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For Immediate Release: Sept. 26, 2009

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JILL WORKMAN RECEIVES 2009 SIERRA CLUB SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – Jill Workman of Portland, Ore., has won the Sierra Club 2009 Special Service Award. She will be honored Sept. 26 in San Francisco at the Sierra Club Honors and Awards Banquet.

Workman's love of wilderness led her to join the Oregon Chapter's High Desert Committee. She was one of the key players in shepherding into law the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act in October 2000. This legislation provided additional protection to approximately 900,000 acres of Federal land in southeastern Oregon.

As Oregon Chapter Chair, Workman was one of the principal players in Oregon who worked for more than eight years to pass the Mount Hood Wilderness Act, which was signed into law in March 2009 as part of the Omnibus Public Lands Act. She worked closely with Oregon's congressional delegation to foster bipartisan support for the legislation, as well as leading Sierra Club efforts in working with other Oregon wilderness groups to achieve a package that was worthy of being included as part of our nation's wilderness. The Act permanently protects more than 200,000 acres public lands in Oregon, and provides wilderness designation to 127,000 acres surrounding Mount Hood, and designates more than 80 miles of rivers at Mt. Hood and the Columbia Gorge as Wild and Scenic Rivers. These include the White River, Fifteenmile Creek, Roaring River and the Hood River's East Fork.

Workman was appointed to Sierra Club's National Wildlands Committee in 2003, and over the next several years, she put together a series of lobby weeks in Washington, D.C., to campaign not only on the Mount Hood Wilderness proposal but on more than a dozen other wilderness bills and other public lands legislation. Year after year of lobbying created the momentum for final passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, which was signed by President Obama on March 30, 2009, and which included over 160 bills designating more than 2 million acres as wilderness with protected areas in California, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Oregon, Virginia, West Virginia, New Mexico, and Michigan. The bill has been described by Sierra Club and other key conservation organizations as "the most important lands protection legislation in decades."

The Sierra Club's former Conservation Governance Committee appointed Workman as chair of its America's Wild Legacy (AWL) Conservation Initiative Committee in late 2005. During the next three years, she supervised the distribution of hundreds of thousands of dollars directing towards projects at both the national and chapter level that promoted AWL's three issues of national concern that were approved by the Board: expand and protect wild places, protect wildlife and their habitat; and prevent destructive energy development.

Workman also was instrumental in working with volunteers and staff in formulating and getting approval by the Sierra Club Board of Directors for the Club's Resilient Habitats Campaign.

In nominating Workman for this award, former AWL Vice Chair Sharon Stephens noted that Workman accomplished all of this while simultaneously chairing the Oregon Chapter and working full time in the banking



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profession. “Jill has taught me and many others the value of relationships, of accountability, of passion and joy in doing the hard work to protect the wild places we love,” Stephens said. “Protecting wilderness and public lands may be why we joined the Sierra Club, but it is people like Jill who make us want to stay.”

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