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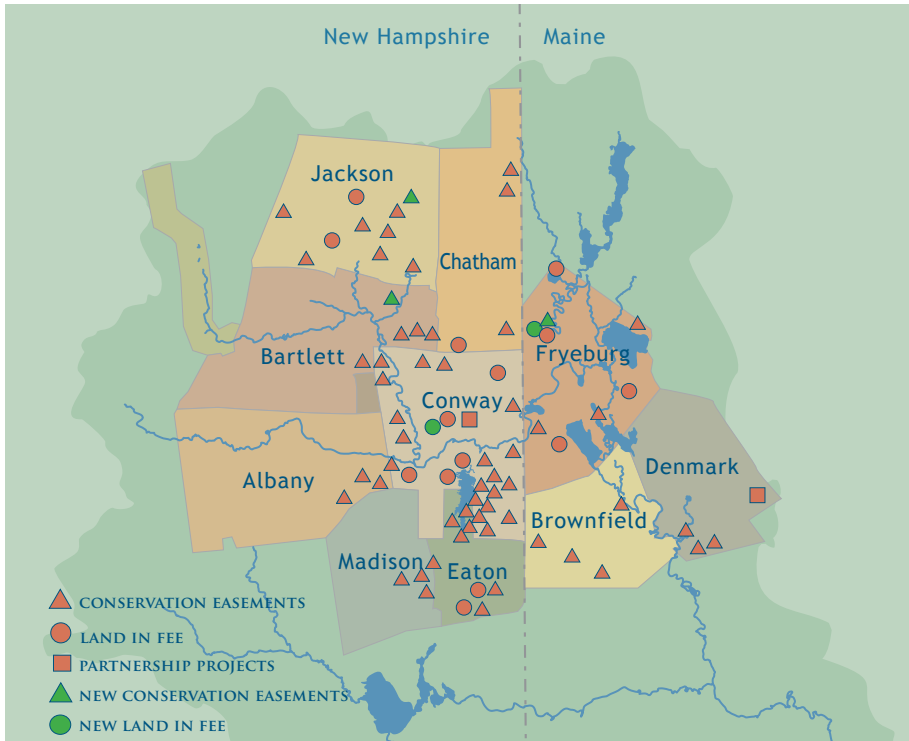


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Open to discover the impact your support made in 2022!



IMPACT REPORT
2022



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 Linda Comeau, Conservation Easement Manager
 Carissa Milliman, Development/Outreach
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 Vicki Soletsky, Office Manager

CONTACT US

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 @uppersacovalleylandtrust

The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust acknowledges that the portion of New Hampshire and Maine in which we operate is the unceded ancestral homeland of the Wabanaki (meaning "People of the Dawn"), including the Pequawket, Ossipee, and Abenaki. The sacred relationship of the Wabanaki to this land and these waters stretches beyond time immemorial, more than 12,000 years. Learn more at usvlt.org/land-acknowledgement-statement

Cover Photo by Joe Klementovich: Dundee Community Forest

A LOOK AHEAD

The last year has been one of significant transitions for Upper Saco Valley Land Trust. Change brings with it the power to challenge and reshape individuals and organizations – and deepen resilience. This has been the case for USVLT.

In 2022, we began the search for our next Executive Director and added two staff members to meet the increasing demands of the growing organization. In February, Interim Director Mark Dindorf stepped in to lead the transition, with key support from Lindsay Kafka and other USVLT board members. At the start of 2023, we welcomed Jen Pribble as our new Executive Director.

Despite the changes within the organization, five additional land projects were completed by our dedicated staff in 2022 – including the new Menotomy Preserve in Fryeburg, Maine. At the start of 2023, we expanded the Deacon Chadbourne Preserve by 30 acres, and we continue to drive toward the conservation of Jockey Cap – all in Fryeburg.

Throughout the last year, your backing, and our staff and volunteers' commitment, have remained constant. We couldn't do our work without you – thank you for supporting Upper Saco Valley Land Trust!

Sincerely,

Doug Burnell, Board President

Jen Pribble, Executive Director



USVLT completed a new Strategic Conservation Plan in 2022, which sets priorities for the decade ahead (page 5). With this guiding document and major projects underway, the momentum is with our team to ensure that we stay mission focused across our 11-town service area.



STEWARDSHIP

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Written by Lindsay Kafka

Greg Bjork, USVLT’s Land Steward, has been exploring the northern forests of New England since he was small. After an early career as a forester, he now puts his experience and love of ecology and outdoor recreation to work on behalf of the conservation mission of USVLT. Greg spends most of his time outdoors, traipsing through a multitude of habitats to learn the boundaries, interiors, and unique features of USVLT’s 62 easements and 18 preserves.

He generally carries a folding saw, small hatchet, as well as a diameter tape and clinometer in case of any special tree sightings. On any given day he can be found marking boundaries, installing/repairing signage, building kiosks, clearing storm debris, and maintaining trails. He also

monitors human usage of USVLT lands, assesses wildlife habitat and ecological systems, manages volunteer easement monitors, and oversees other volunteers and contractors working on USVLT’s behalf.

As the days shorten and grow colder, Greg focuses on administrative tasks, such as reporting on the status of land parcels or easements at the time of USVLT acquisition, also known as Baseline Documentation, and providing project updates to grant funders. Punctuating his days at all times of year are meetings with representatives of state and federal agencies, individual landowners, the Pine Hill Community Forest management committee, and USVLT’s Land Committee. It’s a lot to juggle, but the rewards of the job – like spotting an ancient beech tree with black bear claw marks all the way to the canopy, or a rare wetland orchid – inspire and refresh Greg each day.

Staff Photo Above: Greg in the Redstone Preserve during a site visit



FOREVER PROTECTED

In 2022, we completed five land protection projects and continued work on many more. These special places improve wildlife habitats; create new spaces for exploring, hiking, and skiing; conserve important farmland and working forests; and protect water quality throughout the Saco River watershed. We’re proud to have been able to accomplish so much with your support this year. Explore beyond these highlights at usvlt.org – we have maps, detailed land histories, and information about permitted uses and access.

WATER MENOTOMY PRESERVE & MENOTOMY FIELD EASEMENT Fryeburg, Maine

The Menotomy Preserve in Fryeburg was donated by Laura Burt and Steven Burt of San Antonio, Texas on behalf of their father Howard Burt and his wife Penny Burt.

Located in Maine’s Upper Saco River Focus Area, the 90-acre Menotomy Preserve and the adjacent easement protect:

- Rare Silver Maple Floodplain Forest
- Habitat for inland wading birds as well as beavers, moose, and deer
- Undeveloped shoreline
- Water quality for roughly 250,000 people throughout its watershed

Public access is designed for low impact outdoor recreation and nature study, such as hunting, fishing, foraging, and quiet enjoyment of the land.

“We are delighted with USVLT’s plans for the property, the legacy of Howard and Penny Burt. They truly enjoyed their last 20 summers in Maine, where Howard loved wandering the woods and Penny thoroughly adored the Fryeburg Fair.”
– Laura Burt

Staff Photo Above: Menotomy Preserve



 **MOUNTAINSIDE FARM**
Bartlett, New Hampshire



 **WINDY HILL FARM**
Jackson, New Hampshire

FARMLAND

Protecting important farm and forest land is essential for our rural character, as well as ensuring lands are available for future farmers.

Two historic farms, adjacent to the future Dundee Community Forest, were protected with conservation easements: Mountainside Farm in Bartlett and Windy Hill Farm in Jackson.

While Windy Hill Farm (108 acres) is often explored in winter by those with a pass from Jackson Ski Touring Foundation, Mountainside Farm (128 acres) does not offer public access.

The conservation easement structures vary, but both allow agriculture use and protect valuable wildlife habitat, forest soils, and unfragmented wildlife corridors.

“For our entire family [Mountainside Farm] has deep meaning and resonance. We are thrilled to have preserved the essence and magic of a place that we each call home.”
– Amelia Lloyd McCarthy



Annual Meeting May 6, 9 a.m.

Join us for our annual meeting – we’ll tend to some business, announce annual awards, and take a hike together!

Learn more at usvlt.org/events-listing

OPEN SPACES

The Pine Hill Community Forest, located in the heart of Conway, grew to 593 acres this year. This beloved property surrounding Kennett High School hosts a network of trails, including the Conway Rec Path, the new Ravine Trail (hosting interpretive panels designed by Tin Mountain Conservation Center and Kennett High students), and others used for hiking, running, mountain biking, skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. The Community Forest protects an important 125-acre wetland complex and serves as an outdoor classroom for the high school.



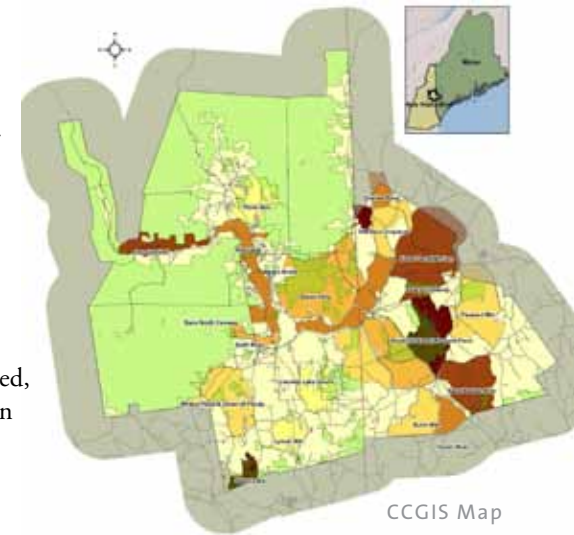
 **PINE HILL COMMUNITY FOREST**
North Conway, New Hampshire

OUR FUTURE

The Decade Ahead Upper Saco River Valley Focus Area

In 2022, USVLT’s Strategic Planning Committee worked with Peter Howe of CCGIS to develop a new conservation plan. Using advances in technology, the plan was able to evaluate data to determine areas of highest conservation value. Peter then translated this data into a story map to explain where the organization has been, where we’re headed, and our key strategies for conservation in the future.

View the story map online at usvlt.org/strategic-planning



 **THE DECADE AHEAD**
Upper Saco River Valley Focus Area

FINANCIAL REPORT

(Year Ended December 31, 2022 — Unaudited)

COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE:			
Membership Contributions	\$131,120	\$ -	\$131,120
Grants and Donations	706,472	720,682	1,427,154
Other	86,362	-	86,362
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	277,616	(277,616)	-
Total Operating Revenue	\$1,201,570	\$443,066	\$1,644,636
EXPENSES:			
Program Services:			
Land Protection & Easement Acquisition	\$ 418,654	\$ -	\$ 418,654
Land Stewardship	51,165	-	51,165
Total Program Services	469,819	-	469,819
Management and General	110,636	-	110,636
Fundraising	20,618	-	20,618
Total Operating Expenses	601,073	-	601,073
Change in Net Assets	\$600,497	\$ 443,066	\$1,043,563

COMBINED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
ASSETS:				
Cash, Unrestricted	\$789,178	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 789,178
Cash, Restricted	-	1,634,131	-	1,634,131
Receivables	16,121	112,450	-	128,571
Prepaid Expenses	4,786	-	-	4,786
Beneficial Interest Held by Others	-	-	1,257,251	1,257,251
Non Current Assets	-	18,861	-	18,861
Property & Equipment, net	250,702	-	-	250,702
Land & Conservation Easements	-	-	3,091,047	3,091,047
Total Assets	\$1,060,787	\$ 1,765,442	\$4,348,298	\$7,174,527
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:				
Accrued Expenses	\$39,132	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,132
Total Liabilities	39,132	-	-	39,132
Net Assets	1,021,655	1,765,442	4,348,298	7,135,395
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,060,787	\$ 1,765,442	\$4,348,298	\$7,174,527

Unrestricted funds may be used for day-to-day operations. Temporarily restricted funds are grants and donations for a specific project or purpose to be used in the future. Permanently restricted assets include land, easements, and stewardship endowment. Non-current Assets represent pledges that are receivable after one year.

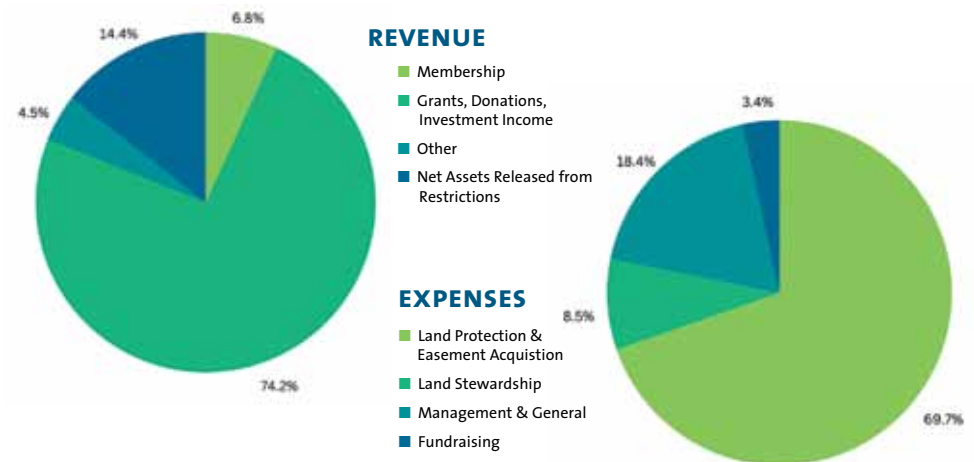


Photo by Joe Klementovich: Dundee Community Forest

Though the USVLT budget forecasted a shortfall for 2022, income was higher than the last five years combined. Annual membership dues, generous donations, timber sales, and grants contributed to that financial success.

USVLT's finances can be understood in three segments: operations (i.e., rent, salaries, fundraising etc.), land projects (e.g., purchase of land and easements), and investments. Unrestricted donations in support of operations totaled \$600,000 more than budgeted, thanks in large part to a donation from a long-time USVLT supporter, timber sales, and membership dues. Land projects are often covered by restricted donations and grants. In 2022, that included a gift transaction of 90 acres valued at \$400,000. Finally, our investments weathered the volatility of the markets with a loss of \$79,000. Looking at the long-term strategy, total investment income over the last four years exceeded \$140,000.

In the past decade, USVLT's operating expenses have tripled. This is a direct reflection of the manpower and technologies required to manage the advanced pace of acquisition and stewardship of special places in our community. Conservation easements have grown from 6,800 to 9,000 acres. And the land USVLT owns has increased from 600 to more than 1,500 acres in 18 preserves – a number that is set to grow by nearly 2,000 acres in the next few years. We anticipate this arc of growth and level of conservation to continue into the future – with your support!



*This pie chart includes revenue for both our operating and "special projects" budgets (conservation acquisitions). While membership contributions make up only 6.8% of total revenue, they provide over 40% of our operating funding. Your support has been essential. Thank you!

EVENTS



Photo by Jerry & Marcy Monkman, Ecophotography: Easement Exploration Hike

EXPLORE WITH US

The pandemic effectively curtailed USVLT's major events in 2021, but 2022 brought a welcome reboot of sorts. In July, much-loved Art Celebrates Place re-surfaced in a different format, shifting to a mid-summer art show and open house at the Land Trust's Conway office. USVLT Celebrates Place, the July 8 event, drew artists, friends, and community members on a perfect summer afternoon. After the long dry spell of pandemic isolation, the chance to gather translated into a wonderful reunion.

Fall found the focus on Jockey Cap, in the heart of Fryeburg, Maine. USVLT and the Town of Fryeburg have recently partnered to conserve the historic granite outcropping, and in September, Saco River Brewing Company joined the efforts.

The Brewery, situated nearby the 15.6-acre parcel, debuted a special edition IPA at a collaborative fundraising event. People

from across the region gathered to buy pints, cans, and take a tour of Jockey Cap.

Thank you to Mason Irish and the Saco River Brewing crew for donating net proceeds of Jockey Cap IPA sales! Be on the lookout for more collaborations in 2023.

Our Easement Explorations have proven pandemic-proof, and in 2022 continued to utilize the great outdoors as a meeting space. The seventh year of these explorations brought another dynamic mix of events, connecting community members with the conserved lands that surround them. From a spring wildflower walk, a summer float down the Saco, an invasive species workshop at Pequawket Peninsula, to a September hawk watch, the programs drew more than 100 participants and provided an opportunity for USVLT to collaborate with many other local conservation organizations.

2023 promises even more adventures; reserve your spot at usvt.org/events_listing

THANK YOU

You received this report because your generosity had an incredible impact in our community this year. You are one of more than 1,000 people, businesses, foundations, grant funders, and government agencies who make it possible to protect special places across our remarkable landscape. In an effort to reduce our printing costs, we have chosen not to present individual names within this report. In doing so, we can redirect the savings in printing costs to further your impact to protect and conserve land. Though your names are not listed here, they are known to us, and we are incredibly grateful for your support to conserve land for community benefit.

2022 GRANTS

Buckingham Mountain Foundation
Cheshire County Conservation District
Clarence E. Mulford Trust
Conway Lake Conservation Association
Gibson/Woodbury Charitable Foundation
Kendal C. & Anna Ham Charitable Foundation
Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)

Maine Community Foundation
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Donor-advised Funds
Moose Plate - NH State Conservation Commission
Conservation Grant Program
Onion Foundation
Pequawket Foundation
The 1156 Foundation
USFS Community Forest Program

2022 LAND DONORS

Laura Burt and Stephen Burt

2022 MEMORIAL GIFTS

Martha Cobbs
Herb Cooper
Esmae Doucette
Bob Dunn
Joan MacPhail
Charles & Patricia Osgood

BUSINESS PARTNERS

A special THANK YOU to these business partners!
Please support them, because when you do, that helps us!

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