



Vermont Land Trust

Vermont Land Trust Conservation Survey

Spring 2006

Conducted and Prepared by:
Michael Moser
The Center for Rural Studies,
University of Vermont



CENTER FOR
RURAL STUDIES

802 656 3021

CENTER FOR RURAL STUDIES

Table of Contents

Methodology:.....	1
Sample Selection:.....	1
Survey methodology:.....	1
Analysis:	1
Confidence:	1
Univariate Data Tables	

How important to you is: Having natural or wildlife areas that are set aside from human use in Verm

Methodology:

Sample Selection:

The sample for the poll was drawn through random digit dialing and used all of the telephone exchanges in the state of Vermont as the sam

Univariate Data Tables

On a scale of 0-10 where 0 means "not at all important", and 10 means "extremely important".

How

Community?

Frequency	Percent
8	1.8
4	.9
12	2.7
16	3.7
11	2.5
67	15.3
34	7.8

How important is: Affordable Healthcare to your community?

Frequency

Percent

Comparison of means for factors important to your community	
	Mean
Public Education	8.86
Affordable Healthcare	8.77
Affordable Housing	8.08
Land Conservation	8.06
Public Recreation Areas	7.51
A Town Forest	7.10

If land conservation in Vermont were to stop today what kind of impact do you think this would have on <i>Vermont's working farms</i>?		
	Frequency	Percent
Very Positive	16	3.6
Somewhat Positive	21	4.8
None	31	7.1
Somewhat Negative	110	25.1
Very Negative	232	52.8
Don't Know	29	6.6
Total	439	100.0

77.9% of Vermonters polled feel that if land conservation were to stop today it would have a negative impact on Vermont's working farms.

If land conservation in Vermont were to stop today what kind of impact do you think this would have on <i>Vermont's working forests</i>?		
	Frequency	Percent
Very Positive	15	3.4
Somewhat Positive	19	4.3
None	29	6.6
Somewhat Negative	134	30.5
Very Negative	207	47.2
Don't Know	35	8.0
Total	439	100.0

If land conservation in Vermont were to stop today what kind of impact do you think this would have on <i>Vermont's tourism</i>?		
	Frequency	Percent
Very Positive	14	3.2
Somewhat Positive	17	3.9
None	45	10.2
Somewhat Negative	144	32.7
Very Negative	209	47.4
Don't Know	12	2.7
Total	441	100.0

If land conservation in Vermont were to stop today what kind of impact do you think this would have on <i>Vermont's local communities</i>?		
	Frequency	Percent
Very Positive	12	2.7
Som		

If land conservation in Vermont were to stop today what kind of impact do you think this would have on <i>Vermont's recreational areas</i>?		
	Frequency	Percent
Very Positive	10	2.3
Somewhat Positive	19	4.3
None	43	9.8
Somewhat Negative	161	36.6
Very Negative	190	43.2
Don't Know	17	3.9
Total	440	100.0

If land conservation in Vermont were to stop today: Somewhat and Very negative impact combined comparison	
	Percent
Vermont's nature/wildlife areas	86.6
Vermont's tourism	80.1
Vermont's recreational areas	79.8
Vermont's local communities	78.2
Vermont's working farms	77.9
Vermont's working forests	77.7

If land conservation in Vermont were to stop today 86.6% of respondents' felt this would have a somewhat or very negative impact on Vermont's nature/wildlife areas.

Of the following options, which is your <i>first</i> choice for funding land conservation in VT?		
	Frequency	Percent
Privately thru donations by individuals or foundations	122	31.1
Publicly thru property transfer taxes on all home purchases	82	20.9
Publicly thru a special property tax on "luxury homes"	181	46.2
No funding source at all	7	1.8
Total	392	100.0

Of the following options, which is your <i>second</i> choice for funding land conservation in VT?		
	Frequency	Percent
Privately thru donations by individuals or foundations	108	32.5
Publicly thru property transfer taxes on all home purchases	101	30.4
Publicly thru a special property tax on "luxury homes"	104	31.3
No funding source at all	19	5.7
Total	332	100.0

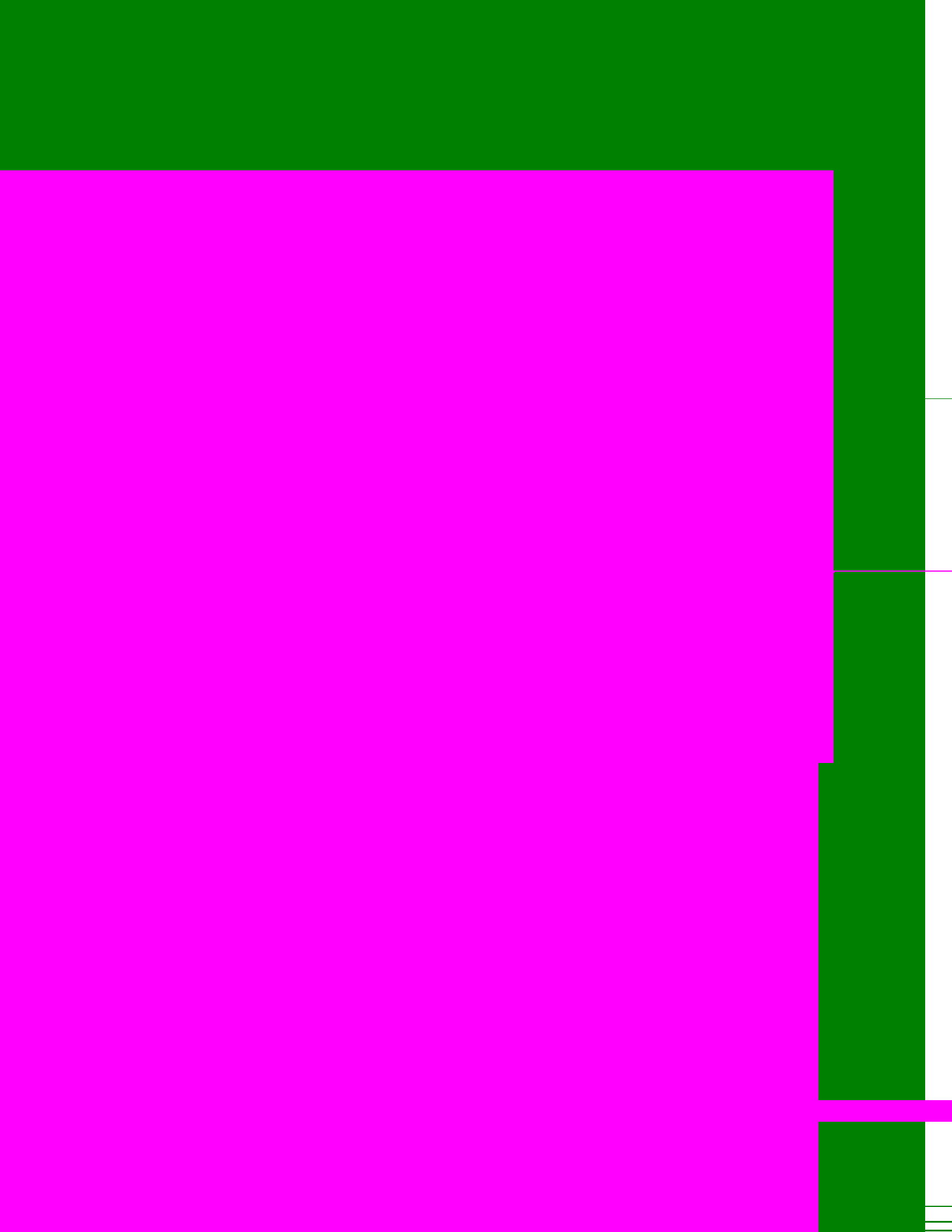
Of the following options, which is your <i>third</i> choice for funding land conservation in VT?		
	Frequency	Percent
Privately thru donations by individuals or foundations	112	41.2
Publicly thru property transfer taxes on all home purchases	84	30.9
Publicly thru a special property tax on "luxury homes"	38	14.0
No funding source at all	38	14.0
Total	272	100.0

From the following list, what organizations are you a member of?		
	Frequency	Percent of all Respondents*
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	48	10.9
VT Land Trust (VLT)	34	7.7
VT Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG)	33	7.5
A local land trust	32	7.3
A local Fish and Game Club	31	7.0
Audubon Society	28	6.3
Green Mountain Club (GMC)	26	5.9
Vermont Association of Land Travelers (VAST)	18	4.1
VT Farm Bureau	15	3.4
VT Natural Resources Council (VNRC)	11	2.5
Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA)	10	2.3
Preservation Trust of VT	8	1.8
VT Foresters Organization	5	1.1
*N = 441		

How important to you is: Having locally produced wood products in Vermont?		
	Frequency	Percent
Not at all Important	1	.2
1	0	.0
2	6	1.4
3	10	2.3
4	9	2.1
5	59	13.5
6	38	8.7
7	58	13.3
8	91	20.8
9	47	10.8
Extremely Important	111	25.4
Don't Know	7	1.6
Total	437	100.0
Mean = 7.60		

How important to you is: Having farmer's markets in Vermont?		
	Frequency	Percent
Not at all Important	1	.2
1	2	.5
2	2	.5
3	4	.9
4	5	1.1
5	18	4.1
6	19	4.3
7	43	9.8
8	69	15.8
9	67	15.3
Extremely Important	205	46.9
Don't Know	2	.5
Total	437	100.0
Mean = 8.62		

How important to you is: Having certified organic food in Vermont?		
	Frequency	Percent
Not at all Important	11	2.5
1	5.	1.1
2	11	2.5
3	12	2.



How important to you is: Having recreation areas for motorized recreation activities such as snow mobiling, motor boating, etc in Vermont?		
	Frequency	Percent
Not at all Important	44	10.1
1	23	5.3
2	31	7.1
3	21	4.8
4	29	6.6
5	51	11.7
6	27	6.2
7	51	11.7
8	74	16.9
9	23	5.3
Extremely Important	59	13.5
Don't Know	4	.9
Total	437	100.0
Mean = 5.61		

Comparison of means for the importance in having:	
	Mean
Working farms in Vermont	9.21
Recreation areas for non-motorized activities such as hunting, hiking, bird watching, fishing, etc in Vermont	8.88
Locally grown food in Vermont	8.86
Affordable housing in Vermont	8.68
Farmer's markets in Vermont	8.62
Scenic vistas in Vermont	8.50
Working forests in Vermont	8.43
Historic sites in Vermont	8.31
Natural or wildlife areas that are set aside from human use in Vermont	8.30
Locally produced wood products in Vermont	7.60
Certified organic food in Vermont	7.33
Recreation areas for motorized recreation activities such as snow mobiling, motor boating, etc in Vermont?	5.61

Renters' future housing decisions		
	Frequency	Percent
Are you: Looking to purchase a home in VT in the next year	12	17.6
Are you: Going to continue renting for the next year	56	82.4
Total	68	100.0

Respondents' 2005 household income categories (before taxes)		
	Frequency	Percent
< \$24,999	59	15.2
\$25,000-\$49,999	117	30.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	106	27.3
\$75,000-\$124,999	79	20.4
\$125,000-\$174,999	17	4.4
\$175,000 or more	10	2.6
Total	388	100.0
Mean = Approximately \$44,000		

VT median household income for 1999 was \$40,856*. The average respondent household income for 2005 was slightly higher than the state average household income in 1999.

*(Source; <http://maps.vcgi.org/indicators>)

Respondents' genders			
	Frequency	Percent	VT Census 2000 Percent
Male	172	39.0	49.0
Female	269	61.0	51.0
Total	441	100.0	100.0

Categorized and Collapsed Open-ended Responses

What is the Top Quality about VT that makes it a unique and special place to live?	
Low key government	1
Politics	2
Progressive thinking	1
Government participation/ direct democracy	

Independence	7
Economy	1
Everything	6
Up north	1
Benefits	1
Nothing	6
Don't know	7

How many acres of woodland do you own?	
	Number of respondents
< 1 acre	4
1-9 acres	51
10-19 acres	39
20-49 acres	37
50-99 acres	15
100-199 acres	15
200-499 acres	9
500-999 acres	0
1000-4999 acres	0
5000+ acres	0
Total	170

Why or why not is land conservation important to your community?	
Important	Respondents
Control development	33
Enjoy the land without fear of commercialization and building	2
Balance between populated and unpopulated places	1
Not being over loaded with industrialization.	1
Keep industrial areas industrial and the urban areas urban	1
Control population growth	11
Control sprawl	20

If land conservation in VT were to stop today what kind of impact would this have on: VT's Working Farms (By VLT Region)

		Central VT	Champlain Valley	Mad River Valley	Northeast Kingdom	Southeast	Southwest
Positive or Very Positive	Count	10	7	1	12	4	3
	Percent	10.2%	4.8%	12.5%	19.4%	9.5%	5.9%
Neutral	Count	10	12	0	3	2	3

f impact would this have

	Southeast	Southwest
	5	4
	11.1%	7.4%
	7	4
	15.6%	7.4%
	33	46
	73.3%	85.2%
	45	54
	100.0%	100.0%



What is your <i>first</i> choice for funding land conservation in VT? By VLT region							
		Central VT	Champlain Valley	Mad River Valley	Northeast Kingdom	Southeast	Southwest
Privately thru donations by individuals or foundations	Count	29	39	4	19	10	20
	Percent	32.6%	27.3%	50.0%	29.7%	27.8%	40.0%
Publicly thru property transfer taxes on all home purchases	Count	15	35	0	12	7	13
	Percent	16.9%	24.5%	.0%	18.8%	19.4%	26.0%
Publicly thru a special property tax on "luxury homes"	Count	42	65	4	33	19	17
	Percent	47.2%	45.5%	50.0%	51.6%	52.8%	34.0%
No funding source at all	Count	3	4	0	0	0	0
	Percent	3.4%	2.8%	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
Total	Count	89	143	8	64	36	50
	Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Chi Sq. = .496							

aving the following in VT by VLT Region

Working Farms	Local Wood Products	Farmer's Markets	Certified Organic Food	Locally Grown Food	Historic Sites
9.21	7.64	8.56	6.97	8.78	8.12
1.452	2.196	1.871	2.830	1.637	1.908
0.20	7.35	8.54	7.30	8.01	8.24

Mean Importance in VT by VLT Region, continued							
		Affordable Housing	Working Forests	Scenic Vistas	Non-Human Use Natural Areas	Non-Motorized Recreation Areas	Motorized Recreation Areas
Central VT	Mean	8.47	8.42	8.39	7.95	8.71	5.23
	Std. Deviation	2.427	1.914	2.078	2.630	1.647	3.201
Champlain	Mean	8.88	8.34	8.52	8.59	8.97	5.42

Educational attainment by VLT region							
		Central VT	Champlain Valley	Mad River Valley	Northeast Kingdom	Southeast	Southwest
Some high school	Count	3	8	0	2	1	2
	Percentage	2.0%	5.1%	0.0%	3.1%	2.2%	3.6%