all of the planning units within a watershed area are protected by a conservation easement, and that the process of establishing conservation easements is efficient, effective, and consistent.

“The pilot process provided us a road map as we began our initial land conservation and conveyance process efforts at the four pilot sites,” said Director of Land Conservation Ric Notini. “We will apply some important lessons that we learned during the pilots, one of which is the need to simplify and streamline the conservation easement effort for potential conservation easement holders and fee title owners.”

Following the RFQ process for easement holders, the Stewardship Council will solicit qualified organizations that are interested in holding fee title to the lands that are available for donation within the 11 planning units listed above. This will also involve an RFQ process and is expected to occur this year in the late spring and early summer.

This summer, the Stewardship Council will begin hosting public planning workshops for the 11 planning units to solicit public input on the development of Land Conservation and Conveyance Plans (LCCP). These plans will recommend the future land stewards and measures to conserve and enhance these watershed lands in perpetuity. Members of the public and all other interested stakeholders are invited to attend and participate in these workshops. Workshop details, including the date, time, and a meeting agenda, will be forthcoming. The Stewardship Council is committed to a comprehensive outreach program to engage all interested stakeholders in the development and implementation of plans to conserve and enhance the watershed lands.

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 watershed lands and uses, 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 a historic conservation effort for California. Our core values are collaboration, stewardship, discovery, sustainability and leadership.

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

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