

Natural Legacies:

Your Educational Guide to Conservation in BC



Protecting Nature on Private Land - Management and Handshake Agreements

What is a management agreement?

A management agreement is a simple written contract between the landowner and a conservation organization to manage land in a certain way. For example, you might agree to protect a wetland by retaining a beaver dam.

This is different from a more comprehensive management plan that would accompany a conservation covenant.

What is a handshake agreement?

A handshake or verbal agreement is similar to a management agreement, except that there is no legal contract or obligation. It may be as simple as providing permission for volunteers to enter your land for the purpose of checking for and removing invasive species.

MANAGEMENT AND HANDSHAKE AGREEMENTS



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When are agreements a good conservation tool?

From a landowner's perspective, a management agreement is a good choice if:

- You want to retain ownership of the land, but have outside assistance in stewarding its conservation values;
- You do not want an agreement that will be binding on future owners; and
- You have a good relationship with your local conservation organization.

Considerations:

- You should include a clause in the management agreement noting what happens if either party want to terminate the agreement.

Legal Considerations:

These agreements are simple and legal advice is not usually required, unless the agreement is complex.

Resources:

Penn, B. 1996. Stewardship Options for Private Landowners in British Columbia. BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/PDF_docs/StewardshipSeries/StewardshipOptions.pdf or available from <http://www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca/portfolio/stewardship-options/>. *A comprehensive overview of stewardship options for land conservation.*

Land Trust Alliance of BC. On the ground: A volunteers' guide to monitoring stewardship agreements. Available from LTABC <http://ltabc.ca/resources/ltabc-publications/65-on-the-ground-a-volunteers-guide-to-monitoring-stewardship-agreements>. *Provides a step-by-step guide to for volunteers and staff through the stages of developing Stewardship Agreements, outlining the various kinds of legal agreements.*