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PRESS RELEASES



Cold Hollow to Canada receives \$110,100 to accelerate land conservation

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The Cold Hollow Mountains stretch across seven towns in northern Vermont, marking the northern extent of the Green Mountain ridgeline. These mountains are part of the world’s largest remaining intact temperate forest, the Northern Forest, which stretches across the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada. The ridgelines and valleys of the Cold Hollows provide a critical linkage area for maintaining connectivity throughout the Northern Forest, and also offer significant recreation and economic value to the local communities. With development pressures growing, forest cover is declining in the region and forest fragmentation is accelerating, meaning that this ecologically irreplaceable landscape is increasingly becoming threatened.

The Cold Hollow to Canada Regional Conservation Partnership (CHC) works in this landscape to maintain ecological resilience in a way that supports—and is supported by—the local human communities. Through this community-grounded approach, the Partnership focuses efforts around three pillars: sustainable stewardship, forestland conservation, and community empowerment.

This summer, CHC was awarded two significant grants to help with the forestland conservation aspect of this work, from The Network for Landscape Conservation and the Canaday Family Charitable Trust.

Funding from the Network for Landscape Conservation’s Catalyst Fund will allow CHC to work more collaboratively with our conservation partners. Numerous conservation organizations play roles in the Cold Hollow region, each occupying a slightly different niche. These partners include Vermont Land Trust, New England Forestry Foundation, Vermont Rivers Conservancy, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, The Nature Conservancy, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation National Resources Conservation Services, and possibly more. At the same time, landowners wishing to conserve their land come with a variety of their own needs and desires. Some want to maintain working forests or active sugarbushes. Some want to maintain certain allowed uses or areas, while some want to protect specific resources. As land conservation moves forward in this region, CHC wants to take a coordinated approach that takes into account the needs of both organizations and landowners to provide appropriate matches. Funding from the Catalyst Fund will expand the coordination capacity for the CHC Partnership and enable the Partnership to develop a conservation strategy for prioritizing land conservation opportunities within the landscape. This will be critical to delivering conservation outcomes that will not only sustain this local landscape but will also contribute to sustaining the ecological integrity and resilience of the entire Northern Forest.

Funding provided by the Canaday Charitable Trust will focus on providing resources to landowners. This includes two parts: education and financial assistance. Thanks to this grant, CHC will be able to provide programming for landowners who have expressed interest in conserving their land but who need more information to finalize their decision. A series of workshops will provide clarity about the land conservation process, provide needed resources, and make the conservation process less daunting to landowners. Following this workshop series, financial assistance will be provided to offset some of the costs of conservation, including conservation appraisals for interested landowners and additional assistance to cover closing costs, legal fees, and stewardship endowments—all pieces of the conservation process that can make the price of land conservation inaccessible to many landowners. CHC hopes that through this grant, the land conservation process can become more equitable, allowing those who would like to conserve their land in an undeveloped, forested state to do so.

Cold Hollow to Canada is grateful to these organizations for their support and acknowledgement of the work we have accomplished and for the dreams we continue to hold onto. These dreams are on their way to reality with this support.

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