Conservation Easement

Monitoring Field Form

Lead Monitor:

Date:

Please review the baseline (and any hazards listed in it), the previous year’s monitoring report and the permitted and prohibited uses of the property in the easement before you visit it. Please also ensure that you have contacted the landowner (or arranged for NSNT staff to do so) in advance of the time specified in the easement.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Easement/Property Name:**  | **Location:**  |
| **Current Owner:**  |  |
| **Owner present during visit?**  |
| **Is there an easement custodian or renter? (specify which)** |
| **Individuals present during monitoring:**  | **Previous inspection date:** |
| **Weather Conditions:**  | **Duration of visit:**  |
| **Property size:**  | **Dwelling area size:** |

## Permitted Land Uses

This is a list of commonly permitted uses of the dwelling area (if there is one):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Permitted Uses** | **Happening on the property?** |
| Maintenance of the buildings already present |  |
| Replacement of the buildings (no bigger than the originals) |  |
| Removal of any downed or hung-up trees which pose a safety problem or block trails |  |
| Use and maintenance of an access road or trail to the dwelling area |  |
| Low-impact, non-mechanized recreation (hiking, birding, berrying) |  |
| Placement of small signs to control entry, for safety purposes, or for sale or rent of the property |  |
| Construction, maintenance and use of new footpaths under 2 m wide, with *advance permission of the Nature Trust* |  |

1. ***Each property will also have its own specific reserved rights; things the landowner is still allowed to do, listed in Schedule C (near the end of the easement document). Please check the list. Is the owner exercising any of their other reserved rights?***

##  Prohibited Land Uses

This is a list of commonly forbidden activities in the natural areas of properties with conservation easements. Are any of these occurring on the property? If so, please describe thoroughly in the notes sections below, take photos of the activity and GPS points where it is occurring.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Prohibited Uses** | Happening on the property? |
| Commercial, industrial or quarrying activity |  |
| Mineral exploration or extraction; mining |  |
| Subdivision of the property |  |
| Any construction outside of the dwelling area (roads or buildings) |  |
| Granting an easement or right-of-way other than the current easement |  |
| Using motorized vehicles of any sort (unless allowed to access the dwelling area) |  |
| Storing, discharging or dumping toxic materials (not including things like gasoline in a garden shed) |  |
| Alteration of the surface of the land (dredging, excavating, removing aggregates or peat, etc) |  |
| Alteration, cutting, removal or destruction of vegetation, unless previously agreed upon |  |
| Any activity that may cause significant soil degradation or erosion  |  |
| Any activity that may cause surface water pollution |  |
| Altering watercourses and ponds (dyking, dredging, draining, filling, etc)  |  |
| Applying non-organic pesticides or herbicides to the property.  |  |

**Notes:**

1. ***Each property will also have its own specific prohibited activities, listed in Schedule C (near the end of the easement document). Are any of these occurring on the property? If so, please describe thoroughly below, take photos of the activity and GPS points where it is occurring.***

## Changes in Land Use

Land use can change from year to year, and it’s important to note the changes. If the answer to any of these is yes, please take a GPS point and photos and describe thoroughly in the notes section below the table.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Are there:** | **Yes/No** |
| Any new signs? |  |
| Any new trails? |  |
| Any new buildings, or removal of old ones? |  |
| Any new property use? |  |
| Any construction? (including docks, sheds, etc) |  |
| Any tree planting or agricultural activity? |  |
| Any new invasive species or change in previous ones? Invasive species control projects? |  |
| Any ecological restoration activities? |  |
| Other |  |

**Notes:**

1. ***Are there any concerns about the boundaries regarding encroachment or change in neighbouring land use that may affect the easement?***
2. ***Are there any threats to the natural values of the property? (This can include anthropogenic or natural threats, such as a beaver pond threatening a rare plant species.)***
3. ***Do you see any hazards that were not previously recorded in the baseline or the previous year’s monitoring report?***
4. ***Please make note of any species at risk or species of conservation concern that you may encounter.***
5. ***If there are trails, what condition are they in?***
6. ***Is any action IMMEDIATELY required?***
7. ***If you were in communication with the landowner, did they make any comments about the property?***