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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust Welcomes New Executive Director

WARDENSVILLE, WV, August 2, 2017 -

The Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust, a growing non-profit that has worked with local landowners to protect nearly 14,000 acres of beautiful forests, fields and streams in West Virginia, is pleased to announce Ethan Strickler as the organization's new Executive Director. The announcement follows a four-month nationwide search to find a replacement for former Executive Director Kelly Watkinson, who moved on to work with the Land Trust Alliance, a national land conservation organization.

Ethan will be assuming his duties as Executive Director on August 7th. He will be responsible for leading the Land Trust's land protection efforts, working with other organizations, conducting community outreach, working with local landowners, fundraising, and other organizational duties.

Ethan's attraction to the Cacapon and Lost River watershed was a powerful motivation in attracting him to the job of Executive Director. "In visiting the watershed in the past, I've been so impressed with the beauty of the land and the river and with the genuine kindness of the people. I'm honored to have been selected for this job. My wife and I are looking forward to becoming part of the community!"

The Land Trust's Board President Mark Haynes said "We are all very excited about the energy and new ideas that Ethan will bring to our operations. All of our

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Board Members feel that his combination of experience in land preservation and farming, and his love for the environment and enthusiasm will make him a great leader to take us into the future.”

Since earning his Master’s Degree in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia, Ethan has worked as an Agricultural Preservation Planner in the Frederick County, Maryland. Frederick County is one of the top counties in the nation in agricultural land preservation, with over 56,000 acres currently protected under permanent easements. This experience will be invaluable in his work for the CLRLT.

Although he will be traveling throughout the watershed, Ethan will be based out of the Land Trust’s office in Wardensville. He can be reached via email at ethan@cacapon.org or phone at 304-856-1188. For more information on Cacapon and Lost Rives Land Trust, visit www.cacapon.org/ .

About Us: The Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust is the largest local Land Trust in West Virginia and is dedicated to protecting the forests, farms, rural heritage and water quality of the Cacapon and Lost River Valley for the enjoyment and well-being of present and future generations. We have worked with our Valley’s landowners for over 25 years to protect and preserve the natural resources and heritage of the unique and beautiful Cacapon Valley. Our work focuses on protecting the richest ecological and economically beneficial areas to create a network of natural land hubs and corridors for current and future generations.

Today 51 conservation easement agreements permanently protect the conservation values of nearly 14,000 acres in our watershed.