

THE LEARNING CENTER GETS A Facelift



The newly redesigned Learning Center homepage offers easy access to *Field Guide*, hundreds of sample documents and the complete *Saving Land* archive. Connect with your peers to share ideas and discuss common challenges. Or dig deeper with a book from the Standards and Practices Curriculum and earn badges as you work your way through each book.

New to The Learning Center or haven't visited in a while? Go to <http://learningcenter.lta.org> and click **Get Started**. Your Alliance land trust membership includes free access for all of your staff, board members and other volunteers. Questions? Email tlc@lta.org.

The Learning Center is a service offered to Alliance member land trusts and partners, and to individual members at the \$250 level and above. •

Checking in with NCED

THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT DATABASE (www.conservationeasement.us) has added more than 1 million acres since last fall. The NCED partnership has been working to improve both the accuracy of the database as well as the usability of the website. After receiving numerous suggestions, the partnership has worked with its data providers across the country to more accurately reflect the location of conservation easements throughout the United States. Given the number of improvements and corrections, it is highly recommended to replace any past versions of the database with the latest version.

For specific information on updates and changes:

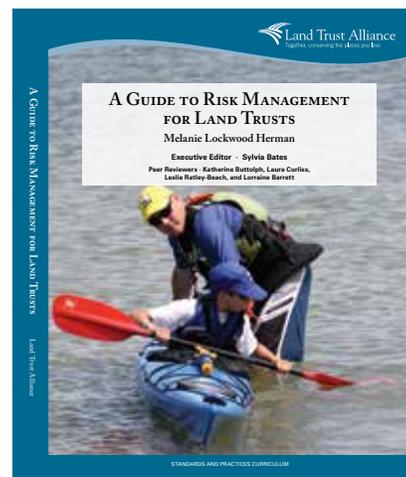
- Check out the maps that show how complete NCED is estimated to be by state.

- View the list of easement holders that have been added or updated.
- View the new Conservation Easements Resources page. •

Free Software Report

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE INFORMATION SERVICES MANAGER KATIE CHANG SAYS, "Land trusts ask us all the time about database software." Now she has a great tool to suggest: Idealware's report on donor software, "A Consumers Guide to Donor Management Systems," available as a free download at <http://idealware.org/reports/consumers-guide-donor-management-systems>. •

Developing a Risk Management Program



RISK MANAGEMENT IS A DISCIPLINE for dealing with uncertainty. While addressing legal exposures may be a component of your strategy, the real payoff of a dedicated risk management program is the opportunity to better understand events that could cause significant or irreparable harm—or unprecedented benefit—to your land trust's mission.

So how *do* you manage risk? Check out these Land Trust Alliance resources. With our new book *A Guide to Risk Management for Land Trusts*, available at www.lta.org/publications (PDF is free for Alliance member land



trusts), author Melanie Lockwood Herman equips your land trust with information, resources and suggested strategies for designing and implementing a practical risk management program.

The risk management collection on The Learning Center offers resources specifically chosen to help you manage risk at your land trust. If you haven't been there in a while, we have posted some new resources including an emergency succession planning template.

And for all our member land trusts, the Alliance purchased an Affiliate membership with the Nonprofit Risk Management Center. Simply go to the Conservation Defense Clearinghouse at <http://tlc.lta.org/clearinghouse> and click on the center's logo. •

Midwest Federal Conservation Funding Matrix

THE ALLIANCE'S MIDWEST TEAM, with help from Alliance policy staff and Liz Crane-Wexler, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Anne Murphy, executive director of Shasta Land Trust, has put together a matrix of federal conservation funding programs. While most of the programs are applicable nationwide, some are specific to the Midwest.

MaryKay O'Donnell, Midwest conservation manager, says, "When we were considering this undertaking, we asked, 'Doesn't someone else have this information?' The answer was no. Other conservation groups have bits and pieces, but no one else has a comprehensive list."

Land trusts can download the matrix at www.lta.org/about/regional-programs/mw.

"While it isn't likely to be perfect, it's a pretty dang good start," says O'Donnell. Have any additions or improvements? Send changes to mkodonnell@lta.org.

Bring The Experts To Your Conference Room

The new Land Trust Alliance Express Learning Kits are a great way for your team to train together with land conservation experts, but without long and costly travel!

Each Express Learning Kit Contains

- Short webinar recording by a topic expert
- Facilitator's guide to lead the group
- Participant exercises or discussion questions
- List of additional resources

Be amazed what you discover about your skills, strengths and areas of improvement, and get the training your team needs to thrive.

www.lta.org/expresskits

Have questions or suggestions for additional topics? Please email Mary Burke, Online Learning and Curriculum Manager, at mburke@lta.org.

