

Weantinoge Stewardship Procedure

Google Earth Aerial Monitoring

The following are the relevant requirements from the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Requirements Manual dated March 2018:

Conservation Easement Monitoring and Conservation Property Inspections ^{11C2, 12C2}

- Each conservation easement monitored once per calendar year. (Monitoring shown over accredited term at renewal; shown over last three years at first-time.)
 - Each conservation property inspected once per calendar year. (Inspections shown over accredited term at renewal; shown over last three years at first-time. Starting in 2021 for first-time)
 - If aerially monitoring conservation easements, on-the-ground monitoring occurs at least once every five years.
- A. Conditions to meet in order to use a Google Earth photo for aerial monitoring:
1. Must be a current year photo made available in the same year with enough time to create monitoring reports.
 2. Must be a leaf-off photo without snow.
 3. The photo must be of good enough quality to see individual trees (if only by shadows)
- B. The properties to use for annual monitoring:
1. No greater than 50% of the portfolio will be monitored in a single year with this method.
 2. The properties chosen will have had no violations or encroachments or reserve rights changes to the properties in the previous 2 monitoring reports. In other words, the properties must be known to be problem-free properties.
 3. While the LTA Requirements are for on-the-ground monitoring every 5 years, Weantinoge's requirement is on-the-ground monitoring every 3 years. Such that a property is ineligible for aerial monitoring if the previous 2 monitoring reports were done from the air or by aerial monitoring.
- C. The monitoring will be done in this way:
1. The boundary file of our current portfolio will be uploaded to Google Earth.
 2. The previous 2 monitoring reports will be reviewed to double check that:
 - a. The property has been on-the-ground monitored for at least one of those reports.
 - b. There were no known violations, encroachments or exercised reserved rights within those 2 monitoring reports.
 3. The entire boundary will be reviewed zoomed to the closest setting that retains high resolution.
 4. If something is detected on the aerial photo, then a complete on-the-ground visit of the property will be conducted.
 5. If nothing abnormal is detected, the monitoring report will be filled out and the Google Earth image will be saved and added in the map section.

Other uses for Google Earth imagery will be:

For all Conservation Easement on-the-ground visits, staff will review the current aerial.

For all Fee on-the-ground visits conducted by volunteers, staff will review the current aerial.

*Using Google Earth imagery was reviewed by the LTA Commission and posted on the LTA Stewardship Listserve. Multiple other accredited land trusts use Google imagery or imagery similar to this.