Tools, Tips and Techniques for Determining and Tracking Land Management Costs

Chris Kirkpatrick
Executive Director
The Prairie Enthusiasts

Steve Apfelbaum
Founder & Chairman
Applied Ecological Services

Scott Fulton
President
The Prairie Enthusiasts

Jerry Pedretti
Bookkeeper
The Prairie Enthusiasts

The Prairie Enthusiasts
Now that we have your attention....

Overview & Standard 12
Land management (LM) plan process
  • Create a mng. plan activity
Determining the LM costs
  • Mng. plan costs estimate activity
Tracking & Financing your plan
  • Budgeting your mng. costs information
Creating Site Communities
  • Tips on supporting site communities
The Prairie Enthusiasts

Midwest Prairies & Savannas were born of Fire

Now they are almost Gone
Standard 12: Fee Land Stewardship

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

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.