

Highstead and Harvard Forest Participate in International Conservation Finance Workshop

November 1, 2016

Just as old leaves were beginning to fall in New England, new leaves and conservation ideas were breaking bud at Las Majadas de Pirque, outside of Santiago, Chile. Jim Levitt, Highstead Senior Fellow, David Foster, chair of Highstead's board and director of the Harvard Forest, and Spencer Meyer, Senior Conservationist at Highstead joined about 50 U.S. and Chilean conservation finance experts to share lessons in innovative conservation across two continents.

The meeting, organized by Jim and his International Land Conservation Network colleagues, celebrated recent conservation successes in both countries: the [2015 passing of new U.S. legislation](#) that bolstered long-standing IRS tax incentives for donated conservation easements; and the creation in Chile of the [Derecho Real de Conservación](#)—their version of a conservation easement—which for the first time in the civil code country's history allows landowners the right to extinguish their development rights. Throughout the roundtable, there were striking parallel lessons from both countries: a reminder that many of the basic tenets of conservation transcend cultures, legal systems, and funding sources.

If you are interested in learning more about the watershed event, email Spencer Meyer: smeyer@highstead.net or visit one of the following links.



[Lincoln Institute of Land Policy website](#)

[Qué Pasa interview with Jim Levitt](#)

[International Land Conservation Network](#)

[Las Majadas de Pirque press release](#) (in Spanish)