

From: "Whipple, Craig" <Craig.Whipple@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Fairlee Town Forests and HCRS Grant
Date: June 15, 2020 at 3:28:45 PM EDT
To: Bill Weale [REDACTED]
Cc: "Savage, Jessica" <Jessica.Savage@vermont.gov>

Hi Bill,

Thanks for reaching out. The funding program the town used is called the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The program is now administered at the federal level by the National Park Service but our Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation still manages it at the state level. I am passing you along to my FPR colleague, Jessica Savage, who now administers the program for us. She has the most up to date information and access to all the files. I am sure she will be happy to help out.
Craig

Craig Whipple, Director
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-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Weale [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 2:58 PM
To: Whipple, Craig <Craig.Whipple@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fairlee Town Forests and HCRS Grant

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Hello Mr. Whipple;

In a recent conversation with our Orange County Forester, David Paganelli, I mentioned that you were the State's HCRS Grants Administrator in the 1979-80 time period when HCRS Project #50-00320 was applied for. The Grant was awarded to the Town of Fairlee to help fund the purchase of about 770 acres of forest land, known as the William Lange Memorial Forest. The state of Vermont also provided funding. Mr. Paganelli suggested I reach out to you.

I'm trying to resolve some administrative and operational problems surrounding the Town Forest. The Town Forest Board appears to be using the terms of the HCRS grant to claim virtual control over—financial and managerial—the TF. The SB seems to be receiving a very small amount of detailed information. It does not have a chance to monitor, advise or approve forest management and logging activities. This seems to me to go against the part of VSA covering Municipal Forests that states generally that all proceeds from logging are to go into the town treasury. "Proceeds from logging" require choosing and monitoring a forester and making sure that forester monitors and reports the details, financial and operational back to the town. All the town is seeing, from what I can tell, is an occasional "net check" from the projects, usually months or even years after one has started. It also prevents the SB from adequately protecting the town from a liability standpoint.

I've lived in Fairlee since 1978. My reason for checking with you is that I've observed a very long and now rapidly increasing amount of trail damage and erosion into streams. The major cause is a combination of poor planning and restoration of logging projects combined with a total lack of control over ATV and 4WD pickup access and abuse. Researching legal and HCRS requirements has been very difficult, particularly since the HCRS grant process involved so many players.

Is there anyway we could have a conversation? Would the State of Vermont have an easily-located and reasonably well-organized file on this project? Any help would be appreciated.

Thank you,

Bill Weale
Fairlee

