



Join Us to...

Protect and Celebrate the Upper Saco River Valley

**"As a community-supported
conservation organization,
none of this happens
without you."**

– Eric White

Saving the Places You Love

The forests, rivers, and fields from Madison up to Jackson, NH, across to Denmark, ME, are some of the region's most beautiful and meaningful places. They offer spaces to hike, paddle, fish, farm, and simply breathe—connecting people to nature and to each other.

But these places face increasing pressure from development, limiting family connections to the land, fragmenting wildlife habitat, and often severing historic public access.

For generations, locals and visitors have enjoyed informal access to forests, trails, and riverbanks; part of daily life and community tradition.

As land changes hands, the special places of our Valley can be lost. But it doesn't have to be that way.

We work with families, organizations, and communities to conserve cherished landscapes like farms, forests, and scenic overlooks.

We also create special places and programs to help people connect with nature, now and for generations to come.

Together, we can protect the natural beauty and special places of northern New Hampshire and western Maine.



Conservation Serving the Upper Saco Valley

As a community-supported conservation organization, we work with people like you to preserve land, host educational programs, organize volunteer trail and waterways projects, and collaborate with towns and nonprofits on innovative conservation partnerships.

Because of this support, we conserve lands that provide

- cleaner air and water
- habitat for black bears, fishers, deer, foxes and other wildlife
- local food and forest products, while also supporting pollinators

You can help protect the rivers where brook trout, bass, and turtles thrive, conserve local farms providing great food, and preserve the forests with trails and scenic vistas that define this special region.

Community Lands and Nature Preserves

We own and care for public preserves across the region—places where people love to hike, ski, paddle, fish, and enjoy nature. Some preserves feature trails; others offer water access or quiet refuge for wildlife.

These lands rely on generous donors and volunteers for maintenance, trail work, and improvements.

We work collaboratively with landowners and the community to create new public preserves that protect the region's quality of life and sense of place. Lands are often donated by local families, secured through fundraising, or protected in collaboration with towns and community groups.

Collaborating with Community Organizations

Conservation is stronger when we work together. That's why we partner with towns, landowners and fellow nonprofits to achieve shared goals that benefit everyone.

Some example partnerships include

- Preserving Jockey Cap and the Fryeburg Town Forest with the Town of Fryeburg
- Securing public water access at Pequawket Pond in Conway
- Improving trails at Pine Hill Community Forest with New England Mountain Bike Association and Kennett High School

Interested in conservation or a partnership?

We'd love to connect and brainstorm—visit usvlt.org or give us a call to start a conversation.

Explore our lands

Use our interactive map to discover conserved properties and trails: usvlt.org/interactive-map



Two Key Ways We Conserve Land

Public nature preserves

Our growing number of nature preserves are open to the public for hiking, paddling, skiing, and quiet reflection. These lands allow people the opportunity to experience nature's peace and beauty, while conserving critical wildlife habitat.

Conservation agreements

Many families choose to permanently protect their land through a conservation agreement. These agreements (technically referred to as a **conservation easement**) allow landowners to continue owning, using, and managing their land, while ensuring that its natural and scenic values, as well as working agricultural and forestry lands, are protected forever.

By acting now, we can ensure that the places we love today will remain for future generations. Your support makes this all possible.

Conserving Family Lands

Increasingly, local families and landowners want to protect the special places they love—while continuing to own, use, or pass them on. We help them to permanently conserve their land after thoughtful conversations to understand what’s important to them and the future of the place.

A permanent conservation agreement

- Allows you to retain ownership and manage the land according to the conservation goals
- Permits the sale, transfer, or inheritance of the land
- Prevents overdevelopment and protects conservation values forever
- Often allows for home-based business, reserved house sites, agriculture and forestry

The benefits of a conservation agreement

- May qualify for income tax deductions and reduced estate taxes
- Helps keep land in the family
- Offers peace of mind knowing your land is protected forever
- You, as the property owner, continue to pay the taxes

Each conservation agreement is unique. It’s important to know that as the property owner, you continue to pay the taxes. But public access is not required—only included if the landowner desires. We’ll help you explore what’s right for you.



Foto Request

You Make the Difference

We receive calls each month from people and communities who want to conserve their land or establish a new nature preserve. The opportunities are amazing, and we need community support to make it possible. As a community-supported conservation organization, none of this happens without you. This means your support is more important than ever.

Ways to get involved

- **Donate:** Your tax-deductible gifts fuel our local conservation
You can contribute by:
 - Check or online giving
 - Monthly gifts
 - Gifts of stock or real estate
 - Donor advised funds
 - Bequests and estate gifts
- **Volunteer:** Help with trail work, habitat restoration, events, or sharing your talents like photography
- **Conserve Your Land:** We offer free, no-obligation, confidential conversations to explore your conservation options
- **Business Partnerships:** Support conservation and demonstrate your community values
- **Leave a Legacy:** Include us in your will or estate plans to protect the lands and waters you love for future generations

There’s a place for everyone in this work. We hope you’ll join us. Visit usvlt.org to learn more.



Cheryl Senter



What We Do...

- Conserve local lands for farming, forestry, recreation, wildlife habitat, and scenic enjoyment through conservation agreements with landowners
- Create public and manage public preserves and trails so everyone can experience nature
- Host free education and recreational programs
- Partner with community organizations, businesses, and landowners to ensure our region is one where nature and people thrive

Get breaking news, updates, and event announcements

Sign up for our eNewsletter and follow us on social media.

Call, visit, or contact us for more information.



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Serving 11 Towns in Northern New Hampshire + Western Maine:

NH: Albany, Bartlett, Chatham, Conway, Eaton,
Hart's Location, Jackson, Madison

ME: Brownfield, Denmark, and Fryeburg

