

## STANDARD 12

# Fee Land Stewardship

Land trusts have a program of responsible stewardship for the land held in fee for conservation purposes.

### PRACTICES

#### A. Funding Land Stewardship

1. Determine the immediate financial and management implications of each conservation property acquisition and estimate the long-term implications
2. Anticipate and track costs associated with long-term land management, stewardship and enforcement of conservation properties

#### B. Land Management and Stewardship

- 1. Develop a written land management plan for each conservation property (■) within 12 months after acquiring the land to:
  - a. Identify the property's conservation values, including any significant cultural and natural features or those that have significant community value
  - b. Identify the overall management goals for the property
  - c. Identify activities to achieve the goals and to reduce any risks or threats to the conservation values
  - d. Specify the uses that are appropriate for the property, in keeping with the property's conservation values, any restrictions and donor or funder requirements
    - i. Provide public access opportunities as appropriate to the property and the land trust's mission
- 2. Manage each conservation property in accordance with its management plan, and review and update the plan as necessary
- 3. Perform administrative duties (such as paying insurance, filing required forms, keeping records) in a timely and responsible manner
- 4. Maintain the property in a manner that retains the land trust's public credibility, manages community expectations and minimizes risk

### **C. Inspecting Land Trust Properties**

1. Determine the boundaries of land trust properties and physically mark them to the extent possible or necessary
- 2. Inspect properties at least once per calendar year for potential management problems and promptly document the inspection
- 3. Address management problems, including encroachments, trespass and other ownership challenges, in an appropriate and timely manner and document the actions taken

### **D. Contingency Strategy**

1. Take reasonable steps to provide for the continuing protection of conservation properties in the event the land trust ceases to exist or can no longer own or manage them

### **E. Condemnation**

1. If a conservation property is threatened with condemnation, take steps to avoid or mitigate harm to conservation values and document the actions taken