LANDOWNERS

The most valuable asset to Vermont Trails
A HISTORY OF SHARING & STEWARDSHIP

▪ Hunting and fishing
▪ Long Trail and hiking
▪ Nordic skiing
▪ Snowmobiling & ATVing
▪ Mountain biking
Vermont’s Landowner Liability Law 12
V.S.A. Sec. 5791-5795

- Was written to encourage landowners to open their lands to recreational users and give landowners greater legal protection from personal injury or property damage claims by these users.

- States that an owner shall not be liable for property damage or personal injury sustained by a person who does not pay a fee to the owner and enters upon the owner's land for a recreational use.
VERMONT STATE TRAIL SYSTEM

- In order to provide access to the use and enjoyment of the outdoor areas of Vermont, to conserve and use the natural resources of this state for healthful and recreational purposes, and to provide transportation from one place to another, it is declared to be the policy of this state to provide the means for maintaining and improving a network of trails to be known as the “Vermont trails system.”

- Criteria set by Vermont Trails and Greenways Council with final approval by Forest, Parks and Recreation.

- Affects proliferation, permitting and access.
Vermont Association of Snow Travelers and affiliates
• 1000 Landowners on 4000 miles of private land trails
• established Vermont Snow Trails Conservancy / Charitable Trust

Vermont Mountain Bike Association
• chapters have 70% of trails on private land - (Kingdom Trails solely has 88 contiguous landowners)
• created a 10-year agreement program in order to receive grant monies

Green Mountain Club-Hiking
• Have completed 89 land or easement acquisitions since 1986 permanently protecting 80 miles
• Many side trails located through private land

Catamount Trail and X-ski Centers
• crosses 165 miles on private land of nearly 200 landowners
• 80 miles permanently protected through easement program

Vermont All-Terrain Sportsmen Association
• over 800 miles of legal trail on mix of private land, public roads and municipal property

Vermont Horse Council
• Green Mountain Horse Association has 400 miles of trails mostly on private land around Woodstock VT
- Property changes: transfer, development, succession, fragmentation, perception

THE STRENGTH IS THE WEAKNESS

PERMISSION IS NOT PERMANENCY