



State of Vermont

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
Department of Environmental Conservation

*Department of Fish & Wildlife
111 West Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452*

*Phone: (802) 879-5669
Fax: (802) 879-3871*

October 27, 1997

Ms. Jessie Bradley
Ms. Gail Henderson-King
58 Lakeview Park
Shelburne, VT 05482

RE: Demeter Fund Property - Charlotte

Dear Ms. Bradley and Ms. Henderson-King,

At your request, I made a field reconnaissance of this property to assess deer population levels relative to carrying capacity and the potential for deer to be negatively affecting habitat for other wildlife. Based upon our telephone conversations, it is my understanding that no hunting will be allowed on this property unless, and until, the deer population reaches a level where there is habitat damage.

My observations were made on October 17 and 23, 1997, and were concentrated in the wooded areas. While my opinions are based on casual habitat observations, rather than vegetation sampling, I believe they are adequate for this purpose.

Basically, the present deer population is not high enough to have affected forest regeneration. I noted a light level of deer browsing on white ash, red oak, black cherry, sugar maple, and very occasionally on buckthorn. Deer browsing under present population levels is not negatively affecting the growth of trees. I am satisfied that the deer population at this site is below carrying capacity at this time. This is a temporary situation. With the no hunting prohibition, you can anticipate a future increase in deer numbers. Eventually a point will be reached where carrying capacity is exceeded, forest regeneration damaged by deer browsing, and other wildlife species habitat affected.

For general guidance, deer populations at approximately 15 animals per square mile do not cause forest regeneration or agricultural damages. Charlotte's current deer population is about 15 per square mile. Deer populations that regularly and/or substantially exceed 25 per square mile will cause significant forest and agricultural damage as well as negatively affect other wildlife species by eliminating the low layer of vegetation (<10 feet) needed by many species.

The relative position of Charlotte's deer population on the carrying capacity continuum can be roughly approximated by following the legal buck kill trends. At the present amount of deer habitat, buck kills in the vicinity of 50 are "safe" (42 in 1996). If the legal buck kill reaches or exceeds 75 animals, you're likely to

Ms. Jessie Bradley
Ms. Gail Henderson-King
October 27, 1997
Page 2

start having trouble. Specialty agriculture, such as truck gardens, orchards and nurseries probably have problems at current population levels and may need to consider fencing.

I'm sure the Department would be willing to make a periodic on the ground deer habitat review of the Demeter property relative to this issue. I don't think the first review would be needed sooner than 5 years (in the year 2002) and that subsequent check schedules would be driven what is found at that time.

Sincerely, -

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence E. Garland".

Lawrence E. Garland
District Wildlife Biologist

LEG/tg

Table 1. Wildlife species expected to occur in Demeter Fund West Property, Charlotte, VT.

	Active Ag.	Old Field	Shrub/Hedge	Early Forest	Hardwoods	Pond/Wetl.	Cavity User
MAMMALS							
N. short-tailed shrew **	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Star-nosed mole **		x	x	x		x	
Hairytail mole **	x	x					
Raccoon **	x			x		x	x
Mink **				x		x	x
Long-tailed weasel *		x	x	x			x
Ermine *		x	x			x	x
Striped skunk **	x	x	x	x			
Coyote **		x		x			
Red fox **		x		x	x		
Gray fox *		x		x	x		x
Bobcat *		x	x	x	x		
Woodchuck **	x	x	x				
Eastern chipmunk **		x	x	x			
E. gray squirrel ***	x			x	x		
Beaver **				x		x	
Deer mouse **		x	x		x		
White-footed mouse **	x	x	x		x		
Meadow vole ***	x	x					
Woodland vole **	x	x	x	x	x		
Muskrat **						x	
Mead. jumping mouse **		x	x	x			
E. cottontail ***	x	x	x	x			
White-tail deer **	x	x	x	x	x		
BIRDS							
Great-blue heron **						x	
Green-backed heron * B						x	
American Bittern *						x	
A. black duck **						x	
Mallard **						x	
Turkey vulture **							
Northern harrier *	x					x	
Sharp-shinned hawk *					x		
Cooper's hawk *					x		
Broad-winged hawk **	x	x		x	x		
Red-tailed hawk ** B	x	x		x			
American kestrel ** B	x	x					x
Ruffed grouse ** B			x	x			
Wild turkey ** B	x	x	x	x	x		
Virginia Rail * B						x	
Killdeer ** B	x						
A. woodcock ** B	x	x				x	

*** Abundant

** Common

* Rare or Uncertain

B = Breeding Bird

Table 1. Wildlife species expected to occur in Demeter Fund West Property, Charlotte, VT.

	Active Ag.	Old Field	Shrub/Hedge	Early Forest	Hardwoods	Pond/Wetl.	Cavity User
Rock dove *** B	x		.	x	x		
Mourning dove ** B	x						
Yell.-billed cuckoo *	x	x	x	x			
Eastern screech owl * B		x	x	x			x
Great-horned owl ** B		x	x	x			
Barred owl * B				x	x		
N. saw-whet owl * B			x	x	x		x
Common nighthawk *	x	x	x				
R.-th. hummingbird ** B		x	x	x	x		
Y.-bell. sapsucker ** B			x	x			x
Downy woodpecker ** B				x	x		x
Hairy woodpecker ** B				x	x		x
Northern flicker ** B	x			x			x
Pileated woodpecker * B				x	x		x
E. wood-pewee ** B				x			
Willow flycatcher * B			x	x	x		
Eastern phoebe ** B		x	x				
G. crested flycatcher ** B			x	x	x		
Eastern kingbird ** B			x				
Tree swallow *** B	x	x	x	x			x
Barn swallow ** B		x	x				
Blue jay ** B			x	x	x		
American crow **	x	x		x	x		
B.-capped chickadee ** B			x	x	x		x
Tufted titmouse *				x			x
W.-breasted nuthatch * B			x	x	x		x
Brown creeper ** B					x		x
House wren ** B		x	x				x
Eastern bluebird * B	x	x	x	x	x		x
Veery ** B			x		x		
Wood thrush ** B			x	x	x		
American Robin *** B	x			x	x		
Gray catbird ** B		x	x	x			
N. mockingbird * B		x	x	x			
Brown thrasher * B	x	x	x	x			
Cedar waxwing **		x	x	x			
Eur. starling *** B	x						x
Warbling vireo ** B			x	x			
Red-eyed vireo *** B			x	x	x		
Yellow Warbler ** B	x	x	x	x		x	
Ch.-sided warbler ** B		x	x	x	x		
B.-and-w. warbler ** B			x		x		
American redstart ** B				x	x		
Ovenbird * B				x	x		

*** Abundant

** Common

* Rare or Uncertain

B = Breeding Bird

Table 1. Wildlife species expected to occur in Demeter Ford West Property, Charlotte, VT.

	Active Ag.	Old Field	Shrub/Hedge	Early Forest	Hardwoods	Pond/Wetl.	Cavity User
Com. yellowthroat ** B	x	x	x	x	x		
Scarlet tanager * B				x	x		
Northern cardinal ** B			x	x			
Rose-br. grosbeak ** B			x	x	x		
Indigo bunting ** B			x	x			
Eastern towhee ** B			x	x			
Chipping sparrow ** B		x		x			
Field sparrow *	x						
Vesper sparrow *	x	x	x				
Song sparrow *** B	x				x		
Bobolink ** B	x	x					
Eastern meadowlark * B	x	x					
R.-wing. blackbird *** B	x					x	
Common grackle *** B	x					x	
Br.-headed cowbird ** B	x		x	x			
Baltimore oriole ** B		x	x	x			
House finch ** B		x	x				
Am. goldfinch ** B	x	x	x				
House sparrow *** B	x	x					
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS							
Spotted salamander **				x		x	
Red-spotted newt **				x	x	x	
Redback salamander ***				x	x		
E. American toad **	x	x	x	x	x	x	
N. spring peeper **						x	
Gray treefrog **				x	x	x	
Bullfrog **						x	
Green frog **						x	
Wood frog **				x	x		
N. leopard frog **	x	x					
Pickerel frog **							
Wood turtle *	x	x	x	x	x	x	
E. painted turtle **				x		x	
N. brown snake **	x	x	x	x	x	x	
E. garter snake ***	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
E. smooth gr. snake **	x	x	x		x	x	
E. milk snake **	x	x	x	x	x	x	

*** Abundant

** Common

* Rare or Uncertain

B = Breeding Bird

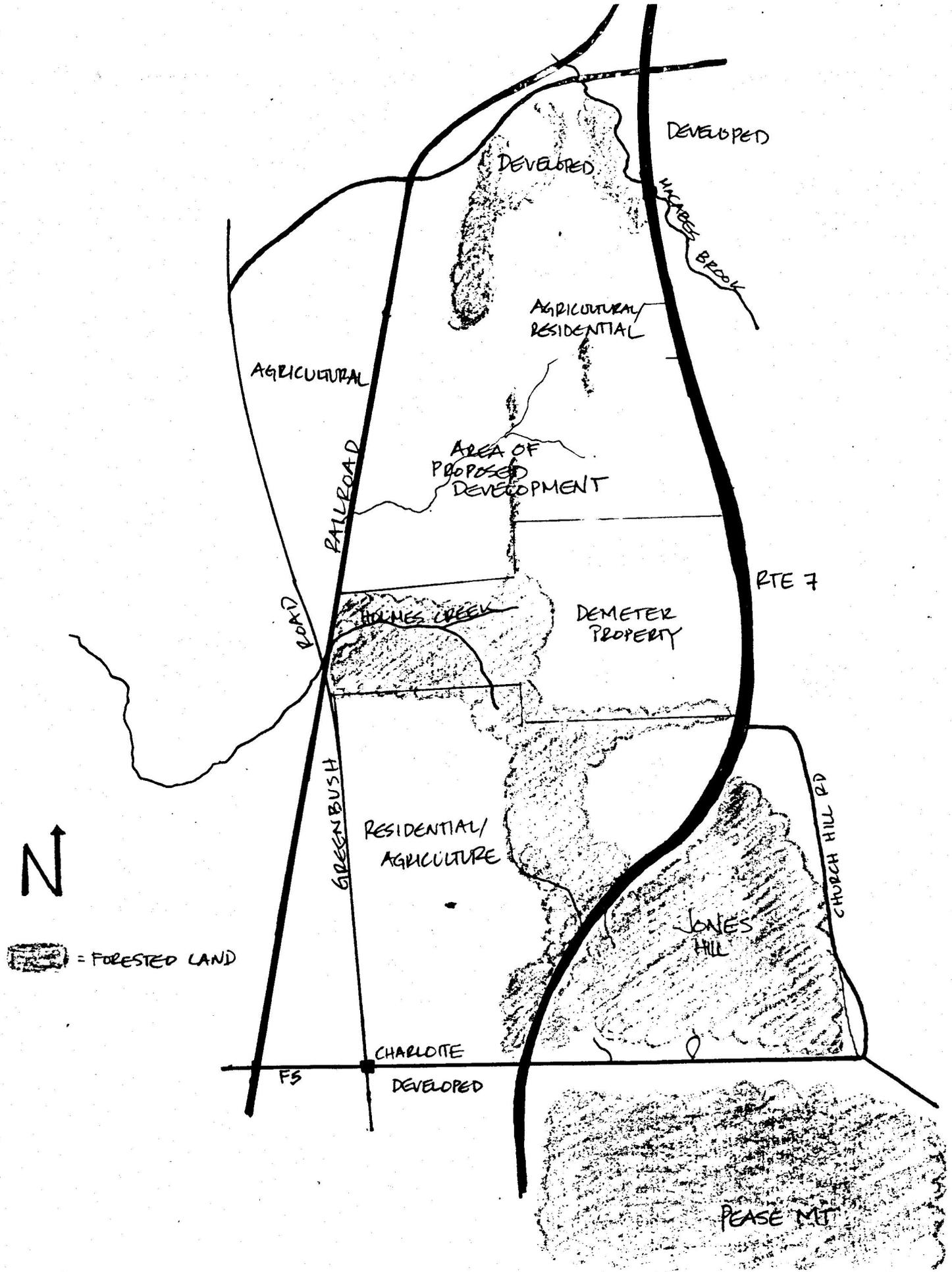


Figure 1. Forested lands bordering Demeter Fund West Property, Charlotte, VT