



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

**MEMORANDUM**

To: James Reardon, Commissioner of Finance & Management  
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst  
Date: April 9, 2010  
Subject: JFO #2434, #2435, #2436, #2437

No Joint Fiscal Committee member has requested that the following items be held for review:

**JFO #2434** — \$10,466 grant from the University of Vermont to Agriculture, Food & Markets. These funds will be used to provide oversight of the voluntary Johne's disease program, review risk assessment and management plans, and process invoices for participating veterinarians.

[JFO received 3/4/10]

**JFO #2435** — \$40,000 donation from the Watershed Center (Bristol, Vermont) to the Department of Fish & Wildlife. This funding represents 25% of the of the purchase price for a conservation easement in the Town of Bristol.

[JFO received 3/09/10]

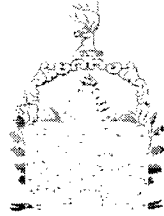
**JFO #2436** — \$951,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. This grant will be used to further develop a statewide employment-focused Neuro-Resource Facilitation (NRF) System for disabled veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury in Vermont. **This grant includes a request for two (2) limited service positions.**

[JFO received 3/09/10]

**JFO #2437** — \$293,998 grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to the Office of Vermont Health Access. This grant will be used to support the development of a State Medicaid Health Information Technology Plan (SMHP). **The establishment of two (2) limited service positions are associated with this request.** [JFO received 3/09/10]

The Governor's approval may now be considered final. We ask that you inform the Secretary of Administration and your staff of this action.

cc: Roger Allbee, Secretary  
Wayne Laroche, Commissioner  
Joan Senecal, Commissioner  
Susan Besio, Director



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members  
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst  
Date: March 9, 2010  
Subject: Grant Requests

Enclosed please find five (5) requests that the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the administration. These requests include the establishment of six (6) limited service positions and the retention of two existing positions.

**JFO #2433** — \$3,999,923 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to the Vermont Department of Labor. These funds will be used to study the demand for Green Jobs in Vermont and the northeast. Vermont will act as the lead administrative state for this collaboration with Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New York, New Hampshire, and the District of Columbia. Vermont's share of this award is approximately \$530,000. **The establishment of two (2) limited service positions are associated with this request, as is the retention of two existing positions.** This grant is awarded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and **expedited review of this item has been requested.** Joint Fiscal Committee members will be contacted within two weeks with a request to waive the statutory review period and accept this item.

*[JFO received 3/4/10]*

**JFO #2434** — \$10,466 grant from the University of Vermont to Agriculture, Food & Markets. These funds will be used to provide oversight of the voluntary Johne's disease program, review risk assessment and management plans, and process invoices for participating veterinarians.

*[JFO received 3/4/10]*

**JFO #2435** — \$40,000 donation from the Watershed Center (Bristol, Vermont) to the Department of Fish & Wildlife. This funding represents 25% of the of the purchase price for a conservation easement in the Town of Bristol.

*[JFO received 3/09/10]*

**JFO #2436** — \$951,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. This grant will be used to further develop a statewide employment-focused Neuro-Resource Facilitation (NRF) System for disabled veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury in Vermont. **This grant includes a request for two limited service positions.**

*[JFO received 3/09/10]*

**JFO #2437** — \$293,998 grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to the Office of Vermont Health Access. This grant will be used to support the development of a State

Medicaid Health Information Technology Plan (SMHP). **The establishment of two (2) limited service positions are associated with this request.** This grant is awarded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and **expedited review of this item has been requested.** Joint Fiscal Committee members will be contacted within two weeks with a request to waive the statutory review period and accept this item.

[JFO received 3/09/10]

In accordance with the procedures for processing such requests, we ask you to review the enclosed and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at (802) 828-1488; [nlavery@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:nlavery@leg.state.vt.us)) if you have questions or would like an item held for legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by March 23 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of these requests.

cc: James Reardon, Commissioner  
Patricia Moulton Powden, Commissioner  
Roger Allbee, Secretary  
Wayne Laroche, Commissioner  
Joan Senecal, Commissioner  
Susan Besio, Director

JFO 2435

STATE OF VERMONT  
GRANT ACCEPTANCE FORM

GRANT SUMMARY:

Title: Donation from the Watershed Center  
This is a request for approval of a donation towards the purchase of a conservation easement owned by Jason Bacon in the Town of Bristol. This land is useful to the State for public access, habitat for the state-endangered Indiana Bat, the state-threatened Eastern Ratsnake, and state-significant natural communities. The \$40,000 donation will provide 25% match for federal funds available for this purchase.

DATE: February 24, 2010

DEPARTMENT: Fish and Wildlife (ANR)

GRANT / DONATION: \$40,000.00

FEDERAL CATALOG No.:

GRANTOR / DONOR: The Watershed Center, Bristol, VT

AMOUNT / VALUE: \$40,000.00

POSITIONS REQUESTED: None

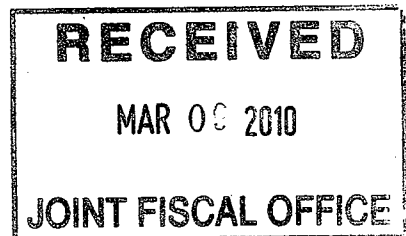
GRANT PERIOD:

COMMENTS: See attachments.

h 2/24/10

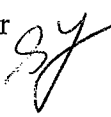
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT:  
SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION  
SENT TO JOINT FISCAL OFFICE:

(INITIAL) MSA  
(INITIAL) JD 2/3/10  
DATE: 3/8/2010



**Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Business Office  
103 South Main Street  
10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0501  
802-241-3704**

**To:** Jason Aronowitz, Budget Analyst  
Finance & Management

**From:** Sherri A. Yacono, Business Manager 

**Date:** February 10, 2010

**Subject:** AA-1: Donation from The Watershed Center

---

Please find attached a revised AA-1 package for the above subject. The original AA-1 stated the donation was from the landowner, Jason Bacon when in fact the donation is coming from The Watershed Center.

I apologize for the confusion.

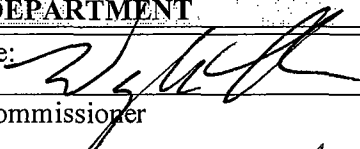
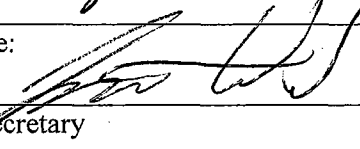
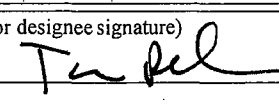
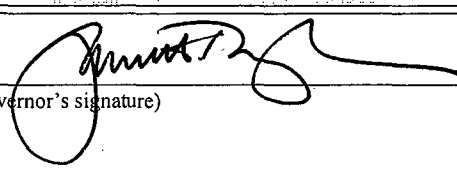
If there are any questions, please call me at 241-3704. Thanks for your assistance.

RECEIVED FEB 10 2010

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




<b>BASIC GRANT INFORMATION</b>				
<b>1. Agency:</b>	Natural Resources			
<b>2. Department:</b>	Fish and Wildlife			
<b>3. Program:</b>	Conservation Easement Purchase			
<b>4. Legal Title of Grant:</b>				
<b>5. Federal Catalog #:</b>				
<b>6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:</b>				
The Watershed Center, Bristol, Vermont				
<b>7. Grant Period:</b>	<b>From:</b>		<b>To:</b>	
<b>8. Purpose of Grant:</b>				
The department would like to purchase a conservation easement in the Town of Bristol owned by Jason Bacon.				
<b>9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:</b>				
This is a 194 acre parcel that the Department would like to protect for public access, habitat for the state-endangered Indiana Bat, the state threatened Eastern ratsnake and five state significant natural communities.				
<b>10. BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Comments
<b>Expenditures:</b>	FY 2010	FY	FY	
Personal Services	\$	\$	\$	
Operating Expenses	\$	\$	\$	
Grants	\$40,000	\$	\$	
<b>Total</b>	\$	\$	\$	
<b>Revenues:</b>				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
(Direct Costs)	\$	\$	\$	
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
Other Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Grant (source local non profits)	\$40,000	\$	\$	
<b>Total</b>	\$	\$	\$	
<b>Appropriation No:</b>			<b>Amount:</b>	\$
	6120000000			\$40,000
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$

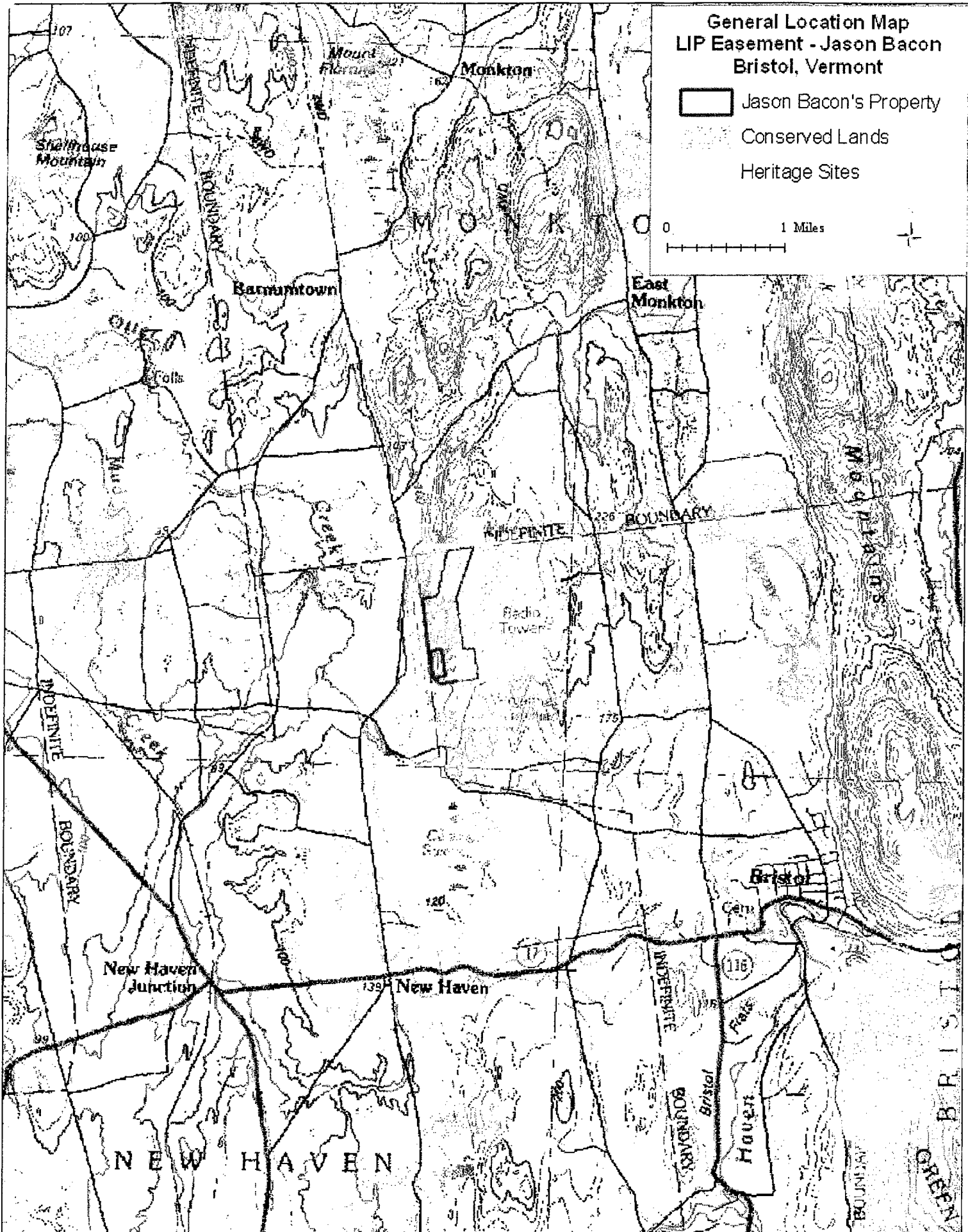
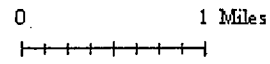
**STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)**

	Total \$										
<b>PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION</b>											
<b>11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.											
Appointing Authority Name: _____ Agreed by: _____ (initial)											
<b>12. Limited Service Position Information:</b>	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;"># Positions</th> <th style="width: 70%;">Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr> <td align="right"><b>Total Positions</b></td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	# Positions	Title							<b>Total Positions</b>	
# Positions	Title										
<b>Total Positions</b>											
<b>12a. Equipment and space for these positions:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Is presently available. <input type="checkbox"/> Can be obtained with available funds.										
<b>13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT</b>											
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: 										
	Title: Commissioner										
	Date: 2/16/2010										
	Signature: 										
Title: Secretary											
Date: 2/18/2010											
<b>14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION</b>											
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved:	(Secretary or designee signature) 										
Date: 3/1/10											
<b>15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR</b>											
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check One Box: Accepted	(Governor's signature) 										
<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Date: 3/4/10										
<b>16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED</b>											
<b>Required GRANT Documentation</b>											
<input type="checkbox"/> Request Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement <input 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)										

**End Form AA-1**

General Location Map  
LIP Easement - Jason Bacon  
Bristol, Vermont

-  Jason Bacon's Property
-  Conserved Lands
-  Heritage Sites





**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

103 South Main Street, #10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0501  
[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

[phone] 802-241-3700  
[fax] 802-241-3295

*Agency of Natural Resources*

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Susanne Young, Governor's Office

**From:** Tom Decker, Chief of Operations, Fish and Wildlife Department

**Date:** December 8, 2009

**RE:** LIP Easement – Bacon Property, Bristol

---

Attached is a revised Governor's approval memo which includes the corrected statute reference of section 4144, rather than section 4147, on the signature page for the purchase of the Bacon easement in Bristol, VT. If there are any other concerns, please let me know. Thank you.




**Fish & Wildlife Department**  
103 South Main St., #10 South  
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0501  
[www.VtFishandWildlife.com](http://www.VtFishandWildlife.com)

[phone] 802-241-3700  
[fax] 802-241-3295  
[tdd] 802-828-3345

*Agency Of Natural Resources*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Susanne Young, Governor's Office

**FROM:** Thomas A. Decker, Chief of Operations, Fish & Wildlife Department 

**DATE:** November 9, 2009

**SUBJECT:** **Governor's Approval for Conservation Easement Purchase in the Town Of Bristol**

---

Enclosed is an approval to be signed by Governor Douglas for the purchase of a conservation easement by the State of Vermont. The conservation easement will be held by the Fish and Wildlife Department. This easement acquisition is in the Town of Bristol and is owned by Jason Bacon. Total costs for this conservation easement project are approximately \$190,000.

Funding for this acquisition will come from Landowner Incentive Program funds provided to the Department from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the protection of at-risk species and state-significant natural communities. Additional funding for the match needed has come from local donations through a small non-profit in Bristol called The Watershed Center. Included with the Governor's approval memo are a map of the property, a copy of the conservation easement and a copy of a letter signed by the Bristol Selectboard stating town support for the state acquisition of this easement.

If you have any questions regarding this easement project, please contact me at 241-3247 or at [tom.decker@state.vt.us](mailto:tom.decker@state.vt.us), thank you.

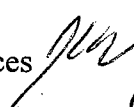
cpm


cc: Wayne Laroche, Commissioner  
John M. Austin, Wildlife Biologist  
Jane Lazorchak, LIP Coordinator



Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Commissioner's Office  
103 South Main Street  
10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0501  
802-241-3730

TO: James H. Douglas, Governor

THROUGH: Jonathan Wood, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources 

FROM: Wayne A. Laroche, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife 

SUBJECT: Department of Fish and Wildlife, Conservation Easement, Jason Bacon's Property, Bristol, VT

**Recommendation That you approve the acquisition of a 194-acre conservation easement by the of Fish and Wildlife Department protecting public access, habitat for the state-endangered Indiana bat, the state-threatened Eastern ratsnake and five state-significant natural communities.**

Description of Project

Jason Bacon's 194-acre property abuts 634 acres owned by a non-profit based in Bristol called the Watershed Association whose primary mission is biodiversity conservation. In addition the land is open for the public to use for recreation, hunting, fishing, trapping, and educational opportunities. Located where the town's of Bristol, Monkton and New Haven come together, this forested hillside is one of the most intact areas left in Addison County and as such, contains some significant resources. Spanning across Jason Bacon's property, the Watershed Association's lands and two other privately owned parcels are six state-significant natural communities, a state-threatened snake (the Eastern ratsnake) and a known maternity roost colony for the federally-endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*).

Jason Bacon's property is largely comprised of a diversity of oak forest types: Dry Oak-Hickory-Hophornbeam Forest, Mesic Maple Ash-Hickory-Oak Forest, and Dry Oak Woodland. All three of these natural communities are uncommon in the state and largely restricted to the Champlain Valley. As a result, it is very rare to find them in such good condition. All of these communities were visited and ranked based on their size, landscape context and current condition by Department staff in 2005. In addition, the property also contains an A-ranked (the highest possible based on the factors mentioned previously) Hemlock Forest. Lastly, the entire parcel contains significant habitat for Indiana bats as the forest is quite mature possessing the necessary dead or dying trees needed for summer roosting habitat. As their populations decrease at a rapid rate due to White Nose Syndrome, there is an even greater need to conserve maternity colony habitat.

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is working with the landowner to purchase a conservation easement which was drafted to protect the significant resources on the property. In addition to protecting the natural resources on the property, the easement will also protect public access across the entire parcel for all wildlife-based activities. A draft easement is attached as Exhibit 2.

### Need and Cost

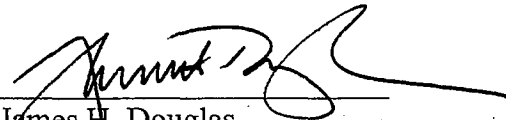
The Department of Fish and Wildlife is acquiring the easement to provide permanent protection of public access for hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, other wildlife dependent activities and conservation of significant wildlife habitat including the Indiana bat habitat. The estimate set for the total project costs are \$170,000 to purchase the easement and cover the associated costs. Funding for this acquisition will come from the Fish and Wildlife Department's Landowner Incentive Program (\$120,000), as well as private donations to support the 25% needed as match towards the purchase price of \$160,000. The \$10,000 in associated costs were paid for through funding from the Department's Landowner Incentive Program.

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 already been reviewed and approved by the Agency's Land Acquisition Review Committee at their meeting in March, 2009 and by the ANR Secretary on 6/29/09 (See Exhibit 3). In addition, Department staff met with the town of Bristol on October 19, 2009. As documented in Exhibit 4, the town of Bristol unanimously supports the Department purchasing this easement.

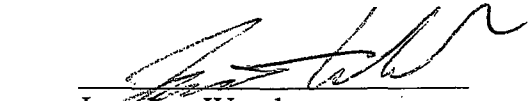
**APPROVAL FOR GRANTING OF AN EASEMENT**

We the undersigned, hereby approve the granting of the attached conservation easement to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife to protect public access and the natural resources on the 194 acres belonging to the Jason Bacon in Bristol, VT. This approval is pursuant to Title 10, Chapter 103, section 4144 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

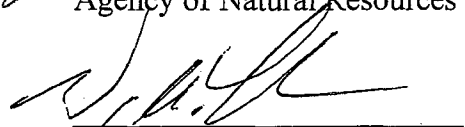
12/23/09  
Date

  
James H. Douglas  
Governor  
State of Vermont

12/18/09  
Date

  
Jonathan Wood  
Secretary  
Agency of Natural Resources

12/18/2009  
Date

  
Wayne A. Laroche  
Commissioner  
Fish and Wildlife Department



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Representative David Deen

**From:** Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst

**Date:** March 9, 2010

**Subject:** JFO #2435

Representative Michael Obuchowski asked that I forward to you a copy of the enclosed grant materials and cover memo. He requests your observations regarding the enclosed item.

cc: Rep. Michael Obuchowski

JFO 2435

STATE OF VERMONT  
GRANT ACCEPTANCE FORM

GRANT SUMMARY:

Title: Donation from the Watershed Center  
This is a request for approval of a donation towards the purchase of a conservation easement owned by Jason Bacon in the Town of Bristol. This land is useful to the State for public access, habitat for the state-endangered Indiana Bat, the state-threatened Eastern Ratsnake, and state-significant natural communities. The \$40,000 donation will provide 25% match for federal funds available for this purchase.

DATE: February 24, 2010

DEPARTMENT: Fish and Wildlife (ANR)

GRANT / DONATION: \$40,000.00

FEDERAL CATALOG No.:

GRANTOR / DONOR: The Watershed Center, Bristol, VT

AMOUNT / VALUE: \$40,000.00

POSITIONS REQUESTED: None

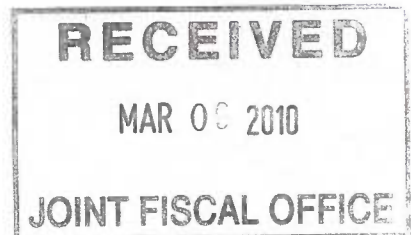
GRANT PERIOD:

COMMENTS: See attachments.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT:  
SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION  
SENT TO JOINT FISCAL OFFICE:


(INITIAL) F WEA  
(INITIAL) JP 2/23/10  
DATE: 3/8/2010

*JP 2/24/10*



**Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Business Office  
103 South Main Street  
10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0501  
802-241-3704**

**To:** Jason Aronowitz, Budget Analyst  
Finance & Management

**From:** Sherri A. Yacono, Business Manager 

**Date:** February 10, 2010

**Subject:** AA-1: Donation from The Watershed Center

---

Please find attached a revised AA-1 package for the above subject. The original AA-1 stated the donation was from the landowner, Jason Bacon when in fact the donation is coming from The Watershed Center.

I apologize for the confusion.

If there are any questions, please call me at 241-3704. Thanks for your assistance.

REC'D FEB 29 2010



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

<b>BASIC GRANT INFORMATION</b>				
<b>1. Agency:</b>	Natural Resources			
<b>2. Department:</b>	Fish and Wildlife			
<b>3. Program:</b>	Conservation Easement Purchase			
<b>4. Legal Title of Grant:</b>				
<b>5. Federal Catalog #:</b>				
<b>6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:</b>				
The Watershed Center, Bristol, Vermont				
<b>7. Grant Period:</b>	<b>From:</b>		<b>To:</b>	
<b>8. Purpose of Grant:</b>				
The department would like to purchase a conservation easement in the Town of Bristol owned by Jason Bacon.				
<b>9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:</b>				
This is a 194 acre parcel that the Department would like to protect for public access, habitat for the state-endangered Indiana Bat, the state threatened Eastern ratsnake and five state significant natural communities.				
<b>10. BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Comments
<b>Expenditures:</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>	
Personal Services	\$	\$	\$	
Operating Expenses	\$	\$	\$	
Grants	\$40,000	\$	\$	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</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 local non profits)	\$40,000	\$	\$	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Appropriation No:</b>	<b>Amount:</b>		\$	
	6120000000		\$40,000	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	

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

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

**PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION**

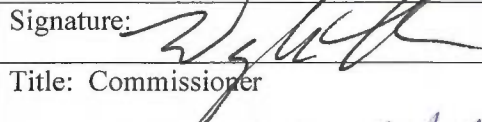
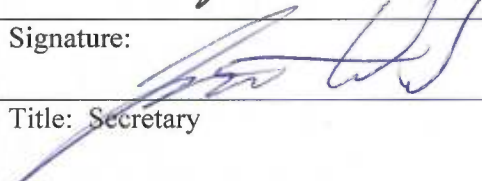
**11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts?**  Yes  No  
 If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.

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.

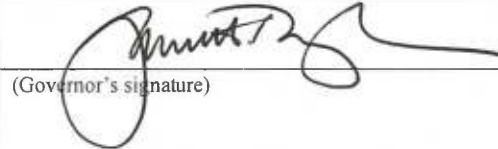
**13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT**

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: 	Date: <u>2/16/2010</u>
	Title: Commissioner	
	Signature: 	Date: <u>2/18/2010</u>
	Title: Secretary	

**14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION**

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved:	(Secretary or designee signature) 	Date: <u>3/1/10</u>
------------------------------------	---	---------------------

**15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check One Box: Accepted	(Governor's signature) 	Date: <u>3/4/10</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected		




**16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED**

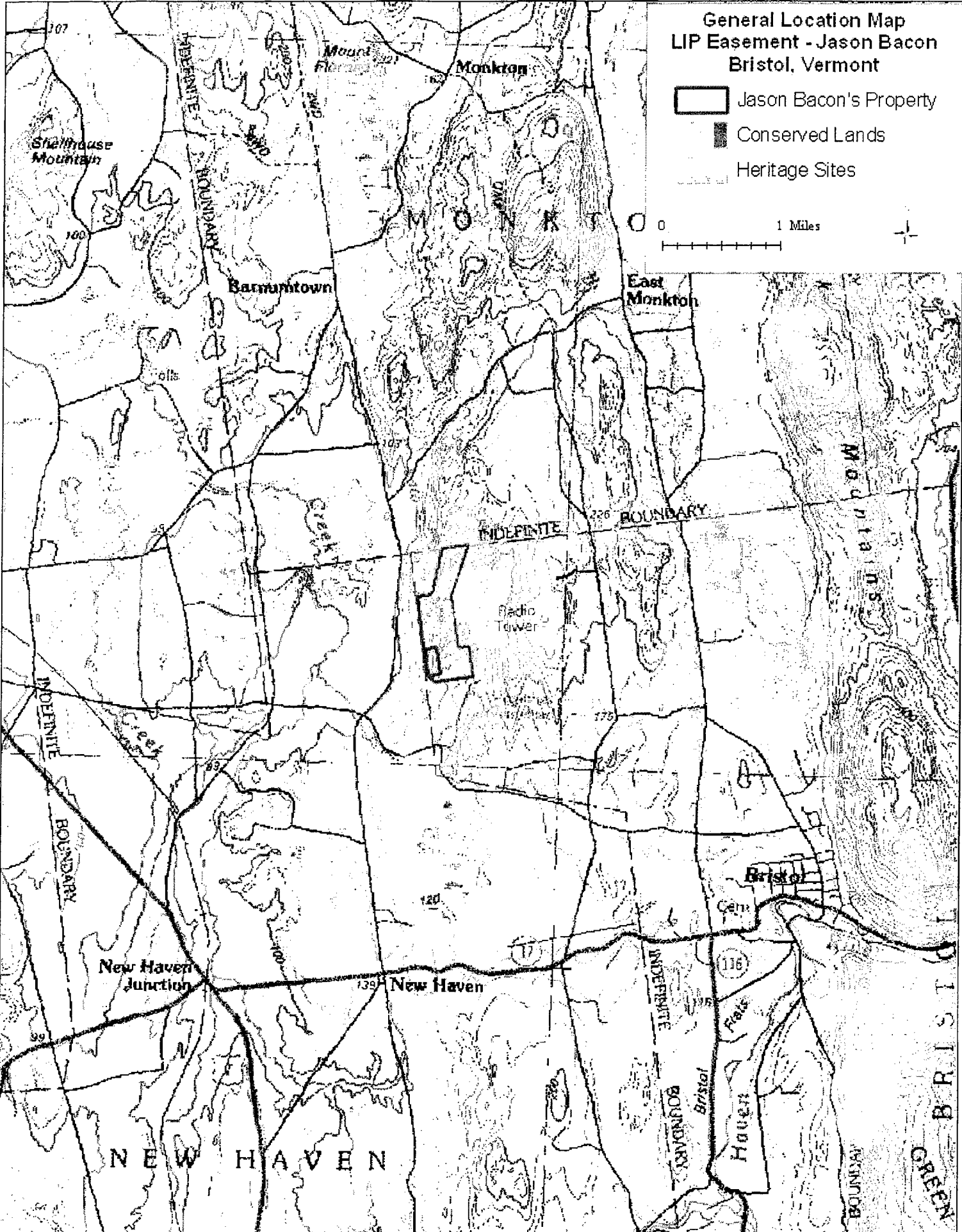
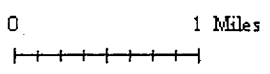
**Required GRANT Documentation**

<input type="checkbox"/> Request Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement <input 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)
---	--

**End Form AA-1**

General Location Map  
LIP Easement - Jason Bacon  
Bristol, Vermont

-  Jason Bacon's Property
-  Conserved Lands
-  Heritage Sites



**Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
103 South Main Street, #10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0501  
[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

[phone] 802-241-3700  
[fax] 802-241-3295

*Agency of Natural Resources*

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Susanne Young, Governor's Office

**From:** Tom Decker, Chief of Operations, Fish and Wildlife Department

**Date:** December 8, 2009

**RE:** LIP Easement – Bacon Property, Bristol

---

Attached is a revised Governor's approval memo which includes the corrected statute reference of section 4144, rather than section 4147, on the signature page for the purchase of the Bacon easement in Bristol, VT. If there are any other concerns, please let me know. Thank you.



**Fish & Wildlife Department**  
103 South Main St., #10 South  
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0501  
[www.VtFishandWildlife.com](http://www.VtFishandWildlife.com)

[phone] 802-241-3700  
[fax] 802-241-3295  
[tdd] 802-828-3345

*Agency Of Natural Resources*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Susanne Young, Governor's Office

**FROM:** Thomas A. Decker, Chief of Operations, Fish & Wildlife Department *TAD*

**DATE:** November 9, 2009

**SUBJECT:** **Governor's Approval for Conservation Easement Purchase in the Town Of Bristol**

---

Enclosed is an approval to be signed by Governor Douglas for the purchase of a conservation easement by the State of Vermont. The conservation easement will be held by the Fish and Wildlife Department. This easement acquisition is in the Town of Bristol and is owned by Jason Bacon. Total costs for this conservation easement project are approximately \$190,000.

Funding for this acquisition will come from Landowner Incentive Program funds provided to the Department from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the protection of at-risk species and state-significant natural communities. Additional funding for the match needed has come from local donations through a small non-profit in Bristol called The Watershed Center. Included with the Governor's approval memo are a map of the property, a copy of the conservation easement and a copy of a letter signed by the Bristol Selectboard stating town support for the state acquisition of this easement.

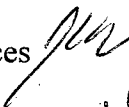
If you have any questions regarding this easement project, please contact me at 241-3247 or at [tom.decker@state.vt.us](mailto:tom.decker@state.vt.us), thank you.


cpm

cc: Wayne Laroche, Commissioner  
John M. Austin, Wildlife Biologist  
Jane Lazorchak, LIP Coordinator

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Commissioner's Office  
103 South Main Street  
10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0501  
802-241-3730

TO: James H. Douglas, Governor

THROUGH: Jonathan Wood, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources 

FROM: Wayne A. Laroche, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife 

SUBJECT: Department of Fish and Wildlife, Conservation Easement, Jason Bacon's Property, Bristol, VT

**Recommendation That you approve the acquisition of a 194-acre conservation easement by the of Fish and Wildlife Department protecting public access, habitat for the state-endangered Indiana bat, the state-threatened Eastern ratsnake and five state-significant natural communities.**

Description of Project

Jason Bacon's 194-acre property abuts 634 acres owned by a non-profit based in Bristol called the Watershed Association whose primary mission is biodiversity conservation. In addition the land is open for the public to use for recreation, hunting, fishing, trapping, and educational opportunities. Located where the town's of Bristol, Monkton and New Haven come together, this forested hillside is one of the most intact areas left in Addison County and as such, contains some significant resources. Spanning across Jason Bacon's property, the Watershed Association's lands and two other privately owned parcels are six state-significant natural communities, a state-threatened snake (the Eastern ratsnake) and a known maternity roost colony for the federally-endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*).

Jason Bacon's property is largely comprised of a diversity of oak forest types: Dry Oak-Hickory-Hophornbeam Forest, Mesic Maple Ash-Hickory-Oak Forest, and Dry Oak Woodland. All three of these natural communities are uncommon in the state and largely restricted to the Champlain Valley. As a result, it is very rare to find them in such good condition. All of these communities were visited and ranked based on their size, landscape context and current condition by Department staff in 2005. In addition, the property also contains an A-ranked (the highest possible based on the factors mentioned previously) Hemlock Forest. Lastly, the entire parcel contains significant habitat for Indiana bats as the forest is quite mature possessing the necessary dead or dying trees needed for summer roosting habitat. As their populations decrease at a rapid rate due to White Nose Syndrome, there is an even greater need to conserve maternity colony habitat.

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is working with the landowner to purchase a conservation easement which was drafted to protect the significant resources on the property. In addition to protecting the natural resources on the property, the easement will also protect public access across the entire parcel for all wildlife-based activities. A draft easement is attached as Exhibit 2.

#### Need and Cost

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is acquiring the easement to provide permanent protection of public access for hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, other wildlife dependent activities and conservation of significant wildlife habitat including the Indiana bat habitat. The estimate set for the total project costs are \$170,000 to purchase the easement and cover the associated costs. Funding for this acquisition will come from the Fish and Wildlife Department's Landowner Incentive Program (\$120,000), as well as private donations to support the 25% needed as match towards the purchase price of \$160,000. The \$10,000 in associated costs were paid for through funding from the Department's Landowner Incentive Program.

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 already been reviewed and approved by the Agency's Land Acquisition Review Committee at their meeting in March, 2009 and by the ANR Secretary on 6/29/09 (See Exhibit 3). In addition, Department staff met with the town of Bristol on October 19, 2009. As documented in Exhibit 4, the town of Bristol unanimously supports the Department purchasing this easement.

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is working with the landowner to purchase a conservation easement which was drafted to protect the significant resources on the property. In addition to protecting the natural resources on the property, the easement will also protect public access across the entire parcel for all wildlife-based activities. A draft easement is attached as Exhibit 2.

### Need and Cost

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is acquiring the easement to provide permanent protection of public access for hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, other wildlife dependent activities and conservation of significant wildlife habitat including the Indiana bat habitat. The estimate set for the total project costs are \$170,000 to purchase the easement and cover the associated costs. Funding for this acquisition will come from the Fish and Wildlife Department's Landowner Incentive Program (\$120,000), as well as private donations to support the 25% needed as match towards the purchase price of \$160,000. The \$10,000 in associated costs were paid for through funding from the Department's Landowner Incentive Program.

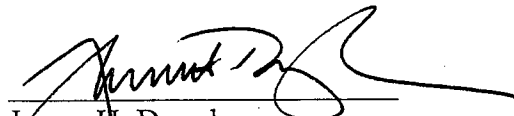
Your approval of this acquisition is required by 10 V.S.A. §4144, which states in part "the secretary, with approval of the governor, may exchange, sell or lease lands under the secretary's jurisdiction when, in his or her judgment, it is advantageous to the state to do so ..." This project has already been reviewed and approved by the Agency's Land Acquisition Review Committee at their meeting in March, 2009 and by the ANR Secretary on 6/29/09 (See Exhibit 3). In addition, Department staff met with the town of Bristol on October 19, 2009. As documented in Exhibit 4, the town of Bristol unanimously supports the Department purchasing this easement.



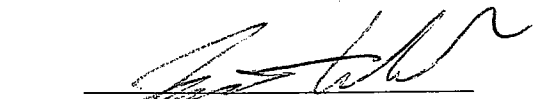
**APPROVAL FOR GRANTING OF AN EASEMENT**

We the undersigned, hereby approve the granting of the attached conservation easement to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife to protect public access and the natural resources on the 194 acres belonging to the Jason Bacon in Bristol, VT. This approval is pursuant to Title 10, Chapter 103, section 4144 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

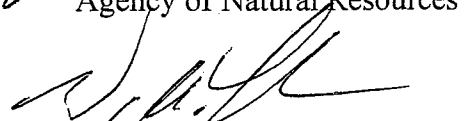
12/23/09  
Date

  
James H. Douglas  
Governor  
State of Vermont

12/18/09  
Date

  
Jonathan Wood  
Secretary  
Agency of Natural Resources

12/18/2009  
Date

  
Wayne A. Laroche  
Commissioner  
Fish and Wildlife Department