

Conservation Easements & Stewardship 102: From the Ground Up (and Sky Down!)

Presented by Lisa Shealy, Working Lands Trust

Join us for an in-depth exploration of the conservation easement process—what it takes to get a property protected from preliminary property research and initial site visit to the closing table—and of equal or greater significance, the perpetual stewardship obligation of conservation easement properties—including annual monitoring, landowner support and enforcement, current technologies for work efficiency and sound records management. We will cover existing resources and models for reference, as well as current funding opportunities. Get a feel for what both the office and field components of a Conservation Easement Program look like and further consider the potential for your District!

Agenda:

Wednesday Afternoon (1:00-5:00) County District Office

12:30-1:00 Check-in, Coffee/Water

1:00-1:15 Welcome and Introductions (15 min)

1:15-1:45 Review of 101 and Initial Questions (30 min)

1:45-3:00 Conservation Easement Process (75 min)

- Preliminary Property Assessment and Prioritization (from the office)
- Funding Opportunities and Applications
- Due Diligence

3:00-3:15 Break—Coffee/Water, Light Snack (15 min)

3:15-4:30 Stewardship (75 min)

- Annual Monitoring Preparation
- Landowner Support
- Enforcement
- Records Management

4:30-5:00 Q & A and Dismiss

Thursday Morning (8:00-12:00) Field Trip to Private Conservation Easement Property

8:00 AM Meet at County District Office (optional)

- Coffee/Water and Light Breakfast/Snacks for the Field

9:00 AM Arrive at Conservation Easement Property

- Tour Property while discussing:
 - Initial Site Visit/Property Assessment (on the ground)
 - Baseline Documentation
 - Monitoring Visits
 - Landowner Support
 - Enforcement

12:00 PM Dismiss from Property and/or carpool back to District Office

Follow-up for virtual Landscape Conservation Software Demo/Workshop related to Conservation Easements and Stewardship Records Management TBD