



# CONSERVATION STUDY INSTITUTE



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## Our Founding Partners

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller  
National Historical Park  
<http://www.nps.gov/mabi>

QLF/Atlantic Center  
for the Environment  
<http://www.qlf.org>

Shelburne Farms  
<http://shelburnefarms.org>

University of Vermont  
<http://www.uvm.edu/snr>

## CSI Partnership Programs

Gateway Communities Program  
The Conservation Fund  
<http://www.conservationfund.org>  
and

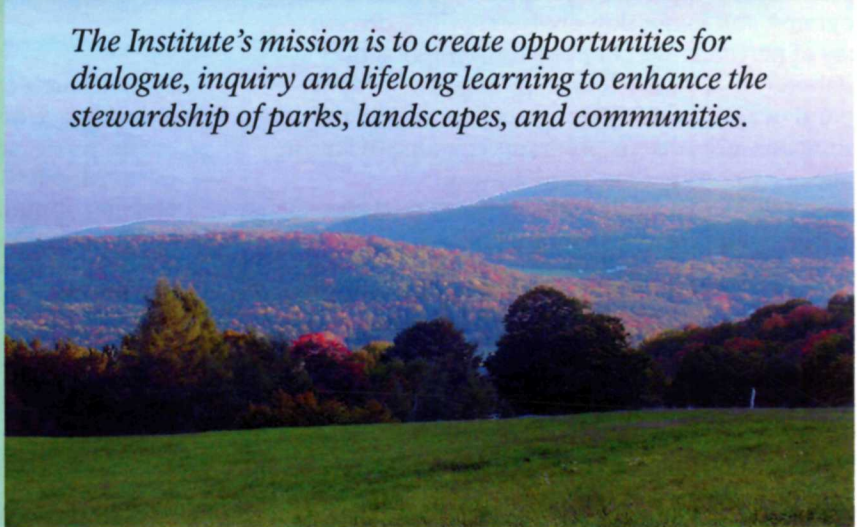
Sonoran Institute  
<http://www.sonoran.org/si>

CSI/University of Vermont  
Lecture Series  
<http://www.uvm.edu/conservationlectures>

Place-based Education Evaluation  
Collaborative

<http://cee.schoolsgogreen.org/PEEC>

*The Institute's mission is to create opportunities for dialogue, inquiry and lifelong learning to enhance the stewardship of parks, landscapes, and communities.*



The Conservation Study Institute was established by the National Park Service (NPS) to enhance leadership in the field of conservation. In collaboration with the NPS and academic and nonprofit partners, the Institute provides a forum for the conservation community to discuss conservation history, contemporary issues and practice, and future directions for the field.

The Institute's vision of conservation is inclusive and interdisciplinary. Our vision encompasses natural and cultural heritage in defining sense of place, and emphasizes the role of people in stewardship. Reflecting this vision, the Institute's approach is founded on collaborative leadership and community-based conservation involving cooperation and partnerships.

A key role of the Institute is to stay informed of new developments in the field of conservation and promote an active exchange of ideas among the academic community, practitioners, and the general public. Through its programs, the Institute contributes to enhanced understanding, involvement, and commitment from a broad spectrum of people which is critical to the success of conservation today. The Institute's national program also realizes the hope of Laurance S. Rockefeller that "the message and vision of conservation stewardship and its importance for the future will...go out across the nation from the hills of Vermont."



## Our Partners

Partnerships are the cornerstone of the Institute's vision and success. We are committed to collaborating with others to capitalize on various perspectives on conservation from academic, government, and private interests, to shape relevant programs, and to develop programs with a diverse array of partners. We continue to strengthen our collaboration with our four founding partners and expand our network. Through collaboration, the Institute ensures that its programs examine the most challenging current issues and draw on contemporary experience and state-of-the-art thinking within the NPS and the broader conservation community.



## Our Work



*Education and training programs* coordinated by the Conservation Study Institute focus on leadership skills, conservation history, and contemporary conservation philosophies and practice. The

Institute's educational programs reach a diverse audience of professionals, lay conservationists, teachers, university students, and the general public. The setting of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park offers opportunities for reflection and articulation of personal and professional conservation goals. The Institute is exploring new ways to reach a wider audience, and is working with its partner, the University of Vermont, to provide satellite broadcasts of distance learning events on current conservation topics.



The Institute's *research agenda* focuses on innovations in conservation practice and the management of national parks, stewardship principles, and conservation philosophy. The Institute has special interest in

partnerships, community-based conservation, landscape-scale conservation, and the interface between nature and culture. Our programs advance an understanding of conservation history and the role of stewardship and parks in engaging citizens in their communities and in our democratic society.



Through *knowledge networks*, practitioners are offered opportunities to exchange information on stewardship successes and to discuss current trends and future directions of conservation. By sharing

knowledge and experiences, conservationists can enrich their own programs and help craft innovative approaches in cooperation with others. The Institute is building knowledge networks that extend across the U.S. and to other countries, providing broader access to the forefront of international conservation. This network is sustained through working sessions, symposia, conferences, publications, and the Internet.



## Our Program Areas

### Analyzing New Directions in Conservation Stewardship

The Institute identifies and examines new models of conservation that reconnect people with place, with each other, and with their communities to integrate conservation practice more fully into the everyday life of all citizens.

#### Program Examples:

#### *Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities*



This collaborative program builds relationships between communities and adjacent public lands as a foundation for working together to craft their common future. Teams of community representatives and public lands managers discuss current management issues and develop strategies for achieving mutually defined conservation goals.

#### *Collaboration and Conservation: Lessons Learned in Areas Managed through National Park Service Partnerships*



Two workshops, one in 2000 and one in 2003, brought together professionals from the conservation community to discuss strategies for areas managed by the NPS in partnership with nongovernmental organizations. The workshop reports are available on the Institute's website.

### Cultivating Collaborative and Reflective Leadership

In leadership programs, the Insitute highlights two important aspects - reflection and articulation of a personal stewardship ethic, and the ability to build and sustain collaborative relationships.

#### Program Examples:

#### *Conservation Leadership: History and Practice*



This course gives future NPS leaders the opportunity to explore the agency's historical role in conservation and future directions. Participants discuss issues and trends in current conservation practice and reflect on personal and professional goals. This course is conducted for NPS entry level and mid-level leadership training program participants.

#### *Superintendents' Leadership Roundtable*



National Park Service superintendents participate in a forum of their peers to discuss successes and challenges. The primary focus is on building and maintaining collaborative relationships with colleagues, partners, and other stakeholders in an environment with an accelerating pace of change. This program uses the model of continuous learning and network building within the NPS.





## Program Areas (continued)

### Exploring Place through Stewardship Education

The Institute works with its partners to develop educational programs that expand the knowledge of conservation stewardship and strengthen citizenship skills.

#### Program Examples:

#### *A Forest for Every Classroom*



The Conservation Study Institute is working in a multi-year collaboration to use public lands in Vermont as teaching venues for place-based education focused on building knowledge of local resources and civic responsibility for environmental stewardship. This is a professional development program for teachers who seek to use public forest lands as an extension of their classrooms.

#### *Place-based Education Evaluation Collaborative (PEEC)*

This partnership among several New England educational organizations and foundations was formed to strengthen the practice and effectiveness of place-based education programs. PEEC disseminates findings on evaluation techniques and tools that can be applied elsewhere.

#### *Research Learning Center for Place-based Education and Innovation*



One of a network of 32 designated Research Learning Centers in the National Park System, this center is hosted by Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, NPS Conservation Study Institute,

and Shelburne Farms National Historic Landmark in collaboration with Appalachian Trail, Northeast Temperate Inventorying and Monitoring Network, and the University of Vermont. The Center develops, evaluates, and shares best practices for using public lands and communities as venues for real world learning that integrates natural and cultural resources stewardship through service learning and civic engagement.

## Publications & Articles

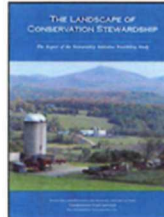
The Institute regularly publishes professional publications and articles. Its Conservation and Stewardship Publication Series is produced in collaboration with its partner organizations, and includes a variety of publications designed to provide information on conservation history and current practice. All publications and articles are available on our website ([www.nps.gov/csi](http://www.nps.gov/csi)).



*Speaking of the Future: A Dialogue on Conservation, 2003*



*A Handbook for Managers of Cultural Landscapes with Natural Resource Values, 2003, a web-based publication.*



*Conservation Study Institute: Report for the Years 2000 & 2001*

*Collaboration and Conservation: Lessons Learned in Areas Managed by NPS Partnerships, 2001*



*International Concepts in Protected Landscapes: Exploring Their Value for Communities in the Northeast, 2001*

*Landscape Conservation: An International Working Session, 2001*

*Landscape of Conservation Stewardship: Report of the Stewardship Initiative Feasibility Study, 2000*