

SAVING land

learn . inspire . act

SUMMER . 08

www.landtrustalliance.org VOL. 27 / NO. 3

A Big Victory in
Conservation Defense

Keeping
Talented Staff

climate CHANGE

Land Trusts
Take Action

Together, Protected

Cross-Border Conservation Comes of Age

One of the newest land trusts in the U.S. aims to help protect Canada's most treasured landscapes. American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (Friends) recently received its 501(c)(3) designation and is poised to take "cross-border conservation" to a whole new level.

Formed by a coalition of experienced U.S. and Canadian land trust professionals, Friends provides an essential link between conservation-minded U.S. citizens who own land in Canada and the capable land trusts to the north who want to protect those properties. U.S. ownership is concentrated in Canada's most scenic and ecologically important areas along rivers, lakes and coasts. In Nova Scotia, for example, as much as 25% of waterfront land in some counties is owned by U.S. residents.

Until now, even the most charitably motivated U.S. taxpayers found it challenging to donate easements, title or cash to conservation organizations in Canada because their gifts could trigger unfavorable tax treatment. With the goal of protecting some of Canada's finest natural resources, Friends hopes to motivate conservation gifts from landowners south-of-the-border by providing the possibility of favorable U.S. and Canadian tax consequences. Friends can accept all types of donations, including interests in land in Canada.

Cross-border conservation addresses the reality that ecosystems and human communities are not constrained by international borders. Just as the Northeast's majestic forests, the Midwest's mighty waterways and the West's rugged peaks and beloved coastlines tie the two countries together, conservation is increasingly reaching across the border between the U.S. and Canada.

Other cross-border initiatives such as the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, a network of organizations along the Rocky Mountain corridor, and the Two Countries/One Forest collaboration that works to protect and restore the large remaining tracts of forestland that span from New York to Nova Scotia, have brought together remarkable alliances of governments, nonprofits, landowners and philanthropists.

Land trusts and landowner advisors in the U.S. often know individuals and corporations who own the prized properties in Canada. Now that Friends is available to facilitate conservation on the other side of the border, conservation professionals can provide referrals to their donors and clients interested in protecting the Canadian resources they steward. Visit <http://nsnt.ca/afocl> for more information. ●



know the OWNERS

Six Largest Individual U.S. Landowners

(Owner, Acres)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Ted Turner: 2,000,000 | 5 King Ranch Heirs: 851,642 |
| 2 Archie Aldis "Red" Emerson: 1,722,000 | 6 Pingree Heirs: 850,000 (762,192 acres conserved) |
| 3 Irving Family: 1,200,000 | |
| 4 Singleton Family: over 1,000,000 | * See the other 94 landowners on the list at www.landreport.com/americas-100-largest-landowners . |

Do you have news land trusts can use? Send it to savingland@lta.org so we can spread the word to your peers.