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Potomac Conservancy Earns National Recognition

Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

(SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND) – Potomac Conservancy announced today that it was awarded accredited status by The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. The Conservancy works with riverside landowners in the Shenandoah Valley, the Appalachian highlands, and along the Potomac and the Monocacy Rivers to protect water quality through conservation agreements and restoration.

“We are pleased to be accredited and recognized by the Commission. Accreditation by the Commission affirms the high caliber of our land protection work and also that we meet the industry’s best practices related to governance and financial management,” says Potomac Conservancy President Hedrick Belin. “We look forward to expanding our efforts to preserve lands and improve water quality in the Potomac region, and we will do so by adhering to the high standards of the Commission and by using the best practices available.”

“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.”

Land is America’s most important and valuable resource. 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. Community leaders in land trusts throughout the country have worked with willing landowners to save more than 37 million acres of farms, forests, parks and places people care about.

In the 16 years since its founding, Potomac Conservancy has worked with more than 60 landowners to permanently protect approximately 11,500 acres and more than 76 miles of streamside forests from inappropriate uses and development.” Private landowners have learned to depend on the Conservancy to help them protect their land from development and preserve their legacy for future generations. Kelly Watkinson, Director of Land Protection, noted that “in sorting through old files, we saw the importance of well-kept records, read heart-warming stories about landowners’ passion for their lands, and learned valuable lessons from our past work.”

Potomac Conservancy joins 93 other U.S. land trusts 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.

About Potomac Conservancy

Since 1993, the Potomac Conservancy has protected the health, beauty, and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries. Its conservation programs address the goals of improving water quality, protecting the river’s scenic integrity, enhancing recreational resources, and building an informed and engaged constituency, using a range of

tools, including restoration, permanent protection, advocacy, and citizen education and engagement. Visit www.potomac.org for more information. More information is available at www.potomac.org.

About The Land Trust Accreditation Commission

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, NY, 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 Potomac Conservancy 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 at www.landtrustaccreditation.org. More information on the Alliance is available at www.landtrustalliance.org.

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