

Network Worksheet, define sources of support and information for your community project.

Activity 2:

Conservation Heroes

Summary: Pennsylvania has a history of conservation heroes. From Gifford Pinchot to Dr. Joseph Rothrock to Rachel Carson, Pennsylvanians have dedicated their lives to protecting natural resources. This activity focuses on current heroes of land protection and conservation highlighted in the publications produced by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association. By connecting to personal stories, the activity hopes to inspire and motivate others based on the dedication of these land conservation heroes. The activity also includes identifying actions among the participants.

Questions: What stories support the importance of land conservation? What were some of the reasons that people save land? Who is impacted by their actions? Who is practicing conservation in your community?

Preparation

- Copy, cut and distribute copies of Conservation Heroes (p 221) from the book *In Their Own Words* by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (www.conserveland.org).
- Copy and distribute the Trading Cards worksheets (pp 222-223) to pairs of participants.

Procedure

1. One meaning of conservation is to protect special places. Our public parks and forests are special places where land management decisions are based on sound conser-

vation practices. What are your favorite natural places?

According to the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, “conservation is defined as a choice to protect special places for present and future generations. It is a choice to safeguard our water, care for wildlife, preserve productive farmland and forest, and maintain natural beauty. Everyday across Pennsylvania, individuals and families make the conservation choice...Those who conserve their land create a profound legacy. They make a gift that will resonate through time.”

A conservation easement is an agreement between a landowner and a private land trust or government. The agreement limits certain uses on all or a portion of a property for conservation purposes while keeping the property in the landowner’s ownership and control. The agreement is tailored to the particular property and to the goals of the owner and conservation organization. An easement applies to present and future owners of the land. Most easements are donated by people who wish to protect a beloved place.

2. *In Their Own Words* by The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association is a booklet filled with 15 remarkable stories of conservation and inspiration. Four of the stories are summarized on the worksheet. Assign participants to read the stories. Discuss these questions about the people in the stories.

1. *What is common in each of the stories?*
2. *How do the people in the stories view their land?*
3. *Why do people save land?*
4. *Who are the other people or organizations important for land conservation?*
5. *How do you think their decision impacted the surrounding community?*

3. Baseball, football, famous people...trading cards are great ways to honor people who have accomplished something.

Trading cards have been used to highlight sports figures and cartoon heroes. We will use trading cards to recognize conservation heroes. The activity is to make trading cards about real people doing great things. Trading cards could also be used as a research project, having participants develop trading cards about famous people in Pennsylvania history involved in conservation such as Gifford Pinchot, Rachel Carson, Ned Smith, Myra Dock, etc.

Distribute trading card worksheets to the participants. They can work in pairs or individually. You can use the blank cards or use ones that have already been developed. Facilitators could distribute one of each worksheet of trading cards.

If using blank trading cards, develop a set of conservation trading cards by listing a different conservation action on each card. If using the cards that have an action already printed on them, your goal is to find at least one person that has accomplished the task on the trading card. You will meet that person and find out about their contribution to conservation. Write their name on the front of the card. You might want a set number of blank cards which can be used as bonus cards. This can be done in the classroom or in the community. More than one person can be listed on each card. The object of the “game” is to complete all the cards by finding people who have accomplished that activity. Once completed, discuss the results in a large group. Ask questions such as:

- 1. Which activity is the most common? Why?*
- 2. Which conservation activity is not common? Why?*
- 3. How did the conservation activity improve the environment?*
- 4. Which activity has the greatest impact on the environment or community?*

4. Another way to conduct the activity is for each participant or team of participants to distribute a set of conservation trading cards. Read each activity on the back of the trading card or develop new cards with different conservation ideas. The object of this activity is to distribute a card to another person in the room until all your cards are gone. Try to find a person who has not received that specific trading card. This time, it is not important to ask if they have accomplished the action on the card. Give the card to that person so that they must complete the task on the card in less than seven days.

Each person who received a trading card must try to complete the conservation activity during the week. They place their name on the card when they have completed the task. They then return the card to the one who gave them the card. The goal is for the original person to get the most cards returned indicating that those people on the trading cards had conducted their conservation activity.

Activity 3:

Action: Stewardship and Service Learning

Summary: Service to the community is very important. Students learn the value of service by imitating adults involved in their community. There are a multitude of projects that can help improve the community. Motivating people to action is a very important part of PA Land Choices. This activity helps define some of the projects and helps organize initiatives in your community.

Questions: What are the advantages of stewardship projects and service-learning? What is the difference between service-learning and volunteering? What are examples of action projects? How does an individual organize a project to be successful and valuable?