

Programmatic Investment Summary

PROJECT NAME			
A Work Plan and Business Plan to Acquire and Distribute Conservation Easement Data <i>RFP 2008-004</i>			
ALIGNMENT WITH THEORY OF CHANGE			
Forest Retention	Value Streams	Community Capacity	
X			
TYPE OF PROJECT			
Knowledge	Pilot/Demonstration	Operational	Policy
X			
PROJECT OVERVIEW AND OUTCOMES			
<p>The “<i>Considerations for Creating a National Conservation Easement Database (NCED)</i>” report was compiled to explore the issues discussed at the NCED convening. A series of telephone interviews were conducted with 26 representatives from government agencies and nonprofit organizations, all of whom will be potential users, consumers, and/or partners of a national database of conservation easements. The interviews focused on the conversation topics of the NCED convening, as well as interviewees’ organizational data resources and experiences / lessons with internal, state, regional, and national conservation databases. The analysis and synthesis of the interview data, along with review of relevant documents; provide the main content for this report. (View Full Report).</p> <p>A national database of conservation easements will help to multiply possibilities for collaboration in the conservation community, enhance our knowledge about what is conserved and by whom, support organizations in leveraging one another’s efforts, surface and highlight areas of overlapping interest--possibly leading to collaborative development of protection and management strategies, enable powerful communication necessary to do large scale conservation work, create opportunities for leveraging programs and funding, and help agencies improve cooperation by connecting with land trusts and others working in the same landscapes.</p>			
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS			
<p>Enhanced accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency will strengthen the conservation sector’s capacity to “make the case for conservation.” The potential to generate visual images in various places in the country will also be a powerful support in communicating with Congress and other federal, state, and private funders.</p> <p>According to interviewees, the strongest rationale for creating a national database of conservation easements is the potential of such a tracking system to promote strategic conservation and to help organizations focus their limited resources. Also, its ability to serve as an adaptive management tool and as a metric for measuring how land trusts and other conservation organizations are doing vis-à-vis their conservation goals.</p>			
FUNDS COMMITTED			
Endowment Commitment	Leverage via Endowment	Endowment Spending to Date	Leverage Outside Endowment
\$11,000	-	\$10,740	-
CONSULTANTS/GRANTEES			
Danyelle O’Hara		Not applicable	
CHRONOLOGY			
Date Approved By Board	Date Agreement Signed or Launched	Project/Initiative Life	Status
November 2007	8-1-2008	10-30-2008 Closed 4 th Quarter	Complete