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For more information:
Kristopher Krouse, Executive Director
219-879-4725
land@heinzetrust.org

SHIRLEY HEINZE DIRECTOR AWARDED INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION FELLOWSHIP

Kristopher Krouse, Executive Director of Shirley Heinze Land Trust, is one of 18 international conservation professionals selected to participate in the 2010 Kinship Conservation Fellowship program in Bellingham, Washington.

Krouse is one of seven Americans in the group; the other class members come from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Liberia, Sweden, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. From June 22nd to July 23rd, Kinship Fellows will engage in seminars and mentoring sessions, participate in working groups with peers, and advance their commitment to conservation by developing a project of importance to their work.

“Kinship Conservation Fellows are mid-career field practitioners with an interest in market-based conservation principles and a demonstrated commitment to leadership,” said the Kinship Conservation Fellows Director Jim Tolisano. “The 2010 Kinship program will bring together practitioners engaged in some of the world's most innovative and exciting conservation work, ranging from cutting-edge programs to protect endangered snow leopards to a wide variety of approaches to help rural communities benefit from environmental services. These individuals have the potential to become some of the world's leading conservationists, and my faculty and I are very much looking forward to working with them.”

During the month at Kinship, experienced faculty from the front lines will instruct

Fellows in business principles, environmental economics, and the use of effective planning and organizational tools. Additionally, the Kinship curriculum will focus participants on their own projects as case studies of the market principles they learn. Combined with weekly mentoring sessions, Kinship's tailored emphasis on each participant's own work renders theoretical economic and business principles both relevant and accessible to conservation practitioners.

Continuing their learning, the 2010 class will investigate environmental issues of the Pacific Northwest ecosystem through a field visit into the North Cascades and presentations by thriving local sustainable industries. In addition to Kinship's unique case study method, visits into the field bring Fellows face-to-face with practical applications of leadership, business, and economic theories. This method reinforces Kinship Conservation Fellows' focus on concrete conservation successes while preparing the 2010 Fellows to implement market-based principles and continue Kinship's commitment to environmental leadership when they return to the field.

"I am honored to be selected for the Kinship program," said Krouse, "and I'm grateful to my Board of Directors for permitting me to take the time off to participate. I know that I will return with new energy and ideas to better advance the mission of Shirley Heinze Land Trust."

"I think I will bring to the Kinship group a unique perspective based on the circumstances under which Shirley Heinze Land Trust operates," he continued. "Ours is a very heavily industrialized area but one that also features a tremendous level of biodiversity in its remaining natural areas. This constant tension between industry and nature defines how we conduct our affairs. Although we work only in Indiana, our successes and failures impact the larger Chicago region, as well as the entire Great Lakes Watershed, an area encompassing portions of eight states and two Canadian provinces."

"Shirley Heinze Land Trust is very proud that Kris has received this honor," said Dale Engquist, the organization's President. "Kris recently completed five years as Executive

Director, and he has done great things for land conservation in Northwest Indiana during that time. His selection for this program is a good thing for Shirley Heinze and a good thing for our whole area.”

For more information on the Kinship Conservation Fellows Program, visit its website, www.kinshipfellows.org. To learn about Shirley Heinze Land Trust’s work, go to www.heinzetrust.org.

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