

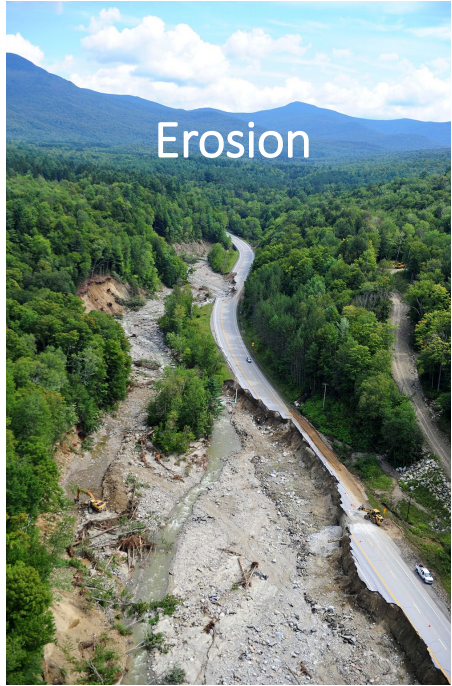
# River Corridors

Lauren Oates

The Nature Conservancy in Vermont







# Flooding in Vermont

1. Erosion *(river corridor)*

2. Inundation *(floodplain)*



-  River Corridor
-  Floodplain



East Creek, Rutland



Wardsboro Brook, Wardsboro





Our old regulatory framework compounded the issue, because *ivers are inherently intermunicipal.*

- **Floodplains** are mapped and regulated by FEMA, enforced by municipalities that have adopted FEMA's minimum standards and enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- **River corridors** are mapped by ANR-DEC, and are\* largely unregulated, except:
  - by the ~10% of towns that have adopted DEC's municipal river corridor bylaws
  - for state-owned buildings and facilities
  - when Act 250 is triggered\* (*\*not actually regulated*, as DEC staff spend immense time on project review but can only submit recommendations to the Districts, who then have decision-making authority. Notably, this DEC staff time is not covered, as permit fees go to the NRB).
  - when Section 248 (PSB) is triggered for energy projects



*Credit: Brenna Jepson*



*Credit: Kevin Doyon*



*Credit: UVM*



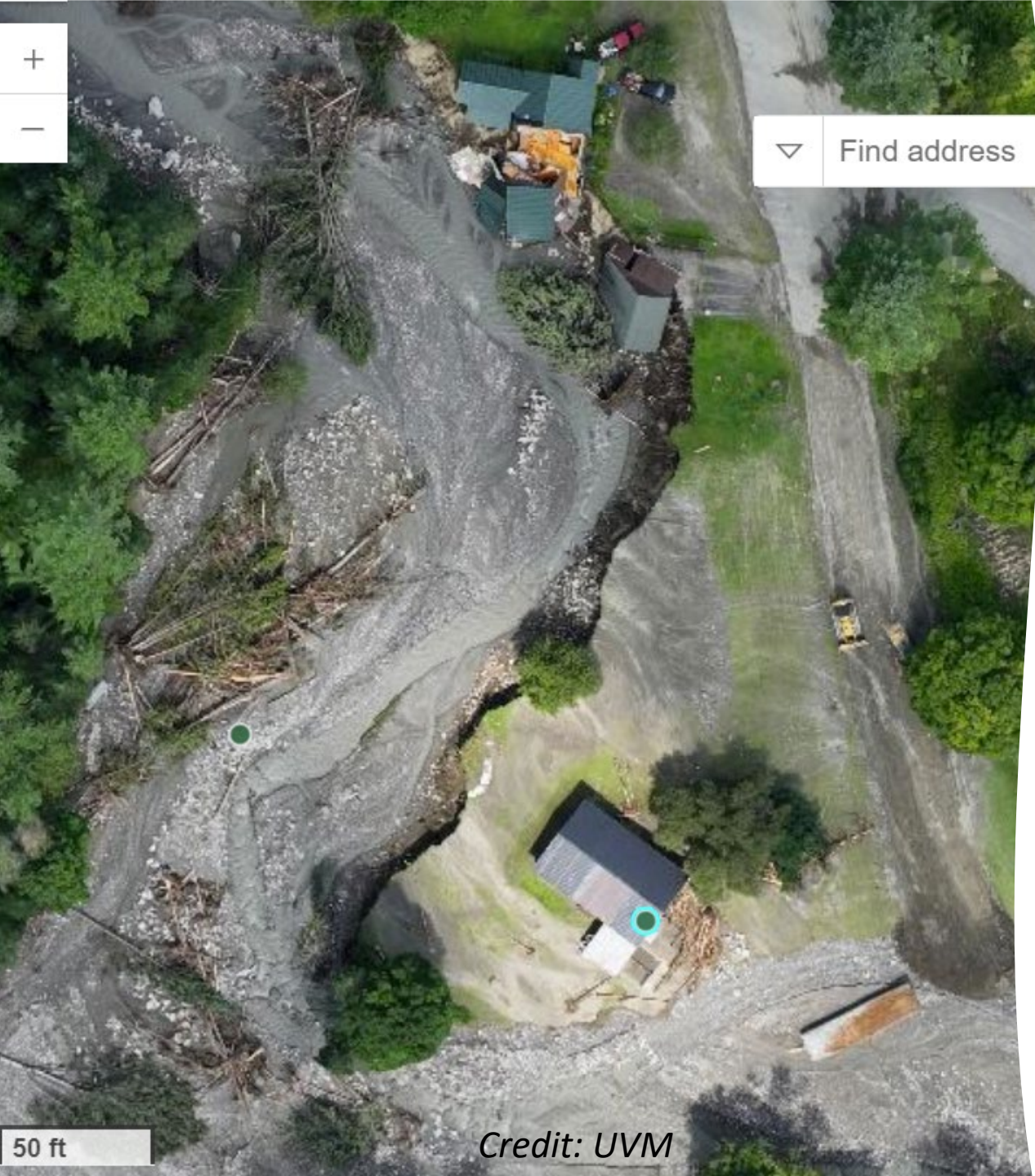
*Credit: UVM*



*Credit: Angela Drexel*







# *Act 121 of 2024*

## *Vermont's Flood Safety Act*

- Addresses river corridors, floodplains, wetlands & dams
- Biggest shift is to river corridor regulations, shifting from towns to states
  - Represents immense public safety benefit
  - Reduces costs of future dollars for taxpayers
  - Alleviates administration burden borne of overburdened towns
  - Improves healthy river function, water quality, habitat

*Credit: UVM*