

MEMORANDUM

**To:** Sarah London

**From:** Kate Willard 

**Date:** March 3, 2016

**RE:** Governor's Approval for fee acquisition of 2,085 +/- acres, Town of Duxbury

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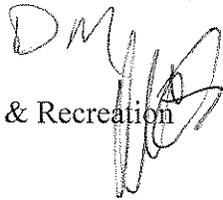
Enclosed is an approval to be signed by Governor Shumlin for an acquisition by the State of Vermont, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Described in the enclosed memo to the Governor, the property will be purchased with a grant from the Federal Forest Legacy Program awarded to the Dowsville Headwaters project in Federal Fiscal Year 2015. The grant will also cover associated closing costs. The property is owned by Forecastle Timber Vermont, LLC.

Included with the Governor's approval memo are maps of the property and surrounding area, documentation of support for the acquisition from the Town of Duxbury and photos. We plan to close on this acquisition on or before March 30, 2016.

If you have any questions regarding this acquisition, please contact me at 272-3365 or at [kate.willard@vermont.gov](mailto:kate.willard@vermont.gov), thank you.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Peter Shumlin, Governor

**THROUGH:** Deborah L. Markowitz, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources 

**FROM:** Michael C. Snyder, Commissioner, Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation 

**DATE:** March 3, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Acquisition Approval – 2,085+/- acres to be added to Camel's Hump State Park in the Town of Duxbury

Your approval is requested pursuant to Title 10, Chapter 83, Section 2606(a), VSA, for the acceptance of the fee acquisition referenced above. This acquisition was reviewed and recommended for acquisition by the Agency of Natural Resources Land Acquisition Review Committee on September 5, 2013 and approved by Secretary Markowitz on October 7, 2015.

### Description

The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is partnering with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to acquire 2,085+/- acres of forestland with significant public access value. The property will be owned in Fee by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and will be an addition to Camel's Hump State Park (CHSP); which abuts the parcel with 2.6 miles of shared boundary.

The Dowsville Headwaters parcel is a priority for the Department because of its recreational values and the enhancement of public access to the CHSP from both Duxbury and Fayston. Also significant are the wildlife habitat, landscape connectivity, and riparian values of the parcel as well as the timber resource. Addition of this parcel to the CHSP conserves a large block of forestland, protecting it from development and the resulting negative impacts of forest fragmentation.

The recreational value of the property is significant. Hiking, walking, hunting, birdwatching, cross-county and backcountry skiing, mountain biking and horseback riding regularly occur on the property. The property hosts 3 miles of VAST trail providing winter snowmobile access along several trails, including an important corridor trail that links Fayston to Waterbury. The Department has drafted an Interim Stewardship Plan to guide the management of the parcel, including recreational use, for the period between the time of acquisition and the completion of a Long Range Management Plan for this addition.

### Ownership and Management

This parcel will be owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation as part of Camel's Hump State Park. The 25% required match for this acquisition will be provided by the purchase of Jim Jeffords State Forest in the Towns of Mendon and Shrewsbury.

### Budget and Funding

The property will be purchase at the full, fair market appraised value of \$2,270,000. An additional \$40,000 will be needed for associated closing costs. The funds for acquisition and associated costs come from a \$2,500,000 Federal Forest Legacy grant awarded to FPR in Federal Fiscal Year 2015.

APPROVAL FOR LAND ACQUISITION

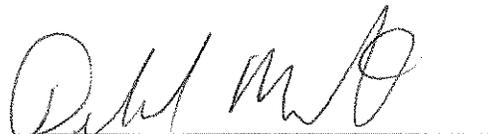
We, the undersigned, hereby approve the acquisition by the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation of a property, located in the Town of Duxbury, from Forecastle Timber Vermont, LLC. The Property is 2,085 ± acres in size.

This approval is pursuant to Title 10, Chapter 83, §2606(a) of the Vermont Statutes Annotated for the acceptance of the land acquisition referenced above.

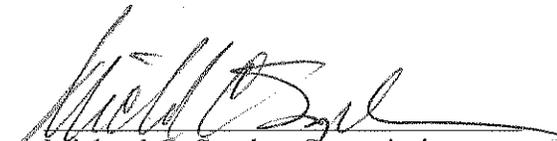
3-9-16  
Date

  
Peter Shumlin, Governor  
State of Vermont

3-4-16  
Date

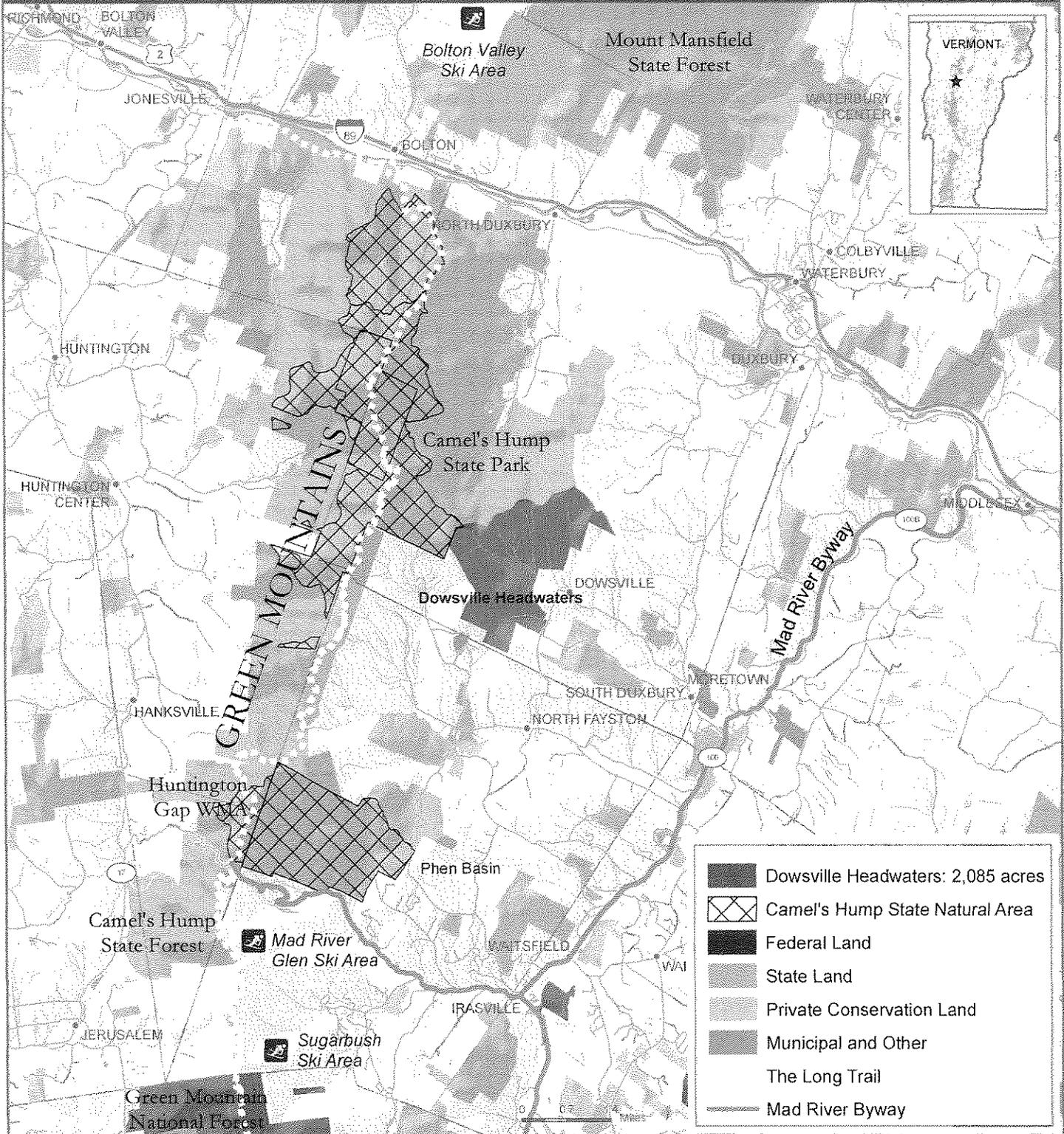
  
Deborah L. Markowitz, Secretary  
Agency of Natural Resources

3/3/16  
Date

  
Michael C. Snyder, Commissioner  
Dept. Forests, Parks & Recreation

# DOWSVILLE HEADWATERS: ADDITION TO CAMEL'S HUMP STATE PARK

Duxbury, Vermont

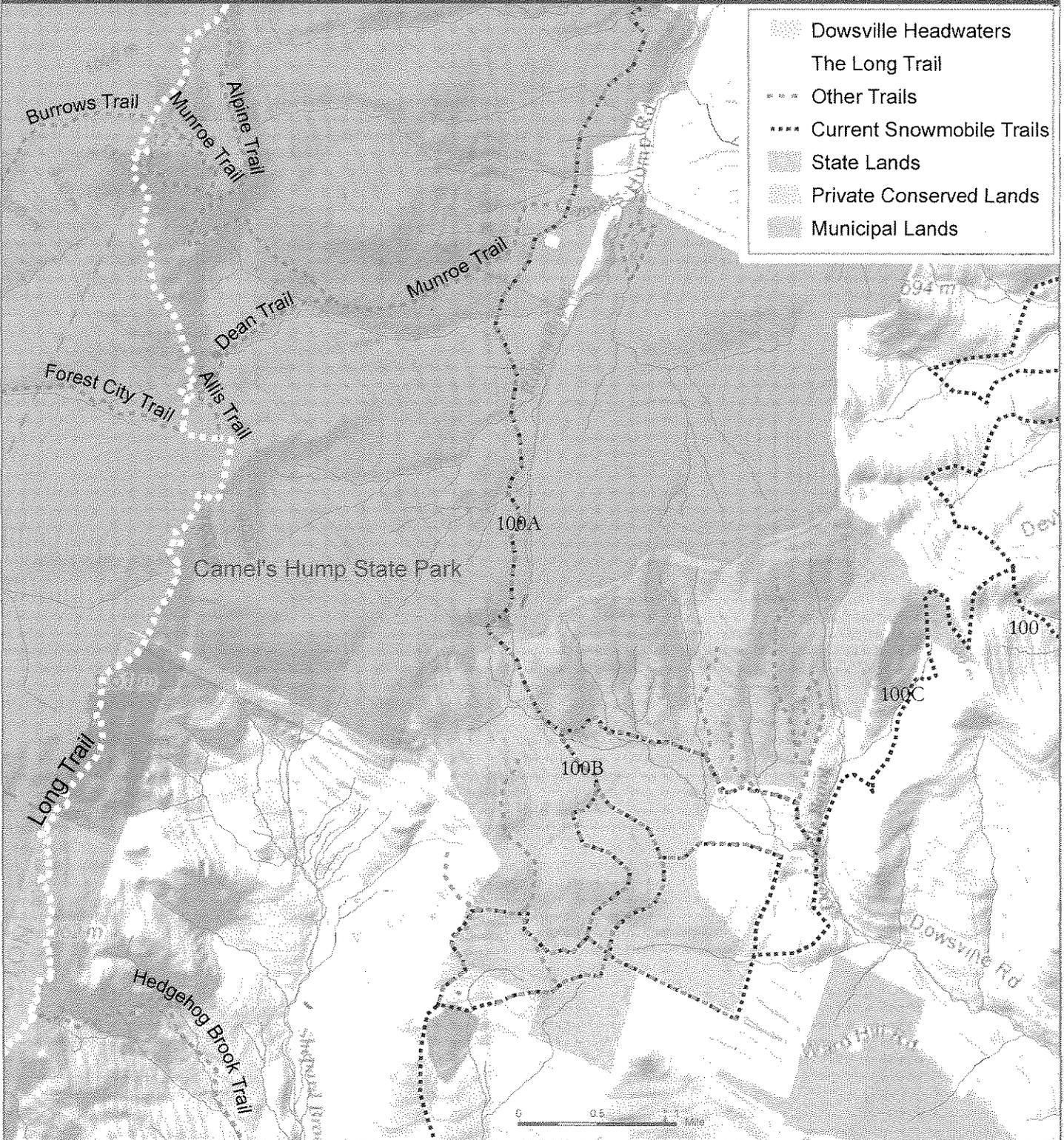


THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE

# DOWSVILLE HEADWATERS: ADDITION TO CAMEL'S HUMP STATE PARK

Duxbury, Vermont



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CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE

Select Board  
www.duxburyvermont.org

# Town of Duxbury

5421 VT ROUTE 100  
DUXBURY, VERMONT 05676  
802-244-6660

Town Clerk  
Town Treasurer  
duxbury1@myfairpoint.net

July 27, 2013

Vermont Forest Stewardship Committee  
Attn: Kate Willard  
Vermont Forest Legacy Program  
Dept. of Forest, Parks and Recreation  
1 National Life, Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 0520-3801

Dear Vermont Forest Stewardship Committee,

This letter serves to communicate the Duxbury Select Board's support for the proposed conservation and fee acquisition of the Dowsville Headwaters property by the State as an addition to Camel's Hump State Park.

The citizens and leaders of Duxbury have expressed a desire that Duxbury retain its identity as a small rural community. State acquisition and permanent conservation of this parcel will help maintain the town's rural identity, quality of life and financial capability. The property is also part of the Dowsville Brook Historic Archeological District and on the State Register of Historic Places.

As the largest privately owned parcel in Duxbury, the future of this property is of great concern to the citizens of Duxbury. The 2006 Duxbury Town Plan specifically calls out this property as having "significance to the overall town" for its valuable wildlife habitat and ecological value due to its size, high altitude and location next to existing protected areas. In addition, this property forms the foothill view of Camel's Hump itself, from the Northfield Range, Sugarbush and Mad River Glen ski areas, and parts of the Mad River Byway (Route 100).

Conservation of the 8.2 miles of headwater streams and the wetlands around Beaver Meadow are especially important to Duxbury, as we have experienced significant flooding and road failures in the past three years, putting stress on our town budget, staff and citizens. In addition to improving flood resiliency, conserving this 2,085-acre parcel will protect the quality of ground and surface waters, protect critical wildlife areas, prevent forest fragmentation, and a host of recreational values. Citizens of Duxbury and nearby towns have used this property for decades to hike, ski, hunt, mountain bike and snowmobile.

After holding a public meeting to discuss the issue, the Select Board voted on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 to support the conservation of this land and acquisition by the State as an addition to Camel's Hump State Park. As you consider which projects to recommend for funding, I hope you will recognize Dowsville Headwaters as an exemplary project that speaks to the State's focus on protecting wildlife habitat and forest resources,

*Dowsville Headwaters Legacy Property – Duxbury, VT*

