

## Suggested edits to H.606 from FPR/ANR

As presented in testimony on 2.23.22 by Michael Snyder, Commissioner, FPR

### Findings:

(15) In order to conserve ecological functions in intact and connected ecosystems, the full range of conservation approaches is needed, including supporting private ~~landowners~~ landowner education, technical assistance, and programs, conservation easements that promote sustainable forest management, restorative management, and conservation easements and fee ~~21~~ acquisitions focused on passive management.

### Definitions:

- (1) “**Ecological Reserve Area**” means an area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and which is managed to maintain a natural state within which natural ecological processes and disturbance events are allowed to proceed with minimal interference.
- (2) “**Biodiversity Conservation Area**” means an area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover for the majority of the area and which is managed for the primary goal of sustaining species or habitats. These areas may include regular, active interventions to address the needs of particular species or to maintain or restore habitats.
- (3) “**Natural resource ~~Sustainable resource~~ management area**” means an area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover for the majority of the area but that is subject to long-term forest management using high ecological standards long-term sustainable forest management, as defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

**Commented [SM1]:** Please consider flexibility and latitude for the full suite of conservation tools and practices.

**Commented [SM2]:**

**Commented [SM3]:**

*“The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines sustainable forest management as the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.”* [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2019/11/07\\_Chapter-4.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2019/11/07_Chapter-4.pdf)

This could be modified to : *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines sustainable forest management as the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, state, and regional levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems-*

**CONSERVATION GOALS:**

(a) Thirty percent of Vermont's total land area shall be conserved by 2030,

and 50 percent of the State's total land area shall be conserved by 2050. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall assist the State in achieving these goals. The land conserved shall include State, federal, municipal, and private land.

(b) Reaching 30 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2050 shall include a mix of **ecological reserve areas, biodiversity reserve areas, natural resource management areas, and other conservation tools and practices**. In order to support an ecologically functional landscape with sustainable production of natural resources and recreational opportunities, the approximate percentages of each type of conservation area shall be guided by the conservation targets within Vermont Conservation Design, including the use of biodiversity reserves to protect highest priority natural communities and maintain or restore old forests.

**The Plan:**

(2) *The plan shall include:*

*(A) a review of the three conservation categories defined in section 2801 of this title, and suggestions for modifications or additions to these categories;*

*(B) an initial inventory of the amount of land in Vermont that is permanently conserved and, to the extent practical, the amount of permanently conserved land that generally falls into each of the three conservation area categories defined in section 2801 of this title, including public and private land;*

**Dates:**

§ 2803. CONSERVATION PLAN 13 (1) On or before December 31, 2023, the Secretary shall develop a plan to 14 implement the conservation goals of Vermont Conservation Design to meet the 15 goals established in section 2802 of this title.