

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee members

From: Sorsha Anderson, Senior Staff Associate

Date: March 26, 2025

Subject: Grant– JFO #3246

Enclosed please find one (1) item, which the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the Administration.

JFO #3246: 125+ acre land donation valued at \$184,830.00 from Pieter Van Schaik of Cavendish, VT to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The acreage will become part of the Lord State Forest. Closing costs will be covered by a small grant* from Ducks Unlimited and the Forest Legacy Program. The annual payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) is expected to be \$1,111.00. [Received March 24, 2025] [*Note: Per 32 V.S.A. § 5(c)(1)(A), small grants below \$15,000.00 do not require approval of the committee.]

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Sorsha Anderson: sanderson@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like this item held for legislative review. Please submit concerns by **April 18, 2025**, or we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of this request.

PHONE: (802) 828-2295

FAX: (802) 828-2483

Email from DFR regarding the Ducks Unlimited small grant.

From: Osborn, Gannon < Gannon. Osborn@vermont.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 11:01 AM

To: Sorsha Anderson <SAnderson@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Bloomer, Ansley <Ansley.Bloomer@vermont.gov>; Nurme, Gunnar <Gunnar.Nurme@vermont.gov>

Subject: RE: ANR-FPR Grant Request

Hi Sorsha,

The Ducks Unlimited funds were not previously accepted by the JFO. Because the grant amount is below the \$15,000 threshold and covered a one-time expense (project costs) that will not incur additional expense to the State, we did not think it needed to go to the JFO for acceptance. Specifically, the DU funds will cover an appraisal report and Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment for the project.



State of Vermont

Department of Finance & Management 109 State Street, Pavilion Building Montpelier, VT 05620-0401 $Agency\ of\ Administration$

[phone] 802-828-2376

STATE OF VERMONT FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM								
Grant Summary:		Sta	To allow FPR to accept a donation of a parcel in Cavendish to expand the Lord State Forest. The parcel is valued at \$184,830 with an annual PILOT payment of \$1,111.					
Date:			1/30/2025					
Department: Legal Title of Grant:			Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation N/A					
Federal Catalog #: Grant/Donor Name and Address:			N/A Pieter Van Schaik Living Trust P.O Box 73 Windsor, VT 05089					
Grant Period: From:				To:				
Grant/Donation			184,830					
Grant Amount:	\$184,		\$ \$ \$		\$ \$ \$	Total \$184,830	Comments Estimated assessed value	
		# Positions	Ex	xplanation	/Comments			
Additional Comm	ents:							
Department of Finance & Management Secretary of Administration Sent To Joint Fiscal Office Adam Digitally signed by Adam Greshin Date 2015.0207 (Initial) Nick Kramer (Initial)					(Initial)			





State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation One National Life Drive, Davis 2 Montpelier, VT 05620-3801 www.vtfpr.org Agency of Natural Resources

[tdd] 800-253-0191

MEMORANDUM

To: Jaye Pershing Johnson

Through: Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

From: Gunnar Nurme, Land Acquisition Coordinator

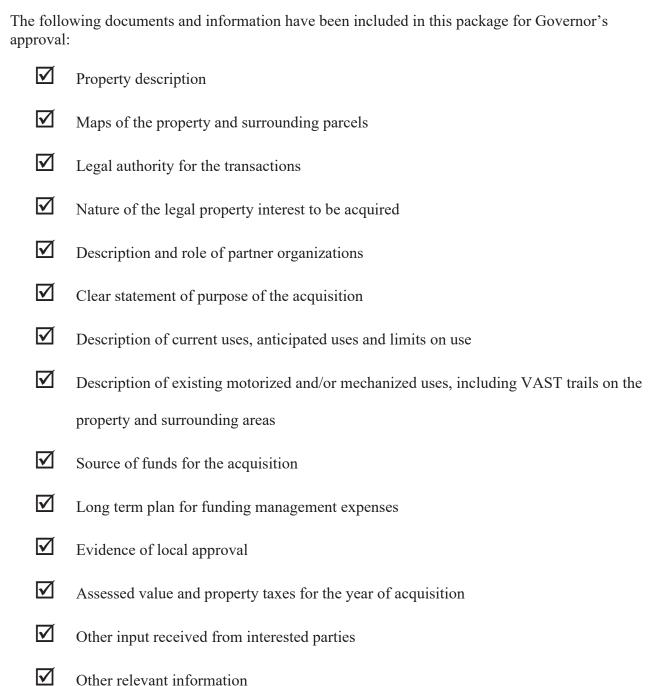
Date: January 15, 2025

RE: Governor's approval for the acquisition of 125± acres, as an addition to Lord State

Forest in the Town of Cavendish.

Enclosed is a land acquisition memo for Governor Scott's review, to approve the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation's (FPR) fee acquisition of 125± acres in Cavendish as an addition to Lord State Forest. The 125-acre "Van Schaik" parcel is proposed to be donated to FPR. FPR uses a variety of state and federal funding sources, as well as revenue generated by management activity, to implement management objectives.

The town of Cavendish is supportive of this acquisition. Funding for the closing costs associated with this donation will come from Ducks Unlimited and the federal Forest Legacy Program. As with previous ANR land transactions involving a bargain sale or donation, the AA-1 Grants Acceptance form follows the memo to Governor Scott and will serve as the signature page for the required administrative approvals.



We plan to close on this acquisition by May 31, 2025. We are seeking approval by April 1, 2025 to facilitate closing on the anticipated timeline.

If you have any questions regarding this acquisition, please contact me at 802-261-7140 or at gunnar.nurme@vermont.gov. Thank you.



State of Vermont
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier VT 05620-3801
[tdd] 800-253-0191
www.vtforest.org

Agency of Natural Resources

MEMORANDUM

To: Philip B. Scott, Governor

Through: Julia S. Moore, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources

From: Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Date: January 15, 2025

Subject: Approval for the acquisition of 125± acres in Cavendish as an addition to Lord

State Forest

Description of Property

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) plans to acquire 125± acres in Cavendish as an addition to Lord State Forest. The parcel (the "Van Schaik" parcel) is located off East Road and Susannah Johnson Lane in Cavendish, bordered to the east by Lord State Forest. The Van Schaik parcel is owned by Pieter Van Schaik, formally under the Pieter Van Schaik Living Trust. Mr. Van Schaik has been interested in donating this property to FPR as an addition to Lord State Forest for a number of years, and now FPR is completing its due diligence and is ready to accept the donation of the parcel in early 2025.

The Van Schaik parcel contains significant ecological values. The parcel contains a large beaver pond that is identified as a Class II wetland. The beaver pond is also an active heron rookery, with at least eight known nesting pairs. The landowner says to have identified multiple rare plants on the property. The majority of the parcel is also mapped as Deer Wintering Area. Vermont Conservation Design identifies the land as a Highest Priority area for Connectivity Blocks, Riparian and Wildlife Connectivity, Surface Water and Riparian Areas, and Physical Landscape Diversity.

This acquisition would also provide benefits from a recreational and access perspective. The parcel's frontage on East Road, as well as the access to the parcel that is provided by Susannah Johnson Lane – a private right of way that leads onto the parcel and allows for recreational and forestry uses – will greatly expand access to Lord State Forest for both public recreational access as well as management access for FPR. Currently, Lord State Forest suffers from inadequate access, so this expanded access would be a great benefit. There is an existing network of hiking trails on the property that are currently maintained by the Hardy Hill Trail Committee, which is a subset of the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association. Under FPR ownership, the parcel would be open to public access for dispersed recreation, as well as continued use of the existing trails. The nearest VAST trails are located approximately a mile and a half from the Van Schaik Parcel to both the east and west. The protection of this parcel will help to preserve the rural and undeveloped nature of the local VAST corridors.

The estimated annual PILOT payment for the Van Schaik parcel is \$1,111.56. The town of Cavendish, through its selectboard, offered its support for FPR's acquisition of the Van Schaik parcel on December 9, 2024.

Review of Project

The Van Schaik project was reviewed by the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Springfield District Stewardship team on May 6, 2019, and was approved by Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) Commissioner, Danielle Fitzko, on April 16, 2024, and by ANR secretary, Julie Moore, on June 17, 2024.

Ownership and Management

If this project is approved, the Van Schaik parcel will be donated to FPR who will then own the land in fee. The parcel will be managed by FPR as a part of Lord State Forest. Management of the land will be in accordance with the interim and long-range management plans for the parcel and the State Forest. Dispersed public access will be allowed on the parcel. Use of the parcel will be limited to those uses permitted by the laws, ordinances, statutes and regulations of the State of Vermont and the Town of Cavendish, the policies of ANR and FPR, the interim and long-range management plan. The landowner has committed to making a \$15,000 stewardship contribution to support the ongoing management of this parcel into the future. Management of Lord State Forest is undertaken by FPR staff, and other staff within ANR as necessary. FPR uses a variety of state and federal funding sources, as well as revenue generated by management activity, to implement management objectives.

Budget and Funding

Pieter Van Schaik will donate the property to FPR as an addition to Lord State Forest. The estimated town assessed value of the parcel is \$184,830. Funding for project costs and closing costs for this project comes from multiple private and federal sources. Ducks Unlimited has contributed \$5,000 towards project costs. The federal Forest Legacy Program, both through FPR's Forest Legacy FY23 Administrative Grant, as well as the grant for the Chateaugay Forest Forest Legacy project, is supporting project costs as well as closing costs for this acquisition. The Van Schaik parcel will serve as a cost-share tract for the Chateaugay Forest grant, meaning that the full fair market value of the property will serve as match to federal Forest Legacy funding, further leveraging this generous donation from the landowner to help protect 3,086 acres in south-central Vermont. As was mentioned above, the landowner will make a \$15,000 stewardship contribution to support the ongoing management of the parcel and Lord State Forest.

[SIGNATURES REQUESTED ON THE FOLLOWING AA-1 FORM]

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

Acceptance of Real Property as a Grant, Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. §2606

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION				
1. Agency:	Agency of Natural Resources			
2. Department:	Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation			
3. Program:	Division of Lands Administration and Recreation, Land Conservation			
4. Legal Title of Grant:	n/a			
5. Federal Catalog #:	n/a			

6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:

Pieter Van Schaik Living Trust

P.O Box 73

Windsor, VT 05089

7. Grant Period:	From:	n/a	To:	n/a
		·		<u> </u>

8. Purpose of Grant:

The purpose of this grant is for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) to accept a donation of a parcel of land from the Pieter Van Schaik Living Trust; the so-called "Van Schaik" parcel, totaling 125 acres in Cavendish, Vermont. FPR estimates the value of the parcel to be \$184,830 based on the parcel's town assessed value. The parcel will be added to Lord State Forest.

9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:

If FPR does not accept this donation, the opportunity will be lost to protect an ecologically important wetland complex, recreational trails, and expanded access to Lord State Forest.

10. BUDGET INFORMATION SFY 1 SFY 2 SFY 3 **Comments Expenditures:** FY 24 FY FY Personal Services \$ \$ Operating Expenses \$184,830 \$ \$ Grants \$ \$ Total \$184,830 \$ \$ **Revenues:** State Funds: \$ \$ \$ Cash \$ \$ \$ In-Kind \$ \$ \$ Federal Funds: \$ \$ \$ (Direct Costs) \$ \$ \$ (Statewide Indirect) \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ (Departmental Indirect) Value of land being donated to \$ \$ FPR Other Funds: \$184,830 Other Funds: Grant (source:) \$ \$ \$ \$ Total \$184,830 **Appropriation No:** \$ Amount:

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) **ACCEPTANCE** (Form AA-1)

			\$		
			\$		
		Total	\$		
		Total	Ψ		
PERSONAL SERVICE IN	FORMATION				
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12. Limited Service	1				
Position Information:	# Positions	Title			
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*					
Total Positions	NG 12 E-91 0	ALC I II I VIII I	3/1 97 = 12		
12a. Equipment and space	for these	presently available.	be obtained with available funds.		
positions: 13. AUTHORIZATION A	CENCV/DED A DTME	NT COLUMN TO SERVICE THE SERVI			
I/we certify that no funds	Signature:	Datusigned by:	Data		
beyond basic application		Danielle Fitzko	Date: 1/15/2025		
preparation and filing costs have been expended or	Title: Commissioner,	ner, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation			
committed in anticipation of	Cionatana		T D. (=		
Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant, unless	Signature:	Bluned by:	Date: 1/16/2025		
previous notification was	Title: Secretary, Ager	ncy of Natural Resources			
made on Form AA-1PN (if applicable):	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	,			
14 SECRETARY OF ADM	MINISTRATION				
NK	(Secretary or designee signature	re) Signed by:	Pape / 2025 3:		
Approved:		Nick Kramer	2/7/2023 3		
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15. ACTION BY GOVERN	NOR				
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Rejected	110/100		5/14/25		
	PEOLIDED				
16. DOCUMENTATION R		CDANT Decumentation			
Request Memo	/ Required	GRANT Documentation Notice of Donation (if any)			
Dept. project approval (if	f applicable)	Grant (Project) Timeline (i			
Notice of Award		Request for Extension (if a			
Grant Agreement Grant Budget		Form AA-1PN attached (if	applicable)		
	F1	nd Form AA-1			
(*) The term "grant" refers to an		sum of money or thing of value to	be accepted by any agency,		
		ernment (see 32 V.S.A. §5). (See a			

MEMORANDUM

TO: Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner

FROM: Gunnar Nurme, Land Acquisition Coordinator

SUBJECT: Addition to Lord State Forest

DATE: April 9, 2024

Recommendation: Approve the acquisition of 137 +/- acres in Cavendish as an

addition to Lord State Forest

Landowner: Pieter van Schaik

Location: Cavendish Acreage: 137 +/-

Type of Acquisition: Fee Acquisition

Partners:NoneProposed Funding:DonationLAP Number:1975

Background and Significance:

Pieter van Schaik owns 137 acres of land in Cavendish that he would like to donate to the State as an addition to Lord State Forest. The Land Acquisition Review Committee first reviewed this potential acquisition and recommended to acquire the land in 2009; though the acquisition was not pursued further. Originally this project was intended to include two parcels, a 143-acre parcel that was landlocked but in close proximity to Lord State Forest and a 137-acre parcel adjacent to the State Forest. However, due to issues with a right of way to access the landlocked parcel, that parcel will no longer be a part of this project, but van Schaik still hopes to eventually donate it to the State once legal access is secured.

The 137-acre parcel that this project concerns has frontage on East Road in Cavendish, with a private road providing access to the interior of the property. This parcel is home to a beaver pond fed by two small streams that supports a heron rookery that is currently home to at least eight nesting pairs. The landowner, an amateur botanist, says to have identified a handful of rare plants on the property. Vermont Conservation Design identifies the land as a Highest Priority area for Connectivity Blocks, Riparian and Wildlife Connectivity, Surface Water and Riparian Areas, and Physical Landscape Diversity. Further, the property contains a class II wetland and much of the land is mapped as deer wintering area. There is a network of woods roads and trails on the property that is informally maintained by a local trail group, the Hardy Hill Trail Committee, which is a subset of the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association.

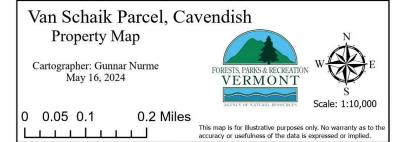
As a donation with significant natural features that could also improve recreation opportunities to the adjacent State Forest, and with the potential addition of the landlocked 143-acre parcel in the future, this would be a logical acquisition. The Springfield District Stewardship Team voted in support of this acquisition on May 6, 2019. At the time, the DST noted that they hoped the State would have a role in the development of proposed new trails on the property. The plans for these trails never came to fruition, and there are now no new trails being built on the property.

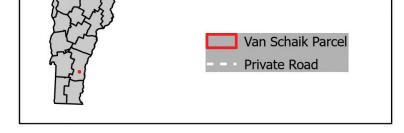
Approval for Development of a Conservation Project

I hereby approve the development of a land conservation project for the land owned by Peter van Schaik in Cavendish, VT. This approval authorizes Department staff to pursue the development of this project and does not supersede other requirement, statutory, regulatory, procedural or policy, for the State of Vermont to accept interest in real property (e.g, Governor Approval).

	DocuSigned by:	
4/16/2024	Danielle Fitzko	
Date	Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner	
	Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation	
I hereby decline to approve the Peter van Schaik in Cavendish	e development of a land conservation project for the land owned by , VT.	
Date	Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation	









Town of Cavendish Selectboard PO Box 126 Cavendish, VT 05142

December 9, 2024

Gunnar Nurme Land Acquisition Coordinator Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2 Montpelier, VT 05602

RE: Land Conservation Project in the Town of Cavendish

Glick Chrimm

Dear Mr. Nurme,

The Town of Cavendish Selectboard reviewed the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation's (FPR) proposed acquisition of the Van Schaik parcel as an addition to Lord State Forest at our meeting on December 9, 2024. We sign this letter to offer our support for FPR's acquisition of the Van Schaik parcel in the Town of Cavendish.

Sincerely,

Print Name and Title:

Cavendish Selectboard

