



Photo by Dylan Andert

American River Headwaters is among the 30,900 acres of wildlife habitat, farmland, river corridors and recreational spaces ARC conserves.

American River Conservancy earns national recognition

Melissa Lobach
American River Conservancy

One thing that unites the nation is land: Americans strongly support saving the open spaces they love. Since 1989, American River Conservancy (ARC) has been doing just that. Now ARC announced it has achieved national recognition by joining a network of over 450 accredited land trusts across the nation that have demonstrated their commitment to professional excellence and to maintaining the public's trust in their work. Accreditation comes during ARC's 35th anniversary year.

"Accreditation demonstrates American River Conservancy's commitment to permanent land conservation in the Upper American River and Upper Cosumnes River watersheds," said Elena DeLacy, ARC's executive director. "We are a stronger organization for having gone through the rigorous accreditation program. Our strength means special places such as El Dorado Ranch and Wakamatsu Farm will be protected forever, making El Dorado County and the Central Sierra region an even greater place for us and future generations."

ARC provided extensive documentation



Photo by Gary Andrew

El Dorado Ranch at the Cosumnes River.

and was subject to a comprehensive third-party evaluation prior to achieving this distinction. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded accreditation, signifying its confidence that ARC's lands will be protected forever. Accredited land

trusts steward almost 20 million acres of land the size of Denali, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Everglades and Yosemite National Parks combined.

Conservancy *Continued from B1*

Since its inception in 1989, ARC has conserved over 30,900 acres of wildlife habitat, farmland, river corridor and recreational spaces in the heart of the central Sierra Nevada within El Dorado County and Placer County, just east of Sacramento. ARC's past projects include the Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park along the South Fork American River, a popular recreational area now managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The organization's current focus is on permanent protection of the 7,000-acre El Dorado Ranch on the Cosumnes River. Once slated for residential development, ARC and its partners aim to create El Dorado County's first designated State Wildlife Area.

"It is exciting to recognize American River Conservancy with this national mark of distinction," said Melissa Kalvestrand, executive director of the Commission. "Donors and partners can trust that the more than 450 accredited land trusts across the country are united behind strong standards and have demonstrated sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance and lasting stewardship."

ARC is one of 1,363 land trusts across the United States according to the Land Trust Alliance's most recent National Land Trust Census. A complete list of accredited land trusts and more information about the process can be found at landtrustaccreditation.org.