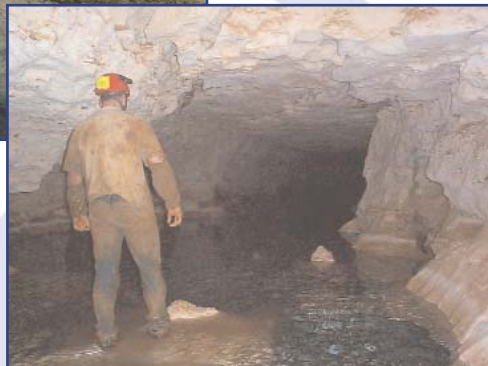


Fact Sheet



The Karst Conservancy



The Karst Conservancy
<http://www.karstconservancy.org>

The Karst Conservancy

Fact Sheet 1

The mission of The Karst Conservancy is to preserve the unique geological, hydrological, biological, cultural, and recreational resources associated with karst by permanently protecting karst lands in the United States.

What is the Karst Conservancy?

The Karst Conservancy is a national level land trust dedicated to protecting karst. Our objective is to significantly accelerate conservation efforts in karst areas. We promote private conservation, a voluntary, non-confrontational approach to conserving natural resources. The Karst Conservancy protects important karst properties by directly acquiring them, holding conservation easements, and using other tools that permanently protect the land. The Karst Conservancy is the only national, nonprofit land conservation organization dedicated specifically to protecting karstlands.



Private Conservation

The Karst Conservancy promotes private conservation, a voluntary, non-confrontational approach to conserving natural resources. We work within the private sector using free market tools to permanently preserve karst land.

Land Acquisition

The most effective tool that we have to protect conservation land in karst regions is to directly purchase the property. This method offers us the most control over the



property and simplifies monitoring since the Conservancy is the only party involved in the property. While the outright purchase of land may be the most effective conservation tool, it is also the most expensive. Our programs are some of the most expensive to implement in the nonprofit world.

The Karst Conservancy also accepts the donation of land in karst areas. Some of the primary benefits to the landowner, besides permanently protecting their land, include current income tax deductions and federal estate tax reduction.

Conservation Easements

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a land trust and a landowner that places permanent restrictions on a property in order to protect its conservation values. The easement restricts the use of the property to exclude certain activities on private land such as commercial development or residential subdivisions. The landowner retains ownership of the property and a high degree of control. Landowners usually set up conservation easements to protect their property from future development because they love their land and they don't want to see it developed by their heirs or subsequent owners. Placing an easement on a property may also result in income tax savings for the landowner.

The Karst Conservancy accepts donations of conservation easements in karst regions and monitors them in perpetuity.

Conservation Buyer Projects

The Karst Conservancy has a program to match conservation minded buyers with sellers of significant karst properties. If you own land in a karst area that you wish to sell, and want to see its conservation values protected, contact The Karst Conservancy to do so.

What The Karst Conservancy Is Doing

The Karst Conservancy is actively working in karst regions around the country to permanently protect sensitive karst. We protect karst aquifers by preserving and protecting their recharge

zones, the areas where the water sinks into the ground. We also protect fragile and endangered ecosystems by protecting the caves, sinkholes, streams, and forests that threatened plants and animals inhabit.

Threats To Karst

If you live near sinkholes, caves, sinking streams, or large springs then you live in a karst region. Twenty percent of the land in the United States is classified as karst. Examples of karst include the huge clear springs of Florida, the large and decorated caves of New Mexico, and the sinkhole plains of Kentucky.

Water

Karst may not be a well known word, but it is a common feature across the country as one fifth of the landmass of the United States is karst and 25% of the nation's drinking water comes from karst aquifers. Karst regions contain some of the largest and most productive aquifers that are capable of providing large supplies of water. On the downside, surface water in karst areas flows into caves and sinkholes very quickly, receiving very little filtration. This water, and the impurities it carries - human and animal waste, pesticides, fertilizers, petroleum products, and other pollutants - often travel great distances underground, contaminating wells, springs, and aquifers.

Endangered Ecosystems

Karst areas contain some of the most fragile ecosystems on Earth. Many endangered and threatened species are endemic to a single sinkhole or cave. Pollution or disruption to one sinkhole could easily wipe out an entire species.

Contact The Karst Conservancy

To contact the The Karst Conservancy, visit our website at:

<http://www.karstconservancy.org>
info@karstconservancy.org

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