

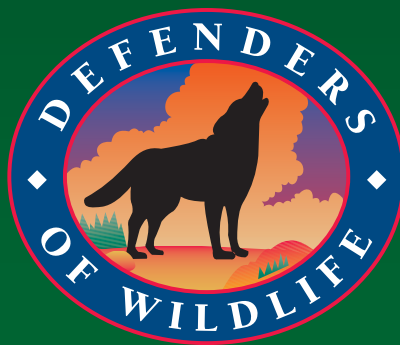
# Planning Tools for Biodiversity Conservation

LTA NE Regional Conference  
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# Living Lands:

## Helping Land Trusts Conserve Biodiversity



# Living Lands Mission

To support and increase the capacity of the land trust community to conserve biodiversity on private lands through financial and technical assistance.

# Living Lands Project: Why Now?

- Standards 8, 11 and 12
- IRS and taxpayers need conservation donations to be worthy of a federal tax benefit
- Land trusts need to document “conservation purposes” in easement language
- Funders want strategic planning
- New State Wildlife Action Plans

# Living Lands: Survey

- Purpose: Determine the current extent of local land trust work that contributes to biodiversity conservation
- Interviews with LTA staff, land trusts, conservation organizations
- Web survey, January 2006:
  - Sent to approx. 800 land trusts
  - 135 responded (18%)
  - 28 states

# Survey Results

- Total response: 135 land trusts
- Mission includes habitat: 97%
- Habitat is primary focus: 63%
- Protect agricultural lands: 71%
- Want to increase capacity for biodiversity conservation: 89%

# Survey Responses

- Major barriers:
  - Limited stewardship / monitoring funding
  - Limited staff capacity
  - Limited staff expertise
  - Not a local community priority
  - Uninterested landowners

# Survey Responses

- Assistance or training needs:
  - Conservation planning
  - Habitat restoration and management
  - Monitoring
  - Identifying funding sources



# Living Lands Project

- Land Trust Alliance regional conferences and Rally (2006, 2007, 2008)
- Written resources for land trusts:  
[www.defenders.org/livinglands](http://www.defenders.org/livinglands)
- Case studies
- Small grants for biodiversity pilot projects

# Pilot Projects

- \$59,300 awarded to 7 land trusts
  - Teton Regional Land Trust, ID
  - Nisqually Land Trust, WA
  - Washtenaw Land Trust, MI
  - Sudbury Valley Trustees, MA
  - Greenbelt Land Trust, OR
  - Eastern Sierra Land Trust, CA
  - Taos Land Trust, NM

# Living Lands Contact Info

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