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## Foundation Awards Grant To Land Trust

The **Helen M. Clabough Charitable Foundation** of Boone has recently made a significant grant award to Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust. This award is quite unusual in that it is in the form of a revolving line of credit that BRRLT can use to cover the various transactional costs involved in developing conservation easements, being repaid to the Clabough Foundation when BRRLT receives permanent funding from either state agencies or individual easement donors. The grant award for 2007 is a renewal of a similar arrangement between BRRLT and the Clabough Foundation first developed in 2005 and extended for 2006.

James Coman, Executive Director of BRRLT, said "This revolving line of credit has proven to be extremely important for BRRLT over the last few years, and we are quite grateful that the Clabough Foundation has extended it. There is often a quite long wait for funding from permanent sources, either state agencies or private donors, even when there are signed contracts involved. The revolving line of credit from the Clabough Foundation has allowed BRRLT to proceed quickly with easement work, paying our contractors promptly, and avoiding the intermittent cash-flow crises that often plague small non-profits. This line of credit has been used to expedite no less than 19 conservation easement projects since 2005, involving about 2100 acres."

Carole Spainhour, Trustee of the Helen M. Clabough Charitable Foundation, said "The Clabough Foundation is glad to be able to support BRRLT's efforts in farmland protection in this manner. We think it quite important that the process of conservation easement donation be made as simple and easy as possible for both landowners and the land trust."

Currently, Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust is working on the protection through conservation easement of eleven separate properties totaling no less than 2,925 acres throughout our service area.

Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust works to "Preserve Rural Communities and Culture in Northwestern North Carolina through the Protection of the Land Resource Upon Which They Depend". BRRLT is a private, non-governmental, non-profit corporation whose mission is to assist landowners in the protection of their property, primarily through conservation easements. BRRLT practices grass-roots conservation, being primarily landowner driven in its approach to land protection. Since it's founding in 1997, BRRLT has protected over 6500 acres in Ashe, Alleghany, Avery, Wilkes, Mitchell, Yancey and Watauga counties.

For more information about Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust, conservation easements, and rural land preservation in northwestern North Carolina, please contact Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust, P.O. Box 2557, Boone, N.C. 28607, or at 336-359-2909, or [info@brrlt.org](mailto:info@brrlt.org), or visit our web-site at [www.brrlt.org](http://www.brrlt.org).

