



Gathering Waters Conservancy

Planning, Facilitation and Training Services Available

Site Conservation Planning

Gathering Waters staff members are available to facilitate site conservation planning sessions with your land trust and your partners. These planning sessions bring together appropriate conservation partners to establish conservation goals, identify priority strategies to achieve those goals and define geographic areas to protect critical resources. It also encourages the development of relationships among organizations and active participation by other groups and agencies. As has been shown in other conservation planning projects, bringing partners together to consider the conservation needs of a particular site can result in greater efficiencies and the leveraging of governmental resources for conservation actions.

Organizational Needs Assessments

Based on tools created by the Institute for Conservation Leadership and the Land Trust Alliance, Gathering Waters Conservancy has developed a process for ongoing organizational evaluation tied to LTA's *Standards and Practices*. This involves having all Board members and staff individually respond to questions in an organizational benchmarking workbook. The workbook responses are tabulated and evaluated by Gathering Waters staff, and are then reviewed with the land trust during a half or full day workshop. At that workshop, the group identifies key steps for their organization to take to build their capacity and address operational and programmatic needs. This is a participatory process in which the group reaches agreement on their priority organizational needs, and devises steps to take to meet those needs. The benchmarking workbook is a wonderful tool for setting objectives and measuring progress toward those objectives on an annual basis.

Regional Workshops --

Media Relations and Outreach

Membership Development

Engaging in Local Comprehensive Planning

As part of Gathering Waters Conservancy's regional approach to capacity building and education, we are able to work with a local land trust or several land trusts within a region to hold workshops in their area. These could be trainings tailored to specific organizational needs identified by the organizations, or could be outreach events for local landowners and others interested in conservation. For example, Gathering Waters has hosted or helped plan workshops on major donor fundraising, comprehensive planning and natural resource protection, and land protection negotiations.



Strategic and Work Plan Facilitation

Whether you are a new group getting started, or an established organization busy with multiple projects, having a clear strategic or annual plan can help make your group run more efficiently and be able to prioritize projects and requests more easily. Gathering Waters' staff can facilitate the development of strategic or annual plans to guide your conservation and organizational development activities. We are also available to review and update existing plans and provide recommendations and advice on implementation.

Conservation Easement Workshops

Gathering Waters Conservancy can lead your organization through a day-long workshop on the fundamentals of conservation easements. This interactive session presents information on the basic components of an easement, the legal and financial implications of holding easements, how to develop easement documentation, evaluate and monitor easements and information about drafting easements. Each participant in the workshop receives a comprehensive workbook on easements, including sample language, easement endowment calculation spreadsheets and translations for much of the legal terminology used in easements.

Conservation Easement Baseline Documentation and Monitoring

Negotiating and drafting a conservation easement is only the start of your land trust's work on the project! Establishing a thorough baseline description of the property at the time the easement is placed on it will help you in future monitoring and enforcement of the easement. Gathering Waters' staff and consultants will walk through the components of a complete baseline report, including photo points, surveying and ecological inventories. The second half of the workshop will involve establishing monitoring procedures and forms, focusing on the use of volunteers in easement monitoring.

Advice on Conservation Transactions and Funding

Through our partnerships with other conservation organizations and state and federal agencies, Gathering Waters works to keep informed and updated about creative conservation strategies and available funding resources to implement those strategies. As your land trust identifies and begins to work on key conservation projects in your region, you are encouraged to use our resources to help identify appropriate financial and other resources to implement your ideas. In addition, if you have questions about a particular project or transaction, we are available to advise and consult with you on the project, or can refer you to others who have experience with similar situations.