



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Joint Fiscal Committee members  
From: Sorsha Anderson, Senior Staff Associate  
Date: February 1, 2024  
Subject: Grant Request – JFO #3183

Enclosed please find one (1) item, which the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the Administration.

**JFO #3183:** \$182,500.00 to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Funds will be used to complete the purchase of a conservation easement on a 183-acre parcel of land in Townshend, Vermont (Peterson Farm). *[Note: Remainder of the easement (\$82,500) is supported by a State appropriation agreement between the department and the VHCB. Closing costs, including department staff time, is funded by already budgeted federal funds. Ongoing enforcement costs are managed by the department's Lands and Facilities Trust Fund. A \$15,000.00 stewardship contribution to this fund will be made by the landowner at the time of the sale.]*

*[Received January 31, 2024]*

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Sorsha Anderson: sanderson@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like this item held for legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by **February 20, 2024**, we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of this request.

## STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (\*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION				
<b>1. Agency:</b>		Agency of Natural Resources		
<b>2. Department:</b>		Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR)		
<b>3. Program:</b>		Division of Lands Administration and Recreation, Forest Legacy Program		
<b>4. Legal Title of Grant:</b>		n/a		
<b>5. Federal Catalog #:</b>		n/a		
<b>6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:</b> The Conservation Fund 1655 Fort Myer Drive Suite 1300 Arlington, VA 22209-3199				
<b>7. Grant Period:</b>		<b>From:</b>	12/15/2023	<b>To:</b> 06/30/2024
<b>8. Purpose of Grant:</b> The purpose of this grant is to provide necessary funds in the amount of \$182,500 from The Conservation Fund (TCF) to support FPR's purchase of a conservation easement on the 183-acre Peterson Farm property in Townshend, VT.				
<b>9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:</b> If this funding from TCF is not accepted, this high-priority conservation easement will have a gap in funding and will not advance.				
10. BUDGET INFORMATION				
	<b>SFY 1</b>	<b>SFY 2</b>	<b>SFY 3</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	<b>FY 24</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>	
Personal Services	\$	\$	\$	
Operating Expenses	\$182,500	\$	\$	
Grants	\$	\$	\$	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$182,500</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Revenues:</b>				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
(Direct Costs)	\$	\$	\$	
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
Other Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Grant (source The Conservation Fund - \$182,500)	\$182,500	\$	\$	Funding provided by The Conservation Fund.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$182,500</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Appropriation No:</b>		<b>Amount:</b>		\$

## STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (\*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
		<b>Total</b>	\$

**PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION**

**11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts?**  Yes  No  
 If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.

Appointing Authority Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Agreed by: \_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

12. Limited Service Position Information:	# Positions	Title
<b>Total Positions</b>		

**12a. Equipment and space for these positions:**  Is presently available.  Can be obtained with available funds.

**13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT**

I/we certify that no funds beyond basic application preparation and filing costs have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant, unless previous notification was made on Form AA-1PN (if applicable):	Signature: <i>Danielle Fitzke</i>	Date: 11/9/2023
	Title: Commissioner, Forests, Parks and Recreation	
	Signature:	Date:
	Title:	

**14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION**

	(Secretary or designee signature)	Date: 11/15/2023
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**15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Check One Box: Accepted		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rejected	(Governor's signature)	Date: 1/26/24

**16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED**

Required GRANT Documentation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant Budget	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Donation (if any) <input type="checkbox"/> Grant (Project) Timeline (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Extension (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Form AA-1PN attached (if applicable)

# STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (\*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

**End Form AA-1**

(\*) The term "grant" refers to any grant, gift, loan, or any sum of money or thing of value to be accepted by any agency, department, commission, board, or other part of state government (see 32 V.S.A. §5).

**State of Vermont**

Department of Finance & Management  
109 State Street, Pavilion Building  
Montpelier, VT 05620-0401

[phone] 802-828-2376  
[fax] 802-828-2428

Agency of Administration

**STATE OF VERMONT  
FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM**

<b>Grant Summary:</b>		To partially fund FPR's acquisition of a \$265,000 conservation easement on a 183-acre property located near the Chateaguey National Forest in Townshed Vermont.			
<b>Date:</b>		11/6/2023			
<b>Department:</b>		Forests, Parks & Recreation			
<b>Legal Title of Grant:</b>		Peterson Farm Conservation Easement Acquisition			
<b>Federal Catalog #:</b>		N/A			
<b>Grant/Donor Name and Address:</b>		The Conservation Fund 1655 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1300 Arlington, Virginia 22209			
<b>Grant Period:</b>		<b>From:</b>	<b>To:</b>		
		12/15/2023	6/30/2024		
<b>Grant/Donation</b>		\$182,500			
	<b>SFY 1</b>	<b>SFY 2</b>	<b>SFY 3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$182,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>Position Information:</b>		<b># Positions</b>	<b>Explanation/Comments</b>		
		0			
<b>Additional Comments:</b>		Remainder of easement acquisition cost (\$82,500) funded by agreement between FPR and VHCB. VHCB funds being received originated as a State appropriation and do not require AA-1 approval. Closing costs, FPR staff-time to be funded by budgeted federal funds. Ongoing easement enforcement costs offset by \$15k stewardship contribution made by the landowner at the time of sale.			
<b>Department of Finance &amp; Management</b>		Adam Greshin Digitally signed by Adam Greshin Date: 2023.11.08 DocuSigned by: F643164EBC83732...		(Initial)	
<b>Secretary of Administration</b>		Sean Brown Digitally signed by Sean Brown Date: 2023.11.08 DocuSigned by: F643164EBC83732...		(Initial)	
<b>Sent To Joint Fiscal Office</b>				<b>Date</b>	



<b>STATE OF VERMONT</b> <b>FINANCE &amp; MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM</b>		





**State of Vermont**  
**Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation**  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3801  
[www.fpr.vermont.gov](http://www.fpr.vermont.gov)

*Agency of Natural Resources*

[phone] 802-828-1531  
[fax] 802-828-1250

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nick Kramer, Budget Analyst  
FROM: Ansley Bloomer, Director of Finance and Administration, FPR  
SUBJECT: Grant Acceptance Request  
DATE: November 3, 2023

Enclosed is a Request for Grant Acceptance (Form AA-1) for a grant in the amount of \$182,500 from The Conservation Fund; a non-profit conservation organization. The grant will support a high-priority land conservation project by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) in Townshend, Vermont. The funds will be used to complete the purchase of a conservation easement on the 183-acre "Peterson Farm" property.

The Department is requesting review of this grant in order to seek Joint Fiscal Committee review as soon as reasonably possible.

Please let me know if you need any further information.



**The Conservation Fund and the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of  
Forest, Parks and Recreation  
GRANT AGREEMENT**

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This Grant Agreement sets forth the terms of the \$182,500.00 grant (the “Grant”) by **The Conservation Fund** (the "Fund") to **the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation** ("Grantee"), to cover the period December 15, 2023 through June 30, 2024 (the “Grant Period”). The purpose of the Grant (the “Purpose”) is to complete the acquisition of a Forest Legacy conservation easement on the property owned by The Peterson Farm Inc., located in the Town of Townshend in Windham County, Vermont (“Property”) as generally depicted in Attachment A, Project Map.

**Collaborative Matching Strategy and Payment of Grant Funds**

The fair market value of the conservation easement is \$275,000 and anticipated additional funds for the purchase conservation easement are at least \$82,500.00 from a Grant by and between the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The landowner is selling the easement at \$10,000 under fair market value.

The grant from the Fund to Grantee, described in this Grant Agreement, serves to galvanize a broader effort to conserve 5 properties encompassing approximately 2,903 acres of forest lands in the Chateaugay Forest project area. The project will serve as non-federal match for the \$2.41M federal grant for the Chateaugay Forest Project that has been awarded by the USDA Forest Service to Grantee (Grant number 21-DG-11094200-125). The overall goal is to ensure conservation of important privately owned, managed forest lands by collaborating with a diverse group of partners and private landowners within the area. This project also directly builds on the success of the Windham Region Working Forest Initiative, a multi-tract Forest Legacy project that previously conserved lands adjacent to Peterson Farm.

The Grant, which will be considered approved only after final execution of this document, is made subject to the following terms and conditions:

**Requirements**

The Grant includes:

1. **A total amount of \$182,500.** to Grantee toward the purchase of a conservation easement on forest land on a 183- acre property owned by The Peterson Farm Inc. This is for capital acquisition only.
2. **\$0** for Grantee's direct expenditures, including appraisal, baseline inventory, etc.
3. The Grant will either be: (i) wired directly to the title company closing the conservation easement transaction upon successful completion of due diligence review according to escrow instructions developed by the Fund and approved by Grantee, or (ii) reimbursed directly to the Grantee upon successful completion of due diligence review and receipt of a copy of the recorded conservation easement and signed settlement statement by the Fund. The method of transfer of funds, in accordance with the two options above, shall be at the discretion of Grantee.

The Grant fund will be used solely for the purposes of completing the acquisition of a Forest Legacy conservation easement on the Property.



**Reporting Requirements**

The Grantee will make a brief written report to the Fund following successful completion of the activities outlined in this Grant Agreement.

**Publicity and Acknowledgment**

1. A general acknowledgment of the Fund and the Grant shall be included in all publication, news release, website or internet posting, or other media communication about the project. **Grantee will coordinate any press or other media-related activity related to this Grant or other Chateaugay Forest properties with the Fund in advance and in writing.**
2. The Fund reserves the right to include information relating to the Grant and the project in the Fund's periodic reports, newsletters or news releases or in any other materials issued by or on behalf of the Fund. **The Fund will coordinate any press or other media-related activity related to this Grant or the Chateaugay Forest project with the Grantee in advance and in writing.** It is agreed by all parties that the Forest Legacy Program shall be acknowledged in any news releases or other publicity about the project.

**Conditions Necessitating a Refund to the Fund**

If any of the following circumstances occur, the Fund may, at its discretion, require that Grantee immediately repay the full amount of the Grant funds which were unspent as of the date of the occurrence, and the Fund shall have no further obligation to distribute any unpaid portion of the Grant to Grantee:

1. Grantee fails, for any reason, to complete the conservation easement acquisition described in this Grant Agreement, within the previously described timeframe. Any extensions of such timeframe shall be documented through a fully executed amendment to this Grant Agreement.

Grantee agrees to notify the Fund immediately upon the occurrence of any of the circumstances mentioned above.

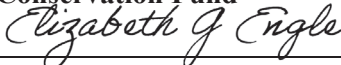
**No Assignment or Delegation**

Grantee may not assign or otherwise transfer any of its rights or delegate any of its obligations under the Grant Agreement or with respect to the Grant.

Acceptance by the **State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation**

DocuSigned by:  
  
 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
5BE1AA84753549F...  
 Printed Name: Danielle Fitzko  
 Title: Commissioner, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Accepted and Agreed this 3rd day of November 2023.

**The Conservation Fund**  
 By:   
 Printed Name: Elizabeth G. Engle  
 Title: Asst. Sec./Deputy Gen. Counsel

Property Map  
, Inc.

Reviewed and accepted by:

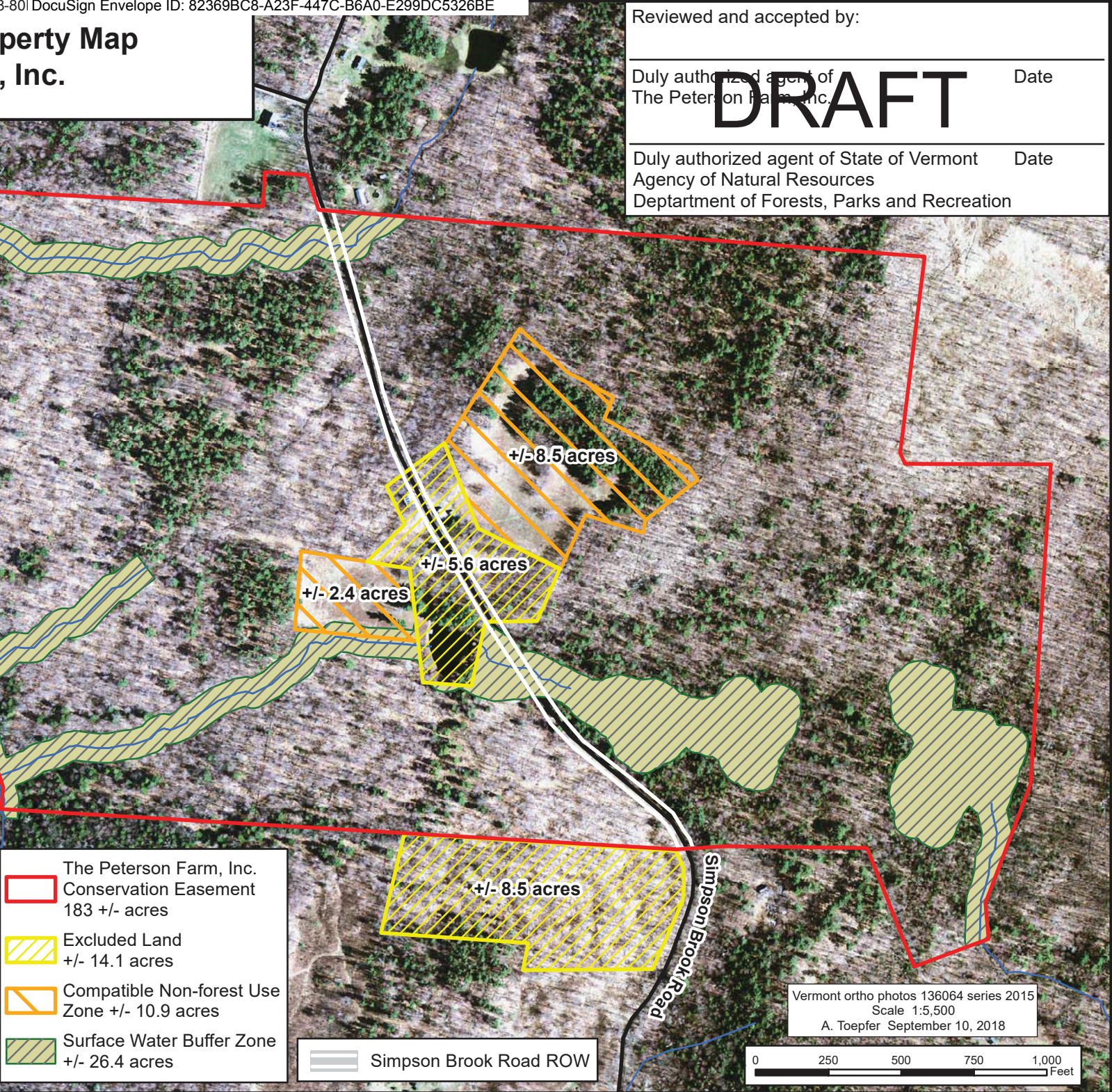
Duly authorized agent of  
The Peterson Farm, Inc.

Date

# DRAFT

Duly authorized agent of State of Vermont  
Agency of Natural Resources  
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

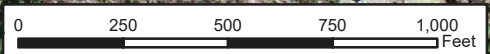
Date



- The Peterson Farm, Inc.  
Conservation Easement  
183 +/- acres
- Excluded Land  
+/- 14.1 acres
- Compatible Non-forest Use  
Zone +/- 10.9 acres
- Surface Water Buffer Zone  
+/- 26.4 acres

Simpson Brook Road ROW

Vermont ortho photos 136064 series 2015  
Scale 1:5,500  
A. Toepfer September 10, 2018



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Acceptance by the **State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted and Agreed this 3rd day of November 2023.

**The Conservation Fund**

By Elizabeth G Engle

Printed Name: Elizabeth G. Engle

Title: Asst. Sec./Deputy Gen. Counsel