

State of Vermont
Commissioner's Office
Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation
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Agency of Natural Resources
Michael C. Snyder, Commissioner

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Joe Benning, Senate Institutions Committee Chair
Representative Alice Emmons, House Corrections and Institutions Committee Chair

FROM: Michael Snyder, FPR Commissioner

DATE: January 14, 2022

SUBJ: **Proposed Joint Resolution Pertaining to State Lands – Long Trail State Forest**

The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) submits the following proposal seeking General Assembly approval and authorization for the Commissioner to engage in a boundary confirmation / adjustment involving the State of Vermont.

Long Trail State Forest, Belvidere, VT:

This proposed transaction involves portions of Long Trail State Forest managed by FPR and adjacent lands co-owned by the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in the towns of Eden and Belvidere. Currently, there is little to no evidence on the ground to indicate the location of approximately 3.5 miles of shared boundary between the Long Trail State Forest and VLT and TNC's parcel. To resolve this uncertainty, and to legally establish the boundary, the parties propose to establish agreed upon boundaries through the exchange of quitclaim deeds and a survey of the location of the boundary lines. FPR seeks General Assembly approval to convey quitclaim deeds to VLT and TNC to complete this transaction, which will enable FPR to establish evidence of the property boundary on the ground and in the land records. See attached map for details about the location of the boundaries to be confirmed.

This proposed boundary confirmation is in the public interest because: 1) it will confirm the identified uncertain boundaries on the ground and in the land records, avoiding uncertainty and potential issues in the future; and 2) it is also associated with a separate transaction between VLT/TNC and the adjacent private landowner, Raymond Machia, whereby the State of Vermont, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation will be receiving a donation of land from Mr. Machia consisting of important bog land adjacent to the Long Trail State Forest and one portion of the boundary subject to the proposed confirmation proposed for approval herein. The land to be conveyed by donation to the State is depicted in purple on the attached map.

Also attached is proposed draft language for the Joint Resolution.

As always, we look forward to meeting with your respective Committees to discuss this proposal at your convenience.

Encl.

cc: Julie Moore, ANR Secretary
Michael Chernick, Legislative Council
Rebecca Wasserman, Legislative Council
Meghan Purvee, FPR Legal Counsel
Rebecca Washburn, Director Lands Administration & Recreation
Danielle Fitzko, Director of Forests

Proposed Joint Resolution for 2022 Legislative Session:

Whereas, the State of Vermont, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (the Department) owns and manages certain lands in the Towns of Eden and Belvidere, Vermont known as the Long Trail State Forest which abuts lands co-owned by the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) and the Nature Conservancy (TNC); and

Whereas, approximately 3.5 miles of the common boundary between the Long Trail State Forest and the lands owned by VLT and TNC are uncertain as to location on the ground and in existing deeds; and

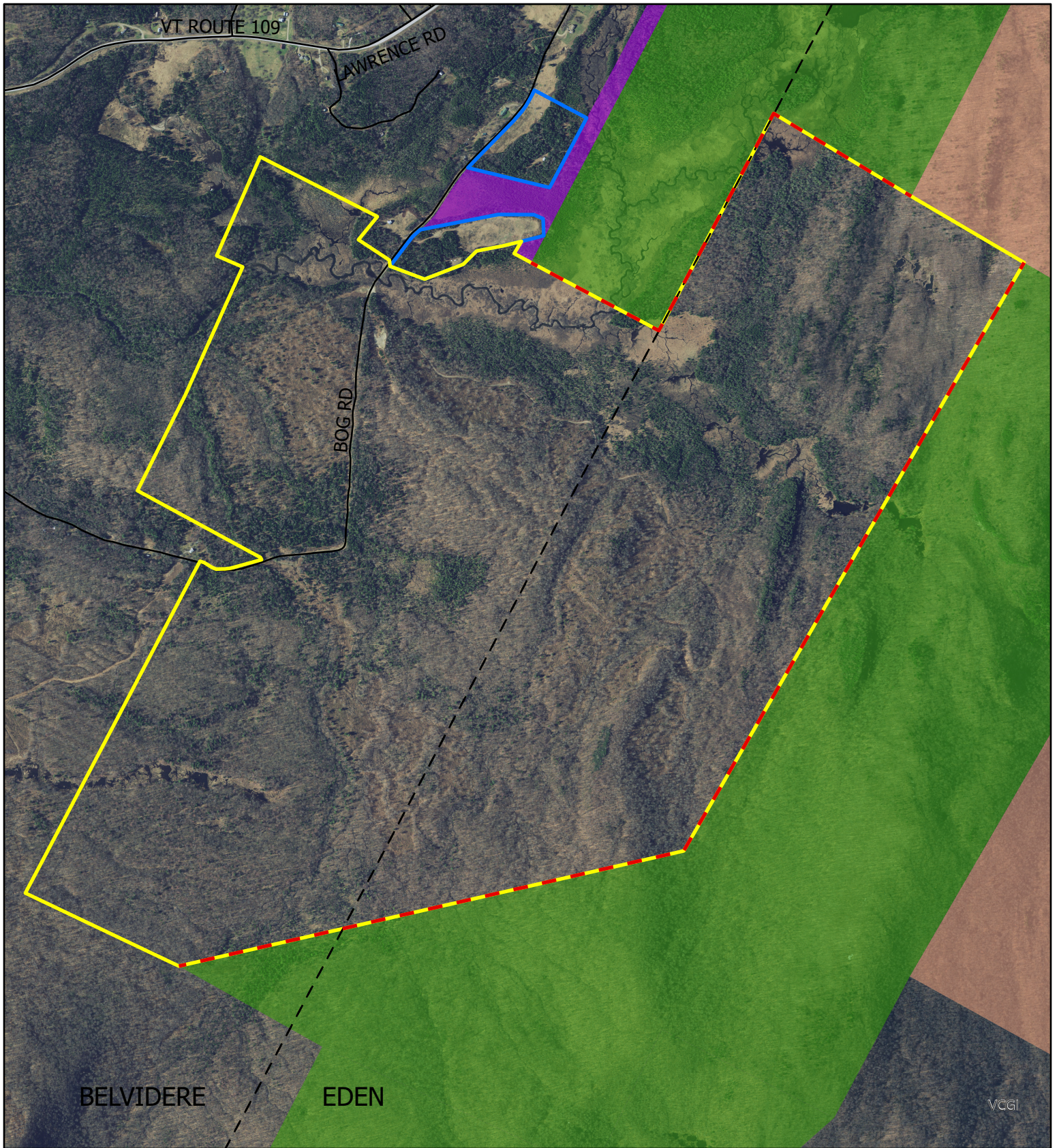
Whereas, the Department and VLT and TNC have reached agreement to confirm and locate the shared common boundaries through the exchange of quitclaim deeds and a survey of the boundaries to be recorded in the land records of the Towns of Eden and Belvidere; and

Whereas, 10 V.S.A. § 2606(b) authorizes the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation to sell, convey, exchange or lease land, or interests in land, or to amend deeds, leases and easement interests, with the approval of the General Assembly, and

Whereas, the General Assembly considers the following actions to be in the best interest of the State, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation is authorized to exchange quitclaim deeds with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to establish and confirm the location of the common boundary between the Long Trail State Forest and lands owned by VLT and TNC located in the Towns of Eden and Belvidere, Vermont.



**Proposed Boundaries
to Establish**
Long Trail State Forest
Belvidere, VT



Cartographer: Gannon Osborn
Date: 1/10/2022



0 0.15 0.3 Miles Scale: 1:16,000

- - Boundaries to be Established
- Town Boundary
- Long Trail State Forest
- VLT - TNC Land
- Lands to be retained by Machia
- Land to be Conveyed to FPR
- Land of Vermont State College
- Roads

