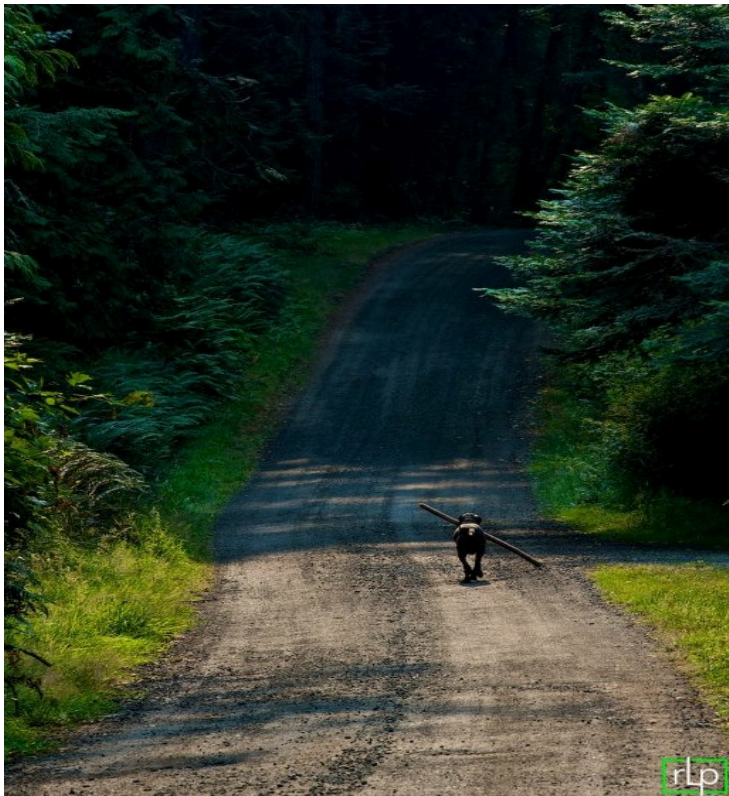


Natural Legacies:

Your Educational Guide to Conservation in BC



Land Stewardship for Landowners and Volunteers

Congratulations! You own a piece of land that has outstanding natural values. Mother Nature does a great job of keeping those values, but sometimes she needs help. The “best” stewardship options will vary according to the type of ecosystem, the challenges it may face, and the level of effort that you can realistically put into land management. A few general ideas are provided below, and several helpful resources are listed at the end. A good option is to talk to your local conservation organization about your options, and they may be able to link you up with volunteers to help manage your property.

Letting Mother Nature take charge:

Often, a good stewardship option is to minimize human-caused disruption to a natural area and “let nature take its course”. This can include options such as:

- Limiting the number and width of trails through an area to minimize human trampling;

LAND STEWARDSHIP FOR LANDOWNERS AND VOLUNTEERS



Natural Legacies is a project of the Land Trust Alliance of BC with the financial support of The Real Estate Foundation of BC The Vancouver Foundation The Law Foundation of BC The Victoria Foundation The Province of BC Environment Canada TIDES Canada

Land Trust Alliance of BC LTABC
201-569 Johnson St
VICTORIA BC V8W 1M2
250-590-1921 www.ltabc.ca

- Keeping cats inside so that they do not prey on birds;
- Fencing livestock out of streams and riparian areas;
- Providing boardwalks over wet areas to prevent paths from widening and damaging vegetation.

Managing invasive species:

Invasive species are plants and animals that are not native to an area, but when introduced can spread rapidly and affect the ways that ecosystems and native species function. The best way to deal with invasive species is to prevent their introduction, or to try and remove them before they become common.

- There are many different invasive species and the best way to remove them varies. Check with your local government or the Invasive Species Council of BC (<http://bcinvasives.ca/>) to find out appropriate methods to remove and dispose of specific invasive species.
- Learn to recognize the common invasive plants in your area and remove them if possible. Beware that some species (such as Giant Hogweed and Poison Hemlock) are toxic or poisonous.
- Avoid spreading invasive plants. Pull them before they go to seed, and don't put them in the compost as the seeds may be spread in the resulting soil.
- Never plant invasive species in your garden, and remove them if they occur.

Restoring natural values:

If natural areas have been degraded, it is often possible to restore some of their ecosystem values. Preparing and implementing a restoration plan can be a specialized process, so contact your local conservation organization for advice.

Useful Resources:

Invasive Species Council of British Columbia website <http://bcinvasives.ca/>