

Dare to Defend Your Baseline



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Outline

- Baseline Basics
- Part 1 – What information should be collected?
- Part 2 – How should it be collected?
- Part 3 – Does data storage matter?

Baseline Basics

- What is a Baseline?
 - Describes the property at the time of signing the conservation easement
 - Generally described in the conservation easement therefore legally linking the baseline and the CE
 - Anchor of the conservation easement

Baseline Basics

- Why is a Baseline needed?
 - It provides a comparison for annual monitoring and enforcement
 - In the case of an infringement will be used in evidence



Baseline Basics

- When should a Baseline be completed?
 - After the restrictions have been set
 - Usually before signing
 - Can be concurrent with the appraisal



Part 1: What information should be collected?

- The purpose and subsequent restrictions of the conservation easement directs data collection
- Think about what the conservation easement says and how it can be violated. Need to consider:
 - Restrictions
 - Improvements
 - Reserved rights
 - Boundaries
 - Other?



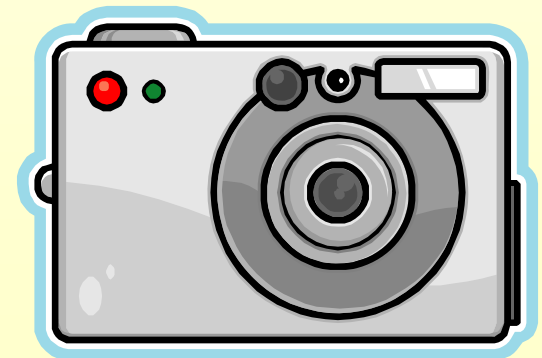
Part 2: How Should Data be Collected?

- Photographs
- Survey
- Written / verbal
- Electronic
 - GPS / GIS
 - Aerial photographs
 - Orthophotographs
 - Satellite imagery
- Combination?



Part 2: How Should Data be Collected?

- Photographs
 - For items that will never change or will change slowly
 - For items that are allowed to be replaced with similar items or need to be compared
 - When measurement is “presence” vs “absence”
 - EXAMPLES



Part 2: How Should Data be Collected?

- Survey
 - Separate areas that have no distinguishing breaks
 - Current or future locations – reserved rights
 - EXAMPLES

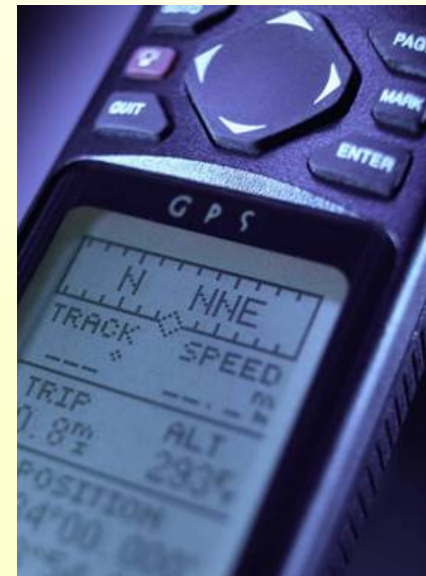


Part 2: How Should Data be Collected?

- Written / verbal
 - Augment other types of data collection
 - Item/location being described is very simple
 - EXAMPLES

Part 2: How Should Data be Collected?

- **Electronic** - GPS / GIS-Aerial photographs, Orthophotographs, Satellite imagery
 - Visual display of data – what are you capturing?
 - Need to be aware of and document accuracy levels
 - Need to document date and time of year of imagery/aerial photos
 - Examples



Part 2: How Should Data be Collected?

- Combination
 - OF COURSE!
 - Think through the threats to the targets/purpose - what methods makes sense?

Part 2: How Should Data be Collected?

- What method would you use to collect data about...what information would you collect?
 - Trails
 - Cabin
 - Future house/cabin
 - Fences
 - Other?



Part 3: Does Data Storage Matter?

- YES!
- What is Chain of Custody?
 - Importance of sound practices
 - Examples
 - Steps to take to maintain data integrity



Part 3: Does Data Storage Matter?

- Original Baseline photo



- Promotional material

Part 3: Does Data Storage Matter?

- Proper physical storage
- Sign off – why it really matters



Resources

Templates and Resources

- The Baseline Documentation Report - www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org/docs/Publications/BDR%20-%20Jan%202007.pdf
- Land Trust Best Practices Resources and Template Documents 2005 CD Rom - www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/research.html
- The Conservation Easement Handbook, 2nd Edition by Byers, Elizabeth and Karin Marchetti Ponte
- www.lta.org

Thank you

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