Groundswell Conservancy Policy

Name:  Easement Enforcement Endowment

Approval:  Approved by Stewardship Committee June 3, 2004
Approved by Development Committee October 8, 2004
Adopted by Executive Committee February 9, 2005
Amended by Executive Committee June 14, 2010
Amended by Board of Directors November 16, 2011
Amended by Executive Committee October 20, 2016

Every easement Groundswell Conservancy accepts requires a payment of at least $10,000 to the Groundswell Conservancy Easement Enforcement Fund. The payment amount is based on estimates of annual monitoring and periodic enforcement costs. However, the payment for easements co-held with partners who share in monitoring and enforcement responsibilities is $8,000.

Groundswell Conservancy will review and consider adjusting the payment amount every three years.

If an agency funder places limits on the amount of an endowment payment that may be made by the landowner on whose property the easement would be placed, and if that limit is below the amount determined by the Endowment Worksheet, then the lower limit will be the required payment amount.

Payments to the Fund can come from a variety of sources, including:

- Landowner
  - by contribution at time easement is conveyed;
  - by contribution made in installments over time;
  - by irrevocable bequest to land trust in will.

- Other contributions
  - fundraising from general membership;
  - fundraising from neighboring landowners or other interested parties;
  - special fundraising campaign for the endowment.

Payees or donors shall be informed that payments/contributions to the Easement Endowment Fund are pooled for the benefit of all easements held by Groundswell Conservancy.

Groundswell Conservancy is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Policies may be updated to reflect changing accreditation standards and practices, as well as changing local organizational needs.