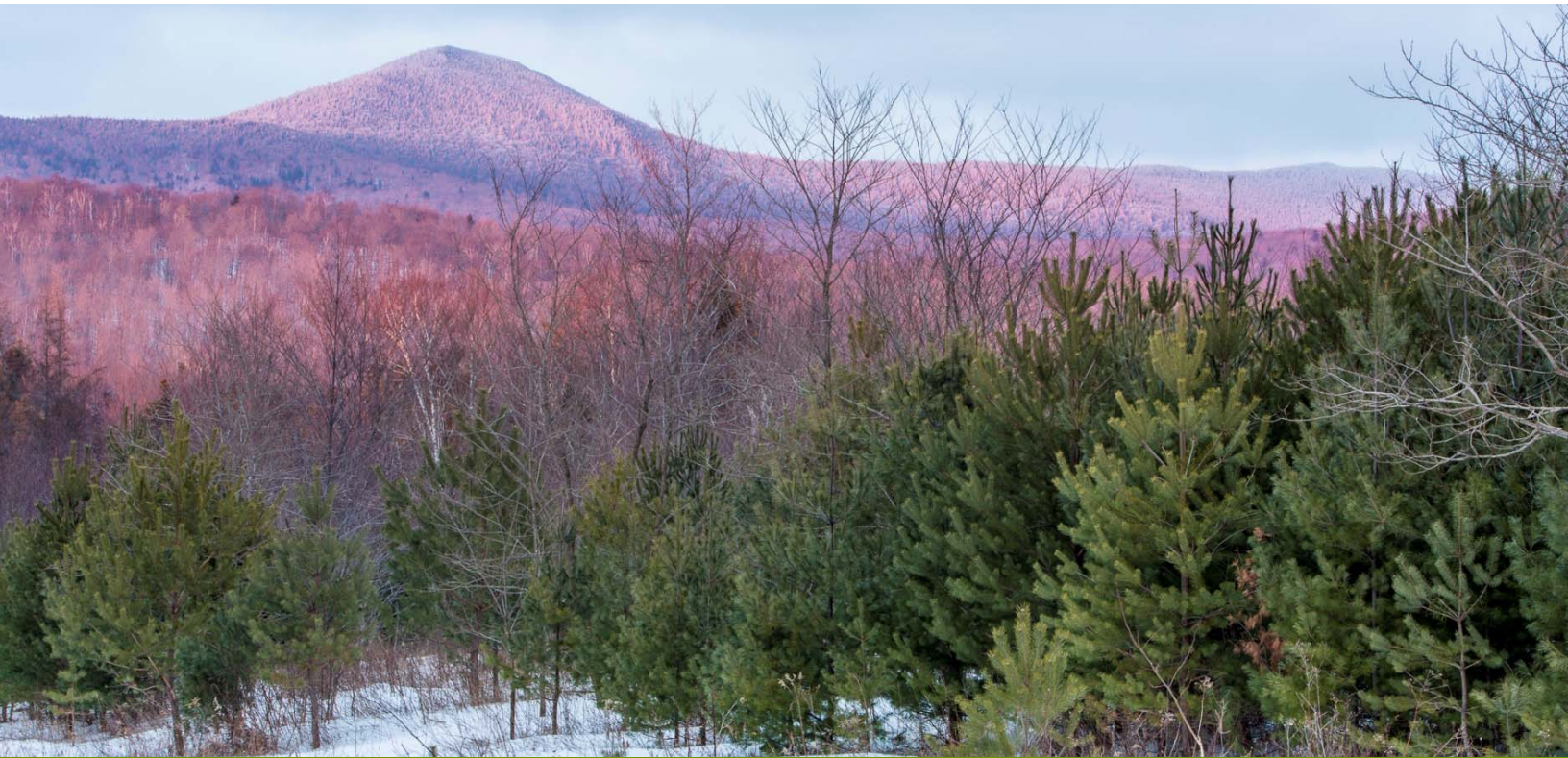


# THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

LAND FOR PEOPLE



## Jim Jeffords State Forest

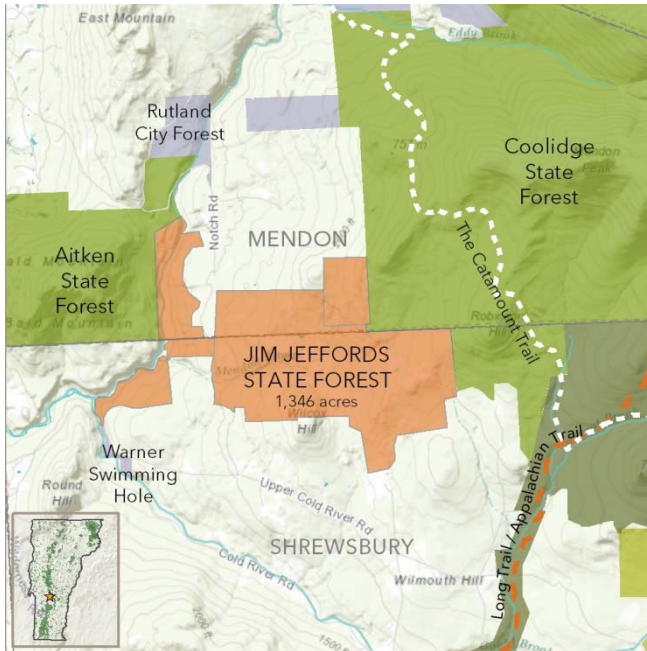
*Mendon & Shrewsbury, VT*

The Trust for Public Land, in partnership with the State of Vermont, is working to acquire 1,346 acres to create the Jim Jeffords State Forest as a tribute to Senator Jeffords' leadership in land and water conservation as well as his more than three decades of dedicated representation of the State of Vermont. The new State Forest forms a crucial link between Coolidge State Forest and Aitken State Forest, resulting in a 188,000-acre permanently conserved block of recreationally and ecologically significant land in central Vermont. The main goal of this acquisition is to provide permanent forested habitat for the movement of free-ranging species such as black bear, moose, fisher, and bobcat along the spine and foothills of the Green Mountains. Conservation of this property will also protect wetlands, Mendon Brook, and the Cold River, which will enhance flood resiliency upstream of the City of Rutland.

### **Conservation Values**

With a beautiful 2-mile trail along the North Branch of the Cold River and 6 miles of forest roads and VAST trails, the property is rich in recreational opportunities for hikers, skiers, mountain bikers and snowmobilers. Home to a large number of moose, deer, turkey, and other game species, the property will also be a valuable resource to hunters who have seen access to land decreasing, as new owners subdivide and post their land.

The property serves as a travel corridor for bears between Aitken State Forest—a key fall feeding area—east to Parker's Gore and the Green Mountain Bear Corridor. It also contains two miles of Mendon Brook, a wild trout stream, and 3.2 miles of the Cold River, considered a "Critical River" by The Nature Conservancy for its ecological quality and aquatic connectivity.



This large, unfragmented forest also provides significant habitat for interior-forest birds such as black-throated blue warbler, veery and eastern wood-pewee, all Species of Greatest Conservation Need. This property remains at risk of development and fragmentation due to its proximity to Killington and Rutland and its stunning views of the Bird Mountain Range and the surrounding Green Mountains.

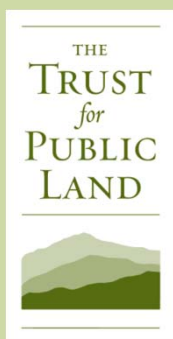
State acquisition of this property also enhances management of current state lands by providing new access to Coolidge State Forest from the west, and new access to Aitken State Forest from the south. The public, including current recreational users, can play a part in the creation of the management plan for the property, through the typical public process held by the State.

### Proposed Funding

The total cost to complete the project is \$1,150,000, which includes land acquisition and project costs. The Trust for Public Land and Vermont Forests, Parks & Recreation have secured \$840,000 of public funds and \$41,000 in private funds to date. In addition, more than \$400,000 of land value has been generously donated by the landowners. We are now working to raise the remaining \$269,000 from public and private sources to complete the project by autumn of 2015.

### The Trust for Public Land

In the past 4 decades, The Trust for Public Land has conserved more than 3.2 million acres nationwide, and 54,000 acres of important forestland in Vermont, protecting clean drinking water, recreational access, important wildlife habitat, high quality of life, and sustainable economies.



*The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.*

**tpl.org**

For more information:  
 Kate Wanner  
 Project Manager  
 3 Shipman Place  
 Montpelier, VT 05602  
 802.223.1373 ext. 27  
[kate.wanner@tpl.org](mailto:kate.wanner@tpl.org)

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