



INTERNATIONAL  
LAND CONSERVATION  
NETWORK

## NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

# Global Landscape Stewards lays groundwork for collaborative cross-border conservation with its inaugural peer exchange

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In October 2022, a group of U.S. and Australian conservationists came together to imagine a new and collaborative model for sharing tools, experience, and best practices across borders. Over four weeks, the Global Landscape Stewards Exchange—facilitated by the U.S.-based Global Landscape Stewards (GLS)—traversed Australia, weaving the beginnings of a conservation practitioners’ network and exploring eight guiding themes.



*Global Landscape Stewards team with Great Eastern Ranges & local Landcare Group. Credit: Richard Snashall*

The 10 U.S.-based practitioners who traveled to Australia for the Exchange were a pilot group for what GLS hopes will eventually be an initiative to bring together conservationists from across the globe. According to the 2022 Australia Exchange Summary Report the GLS’ theory of change is that, when connected, “practitioners doing collaborative stewardship in diverse contexts accelerates learning and problem solving such that place-based work can feed into a global scale movement for inclusive, effective stewardship.”

The United States and Australia were well-positioned as the first nations the exchange would bring together. Both serve as leaders in conservation innovation internationally but also grapple with many of the same challenges underlying ethical and impactful landscape preservation. The group was led to reflect on the history and future of conservation by exploring eight main themes: First Nations-led stewardship; private lands conservation; landscape connectivity; wildfire and disaster resilience; conservation finance; policy and governance; collaborative approaches; and community engagement.



*Global Landscape Stewards team with Bush Heritage and ALCA. Credit: Sharon Farrell*

Since the group parted ways, its work has continued, with the practitioners meeting virtually, laying the groundwork for a larger network, and engaging across communities, disciplines, and national borders.

*To learn more about the exchange and the GLS vision, read its full report [here](#).*

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