

## Protecting Land for Traditional Use: Alaska's Land Trusts and Conservation Options for Native Landowners

*Land is the gift of our ancestors and the guarantee of our right to continue our subsistence lifestyle. Land is the heart of our culture. Without the land, we are nothing.*

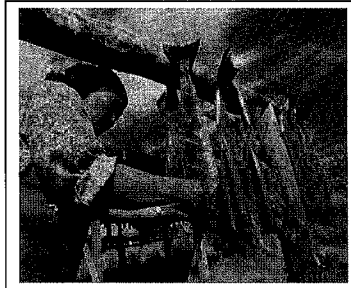
Harvey Samuelson  
Bristol Bay Village  
Leadership Conference 2001

As a Native landowner, you may own land that has passed to you largely unchanged through generations. The land is yours and no one can tell you what to do with it, but the choices you make about the land will determine whether it remains unchanged for future generations.



If you wish to preserve the natural values of your land so that traditional use can continue, or if you wish to limit non-traditional use of your land in the future, you should consider contacting one of

Alaska's land trusts. A land trust may be able to help you preserve your land into the future.

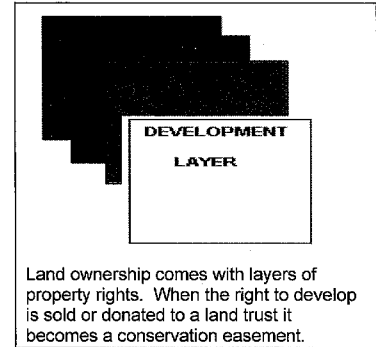


The two most common ways that land trusts protect land are the following:

**Conservation Easement:** A land trust can accept, or in some cases, purchase a conservation easement. A conservation easement is a promise made by the owner that the land will never be developed beyond the buildings needed for traditional use. The current owner makes the promise, but it is a promise that binds all future owners of the property. Land with a conservation easement can be sold or can be passed on to your heirs, and the restrictions pass with the deed. The land trust ensures the promise is respected by all future owners.

Often a landowner will donate a conservation easement to a land trust. All of Alaska's land trusts are non-profit organizations. A donation may make financial sense if you can use the value of the easement as a tax deduction. However, in cases where the owner needs money and the land has important

conservation, historical, or cultural values, a land trust may be able to purchase an easement. Most land trusts use donated funds to make such purchases.



**Sale to a Land Trust:** A conservation easement protects traditional use and natural values while preserving Native ownership of the land. However, some landowners prefer to sell. If your land has important conservation, historical or cultural values a land trust may be able to purchase it. Sales can sometimes be made that accommodate the owner's need to continue using the property. Most land trusts use donated funds to buy land. A sale should only be considered if you no longer wish to own the property or if you do not wish to leave the land to your heirs.

In addition to conservation easements and sales, there are other conservation options that may be available to you. If you are interested in preserving your land, contact a land trust to learn more about your choices as a Native landowner.

The following are Alaska's land trust organizations:

Interior Alaska:

- Interior Alaska Land Trust PO Box 84169, Fairbanks, AK 99708-4169  
Phone: (907) 479-0737 Fax: (907) 479-3786  
e-mail: [indtrust@ptialaska.net](mailto:indtrust@ptialaska.net); web site [www.ptialaska.net/~indtrust](http://www.ptialaska.net/~indtrust)

Kenai Peninsula:

- Kachemak Heritage Land Trust PO Box 2400 Homer, AK 99603-2400  
Phone: (907) 235-5263 Fax: (907) 235-1503  
e-mail: [khltkbr@xyz.net](mailto:khltkbr@xyz.net); web site: [www.kachemaklandtrust.org](http://www.kachemaklandtrust.org)



Southeast Alaska:

- Southeast Alaska Land Trust 119 Seward St Ste 15 Juneau, AK 99801-1268  
Phone: (907) 586-3100 Fax: (907) 586-3125  
e-mail: [setrust@ptialaska.net](mailto:setrust@ptialaska.net)
- Organized Village of Kasaan Land Trust PO Box 26-Kasaan, Ketchikan, AK 99950  
Phone: (907) 542-2230 Fax: (907) 542-3006  
e-mail: [kasaanira@hotmail.com](mailto:kasaanira@hotmail.com)

Southcentral Alaska:

- Great Land Trust PO Box 101272 Anchorage, AK 99510-1272  
Phone: (907) 278-4998 Fax: (907) 278-4997  
e-mail: [glt@alaska.net](mailto:glt@alaska.net) ; web site: [www.greatlandtrust.org](http://www.greatlandtrust.org)
- Native Conservancy PO Box 460 Cordova, Alaska 99574  
Phone: (907) 424-5890

Southwest Alaska:

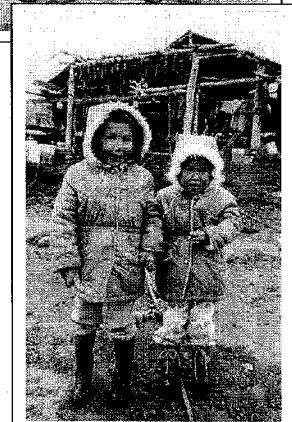
- Nushagak-Mulchatna/Wood-Tikchik Land Trust PO Box 1388 Dillingham, AK 99576-1388  
Phone: (907) 842-2832 Fax: (907) 842-2776 e-mail: [nmwland@nushtel.com](mailto:nmwland@nushtel.com); web site: [www.nmwlandtrust.org](http://www.nmwlandtrust.org)

Statewide:

- The Conservation Fund (907) 694-9060
- The Nature Conservancy (907) 276-3133
- The Trust for Public Lands (206) 587-2447



## FROM ONE GENERATION



TO  
THE  
NEXT