



STATE OF VERMONT
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Fiscal Committee Members

FROM: Maria Belliveau, Associate Fiscal Officer

Handwritten initials 'MB' in blue ink.

DATE: July 24, 2015

SUBJECT: JFO #2770 and 2771 – Funds to Purchase 2,880 acres of Land in the Towns of Ira and Poultney to be added to the Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area

The Joint Fiscal Committee has been sent two requests that are closely related to each other from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Both requests are to approve the acceptance of funds to be used for the purchase of 2,880 acres that will be added to the Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area. These lands are currently owned by The Conservation Fund who agreed to purchase the land when it became available in 2013 with the intent that the State would eventually identify sources of funds to repay the Conservation fund, thereby transferring ownership of the land to the State. As with other state owned land, there will be Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from the Agency of Natural Resources made to the towns of Ira and Poultney where the land is located.

The land is an important addition to the existing Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area, and having the Conservation Fund step in and purchase the land, essentially “holding” it for the State, was essential to securing it for future generations. This will provide permanent protection of public access to hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other wildlife activities.

The two grants that have been received for Joint Fiscal Committee approval are as follows:

JFO #2770 - \$2,868,000 from the Conservation fund from donations that they have identified to offset the cost of purchasing the land. Part of this donation is from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, ensuring that the land will be encumbered with a conservation easement held by VHCB and the Vermont Land Trust.

JFO #2771 - \$30,000 from the Lintilhac Foundation to assist in funding the purchase of the 2,880 acres from the Conservation Fund.

The cost of the land acquisition is \$3,173,000. This source of funds are as follows:

Conservation Fund	\$2,868,000
Lintilhac Foundation	\$ 30,000
Federal Pittman-Robertson funds	<u>\$ 275,000</u>
	\$3,173,000

Please note that the total cost of the project including all expenses such as the land acquisition, fees such as closing, legal, appraisal, and other miscellaneous expenses is \$3,484,000. The difference between the cost of the land acquisition and the \$3,484,000, which amounts to \$311,000, is coming from private donations.

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Maria Belliveau at (802) 828-5971; mbelliveau@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like this item held for legislative review. Unless you respond to the contrary by August 7, 2015 it will be assumed that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of this request.

C.c. Louis Porter, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Steve Gomez, Business Manager, Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

RECEIVED

JUL 23 2015

JOINT FISCAL OFFICE
**STATE OF VERMONT
FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM**

Grant Summary:	To assist in funding the purchase of 2,880 acres from The Conservation Fund to be added to the Bird Mountain WMA in Poultney and Ira.				
Date:	6/26/2015				
Department:	ANR - Fish & Wildlife 612000000				
Legal Title of Grant:	The Conservation Fund - Bird Mountain				
Federal Catalog #:	N/A				
Grant/Donor Name and Address:	The Conservation Fund, 1655 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1300, Arlington, VA 22209				
Grant Period:	From:		To:		
Grant/Donation	2,868,000				
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Total	Comments
Grant Amount:	\$2,868,000	\$	\$0	\$2,868,000	Donation value is difference between appraised land value and price to F&W.

Position Information:	# Positions	Explanation/Comments
	0	
Additional Comments:	This AA-1 is for the same project as the AA-1 for \$30K from Lintilhac Foundation.	

Department of Finance & Management	<i>[Signature]</i> 7/14/15	(Initial)
Secretary of Administration	<i>[Signature]</i> 07/09/15	(Initial)
Sent To Joint Fiscal Office	7/21/15	Date



Department of Fish and Wildlife
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3702
www.vtfishandwildlife.com

[phone] 802-241-3700
[fax] 802-241-3732

Agency of Natural Resources

TO: Jason Aronowitz, Budget Analyst
Department of Finance and Management

FROM: Steve Gomez, Financial Manager
Fish & Wildlife Department

DATE: June 22, 2015

RE: Supporting Documentation for Grant Request – Lintilhac Foundation and Bird Mountain Land Donation

Please find the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's (Department) responses to the grant approval questions specified in your June 16th email. The Department is purchasing a 2,880 acre at a bargain sale price of \$305,000 funded through federal funds and a grant from the Lintilhac Foundation.

- 1.) *Are there any state matching requirements or contributions?*
There are not any state matching requirements for these grants. The Department will utilize federal funds, a grant from the Lintilhac Foundation, and the value of land donations to account for the costs of this project.
- 2.) *Is the State already performing the function for which the funds are intended?*
These funds are designated for the one-time land acquisition of 2,880 acres. The Department is not performing these functions already and cannot acquire the land without approval of these grants.
- 3.) *After the term of the grant expires, what is the intent of the underlying activity? Does the grant funded activity cease to exist? Will the state be asked to assume financial responsibility?*
The intent of the grant funded activity is to acquire the 2,880 acres to provide habitat connectivity and public access for wildlife-based recreation. When this objective is complete the nexus with the grant funding ceases but there are Federal regulatory requirements for land management. The Department will have a payment in lieu of taxes in the future.
- 4.) *What are the measurements that are going to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the expenditure?*
The measurement used to evaluate the effectiveness of the expenditure will be the increased acreage of state owned land for habitat connectivity and public access.
- 5.) *How will the grant funds be expended? What is the budget for the grant funds, including all funding sources, for the duration of the grant?*
The grant funds will be expended on the purchase of 2,880 acres, which will be added to the Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The Department will contribute \$275,000 of



Federal Wildlife Restoration Funds, \$30,000 of grant funds from the Lintilhac Foundation, and the remaining \$2,868,000 will be in-kind donations.

6.) *What entities are collaborating on this grant; departments, community organizations?*

The entities involved in this project are the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, the Vermont Land Trust, the Vermont Housing Conservation Board and The Conservation Fund.

7.) *What is the intended staffing level for the grant funded activity?*

This project and the associated grants do not require any additional staffing. The Department's land acquisition coordinator will oversee and manage the project to completion.



**OPINION OF MARKET VALUE
±2,874.41 ACRES, POULTNEY AND IRA,
RUTLAND COUNTY, VERMONT
OWNED BY YANKEE FOREST, LLC**



PREPARED FOR THE CONSERVATION FUND



**EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 29, 2013
COMPLETION DATE: MAY 30, 2013**

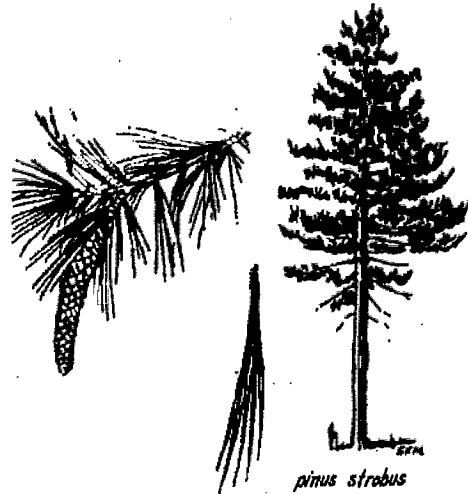


ROBERT LAMPREY, STATE LICENSED APPRAISER
23 GROVE STREET, WELLS RIVER, VERMONT 05081 802-757-3722

**Robert Lamprey
Lamprey Appraisal**

PART I: INTRODUCTION

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



May 29, 2013

Nancy Bell
The Conservation Fund
PO Box 368
Shrewsbury, Vermont 05738

Dear Ms. Bell:

Upon your request, I am enclosing a narrative appraisal report concerning 2,874.41 acres, more or less, which are owned by Yankee Forest, LLC. The subject property is comprised of two nearby tracts. The Green Mountain Tract, so-called, consists of 315.19 acres, more or less, located off Birdseye Road in Ira Rutland County, Vermont. The Birdseye Tract, so-called, consists of 2,559.22 acres, more or less, located off Ames Hollow Road in the Towns of Ira and Poultney, Rutland County, State of Vermont. The acreage is based on GIS estimates; there is no formal survey. Large tracts of woodland in the market area are routinely transferred without benefit of a formal survey. The two tracts were conveyed in a deed from Mettowee Lumber and Plastics Co. to Yankee Forest, LLC dated September 5, 2002, and recorded on October 9, 2002 at Book 114, Page 150 of the Poultney Land Records.

The purpose of this report is to develop an opinion of the market value of the fee interest in the subject property effective as of May 29, 2013, which was the date of the most recent inspection of the subject tract. The intended use of the report is in connection with the proposed fee acquisition of the identified property. The Conservation Fund is the client for this appraisal. Intended users include The Conservation Fund, Yankee Forest, LLC, and its managers, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Fund, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Robert Lamprey, Lamprey Appraisal, PO Box 735, Wells River, Vermont 05081
Tel: 802-757-3722; FAX: 866-865-7704; email: mipham@charterinternet.com



The attached appraisal report is a self-contained report, as defined by the *Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice 2013-14*. I have appraised the property using the Sales Comparison Approach. The Cost Approach is not applicable since there are no significant improvements, and the Income Approach is not applicable because it is somewhat unlikely that the property would be purchased solely or even primarily for its annual income-producing characteristics. I have viewed and photographed the subject property, as well as all the comparable sales, and verified those sales with a first-hand source.

Included with this report are statements of General Assumptions and Limiting Conditions and of my qualifications, both of which should be considered an integral part of this report. Please read these General Assumptions and Limiting Conditions, which explain the limitations of this report. I personally completed all of the research, analysis, and conclusions within this report. In particular, the following limitations or exceptions to the report should be considered:

Extraordinary Assumptions: None

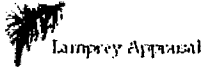
Hypothetical Condition: None

Special Appraisal Conditions: None

In the event that this report is used as a basis to set a market price, no responsibility is assumed for the inability of any party to consummate a sale at the value reported herein.

This appraiser has no present or contemplated future interest in the property appraised. The fee for this report is not contingent upon reporting a predetermined value or upon the amount of value estimated. An invoice for my services based on my standard hourly rate is included under separate cover.

The analyses, opinions, and conclusions were developed, and this report has been prepared, in conformity with the *Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice 2013-14*. Based upon my independent appraisal and the exercise of my professional judgment, it is my estimate that the market value of a tract of land estimated to contain 2,874.41 acres, more or less, located in Ira and Poultney, Vermont, and being the property conveyed in a deed from Mettowee Lumber and Plastics Co. to Yankee Forest, LLC dated September 5, 2002, and recorded on October 9, 2002 at Book 114, Page 150 of



the Poultney Land Records, as estimated by the Sales Comparison Approach as of May 29, 2013, is \$3,173,000, or \$1,103.88 per acre.

2874.41 acres, more or less	\$3,173,000
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The per-acre value is applicable to any potential variation in the acreage between a low of 2,450 acres and a high of 3,350 acres. The Size-to-Value Correlation within this range would be less than $\pm 1\%$, and no adjustment would be made for size differences within this range as per the standard methodology employed in the appraisal.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Lamprey".

Robert Lamprey, Appraiser

State of Vermont, Certified General Real Estate Appraiser #80-0000091

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

1. Agency:	Natural Resources
2. Department:	Fish and Wildlife
3. Program:	Lands and Habitat
4. Legal Title of Grant:	N/A
5. Federal Catalog #:	N/A
6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:	The Conservation Fund 1655 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1300 Arlington, Virginia 22209
7. Grant Period:	From: <input type="text"/> To: <input type="text"/>
8. Purpose of Grant:	The purpose of this grant is for the Department to accept a bargain sale from the Conservation Fund for the former Yankee land.
9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:	The Department will not be able to accept 2,880 acres of land as an addition to the Bird Mountain WMA for the permanent protection of public access for hunting, trapping, fishing, and other wildlife related recreation.

	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Comments
Expenditures:	FY 2016	FY	FY	
Personal Services	\$	\$	\$	
Operating Expenses	\$3,173,000	\$	\$	Total cost including bargain sale and direct costs
Grants	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$3,173,000	\$	\$	
Revenues:				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$2,868,000	\$	\$	Donation value
Federal Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
(Direct Costs)	\$275,000	\$	\$	Pittman-Roberstson Funds
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
Other Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Grant (source Lintilac Foundation)	\$30,000	\$	\$	
Total	\$3,173,000	\$	\$	

JUN 10 2015

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

Appropriation No:	Amount:	\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
Total		\$

Has current fiscal year budget detail been entered into Vantage? Yes No

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
Total Positions		

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

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:	Date: 6-9-15
	Title: Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources	
	Signature:	Date: 6/4/15
	Title: Commissioner, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife	

Approved: Date: 7/15/15

GOVERNOR

Check One Box: Accepted Date: 7/15/15

Rejected

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

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Budget

(*) 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).


Ira Select Board

May 20, 2013

Dear Ms. Lazorchak,

After reading your materials that summarized the Fish and Wildlife Department's (FWD) involvement and discussing the project further at our Select Board meeting on May 20, 2013, we are writing to offer our support for the FWD's involvement in the purchase of the Wagner lands adjacent to Bird Mountain WMA in the towns of Poultney and Ira, with consideration given to the existing use of the VAST and VASA trail system. More specifically, the town supports the FWD purchasing the property to add to Bird Mountain WMA because of the property's significant wildlife habitat and additional public access in the area. Attached is a copy of the Town Of Ira Snowmobile and All Terrain Vehicles Civil Ordinance for you to review. Thank you for meeting with us.

Sincerely,



Larry Taggart
Ira Select Board, Chair



Town of Poultney

Nancy Bell
The Conservation Fund
1331 Town Hill Road
Shrewsbury, VT 05738

Jane Lazorchack
Fish & Wildlife Department
Barre District Natural Resources Office
5 Perry Street, Suite 40
Barre, VT 05641

May 28, 2013

Dear Ms. Bell and Ms. Lazorchak,

Following your meetings with the Selectboard, our meeting with Ms. Brighton, the Community Forum, and after reviewing all of the maps and materials presented to the Selectmen, we have discussed the Bird's Eye Conservation project further and are writing to offer our support for the purchase by The Conservation Fund of the Yankee LLC lands, approximately 2,874 acres in Poultney and Ira adjacent to the Bird Mountain WMA.


Further, the Town of Poultney supports the subsequent purchase of those lands by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife for addition to the Bird Mountain Wildlife Area to protect and conserve in perpetuity the property's significant wildlife habitat, water resources, wild and scenic character, recreational opportunities and public access to this important area.

We understand that there will continue to be ongoing dialog with the various interested parties and many public meetings as the project progresses, the Selectboard requests that we are kept apprised of these meetings, and we will be in communication as necessary. We urge you to work closely with Jonas Rosenthal, our Town Manager, going forward.

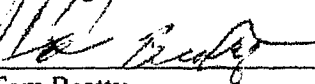
Sincerely,



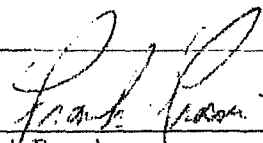
Poultney Select Board, Chair Ed Lewis



Jeff King



Tom Beatty



Frank Fressie

Vacant

Agency of Natural Resources Land Acquisition Review Committee Case Report

Project Information							
LARC Case #	<input type="text" value="1787"/>	Project Name	<input type="text" value="Wagner"/>				
Priority	<input type="text"/>						
Previous LARC Case #	<input type="text"/>						
Description	<p>This area is part of the second largest remaining forest block in the Taconic Mountains. The area between Bird Mountain WMA and Blueberry Hill WMA has long been an area of focus for the Department to consider investing in land acquisition in order to support connectivity across Route 4 between the two areas. This property gives us the additional opportunity to invest in core forest which could also provide timber revenue for the Department over time.</p>						
Transaction Type	<input type="text" value="DONATION"/>	Price	<input 2"="" type="text" value="25,000 ?
<i>closing costs</i></td></tr><tr><td>Interest to be Acq.</td><td colspan="/> <input type="text" value="FEE-SIMPLE"/>	Fund(s)	<input 2"="" type="text" value="PR Funds
<i>PR Funds</i></td></tr><tr><td>Location: Town</td><td colspan="/> <input type="text" value="Ira, Castleton"/>	County	<input type="text" value="Rutland"/>
Owner	<input type="text" value="Wagner"/>						
# of Parcels	<input type="text" value="2"/>	Total Acres	<input type="text" value="2,865"/>				
Dept to Manage	<input type="text"/>		Contact	<input type="text"/>			

LARC Review	
Date	<input type="text" value="12/6/2012"/>
Recommendation	<input type="text" value="Acquire High Priority"/>
Comments	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px;"></div>

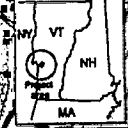
Secretary Review	
Date	<input type="text" value="1-2-13"/>
Disposition	<input type="text" value="Approved"/> <i>D. A. M. J.</i>
Comments	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px;"></div>

Notes	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>
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COLLEGE OF FORESTRY
Bird's Eye
Conservation Initiative
 Podtney & Ira, Vermont

Bird's Eye Conservation Initiative 2,880 acres
 Public conservation lands
 Wetlands
 Buildings





Department of Fish and Wildlife
1 National Life Dr., Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3702
www.vtfishandwildlife.com

[phone] 802-505-0561
[fax] 802-828-1250

Agency of Natural Resources

TO: Peter Shumlin, Governor
THROUGH: Deb Markowitz, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources
FROM: Louis Porter, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife
SUBJECT: Purchase of the former Yankee lands to provide additional conservation and public access opportunities at Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Recommendation: That you approve the purchase of 2,880 acres from the Conservation Fund to be added to the Vermont Wildlife Department's (VFWD) Bird Mountain WMA located in the towns of Poultney and Ira.

Description

Traveling east into Vermont from New York State at the south end of Lake Champlain, one follows the Castleton River bottomlands into the mountains which rise dramatically from the valley floor. The Taconic Mountain Range is a distinct and profound gateway to Vermont. On either side of you, steep-sided mountains rise to elevations of over 2,000 ft. On the north is the state's 1,152 acre Blueberry Hill WMA, where the rugged ridgeline of Grandpa's Knob extends north towards Pittsford. To the south, the cliffs on Bird Mountain loom, where the Bird Mountain WMA protects 770 acres, including the summit at 2,216 ft. Beyond Bird and this dramatic portal, the high ridgeline and mountainous terrain widens and stretches to the south.

The landscape to the south includes 2,880 acres of land purchased in 2013 by The Conservation Fund for inclusion in the Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area (See Exhibit 1). The Yankee lands were formerly managed by Wagner LLC who recently divested all of their ownership in Vermont. This is a one-time opportunity to protect an important part of this dramatic and ecologically significant landscape. Designated a Rare and Irreplaceable Natural Area by the VFWD in 2009, this property is just that -- it is wholly unique and deserves conservation and long term stewardship for all Vermonters.

What makes this place so special? First, the size of the tract -- 2,880 acres - and its remote, unfragmented character render it critical for core habitat and connectivity in the Taconic Range. The land, part of 23,600 intact acres, makes up the 2nd largest habitat block remaining in the Taconic Range. It is adjacent to and proposed to be incorporated into the Bird Mountain WMA adding to the 770 acres already protected. It is central to and provides a critical connection between Blueberry Hill WMA (1,152 ac.), Tinmouth Channel WMA (1,260 ac.), the West Rutland Town Forest (142 ac.), and other conserved lands, further adding value to public investment. The Bird's Eye lands are wild and have a pervasive solitude, and they are currently open to the public. They abound with wildlife -- and are just five miles from downtown Rutland. Conservation will guarantee continued access for hunting, fishing and wildlife-based





recreation opportunities, in addition to hiking, cross country skiing and riding on popular snowmobile trails. Ensuring public access to this large, contiguous area of undeveloped habitat for diverse recreational uses is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the region and Vermont's 3rd largest city.

The land is special in its ecology -- hosting numerous rare and threatened plants and natural communities. The rarity of this special place begins with the bedrock geology of the Taconic Mountains -- a geology unique in the world to these mountains. The unusual geology of these lands gives rise to rich soils and natural communities that are unique to the Taconics and widespread here, but only localized elsewhere in the state where warmer conditions prevail. The Ames Hollow area displays the greatest diversity of natural communities with Dry Oak Forest, Dry Oak-Hickory-Hophornbeam Forest, Rich Northern Hardwood Forest and White Pine-Red Oak-Black Oak Forest all occurring there.

The predominance of red oak in the forests provides an important food source for bears, wild turkey and white tail deer. The unbroken forest also provides critical habitat, travel corridor and buffer from human habitation and activity, and offers habitat for other free ranging species such as bobcat, fisher and moose. The land links to other forested blocks which provide wildlife passage north-south across VT RT 4 along the spine of the Taconic Mountains and east-west between the Taconic Range and Green Mountains.

The project lands are critical to the future of an established nesting site of peregrine falcons on Bird Mountain WMA. This species is identified by the VFWD as a High Priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Additionally, the forests are intact critical habitat for numerous species of interior forest dwelling migratory birds identified as Responsibility Species by VT Audubon given a significant percentage of their global breeding habitat is in the Northern Forest and their populations are in decline.

In addition to access for recreation the public values of conservation of the Bird's Eye lands are many. The property encompasses upland watersheds and headwaters of the Poultney River, the Castleton River and the Clarendon River, 8.5 miles of headwaters streams and 24.3 acres of state mapped wetlands in addition to numerous vernal pools (state critical habitat) and forested wetlands. The benefits that intact, well managed forests have on water resources are increasingly acknowledged providing flood resiliency and mitigating climate change.

The Bird's Eye lands are specifically identified for conservation by the host towns in their respective Town Plans identified as a Highland Protection Zone in Ira and a designated a Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area by the Town of Poultney. The towns have been engaged and supportive of conservation by incorporating them into the Bird Mountain WMA.

Need and Cost

The VFWD is acquiring this land in order to provide permanent protection of public access for hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing, other wildlife dependent activities and conservation of significant wildlife habitat, as well as habitat connectivity. The cost of the project to expand the WMA is almost \$3.5 million. Public and private funds totaling nearly \$2.7 million have been raised to date. The VFWD plans to contribute \$275,000 in Pittman-Robertson Funds towards the project and if approved in the appendix to this document, we will also use \$30,000 secured through the Lintilhac Foundation. The lands will be encumbered with a conservation easement on them held by the Vermont Land Trust





and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) as a condition of a \$600,000 grant from the VHCB. To ensure these lands are permanently protected the final funding needs still must be met. The hope is to raise the remaining funds through private donations and foundation grants.

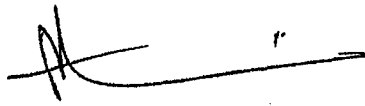
Your approval of this acquisition is required by 10 V.S.A. §4144, which states in part “the secretary, with approval of the governor, may exchange, sell or lease lands under the secretary’s jurisdiction when, in his or her judgment, it is advantageous to the state to do so ...” This project has been reviewed and approved by the Agency’s Land Acquisition Review Committee at their meeting in December 2012 (See Exhibits 2). In addition, the towns support this acquisition as documented in the letters from the Select Boards in Poultney and Ira (Exhibit 3 and 4).



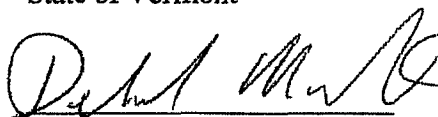
APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE OF LANDS

We the undersigned, hereby approve the purchase of land by the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife to protect public access and the natural resources across 2,880 acres belonging to the Conservation Fund in Poultney and Ira, VT. This approval is required by 10 V.S.A. §4144 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.


5-1-15
Date


Peter Shumlin
Governor
State of Vermont

4-20-15
Date


Deb Markowitz
Secretary
Agency of Natural Resources

4/15/15
Date


Louis Porter
Commissioner
Fish and Wildlife Department

