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Ellen Waterston to Lead August Writing Workshop on Oregon's Rogue River

Bend, Ore. – June 6, 2011. Award-winning essayist, poet and teacher Ellen Waterston will lead a four-day, three-night rafting trip and writing workshop on Oregon's Rogue River August 24-27, 2011.

Waterston, founder and director of the Writing Ranch (www.writingranch.com) will start each day with a writing prompt that participants can think about as they float the scenic river through the coastal mountains of southern Oregon. Then, at day's end, the group will camp along the river and have time to write about the day's theme. After dinner, writers can choose to share their writing with the group and receive critiques and encouragement from Waterston. The workshops are appropriate for both experienced and aspiring writers of all levels.

Echo River Trips (www.echotrips.com) will manage this deluxe rafting trip, including provision of experienced guides and supplies such as tents, sleeping bags and air mattresses. All meals, snacks and beverages, prepared by Echo guides, are included in the trip. The Rogue's moderate but safe rapids offer participants an option to ride in the rafts or to paddle inflatable kayaks, supervised by Echo guides. Participants will enjoy views of soaring trees, quiet forests, and abundant wildlife on the nationally renowned Rogue River.

Michele DeSilva, a participant in a previous Writing Ranch writing workshop, observed, "Writing with Ellen is an illuminating experience. She's a perceptive workshop leader; her suggestions are insightful, and the benefit of her instruction lasts long after the workshop has ended." Workshop participant Dick Linford said, "When Ellen commented on what I had written, she made me feel that I might have some talent, yet at the same time showed me how I could be better. That's an amazing skill."

Cost of the all-inclusive downriver journey is \$895 per person. The group is limited to 15 writers and up to five guests who do not participate in the writing workshops. For more information or to reserve online visit echotrips.com or call (800) 652-3246. or contact Ellen Waterston at 541.480.3933 or email info@writingranch.com .

About Ellen Waterston and The Writing Ranch

Ellen Waterston's Writing Ranch (www.writingranch.com) supports the craft and careers of writers through workshops, retreats and seminars. She also is the founder and director of The Nature of Words (www.thenatureofwords.org) a literary organization based in Bend, Ore. Her award-winning essays, short stories and poems have been published in numerous journals and anthologies and reviews.

Ellen Waterston's collection of essays, *Where the Crooked River Rises*, was published by OSU Press, Corvallis, OR in 2010. In June 2010, her poem *Designed to Fly* was read by Garrison Keillor on the *Writer's Almanac*. She is the 2008 winner of the *Oregon Quarterly* Essay Competition, the 2007 recipient of the national Obsidian Prize in Poetry awarded by the *High Desert Journal* and in 2007 was named an Honorary Distinguished Professor of Humane Letters by Oregon State University-Cascades for her accomplishments in the literary arts.

Between Desert Seasons, a collection of her poetry, published December 2008 by Wordcraft of Oregon, was named the 2009 WILLA award winner. An earlier collection, *I Am Madagascar*, won the WILLA Prize in Poetry in 2005. Her memoir, *Then There Was No Mountain*, Rowman and Littlefield publisher, was selected by the *Oregonian* as one of the top ten books in 2003, was a national Foreword and WILLA finalist, and earned her an appearance on Good Morning America with Diane Sawyer.

In 2009, Waterston was awarded an Individual Artist Fellowship by the Oregon Arts Commission She received the 2003 Special Literary Fellowship for Women Writers given by Oregon's Literary Arts, Inc. Waterston is the recipient of nine writing residency fellowships, including a Sitka Center for Art & Ecology 2010 and 2011, and the 2009 Island Institute Residency. Waterston is currently working on a third collection of poems and a second collection of essays.