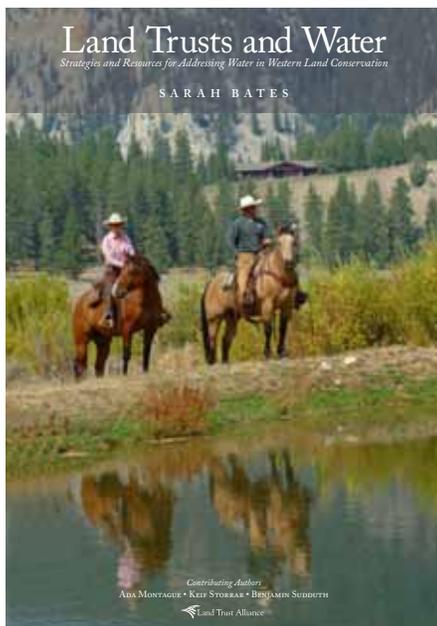


New Western WATER BOOK

A new Land Trust Alliance book offers practical tools and resources to help western land trusts address water-related conservation values in their land conservation work, reflecting extensive input, review and discussion among land trusts, water trusts and other experts across the West.



Increasingly, land trusts working in the arid American West are interested in addressing water in their transactions with landowners. In many cases, land trusts seek to ensure that existing irrigation practices continue in order to protect the values of productive working lands and the related habitat benefits of irrigation water after it leaves the fields. In other cases, land trusts seek opportunities to conserve water to augment streamflows, as well as to enhance wetlands, riparian habitat and other water-related conservation values. Some land trusts work in close partnership with water trusts, which are nonprofit organizations that engage in and facilitate transactions that involve conservation measures, physical improvements (such as structural upgrades or low-flow channels) and rewatering important stream reaches.

The new book *Land Trusts and Water: Strategies and Resources for Addressing Water in Western Land Conservation* highlights stories of partnerships in various locations throughout the West, using different tools adapted for the needs of the landowner and the conservation values being protected. The book includes sample conservation easement and water transaction language and provides resources to learn more about state-specific laws and programs.

The stories, tools and resources in this book will support and strengthen efforts

to protect water resources as a regular part of land conservation work and encourage productive partnerships with water trusts and many other partners who share long-term goals of sustainable land and water use.

The Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy at the University of Montana led this 18-month project, with support from the Walton Family Foundation. To view the new publication, go to Collections in the digital library on The Learning Center (<http://learningcenter.lta.org>).

—Submitted by Sarah Bates •

Express Learning Kits: Bring The Experts In

LOOKING FOR AN EASY AND EFFECTIVE WAY to train your team—without sending them offsite? The Alliance announces a new training option that conveniently brings the expertise of national leaders directly to your land trust office. Each Express Learning Kit contains a short webinar recording (20–30 minutes) by a leading topic expert, a facilitator’s guide, participant exercises and additional resources.

Gather your team together, broadcast the webinar recording and then dive into the exercises or discussion. You’ll be amazed at what you discover about your skills, strengths and improvement areas, without the hassle of travel. The inaugural kits are focused on strengthening your team’s financial acumen: “How to Ask for Major Gifts: Maximizing Your Fundraising Team’s Impact” and “Powering Up Board Financial Oversight” (for both staffed and all-volunteer land trusts). More kits are on the way. Send topic suggestions to Mary Burke at mburke@lta.org. Purchase the kits at www.lta.org/publications. •



A Resource for Woodland Owners



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WOODLAND OWNERS CAN MAP THEIR PROPERTY, keep a journal about it and find resources for managing it on MyLandPlan.org, an American Forest Foundation website.

“Most of America’s forests are owned privately, with nearly 282 million acres of forests owned by 22 million family forest owners,” says Bettina Ring, senior vice president for family forests at the American Forest Foundation. “Many of these families are not actively engaged in any kind of stewardship.”

The free tools and information on MyLandPlan.org are intended to make good stewardship more accessible for woodland owners. The site contains information on soil and water conservation, invasive species, trespassing and insurance, sustainably harvesting timber, and directories of professionals, including foresters. The website also links to the Land Trust Alliance’s Web directory of land trusts, and contains information on passing woodlands from one generation to the next.

Mapping and tracking basic information is the first step in stewardship. “We’ve seen landowners come to the site and use it for journaling and mapping their properties before they have professionals come out to work with them. It really helps to jump-start the process,” Ring says.

—Submitted by Kendall Slee 

You work hard to conserve your community’s cherished places.

Now you can secure that investment.



Terrafirma Risk Retention Group LLC

The Land Trust Alliance created **Terrafirma** as a charitable risk pool owned by participating land trusts that insures its members against the legal costs of defending conservation. It is available for all Land Trust Alliance member land trusts with conservation easements or fee lands held for conservation. Terrafirma also provides information and training on risk management to its members. Terrafirma is part of the Land Trust Alliance’s national strategy to build a formidable defense to ensure conservation permanence.

For more information, contact Conservation Defense Director Leslie Ratley-Beach at lrbeach@lta.org or 802.262.6051, or visit www.terrafirma.org.



The Land Conservancy of New Jersey (left) and the Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina have enrolled in Terrafirma.