

We made a Promise to this Mountain

M ost vermonters and a good many tourists can tell you that this is Camel's Hump viewed from Bolton. It is Vermont's fifth tallest peak and the first choice of many hikers and mountain climbers. What makes it so special is that it is one of the natural beauty marks that have always set this state apart. It is one of the things we like about living here and one of the things visitors like to see, too.

That is why we made a promise to this mountain—a promise that the only changes it will ever undergo are Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Perhaps any other possible change to so solid a landmark would seem incredible, but we have seen it happen in other places where mountains have been stripped of trees, terraced, scarred by permanent roads and developed with boringly similar houses. We don't want this to happen here and neither do all our friends who visit us each year.

We have made promises to other mountains, too, and to streams, lakes and open fields, because, though we favor progress and prosperity (and we're getting our share of both), we will not sacrifice the good life Vermonters and visitors have always found and cherished here. We want to conserve and preserve all that is good and to learn from the mistakes made in other places. We promise that you will find Vermont the way you have always remembered or imagined it to be, and we

invite you to share this good life with us whenever you can. You'll find we keep our promises.

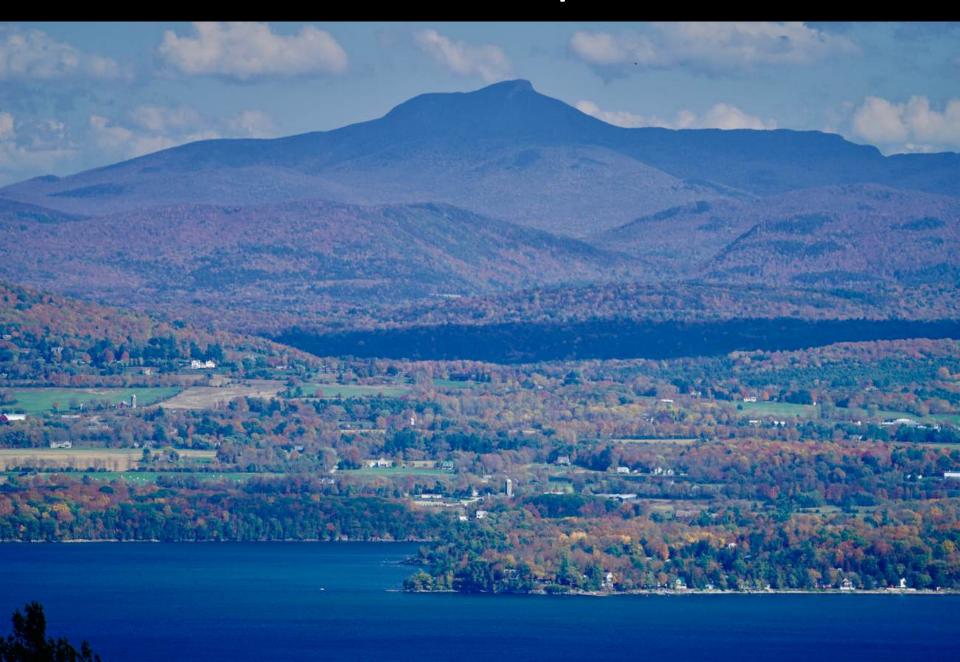
We invite you to visit Vermont, and to assist you in your planning we will be pleased to send you free, our Official Vermont Highway and Touring Map.

VORMONI

The Beckening Country Scenic route for expo '07

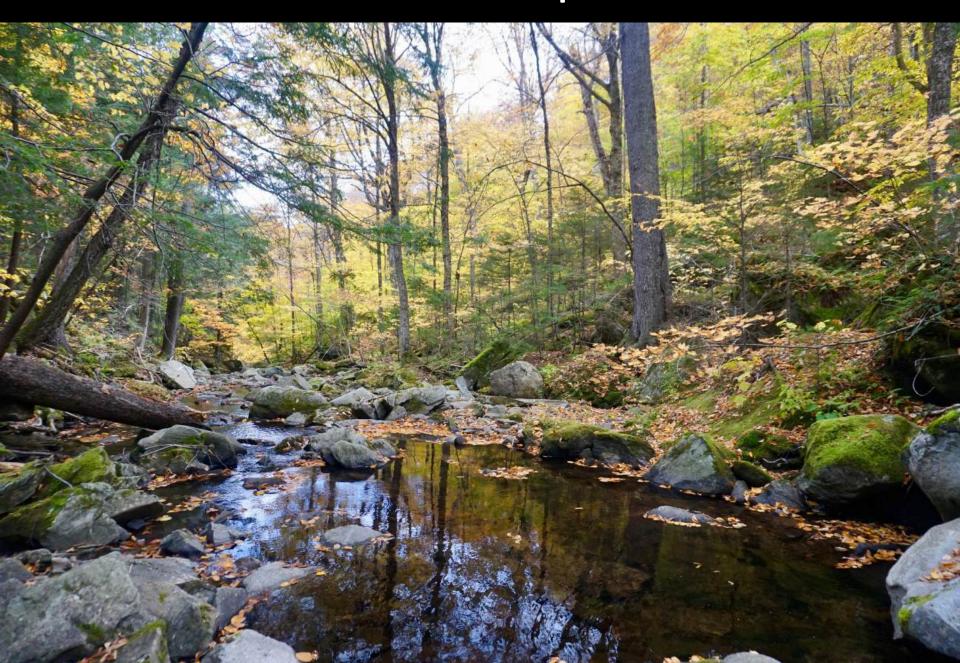
	MONT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT Montpelier, Vermont 05602
	Please send me my free Official Vermont Highway and Touring Map.
Name	
Addr	cos
	Zip

"We made a promise to this mountain – a promise that the only changes it will ever undergo are Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter."

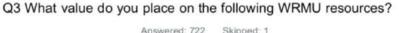




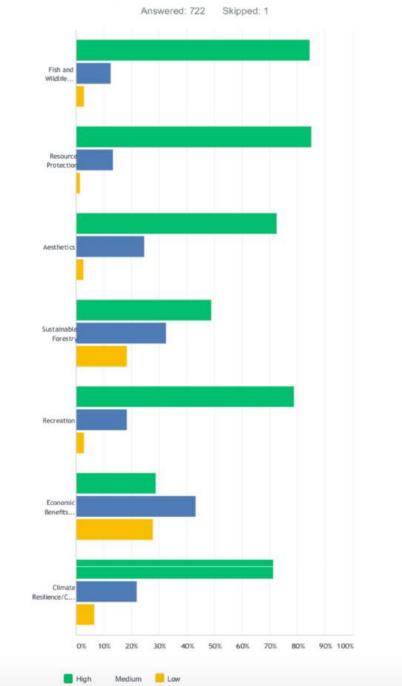




Amount of state public land in NY in Wildlands: ~65% Amount of state public land in VT in Wildlands: ~20%



VT ANR Survey of public values in the Worcester Range Management Unit (June-Aug 2020)



Fish and Wildlife

Resource Protection

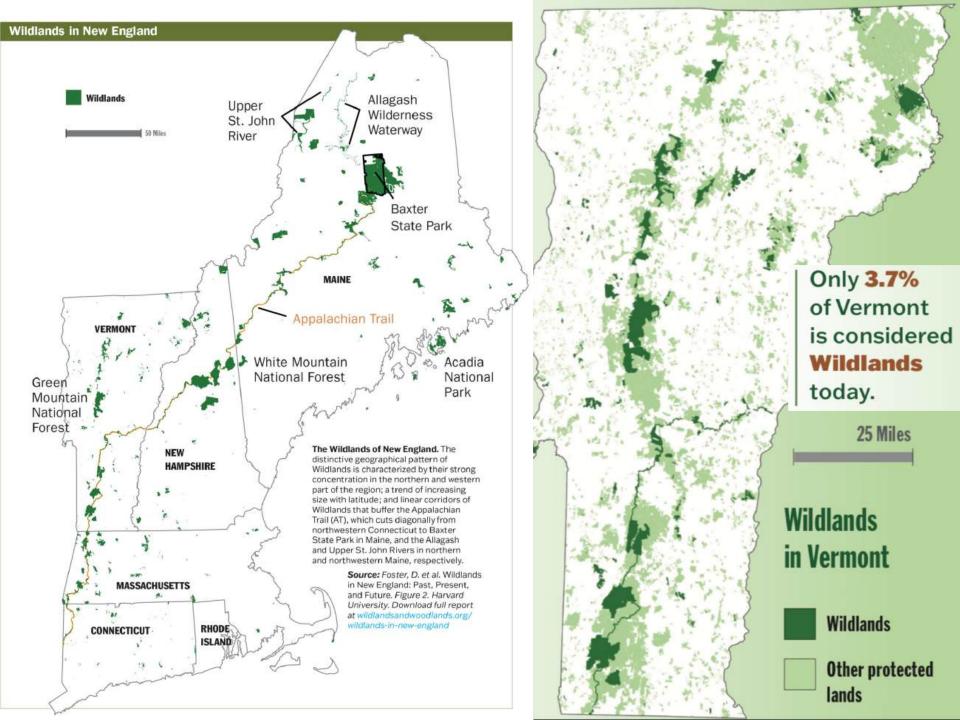
Aesthetics

Sustainable Forestry

Recreation

Economic Benefits

Climate Resilience/Carbon





Enhancing Flood Resiliency of Vermont State Lands

30 June 2015 FINAL DRAFT

Prepared under contract to

Vermont Forests, Parks & Recreation Montpelier, Vermont

Prepared by:



Kristen L. Underwood, PG, MS Geosciences South Mountain Research & Consulting Bristol, Vermont



David Brynn, BS Forestry & MS Natural Resources Planning Vermont Family Forests Bristol, Vermont Old, intact forests enhance water quality and protect downstream communities from flooding. Ninety percent of Vermont's state-managed lands are in forested headwaters.

"There may be a tendency to assume that lands in forest cover are resilient to the effects of flooding simply by virtue of their forested status. However, forest cover does not necessarily equate to forest health and forest flood resilience...

"The quality of [today's] forests is not the same as the pre-Settlement old growth forests."

VERMONT CONSERVATION DESIGN

PART 2: NATURAL COMMUNITIES AND HABITATS
TECHNICAL REPORT



March 2018

Robert Zaino, Eric Sorenson, Doug Morin, Jens Hilke – Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department Keith Thompson – Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

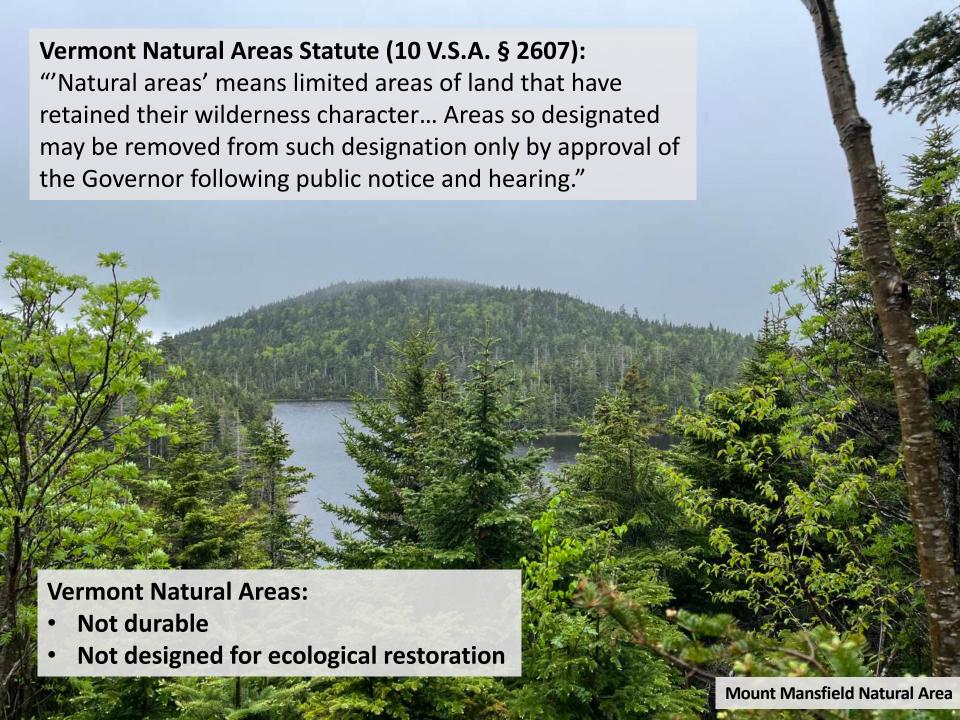






"The native species of Vermont evolved in a landscape dominated by old forest...the closer the target is to the historic old forest condition, the greater the likelihood that the landscape will support all of Vermont's native forest species and fully provide the forest's ecological services."

"Although there are small patches of old growth scattered around the state, old forest is absent in Vermont as a functional component of the landscape. In most forests, passive restoration will result in old forest conditions."



Act 59



Act 59 sets quantitative goals to:

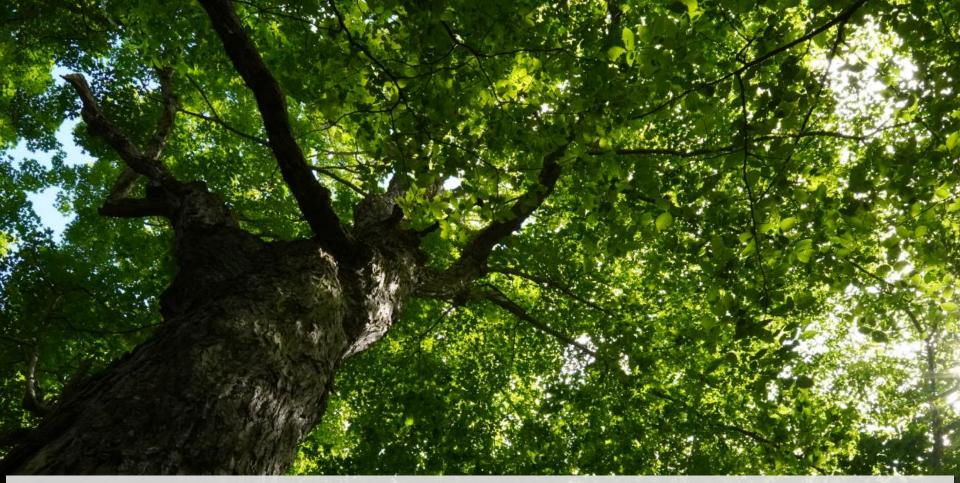
- Permanently conserve 30% of VT by 2030
- Permanently conserve 50% of VT by 2050

The Act also sets qualitative goals to:

- Rebalance conservation between each of the following categories, guided by VT Conservation Design:
 - 1) Ecological Reserves (Wildlands)
 - 2) Biodiversity Conservation Areas
 - 3) Natural Resource Management Areas

Act 59 Implementation:

- Phase I: Make an official inventory of conserved lands (completed fall 2024)
- Phase II: Craft a plan to realize the goals of Act 59 (due by Dec 2025)



"Ecological reserve area' means an area having permanent protection from conversion and that is managed to maintain a natural state within which natural ecological processes and disturbance events are allowed to proceed with minimal interference." (Act 59)

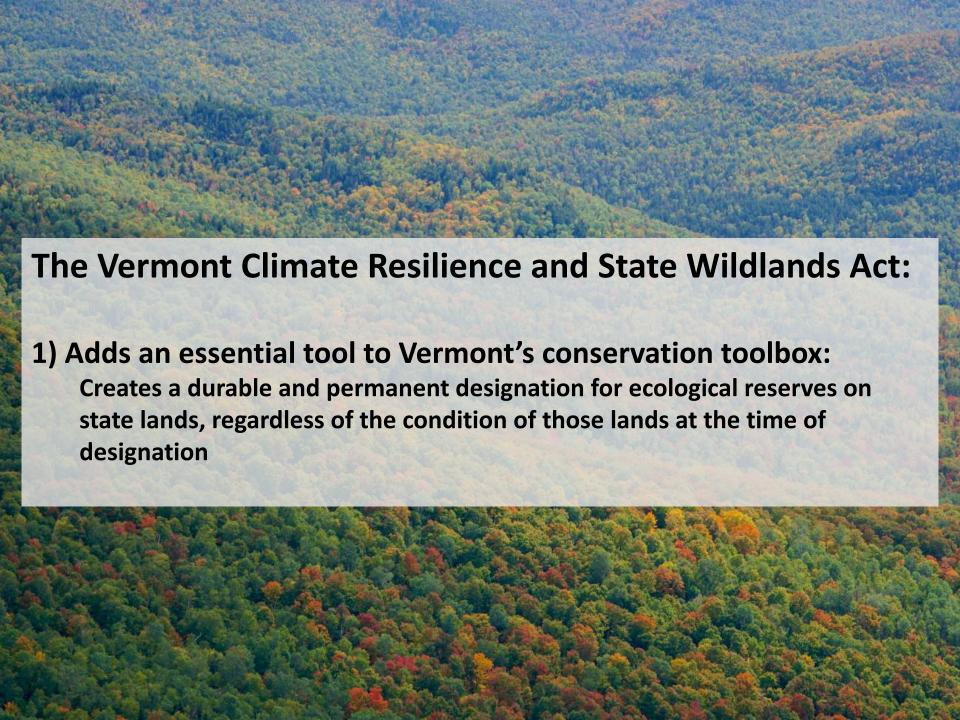


Introduction

10 VSA Chapter 89 Section 2803 charges the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) with "an assessment of how State lands will be used to increase conserved ecological reserve areas," as defined in Section 2801 of Act 59.

Our recommendations focus on identifying and filling gaps in the suite of options that exist to support designation of Category 1 lands through our existing processes. We have strived to establish options to capture the range of permanency that is acceptable to meet the goals of Act 59. Our recommendations are summarized as follows:

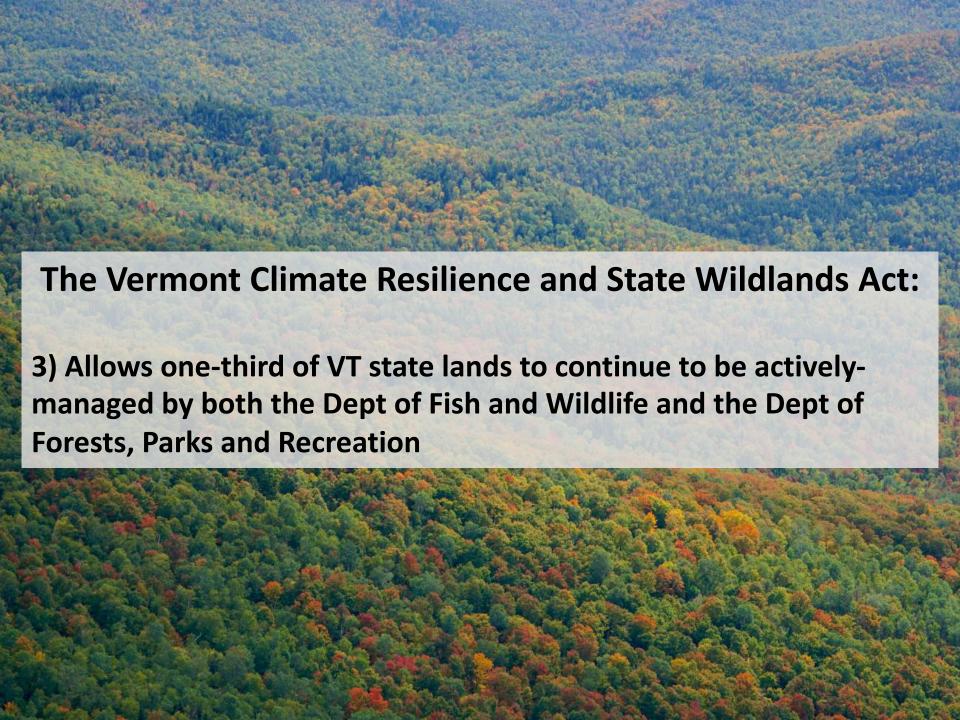
1. Establish New Statutory Designation: Ecological Reserve



The Vermont Climate Resilience and State Wildlands Act:

2) Protects approximately 268,000-acres of VT state lands:

- All existing state lands that are:
 - Land Management Classification 1.0 (Highly Sensitive Management)
 - Natural Areas
 - Core Areas
 - Vermont Conservation Design highest-priority natural communities and habitat features on state lands
- Contiguous blocks of FPR land (State Forests and State Parks) of a minimum of approximately 1,000-acres or greater to provide for interior forest habitat and to allow natural processes to guide forest development





When it comes to wildlands, bigger is better

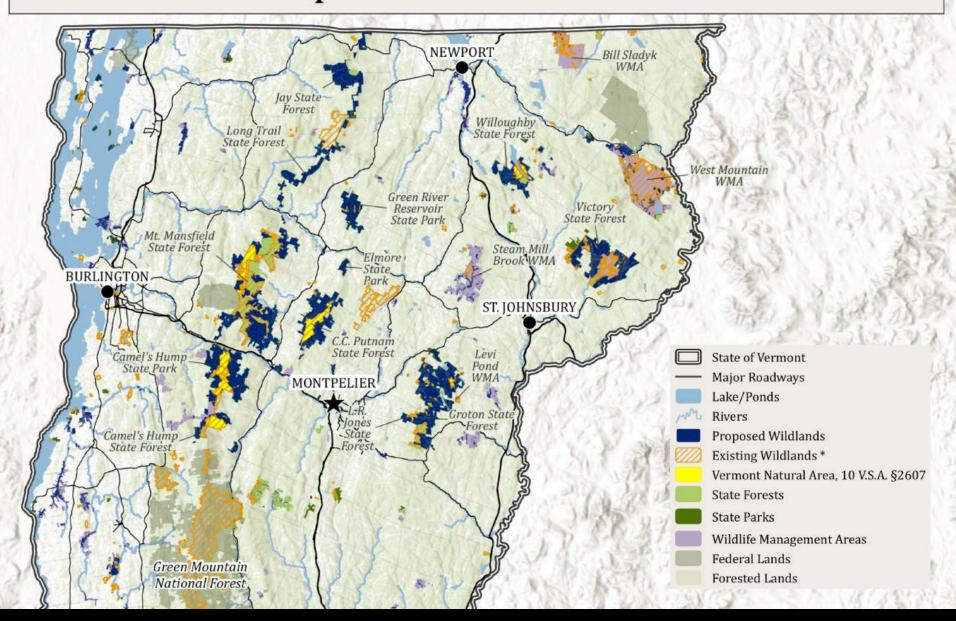
Name	Acreage (total)
Bomoseen State Park	3,526
Camel's Hump State Park	20,858
Coolidge State Park	1,300
Elmore State Park	939.63
Green River Reservoir State Park	5,174
New Discovery State Park	6,921
Camel's Hump State Forest	2,561
CC Putnam State Forest	16,685
Coolidge, Jeffords, and Aitken State Forests	24,457
Groton State Forest, LR Jones State Forest, Levi Pond Wildlife Management Area	26,164
Jay State Forest	8,242
Long Trail State Forest	9,529.44
Mt Ascutney State Park	3,132
Mt Carmel State Forest	263.5
Mt Mansfield State Forest	44,444
Okemo State Forest	7,637
Townshend State Forest	1,244
Victory State Forest	16,272
Willoughby State Forest	7,682

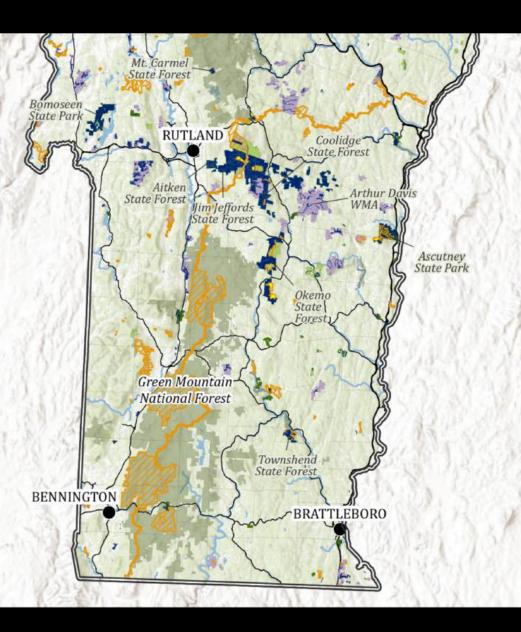
*Acreage in table includes lands excluded from wildland designation, including campgrounds, ski resorts, trailheads, parking, and other developed sites

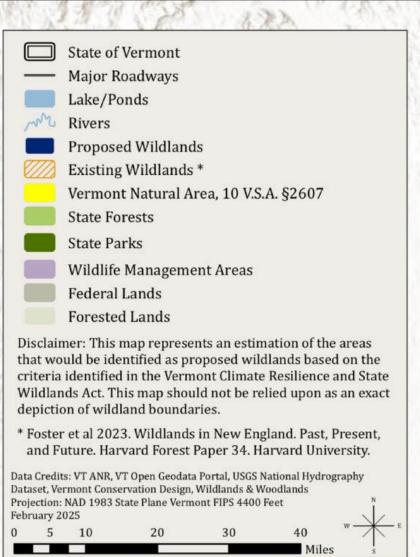
"Old forests should operate under natural disturbance regimes and need to be maintained in patches large enough to accommodate natural disturbance regimes without compromising old forest characteristics. In most forests, passive restoration will result in old forest."

 Vermont Conservation Design Summary Report for Landscapes, Natural Communities, Habitats, and Species (2018)

Proposed State Wildlands

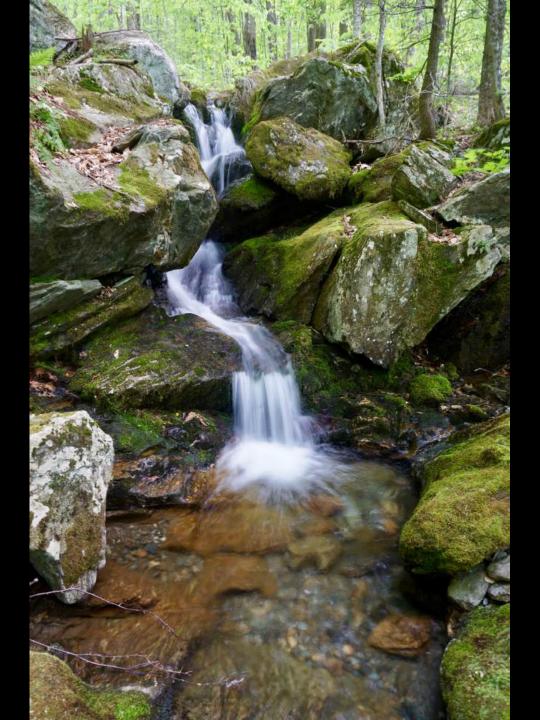












Wood products and the Vermont Climate Resilience and State Wildlands Act

- State lands provide just ~2% of the timber harvested each year in Vermont, on average.
- With the bill's passage, one third of VT state lands will continue to be available for active management, including timber harvest.
- On average, Vermont harvests ~50% more wood than is consumed within Vermont each year.

