

Land Trust Alliance *Fact Sheet*



Careers at Land Trusts

With the number of land trusts operating in the United States increasing every year, and the number of acres conserved by these organizations increasing even faster, the land trust movement is clearly one of the fastest-growing segments of the conservation movement.

With this growth in numbers and sophistication, land trusts' staffing demands and opportunities are expanding as well. While land trusts with full-time staff represent less than half of all land trusts, they can claim credit for nearly 90 percent of all land conserved by land trusts. Land trust staff handle a great range of responsibilities, including land protection, project management, stewardship, fundraising, education, communications, and administration. There are many possibilities for employment in the conservation field in a wide variety of organizations working at the local, state, regional and federal levels nationwide.

The best thing to do may be to start applying to entry-level jobs at an organization you'd like to work for. Land Trust Alliance has a very popular website for jobs in the conservation community.

Attend Trainings

There are also many opportunities to attend trainings and conferences to meet people who are actually doing conservation work to make connections and build your network. Our National Land Conservation Conference: Rally 2008 is an excellent place to get to know the subject matter and people of land conservation. There are often jobs advertised there and you may get a chance to talk to the various or-

ganizations that are hiring on the spot. <http://www.lta.org/training/rally.htm>

Educational Opportunities

While there aren't many graduate programs specifically designed just for land trust personnel, many curricula can prepare someone for land trust work. The Duke Environmental Leadership Program of the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, at Duke University is developing programs and courses for environmental and conservation professionals, including an emerging Certificate in Land Conservation and Management. When these will become available is not yet known.

Legal Education

Two law schools that have courses in conservation law are the University of Vermont Law School and the University of California Hastings College of the Law. Graduates from both of these have gone on to successful conservation careers.

Employment Resource Websites

The Land Trust Alliance - www.landtrustalliance.org/about-us/jobs/jobs

Idealist Jobs Board - www.idealist.org/if/as/Job

Ecojobs Board - www.ecojobs.com/natural-resource-and-conservation-jobs.htm



Copyright © 2008, Land Trust Alliance

This document is one of a series of fact sheets and reference materials produced by the Land Trust Alliance. This publication is designed to provide accurate, authoritative information on the subject matter covered. It is offered with the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional services. If legal advice is required, the services of experienced professional advisors should be sought.

Revised May 2008.