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Deborah L. Markowitz
Agency Secretary

Trey Martin
Deputy Secretary

State of Vermont
Agency of Natural Resources

MEMORANDUM

To: Sarah London, Executive Counsel to the Governor

From: Catherine Gjessing, General Counsel Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

Date: November 2, 2015

RE: Governor's Approval recommended and requested for conservation easement in Town of Stowe.

Enclosed is a request for Governor Shumlin's approval and signature for the acquisition of development rights and a perpetual conservation easement by the State of Vermont. The acquisition of the development rights and conservation easement by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Department will mitigate for development proposed by Mount Mansfield Company, Inc. The conservation easement is directly adjacent to a pre-existing easement and furthers the purpose of conserving necessary black bear wildlife habitat, native flora and fauna, non-motorized, non-commercial recreational opportunities, educational opportunities, open space values and scenic resources. There is no cost to this project.

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

Cc. Louis Porter, Commissioner, Fish and Wildlife

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Commissioner's Office
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3702
802-828-1000

TO: The Honorable Peter Shumlin, Governor

THROUGH: Deb Markowitz, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources 

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

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Department, acquisition of development rights, conservation easement, Mt. Mansfield Company, Inc., Stowe, VT

Recommendation: Approval of the acquisition of the development rights and conservation easement by Mt. Mansfield Company, Inc., by the Fish and Wildlife Department to conserve significant wildlife habitat.

Description of Project

Mt. Mansfield Company, Inc., will convey to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Department (FWD) development rights and a perpetual conservation easement for approximately 47 acres in the Town of Stowe. The easement will conserve necessary black bear habitat. Mansfield is offering this easement in order to mitigate the expansion of ski and mountain bike trails as part of an Act 250 permit. This easement will be directly adjacent to another easement held by FWD. All of the costs of this transaction will be paid by Mt. Mansfield.

The primary purpose of this grant is to protect, maintain and enhance critical wildlife habitat on the protected property. The parcel that will be subject to the easement is part of a large, significant wildlife and black bear travel corridor extending from Pinnacle Brook basin to Ranch Valley. The lands subject to this easement complete the corridor connection from the Smuggler's Notch State Park Camp Ground, across the so called "Toll Road" and subsequently adjoining Mount Mansfield State Forest in Ranch Valley. The secondary purpose of the grant is to conserve and protect the protected property's undeveloped character and scenic and open space resources for present and future generations. The grant also provides that public access will be allowed on the protected property for non-commercial, non-motorized, dispersed recreational purposes which include but are not limited to: birdwatching, cross-country skiing, hiking, hunting, snowshoeing, trapping, and wildlife observation. The Department will have the right to enter the protected property to enhance the functions of the protected property as a black bear habitat.

APPROVAL FOR ACQUISITION OF EASEMENT

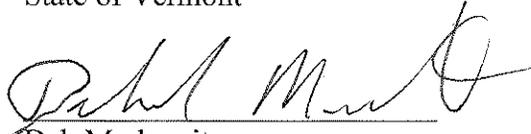
We the undersigned, hereby approve the acquisition of the easement by the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife to protect public access and the significant wildlife habitats on the lands belonging to Mt. Mansfield Company, Inc., VT. This approval is required by 10 V.S.A. §4144 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

11/5/15
Date



Peter Shumlin
Governor
State of Vermont

11/2/15
Date



Deb Markowitz
Secretary
Agency of Natural Resources

Nov 2 15
Date



Louis Porter
Commissioner
Fish and Wildlife Department