

Taos Land Trust seeks national approval, public comment

Staff report

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The local land conservation organization —Taos Land Trust — is applying for renewal of accreditation by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission. “Voluntary, independent accreditation will give Taos Land Trust greater credibility and respect with landowners, donors, public policy makers and other stakeholders,” said Executive Director Kristina Ortez de Jones, in a news release. “I believe it will enhance our efforts to protect open spaces, wildlife habitat, productive lands and the traditional landscapes we in Taos hold dear.”

Accreditation is a mark of distinction in land conservation. To date, fewer than 400 of the nearly 1,700 land trusts in the U.S. have been accredited. “The accreditation seal provides the public with an assurance that the accredited organization has the ways and means to protect important natural places and working lands forever,” the release said.

The rigorous accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that demonstrate compliance with the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) standards and practices. The standards and practices are based on the ethical and technical guidelines established in 1989 by the LTA for the responsible operation of a land trust.

Officials say that an important part of the process is public input on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Taos Land Trust complies with the LTA standards and practices.

Officials say the easiest way to comment on the Taos Land Trust is to visit the commission website at

landtrustcommission.org. The public can then click on the “Comment on a Land Trust” link located on the homepage. The public can also email comments to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be submitted to Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments, 36 Phila St., Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, New York, 12866. Comments will be most useful if they are received by Nov. 1, officials said.

For more information on the Taos Land Trust, call (575) 751-3138.

— *Staff report*



Taos Land Trust's Executive Director Kristina Ortez de Jones.

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