

AGGREGATING PRIVATE FUNDS TO PURCHASE AND MANAGE LARGE CONSERVATION AREAS.

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Abstract: In addition to supporting the efforts of government and non-governmental conservation organizations to restore our prairie landscapes, conservation-minded private individuals can aggregate their funds to collectively purchase and manage larger tracts of land than would be feasible for individual families. Given the rapid increase of non-farm rural residents, we need to encourage ecological restoration efforts without dividing the countryside into a patchwork of small acreages. An extended case study will describe the foundation of an "S" corporation to protect hundreds of acres of prairie from future development. The use of conservation easements for future protection of diverse plant communities and for current tax advantages will be illustrated.