The Multiple Benefits of Wetland Conservation & Restoration on Public Lands
Mission Statement

- The conservation of all species of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.
What we conserve

Natural Communities

Fish

Habitat

Invertebrates

Wildlife

Plants
Who we serve

Wildlife watchers
Future generations
Anglers
Hunters and Trappers
Communities
Landowners
Department History of Wetland Conservation and Restoration

- Sandbar WMA Acquisition - 1920 (First in Eastern US)
- Dead Creek WMA - 1950s & 60s
- Stream Bank Parcels
- Vermont Duck Stamp Fund - 1985
- NAWCA Grants - 1990s to present
- VT Habitat Stamp Fund - 2015
- EPA – DEC – LCBP Grant Expand and Accelerate Wetland Conservation and Restoration in Vermont’s Lake Champlain Basin 2019 to present

100 years later, VFWD has conserved nearly 30,000 acres of wetlands. VFWD owns 101 WMAs constituting 145,000 acres of outstanding wildlife habitat.
Funding

- Pittman Robertson
- License Fees
- Vermont Duck Stamp
- NGO Matching Funds
- Various Grants
- Habitat Stamp
- EPA-DEC-LCBP
Vermont Duck Stamp Fund

Established by Legislature in 1985
First Duck Stamp in 1986

Raised $5.1 million
Spent $2.3 million on Projects

Current Balance of $2.98 million
Interest Balance of $529,300

Completed 99 Projects involving 12,260 acres
The Vermont Duck Stamp

1986-2016

Available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com
EPA Wetland Funds - Lake Champlain Basin Program

Expand and Accelerate Wetland Conservation and Restoration in Vermont’s Lake Champlain Basin

Outputs
• Completion of 3-5 wetland acquisition projects, a minimum of 40% restored.
• Hydrologically restore 100 acres.

Benefits
• Improving functions and values of existing, degraded wetland acres, such as surface water nutrient retention, stormwater retention, filtration, and gradual discharge, groundwater recharge, reduced soil erosion, floodwater attenuation, and habitat for diverse communities of wildlife, fish, and plants.
• Increasing the benefits these projects have on the landscape including enhancement of wildlife habitat, public access, flood protection, and wildlife-based recreation.

Timeframe
Year one - four: October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2023
$7.2 Million
EPA Wetland Funds –LCBP- DEC

Accomplishments

• Nine projects closed or under contract, all at various stages of restoration
• 2,015 acres acquired
• 1,323 acres restorable (66%)
• $2.9 Million of EPA funds spent on acquisition.
• $1.15 Million in partnering funds for acquisition.
• $500,000 estimated to be spent on restoration.
Process

1. Landowner Contacts (cold call letter, partner contacts, real estate listings)
2. Review by Wetlands Steering Committee
3. Acquisition Process
4. Restoration Survey and Plan
5. Review by District Stewardship Team
6. Permits
7. Implementation
8. Follow up
Wildlife Management Areas

Focus Areas

22 Wildlife Management Areas With Significant Wetlands

Mud Creek WMA

Lower Lamoille River WMA

Rock River WMA
Wetland Conservation
Examples of Wetland Projects

Pomainville WMA
Pittsford

Lower Otter Creek WMA
Ferrisburg

Halfmoon Cove WMA
Colchester

Clyde River Access Area
Brighton

Johns River
Derby

Rock River WMA
Highgate
South Bay Marshes (Magoon & Guyette), Coventry
Started in 1991
Kesick Swamp WMA, Sunderland
Multiple Parcels, 1992 - 1995
Beaver Management Program 1995 - 2017

# Projects
257

# Acres Protected
2,902 ac.
Wetland Restoration

Dead Creek WMA
Water Quality Benefits

- Nutrient removal and transformation, phytoplankton use inorganics to make food
- Sediment removal, silt adheres to stalks of water plants and settles avoiding downstream sedimentation and building a rich blanket of organic matter
- Carbon sequestration
- Groundwater recharge and discharge
- Remove toxicants and pesticides: bacteria consume organic contaminants
Wildlife Benefits

• Food Production, highly productive

• Shelter

• Clean Water

• Space

• Refuging areas

• Breeding and Nursery Areas
Waterfowl Feeding In Moist Soil Unit
Human Benefits

* Outreach and Educations Sites
* Flood Abatement/Velocity Reduction
* Erosion Control
* Recreation
* Soil Formation

* Quite Places
* Drinking Water
* Aesthetics
* Financial Savings
Education and Outreach
Flood Abatement - Sediment Trapping - Quiet Places
$\$ Economics $\$ $

Viewing        Tourism

Hunting        Fishing

Carbon Storage Commercial Fisheries

Property Values Drinking Water

Water Sports    Flood Abatement

Savings: insurance/property Quite Spaces

Contractors Hired Financial Savings of T&E Restoration
Rock River WMA – Derosia, 124 acres
Intervale WMA
Fitzgerald, 124 acres
Intervale WMA – Senesac, 142 acres
Dead Creek WMA
Connor Farm
98 acres
Partners in Wetland Conservation
Questions?