



December 20, 2010

Congress Renews Enhanced Federal Tax Incentive

Congress recently renewed, **retroactive to January 1, 2010 and through 2011**, an incentive that enhances the federal tax benefits of protecting your land by donating a voluntary conservation agreement. If you own land with important natural or historic resources, donating a voluntary conservation agreement can be one of the smartest ways to conserve the land you love, while maintaining your private property rights and possibly realizing significant federal tax benefits.

These new incentives make it easier for average Americans, including working family farmers and ranchers, to donate the development rights on their land. The incentive:

- Raises the maximum deduction you can take for donating a voluntary conservation agreement from **30%** of your adjusted gross income (AGI) to **50%**;
- Allows you to deduct up to **100%** of your AGI if you qualify as a farmer or rancher; and
- Increases the number of years over which you can take deductions **from 6 years to 16 years**.

These changes allow many modest income landowners to deduct much more than they could under the old rules, bringing increased fairness to the tax code. (For more detailed information, see attached brochure.)

Aspen Valley Land Trust and the Land Trust Alliance are working to make this important conservation tool permanent, but under current law it will expire on December 31, 2011. Deductions for easements donated between 2006 and 2011 will continue to carry over even if the incentive expires. Visit www.lta.org/easementincentive to learn how you can help make the incentive permanent.

To learn more, contact Aspen Valley Land Trust.