



Protecting forever

The creation of new protected areas has already been going on for several years and, in the Appalachian Corridor's territory of action, the results are conclusive. Each year, since the foundation of the organization in 2002, some 1,000 ha of ecosensitive land are protected by our affiliate members and partners. However, the management and monitoring of these lands pose a serious challenge.

In the United States and Canada, experience has shown that when lands under a conservation agreement change hands, there is an increased risk of non-compliance with the agreement by the new owners. To ensure that new generations of owners respect the agreements signed by the previous owners, we must therefore greatly increase our monitoring and follow-up activities in these protected areas.

What is Stewardship?

When it comes to the conservation of natural environments, stewardship means the monitoring, protection and maintenance of natural characteristics in order to sustain and preserve – in perpetuity – the species and habitats present in that environment. Stewardship may include the following actions, but does not exclude others:

- Marking of the properties' boundaries
- Ecological follow-up of the protected natural elements (inventory of species at risk, monitoring of the ecological integrity of the habitats)
- Improvement of the protected area, as the case may be
- Control of access for certain activities (hiking, nature watching, fishing, hunting, etc.)
- Restoration of degraded areas on the territory
- Control of invasive or harmful species

To ensure the terms of the conservation agreements are respected and applied guarantees the credibility of conservation actions on private lands.



What is a Management Fund?

In financial circles a management fund, also called an endowment or capital fund, is a gift in perpetuity. The donor invests an amount for which he gets a tax receipt, and that capital remains intact and non-expendable. Interests are distributed annually and represent a stable source of financing for conservation groups who received land donations and must manage them responsibly.



Acquiring the means

The establishment of a management fund for each conservation project is a new practice that deserves to be better known. It is now estimated that we need to raise between 10 and 20 % of the fair market value of a donated property in order to pay municipal costs and finance the maintenance and monitoring of the protected lands. Each year, the management fund yields interest which serves to pay property taxes, ensure efficient management of the protected lands in perpetuity, and guard against unforeseen circumstances. In fact, besides the annual basic management of a property, many unexpected events can occur: a lawsuit against a third party which affects the property, vandalism, a natural catastrophe, etc. If conservation organizations do not have sufficient funds to cover these costs, their existence is in peril.

Contributing to the sound management of protected areas

Very few organizations or private foundations subsidize conservation groups and it is therefore extremely difficult for us to build up a management fund. In addition, government funding is increasingly restricted and at times inexistant. For example, since 2013, no provincial financial programme supports the conservation of natural environments on private lands. We are therefore in the difficult position of having to ask owners who donate land to contribute to the management fund. By doing so, landowners ensure their lands will be protected in perpetuity and managed in a sound manner without creating a burden that could compromise the mission of local conservation organizations.

We greatly appreciate your caring gesture towards Nature and hope you will be sensitive to the need for sound management of protected areas.

For more information, please contact:

Corridor appalachien

www.corridorappalachien.ca - info@corridorappalachien.ca

450 297-1145