

Okanogan Valley Land Council

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For Immediate Release

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Okanogan Valley Land Council announces completion of an Organizational Assessment Process

This process was funded by grants from the Community Foundation of North Central Washington and the Land Trust Alliance.

The Okanogan Valley Land Council (OVLC) has decided to seek accreditation with The Land Trust Alliance, a national land trust umbrella organization. The Organizational Assessment Process identified work needed to accomplish this goal. Funding to accomplish the assessment came from two granting sources. Grantors were The Community Foundation of North Central Washington and the Land Trust Alliance.

The Okanogan Valley Land Council is a homegrown land trust, founded in December 2002 by long-time Okanogan Valley residents. The OVLC protects the Okanogan's open spaces and working lands. The Council accepts and manages conservation and agricultural easements received from private landowners; helps land owners preserve family lands for future generations; engages the public in land conservation issues and projects.

About The Community Foundation of North Central Washington: The Community Foundation of North Central Washington is a charitable community trust organized as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) in 1986 using the \$2.1million from the sale of the nonprofit Chelan County Medical Service Corporation (a Blue Shield plan). The Foundation acts as a vehicle for linking community resources with community needs by building a pool of funds, investing them, and distributing income from the funds to nonprofit organizations serving NCW committees. For information about the Community Foundation, call Beth Stipe at 509-663-7716.

About Land Trust Alliance: The Land Trust Alliance was formed in 1982 to advance the mission of land trusts. Since its inception, the Land Trust Alliance has trained thousands of conservation leaders, won new federal tax incentives for conservation on private lands, and developed standards and practices to professionalize and safeguard land trust work. The Land Trust Alliance connects land trusts, so that every land trust can benefit from the collective wisdom and innovations of the entire community. It is based in Washington, DC with field offices in most regions of the country. Land Trust Alliance is headquartered in Washington, DC, with regional offices. Phone 202-638-4725.

For more information about this topic, please contact Berent Culp by calling (509) 846-3394 or e-mail Berent at berculp@gmail.com