

**Fish & Wildlife Department**  
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*Agency Of Natural Resources*

## MEMORANDUM

To: Sarah London

From: Catherine Gjessing

Date: September 15, 2016

RE: Governor's Approval recommended and requested for a minor exchange of property interests in the Towns of Dummerston and Putney

Enclosed is a request for Governor Shumlin's approval and signature for the exchange of property interests in the towns of Dummerston and Putney. The exchange concerns an access area owned by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (Department). The access area straddles the town line between the towns of Dummerston and Putney and provides recreational fishing and boating access to the Connecticut River.

The exchange will settle a lawsuit commenced by Thomas Ehrenberg, an adjoining landowner, against the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the New England Central Railway, Inc. The lawsuit seeks to secure permanent access to the Ehrenberg's residence and property. Ehrenberg alleges that he is entitled to legal access and that a recent railroad project has jeopardized his access.

The proposed exchange consists of the conveyance of an 18 x 50 foot parcel in Putney Vermont, to allow Mr. Ehrenberg to access his otherwise inaccessible driveway and residence. In exchange, the Department will receive a permanent right of way totaling more than 2000 square feet on an adjoining parcel in the town of Dummerston, owned by the New England Central Railway, Inc. The right of way will provide permanent public access to two Department parcels which provide access to the Connecticut River for recreational purposes.

No funding is required for this exchange of property interests. Included with the Governor's approval memo are a map of the property and the approval of the National Park Service as required because the parcel was originally purchased with Land and Water Conservation Funds.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me directly at 802-595-3331 or at [Catherine.gjessing@vermont.gov](mailto:Catherine.gjessing@vermont.gov). Thank you.

cc: Louis Porter, Commissioner



Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Commissioner's Office  
1 National Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

TO: Peter Shumlin, Governor

THROUGH: Deb Markowitz, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources

FROM: Louis Porter, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife

SUBJECT: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department Access Dispute Resolution  
and Right of Way exchange.

**Recommendation Approval of the conveyance of approximately 18 x 50 feet to Thomas Ehrenberg, while reserving an Easement for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and public access. In exchange, the Fish and Wildlife Department will acquire a portion of the land in excess of 2000 square feet from the New England Central Railway, Inc. to ensure improved public access to Department lands.**

Description of Project

This exchange concerns an access area owned by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (Department). The access area straddles the town line between the towns of Dummerston and Putney and provides recreational fishing and boating access to the Connecticut River. The exchange will settle a lawsuit commenced by Thomas Ehrenberg, an adjoining landowner, against the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the New England Central Railway, Inc. The lawsuit seeks to secure permanent access to the Ehrenberg's residence and property. Ehrenberg alleges that he is entitled to legal access and a recent railroad project has jeopardized his access.

The proposed exchange consists of the conveyance of an 18 x 50 foot parcel in Putney Vermont, to allow Mr. Ehrenberg to access his otherwise inaccessible driveway and residence. In exchange, the Department will receive more than 2000 square feet on an adjoining parcel in Dummerston, owned by the New England Central Railway, Inc. The right of way will provide permanent public access to two Department parcels which provide access to the Connecticut River for recreational purposes.

Need and Cost

No funding is required for this exchange of property interests. Included with the Governor's approval memo are a map of the property and the approval of the National Park Service as required because the parcel was originally purchased with Land and Water Conservation Funds.

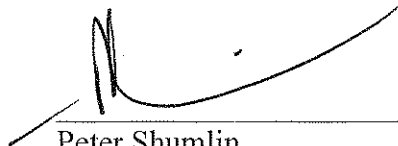
## APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE OF LAND

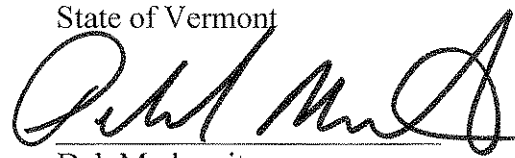
We the undersigned, hereby approve the exchange of land interests by the Agency of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Department to settle a lawsuit and protect public access to the Connecticut River. The exchange entails property in the towns of Putney and Dummerston, VT. This approval is required by 10 V.S.A. §4144 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

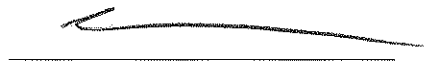
9/21/16  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Sept 15/16  
Date

  
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Peter Shumlin  
Governor  
State of Vermont

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deb Markowitz  
Secretary  
Agency of Natural Resources

  
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Louis Porter  
Commissioner  
Fish and Wildlife Department

