

4.7.5 Landowner Contact Programs

Landowners are often unaware of the ecological values of their property. Conservation organisations may initiate a landowner contact program to let people know about environmentally sensitive areas on their property, and to provide information on how to protect and manage their areas.

The Cowichan Community Land Trust has an ongoing program to contact landowners in the Cowichan Valley who have lands that have been identified as part of the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory. The success of this has generated an interest among landowners which has led some to place voluntary conservation covenants on their property (Cowichan Community Land Trust).⁶

The key to success with landowner contact is building a relationship based on respect, understanding, and trust. Most landowners appreciate the effort made to inform them about the ecological values of their property – whether or not they opt to participate in a program. They must be respected for their actions, whatever they decide.

Habitat Acquisition Trust is working on the “Good Neighbours” project, undertaking direct landowner contact in six areas: Esquimalt Lagoon, Mount Douglas Park, Oak Haven Park, Uplands Park, Swan Lake/Christmas Hill and Highrock Cairn Park. The landowner contact specialists are educating property owners about the significance of the adjacent sensitive areas, offering resource materials and support as required, and encouraging them to consider voluntary stewardship options (Habitat Acquisition Trust, 2003).⁷

4.7.6 Additional Information on Landowner Actions

Naturescape British Columbia: Caring for Wildlife Habitat at Home
S. Campbell, 1975. Naturescape British Columbia.

A series of publications that provide detailed information on the benefits of “naturescaping” and the species to use. Part of the Stewardship series of publications. Available on-line at www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca/sc_bc/stew_series/bc_stewseries.asp

⁶ For more information, see <http://www.island.net/~cclt>

⁷ For more information, contact Habitat Acquisition Trust or go to <http://www.hat.bc.ca>

Stewardship Options: A Guide for Private Landowners in British Columbia

Briony Penn. 1996. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, British Columbia.

A publication for private landowners who want to protect and maintain wildlife habitat on their property. Part of the Stewardship series of publications. Available on-line at

www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca/sc_bc/stew_series/bc_stewseries.asp

Greening Your Title: A Guide to Best Practices for Conservation Covenants

Ann Hillyer, and J. Atkins. 2000. West Coast Environmental Law.

A guide to the best practices associated with the use of conservation covenants, with a focus on their use for the protection of ecologically significant private land. Available from West Coast Environmental

Law, www.wcel.org

Giving It Away: Tax Implications of Gifts to Protect Private Land

Ann Hillyer and Judy Atkins. 2000. West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation, Vancouver B.C.

A guide for government agencies and conservation organisations about the potential tax benefits and tax liabilities of gifts of land or an interest in the land, where the gift is made for the protection of ecologically significant spaces or environmentally significant features. A guide to the laws, regulations and policies governing tax issues when a landowner donates private land or grants a conservation covenant. Available at www.wcel.org

Here Today, Here Tomorrow: Legal Tools for the Voluntary Protection of Private Land in British Columbia

Barbara Findlay and Ann Hillyer. 1994. West Coast Environmental Law Association.

A report written for conservation groups, individual landowners, real estate professionals and other interested parties looking for information about the legal tools available to conserve private land.

Available at www.wcel.org

Leaving a Living Legacy: Using Conservation Covenants in B.C.

William J. Andrews and David Loukidelis. 1996. West Coast Environmental Research Foundation.

A comprehensive look at the use of conservation covenants.

Available at www.wcel.org

Landowner Contact Guide

Theresa Duynstee. 1997. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks & Environment Canada, British Columbia.

A guidebook for individuals and community groups interested in promoting stewardship with private landowners. It describes a systematic approach designed to provide landowners with information about ecological values and stewardship practices, and how to help landowners to maintain the natural features of the land. Part of the Stewardship series of publications. Available on-line at www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca/sc_bc/stew_series/bc_stewseries.asp

Green Legacies: A Donor's Guide for B.C.

Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, Stewardship Centre for B.C. 2002. Part of the Stewardship Series of documents.

A compendium of tax, legal and administrative implications for people interested in donating land or cash for conservation.

Available on-line at

www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca/green_legacy_web/index.asp

On the Ground: A Volunteer's Guide to Monitoring Stewardship Agreements

Land Trust Alliance of BC, BC Stewardship Centre. 2002.

This step-by-step manual leads volunteers and staff through the stages of developing Stewardship Agreements, outlining the various kinds of legal agreements including Conservation Covenants.

Brochures from the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia

A series of brochures on various aspects of land conservation, including:

- Preserving Natural and Cultural Features of Land with a Conservation Covenant;
- Your Land Conservation Options; and
- Tax Benefits of your Conservation Donation.

Available from the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia,
<http://landtrustalliance.bc.ca/>

Giving the Land a Voice: Mapping our Home Places

Sheila Harrington, editor. 1999.

Chapter 8 (by Bill Turner) provides many examples of how individual landowners can protect the natural values on their property.

Decision Support Tool for Invasive Species in Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems

Murray, C. and R.K. Jones. 2002. Prepared by ESSA Technologies Ltd. for the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team. Victoria, BC. 56pp.

http://www.goert.ca/docs/goe_dst.pdf

(1.5MB)

This decision support tool (not a decision making tool) will help you make decisions regarding whether, and how, to manage invasive species in Garry oak and associated ecosystems (GOEs) in BC. It will provide you with guidance regarding the identification of an invasive species problem and management options for dealing with its control, and point to other sources of information that may help.

Towards a Decision Support Tool to Address Invasive Species in Garry Oak & Associated Ecosystems in B.C.

Murray, C., and C. Pinkham. 2002. Prepared by ESSA Technologies Ltd., Victoria, B.C. for the GOERT Invasive Species Steering Committee, Victoria, BC. 96pp. <http://www.goert.ca/docs/GOEDSTreport.pdf>

(1MB)

This report comprises the first step towards the development of a decision support tool for invasive species management. It includes chapters on

- Review of Current Status of Decision Support Tools for Invasive Species in BC;
- Gaps in Decision Support Tools/Methodologies;
- Decision Support Framework; and
- Top Ten GOE-Threatening Exotic Plant Species.