

Hunger Mountain Headwaters



Spectacular views and proximity to Montpelier, Waterbury, and Stowe make Mount Hunger, Stowe Pinnacle and White Rock Mountain three of the most popular day hikes in Vermont. At the summits, hikers are treated to breathtaking views of the White Mountains to the east, the Adirondacks to the west, and almost every peak in the Northern Green Mountains. But **just below these peaks lie threatened properties totaling 1,879 acres – important parts of the hiking experience that were at risk of being sold and developed.** That risk has been temporarily diminished by the purchase of two of the properties by The Trust for Public Land. Once all public and private funds have been secured, the properties will be transferred to the State of Vermont for permanent protection.

The remoteness of the Worcester Range – the very quality that makes central Vermont so special – continues to be in jeopardy until the project is funded. The Worcester Range is one of the only undeveloped mountain ranges in Vermont as it contains no ski resorts and isn't bisected by roads. Protection of these lands will safeguard that sense of remoteness and wildness.

With your support, The Trust for Public Land and Stowe Land Trust can forever protect these lands from subdivision and development. If we're successful, the properties will be added to C.C. Putnam State Forest, securing critical wildlife habitat, protecting the Winooski River Watershed, and ensuring the remote character of the state's most popular hiking destinations.

The case for conservation

With an **expansive forest** of maple, birch, and spruce and 17 acres of **prime wetlands**, the Hunger Mountain Headwaters properties are emblematic of Vermont's great outdoors. The major parcel in this effort in Middlesex and Worcester is the **largest unprotected and unfragmented property remaining in the Worcester Range**. The other parcel in Stowe is ranked as among the most important conservation priorities by Stowe Land Trust.

The project will protect key land in the **Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor**, the only viable ecological connection between the Green Mountains and the Worcester Range for over 20 miles along Route 100. The corridor has been identified as one of the highest priority connectivity blocks in the state. The land also provides **vital habitat for moose, deer, bear, ruffed grouse, and Bicknell's thrush**—a species of global conservation concern. Wild brook trout thrive in twelve miles of streams, and the property's outcrops and ledges are thought to be denning sites for bobcat, bear, and porcupine.

The parcels also **host the approach trail to Hunger and White Rock Mountains**, and share a nine mile border with C.C. Putnam State Forest, **providing new access** from both the west and the east. Protection of these properties and their transfer to the State of Vermont would significantly expand the state forest while providing a link to the 126-acre Densmore Mountain Tract, a state-owned parcel that is currently isolated. This important connection would **create more than 20,000 acres of contiguous conservation land**.



The threat

Because of its proximity to Montpelier, I-89, Stowe, and resort towns within the Mad River Valley, the **properties are prime targets for development**. It is likely that development would affect scenic views, recreation opportunities, and local flood resiliency while damaging water quality in the Winooski River Watershed.

Please join us

The Trust for Public Land and Stowe Land Trust have **secured \$2.6 million of federal Forest Legacy funding** to help protect the Hunger Mountain Headwaters. **But we must also secure private support by December 2018** to cover acquisition, project, and program costs, and a management endowment for the State. **Your support will make a difference**. This rare opportunity to expand C.C. Putnam State Forest will help protect wildlife habitat and water quality, enhance opportunities for recreation, and preserve undeveloped views of central Vermont. Please join us.

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The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

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Stowe Land Trust is dedicated to the conservation of scenic, recreational, and productive farm and forest lands for the benefit of the greater Stowe community.

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