

State of Vermont  
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation  
103 South Main Street, 10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0601  
[www.vtfpr.org](http://www.vtfpr.org)

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Agency of Natural Resources

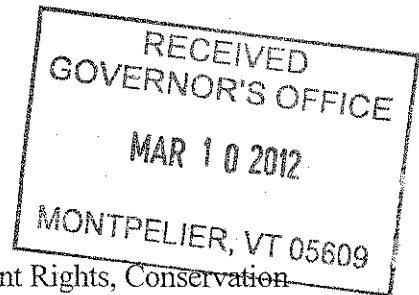
## MEMORANDUM

To: Sarah London

From: Kate Willard *Kate*

Date: March 8, 2012

RE: Governor's Approval for acquisition of a Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions and Public Access Easement, 936 +/- acres, Town of Jay.



Enclosed is an approval to be signed by Governor Shumlin for an easement acquisition by the State of Vermont, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Described in the enclosed memo to the Governor, the Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions and Public Access Easement will be purchased with a grant from the Federal Forest Legacy Program awarded to the Northern Green Mountains Linkage project in Federal fiscal year 2011. The grant will also cover associated closing costs. The property is owned by Vermont Peak Properties Group, LLC.


Included with the Governor's approval memo are maps of the property and surrounding area, draft conservation easement to be held by the State of Vermont, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and documentation of support for the acquisition from the Town of Jay.

If you have any questions regarding this acquisition, please contact me at 583-7510 or at [kate.willard@state.vt.us](mailto:kate.willard@state.vt.us), 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 8, 2012

**RE:** Easement Acquisition Approval – 936 ± acre Jackson Valley, aka Canada View, property, owned by Vermont Peak Properties Group, LLC, Jay, Vermont

Your approval is requested pursuant to Title 10, Chapter 83, §2606(a), VSA, for the acceptance of the easement acquisition reference above. This acquisition was reviewed by the Agency of Natural Resources Land Acquisition Review Committee on 12/10/2009 and approved by the Secretary on 1/25/2010.

### Description

The Jackson Valley Property, located in Jay, Vermont, consists of 936 acres of forestland, wetlands, and streams. Located on the U.S.-Canadian border it is an essential “missing link” in the Green Mountains-Sutton Mountains wildlife linkage, identified by Two Countries, One Forest (2C1Forest) as a top priority for protection. With a mixture of hardwood and softwood timberland, the property is home to a variety of wildlife species including possible habitats for Species of Greatest Conservation Need such as Bicknell’s Thrush, Canada lynx, American marten, and Blackpoll Warbler. These species depend on large, contiguous forest blocks that are increasingly rare in Vermont and the Northeastern United States. The Property also provides excellent recreational opportunities for a variety of activities such as hunting, hiking, fishing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. With its proximity to Vermont’s historic Long Trail and the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers’ (VAST) network of trails, the conservation of the Property protects scenic resources and increases recreational access.

### Ownership and Management

This parcel will continue to be owned by Vermont Peak Properties Group, LLC with a Federal Forest Legacy Program conservation easement held by the State of Vermont, Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. The property is expected to be used for production of timber products, protection of wildlife habitat and travel corridors and pedestrian public recreational access.

### Budget & Funding

Total acquisition cost will be \$585,000, the appraised value of the easement. Funding for this acquisition comes from a Federal Forest Legacy grant in the amount of \$2,000,000. It is expected that an additional \$7,000 will be used for associated closing costs.



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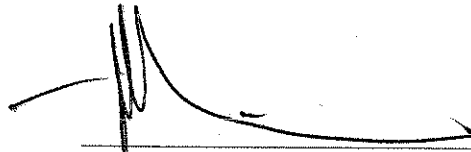
Agency of Natural Resources

## APPROVAL FOR LAND ACQUISITION

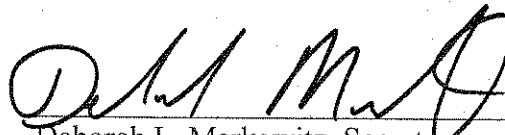
We, the undersigned, hereby approve the acquisition by the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation, of a Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions and Public Access Easement on the so-called Jackson Valley property, located in the Town of Jay, from Vermont Peak Properties Group, LLC. The Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions and Public Access Easement will encumber an area of 936 ± 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.

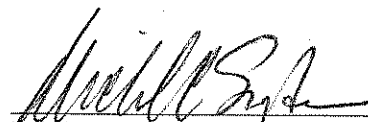
3/20/12  
Date

  
Peter Shumlin, Governor  
State of Vermont

3/9/12  
Date

  
Deborah L. Markowitz, Secretary  
Agency of Natural Resources

3/9/12  
Date

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