

# A Forest Owner's Introduction to Conservation Easements

A free landowner workshop  
sponsored by the  
Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation  
and the Montana Association of Land Trusts



**March 26, 2010**  
**2:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**Ponderosa Room, City Hall**  
**952 E. Spruce**  
**Libby, Montana**



A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that limits uses of the land to protect conservation values outlined in the agreement. The land remains in private ownership, and only the portion of the land identified in the agreement is subject to the terms of the conservation easement. Conservation easements are typically permanent and require all future owners of the property to adhere to the terms of the agreement.

Conservation easements have been a part of the Montana landscape since 1976, and have been an important tool for landowners to protect forestland, farm and ranch lands, wetlands, wildlife habitat, riparian areas and more.

Landowners with a conservation easement on their property can continue to use the land productively and sell it or pass it on to heirs, permanently protect natural resources and in cases where the easement is fully or partially donated, may be eligible for a reduction in federal income taxes and/or federal estate taxes. The reduction in exposure to federal estate taxes can help pass the property along to heirs and keep the land intact.

The three-hour Forest Owner's Introduction to Conservation Easements workshop is intended to provide an overview of conservation easements in Montana, add more detailed information about the conservation easement process, and allow plenty of opportunity for questions and answers. Another purpose of the workshop is to create opportunities for landowners to talk directly to land trusts and state and federal agencies with conservation easement programs.

It is important to note that conservation easements are voluntary. Typically, it is landowners who take the initiative and seek information about the conservation easement process, purpose and benefits. This workshop is provided as a service to forest owners by the Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation and the Montana Association of Land Trusts. There is no cost to attend this workshop.

**Forest Landowners Workshop**  
**Box 675**  
**Whitehall, Montana 59759**

## **WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**2:00 PM – Welcome and Introductions**  
**(Ed Levert, Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation)**

**2:20 PM – An Introduction to Conservation Easements**  
**(Glenn Marx, Montana Association of Land Trusts)**

**2:50 PM – Forest Management and Conservation**  
**Charlie Decker, Logger/Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**

**3:15 PM – Break**

**3:30 PM – Conservation Easement Panel**  
**Panelists: Gary Ellingson, forestry consultant, Northwest Management**  
**Mark Schiltz, Montana Land Reliance**  
**Allen Wood, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks**  
**Kirk Sullivan, Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**(Ed Levert, panel moderator)**

**4:45 PM – Final Comments/Close – Ed Levert**

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (LZW) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

**QUESTIONS** – *If you have questions or would like to learn more about this free workshop, please contact Ed Levert at 293- 2847, email [televert@kvis.net](mailto:televert@kvis.net), or Glenn Marx at 490-1659, email [montanamalt@q.com](mailto:montanamalt@q.com). Thanks much for your interest, and we hope to see you at Libby City Hall on March 26.*