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LAND TRUST

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For Immediate Release
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Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust Announces New Leadership

[Wardensville, WV, August 24, 2021] The Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust (CLRLT) is pleased to announce that Emily Warner, a native of the Cacapon River watershed, has begun as its new Executive Director. Emily is replacing Jennifer Jones who is retiring from the position.

Mark Haynes, the CLRLT Board President, noted “In the more than 30 years of protecting land in the Cacapon watershed, our organization has been fortunate to have magnificent leadership. Most recently, Jennifer Jones has helped protect hundreds more acres, positioned us to receive a significant grant to expand our land protection program, and brought our communication efforts to a new level. She has set the stage for Emily to move our mission even further. Emily is from our watershed and has impressive experience in the complex world of land protection. She is in a strong position to take over the reins.”

Emily comes to the CLRLT with 15 years of land and water conservation experience. She served 10 years with Potomac Conservancy, most recently as the Senior Director of Land Conservation. While there, she helped many private landowners navigate the conservation easement process to protect thousands of acres in the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia and Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Emily has also worked for The Nature Conservancy (Colorado), Hampshire County Farmland Protection Board (West Virginia), Chesapeake Bay Foundation (Pennsylvania), Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and the Restoration Ecology Lab of Colorado State University. Emily holds a Master of Natural Resources Stewardship degree from Colorado State University and a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Allegheny College.

About her new position, Emily said, “I’m thrilled to be protecting the land -- and with it the creeks and crayfish, hay bales and barns, and forests, foxes and family stories --that I’ve loved since childhood. I’m excited to be part of this passionate, productive organization with an impressive record, solid strategic plan, and long history of understanding that land, water, and people are inseparably linked. I look forward to working with area landowners and our nonprofit, agency, and small business partners.”

Jennifer, commenting on her tenure with the Land Trust, said “Serving as Executive Director of the Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust has been the most rewarding leadership position I’ve had in decades of work in the conservation arena. CLRLT has a dedicated Board and outstanding partners whose expertise and collaboration help us achieve our mission. Most importantly, it’s been an honor to work side by side with landowners whose love of the land inspired me every day.”

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The Cacapon River is one of the largest tributaries to the Potomac River. Running for 31 miles as the Lost River in Hardy County, the river disappears underground for a short distance and re-emerges as the Cacapon River. From there it continues another 81 northeasterly miles through Hampshire and Morgan counties to the Potomac. The watershed is nearly 85% forested, and as a result, the Cacapon is regarded as one of the cleanest and most biodiverse tributaries to the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay. CLRLT is proud to have protected more than 14,000 acres in the watershed in its 30-year history and is poised to protect thousands more acres in the years to come.

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The accredited Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust works in partnership with landowners and communities in the Cacapon watershed to maintain healthy waters, protect forests and farmlands, and preserve rural heritage for the well-being and enjoyment of present and future generations.