

# Southeast Alaska Land Trust



*Stewarding Lands You Cherish*

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## **Guidelines for Composing A Letter of Intent**

Dear Landowner:

One of the early steps in developing a conservation easement is the submittal of a “letter of intent” from the landowner to the Trust. This letter is not a legally binding document, but rather an opportunity for you to describe, in your own words, your vision for the future of your property with a conservation easement in place. The description can be brief but should include adequate detail regarding public benefits and restrictions. Please consider the following:

- prohibited activities and land uses now or in the future
- natural features or structures requiring protection
- activities and land uses which may or shall occur
- activities which may be permissible within specified constraints, such as commercial ventures, extent or kind of public access
- certain features which may or shall be removed, modified, or developed, such as trails or facilities.

The Trust will use your letter of intent as one of several means to determine whether your property meets both the Trust’s criteria for land selection and federal requirements. Some purposes the Trust must consider include:

- preservation of land for public outdoor recreation or education.
- protection of important and relatively natural habitat
- preservation of open space pursuant to a clearly defined governmental policy or designation, such as a landmark, recreation area, or scenic area
- protection of historic property

To the greatest extent possible, a conservation easement on your property will reflect your goals and desires for the future of your land. A letter of intent will help guide us as we work together to develop a conservation easement that meets our shared goals for land and resource protection.

Also please include:

- your full name, mailing address, telephone, fax and email.
- ownership status of the land being considered.

Please call if you have questions concerning the letter of intent or any other matter.

Thank you for your interest and efforts in this important endeavor.