

An Introduction to the Vermont Land Trust

Nick Richardson January 2020

#### Outline

- I. Our mission
- II. Our impact
- III. Focus areas
  - Access to Farmland
  - Community Connections
  - Restoration of Land
  - Forest Health
- IV. Vision



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#### Our Vision:

Vermont's communities and working landscape will be vital, resilient, and connected.

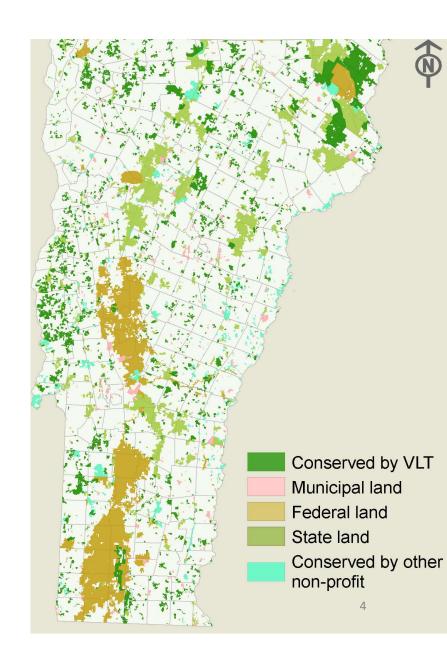
#### Our Mission:

To ensure that current and future generations are deeply connected to the land and benefit from its deliberate protection and responsible stewardship.



#### **Quick Facts:**

- Founded in 1977
- Conserved 11% of private land in VT (500,000+ acres)
- 2,000+ landowners
- 50 employees
- 2019 operating budget: \$5MM
  - Sources: State and Federal funds, Individual Contributions, Foundations, Investments



#### 2019 Impact

#### **Snapshot of Conservation**

- 33 farms
- 38 miles of ski trails
- 526 acres of wetland
- 11,000+ acres of forestland
- And more...



The Tucker Mountain project connected me to the Land Trust... We see the work that they do. As you get older, the things that really matter are the things you can give to your community—your town, your country—and getting back from nature.

- Tom Kidder, Newbury

### Focus Areas: Access to Farmland

- Completed 100+ farm transfers
- Transferred over \$65MM in farm real estate assets
- Provided over 70 farms with business planning assistance
- Raising \$15MM in debt financing to accelerate work



# Focus Areas: Connection to Community

- Protected 30 town forests
- Investing in communities for the long-term
- Conserved 170 recreation areas





## Focus Areas: Restoration of Land

- Professional land management training and support
- Workshops, demonstrations, and volunteer days
- 36,000 acres of wetland protected (forest and ag land)



# Focus Areas: Forest Health

- 420,000 acres conserved
- First carbon offsets project underway
- Over 500 miles of trail protected



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## Change is upon us

- Agriculture
- Rural economies
- Climate change



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## Our vision for Vermont

- Vital
- Connected

• Resilient

