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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Exciting news for land conservancies in the state of Oregon

The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) formed this year with sixteen founding members including the Central Coast Land Conservancy based in Depoe Bay. The Coalition will serve and strengthen the land trust community throughout the state.

The Central Coast Land Conservancy, a nonprofit organization, has been in existence since 1994. It has been operating as an all-volunteer group all these years. Joining COLT as a founding member holds the promise of increasing the organization's staffing and financial capacity, which will allow it to proactively address more local and regional conservation opportunities. The Central Coast Land Conservancy currently owns three properties in Lincoln and Tillamook counties, and holds conservation easements on five additional properties in western Lane, Lincoln, and Tillamook counties. A sixth easement is near completion.

Two board members from the Central Coast Land Conservancy, Caroline Bauman of Yachats and Charles Wooldridge of Oceanside, have been selected as the representative and alternate to serve on the COLT board of directors. "Our work on the coast has already benefited from COLT's help," says Wooldridge. "Their assistance has helped us address the many steps when acquiring conservation easements and they've helped us secure funding for projects." Creation of a database of existing statewide holdings and organizational assessments addressing the capacity and needs of each member organization has already begun.

Wooldridge sees other benefits to COLT's efforts, including establishing a sustained presence with the Oregon legislature and state agencies to defend and advance land conservation. "COLT lends a cohesive voice to conservation needs, helps focus attention on critical areas, and will help build awareness of the value of land and water conservation throughout the state."



Charles Wooldridge, CCLC representative to COLT

The Central Coast Land Conservancy has also taken the initial step towards meeting national Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices. The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) is a national organization that offers training and resources to help small land trusts become more professional and effective. More than 1,700 land trusts have already been accredited by the Alliance in an effort to increase the pace, quality and permanence of conservation, and thus ultimately change the way land development takes place in America. In September, the Central Coast Land Conservancy's part-time contract Coordinator, Carla Perry, attended a three-day Northwest Land Trust Camp training hosted by COLT, the Washington Association of Land Trusts, and LTA.

Caroline Bauman, Central Coast Land Conservancy Board President noted, "LTA and COLT are providing consultants and training to help our land trust conduct a needs assessment and work towards accreditation. What once appeared a daunting task for a small, volunteer group is now doable. With adoption of the LTA Standards and Practices, we will move forward in a systematic way towards accreditation."

End-of-year donations are welcome. Your gift will go directly to protecting and preserving land along the Central Oregon Coast. Online donations can be made through [Network For Good](http://NetworkForGood.com). Checks can be mailed to the Central Coast Land Conservancy, P.O. Box 1344, Depoe Bay, OR 97341. For additional information go to centralcoastlandconservancy.org, contact cclc.perry@gmail.com, or call 541-574-7708.