

# WARREN SELECTBOARD AGENDA

Location: Warren Municipal Building, 42 Cemetery Road  
Date: December 3, 2019  
Time: 7:00 PM

## Agenda Items

7:00 PM – 7:05 PM

Public Comment

7:05 PM – 7:45 PM

Budget Presentations Request

Warren Conservation Commission – Funds  
leverage to purchase 512 Acres in Lincoln  
Gap

7:46 PM – 8:05 PM

Approval of 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Restaurant License –  
Slide Brook

*Jeff Campbell, Ems, Constable  
budgets*

8:05 PM – 8:06 PM

Approval of Accounts Payable Warrants &  
Payroll Warrants

*\$ 4,542,609.70*

*29,659.43*

8:06 PM – 8:10 PM

Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2019

Other Business

\*\*Agenda Subject to Change

# WARREN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

**Date:** December 3, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 PM

## **In Attendance**

Members Present: Andrew Cunningham, Chair, Luke Youmell, Randy Graves & Camilla Behn, Bob Ackland, Vice Chair.

Others Present: Damon Reed, Kate Wanner, Robin Bleier, Amy Polaczyk, Carolyn Schipa, TV 44/45, Hadley (VR), Cindi Jones.

**Public Comment** – Hadley Laskowski introduced herself as the new reporter for the Valley Reporter.

## **Warren Conservation Fund – Request \$84,000 From Conservation Reserved Fund to Leverage 512 Acres – Lincoln Peak Project**

Kate Wanner from the Trust of Public Land and members of the Warren Conversation Commission came before the board to ask for funds request. The Trust for Public Land has secured 75% of the total cost of the Lincoln Peak Land Conservation Project. A total of \$480,000 from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and private donor has been raised for this project. They are requesting \$84,000 from the Warren Conservation Reserve Fund, which will leverage more than 5:1 from other public and private funds. The land consists of 619 acres in the Towns of Warren and the Town of Lincoln. The property contains 120 acres of Montane spruce-fur forest, 181 acres of Montane yellow birch-red spruce, 18 acres of northern hardwood seepage forest and 10 acres of rich northern hardwood forests as well as 65 acres of old-growth hemlock, northern hardwood and red spruce stands. Other attributes of the property are water quality & aquatic values and wildlife habitat that includes the Bicknell Thrush, the rarest migratory songbird. By purchasing the property, it protects a threatened segment of the Catamount Trail provides natural and improved recreational opportunities, protect habitat connectivity and large-scale wildlife corridors. There are economic benefits for local communities through outdoor recreation, tourism, sustainable timber harvesting and flood mitigation. The \$84,000 would be used for the survey, administration, federal land acquisition costs and wildlife studies. Mr. Reed commented that the Warren Conservation Commission voted unanimously to support this land acquisition venture. Mr. Cunningham asked about the 103 acres in the Town of Lincoln if they were putting in any support. Ms. Wanner commented that they did not have any money or a Conservation Commission. In looking at land acquisitions they do not look town lines, as they look at it as one large track of land to conserve. The average cost to conserve this property is \$136 an acre.



Some members of the Selectboard commented that it should be an article at town meeting to let the voters decide and others felt that the money was already voted by the taxpayers. The board could vote as they do when they purchase highway or fire equipment. Ms. Wanner would like the board to entertain a motion to support this purchase. Mr. Bleier commented that it would be a good educational opportunity at Town meeting and the Conservation Commission was up for the task to win support for this acquisition.

Motion by Mr. Ackland to support the purchase contribution of \$84,000 to conserve the 516 acres of the Lincoln Peak Conservation Project, second by Ms. Behn. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

### **Budget Continuation – 2020 – Jeff Campbell – Presenting Constables and EM**

**Budget** –Mr. Campbell started out with the Constables Budget with a few changes. They were this year breaking out the training and miles budget to two separate line items. The patrol miles were slightly higher but offset by another budget line. The difference from last year is an increase of \$1,200 for a total budget of \$16,700.

Emergency Management Budget – The only significant change was adding a stipend for Class Expenses and breaking it out from the mileage. Mr. Campbell was accepted for a 5 days training classes in Boston and the total mileage would be \$1,995.20. He is paying for the meals at the training conference. The classes are: Emergency Management Event, The Science of a Disaster, Public & Information Warnings and Homeland Emergency Planning.

Also talked about was that he would be meeting with a vendor that deals with security systems and video camera's that are rated for low temperatures.

### **Approval of Minutes for November 12, 2019**

The Minutes of Minutes November 12, 2019– Motion by Mr. Youmell to approve the Minutes of November 12th, second by Mr. Graves. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

### **Approval of 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Liquor License for Slide Brook Lodge -**

Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Liquor License for the Slide Brook Lodge, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

### **Approval of Accounts Payable Warrants –**

Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants as presented for \$4,542,609.70, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

### **Approval of Payroll Warrants –**

Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Payroll Warrants as presented for \$29,659.43, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

### **New Business –**

3-Lot Subdivision off Sugarbush Access Road Access – The board reviewed the map showing the proposed road and the upgrade of the driveway to meet the B76 standards. The board had other concerns regarding the steepness of the property. They looked at the upper section and a good access would be off Fortna Road, easier, safer and better accessible for emergency vehicles. However, the owner of the property Ms. Smith will not give an access off her corner property. The board still has reservations and will weigh in at another meeting.

Sugarbush Access Road Paving 2020 – Mr. Ackland expressed his concern about not paving the Access Road this coming year after talking with Mr. Weston and riding the road observing pieces starting to break off. The upper part from Alpine Options up has had 2 leaks in the last 3 weeks which is a concern about the upper part of the Access Road. The board agreed it would better if the Access Road was paved from RT 100 up to Wheeler Brook to protect the extensive work already completed on that road.

### **Next Meeting**

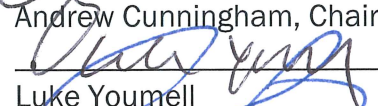
December 10, 2019, 7:00 PM, Warren Municipal Building

Motion by Mr. Ackland to adjourn, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.




Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,  
Cindi Jones, Warren Town Administrator  
The Warren Selectboard

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Cunningham, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Luke Youmell

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Graves

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Camilla Behn

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Ackland, Vice Chair

## COUPLES CLUB, INC

Waitsfield, VT 05673

November 15, 2019

Dear Mad River Rec Board:

The Couples Club regrets having to inform you that our circumstances have changed, and we no longer wish to relinquish control of the Couples Field to the Rec Board. Since it became public, we have had an outpouring of support and a number of people have stepped up to take responsibility for the care and continuation of the Couples Club, Inc. and its mission.

The Couples Club has been in operation for over 60 years for the exclusive purpose of providing charitable and benevolent services to the valley citizens for sports activities. We feel that it is important that we continue to promote the community spirit and the importance of volunteerism.

We are sorry for any inconvenience you have incurred; and we thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
The Couples Club Board

CC: Fayston Select Board  
Waitsfield Select Board  
Warren Select Board





**LINCOLN PEAK CONSERVATION PROJECT**  
**GREEN MOUNTAIN PROGRAM, VERMONT**  
**A REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FROM THE WARREN CONSERVATION FUND**  
**OCTOBER 31, 2019**

The mission of The Trust for Public Land is to create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. Our goals are to provide access to the great outdoors for all. We are proud that we have been connecting communities to the outdoors—and to each other—since 1972. The Trust for Public Land has completed over 5,000 conservation projects in 46 states, protecting more than 3.2 million acres. We have a strong track record of success, working in partnership with agencies and communities to identify and generate more than \$68 billion in financing for our conservation and parks work across the country. In Vermont over the past 20 years, we have conserved more than 63,000 acres of which 47,000 are in the Green Mountains.

**Statement of Need:**

As one of the most iconic features of Vermont, The Green Mountains have been a conservation priority for more than a century. But they are currently facing urgent and growing threats from subdivision and development, climate change, fragmentation, and other pressures. The U.S. Forest Service has identified the Green Mountain National Forest (which encompasses much of the mountain range) as one of the nation's most "development-threatened" national forests in the country.



*Photo by Ember Photography*

The Trust for Public Land has been investing in our Green Mountain Program Partnership for over 15 years. The partnership has evolved into a collaborative effort with the Green Mountain Club, Catamount Trail Association, Appalachian Trail Conservancy and other partners, including the U.S. Forest Service, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and Vermont Land Trust. Our collective goal for the program is to protect and connect the region's most critical natural and recreational resources. Through our partnerships, we design and implement strategic landscape-scale conservation focused on conserving and connecting the most important remaining unprotected lands, especially those surrounding The Long Trail, the Appalachian Trail, and the Catamount Trail.

## Description of Lincoln Peak:

The Lincoln Peak project will conserve two strategic private inholdings in the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) in Lincoln and Warren, Vermont. The project will protect and enhance wildlife habitat, forest connectivity, carbon sequestration, water quality, and trail-based recreation. The 516-acre parcel in Warren contains 1.3 miles of the Catamount Trail, which has no formal protection. If access to the property were lost, there would be no way to reroute the section due to difficult topography and stream crossings, and adjacent ski resort development. The Lincoln parcel, located on the east side of the ridge and within the Mad River Valley, is only ¼ mile from the Long Trail Lincoln Gap Trailhead, and 25 feet away from the actual footpath of the Long Trail. This is a wholly inadequate buffer for the State's most well-known and well-loved trail. In addition, the project will offer permanent protection of highly ranked forestlands, significant headwaters, rare wildlife habitat, and the broad scenic viewshed from the Mad River Byway.

Water Quality & Aquatic Values: The project will contribute to water quality protection, as the tracts contain 60 acres of riparian areas, including segments of Lincoln and Bradley Brooks. These feed into the Mad River and, ultimately, Lake Champlain, a drinking water source for 145,000 residents of Vermont, New York, and Quebec. In partnership with Friends of the Mad River, VT Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited and VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation, GMNF just completed restoring aquatic connectivity through the Lincoln Brook Tributary Aquatic Organism Passage, capitalizing on the 2016 replacement of a Lincoln Brook barrier downstream. Reconnection of headwaters on undeveloped public lands will improve fish community resilience and abundance. Acquisition of the property by U.S. Forest Service will allow management to decrease erosion and sedimentation and improve water quality and fire treatment in this watershed.



*Photo by James Chadwick*

Threatened and Endangered Species and Habitat: Both Lincoln Peak tracts contain habitat for the federally threatened Northern long-eared bat and Bicknell's Thrush, the Northeast's rarest migratory songbird and a Species of Global Conservation Concern. The Lincoln parcel also contains known occurrences of Bicknell's Thrush. The parcels are within the Battell block, a Globally Important Bird Area designated by Audubon Vermont. According to the VT Natural Heritage Program and a recent analysis by ecologist Matt Peters, nearly all of the property is comprised of very high-quality Uncommon Natural Communities of statewide significance: 120 acres of Montane Spruce-Fir Forest, 181 acres of Montane Yellow Birch-Red Spruce Forest, 18 acres of Northern Hardwood Seepage Forest and 10 acres of Rich Northern Hardwood Forest, as well as 65 acres of



old-growth hemlock, northern hardwood and red spruce stands. The property contains populations of Boreal Bedstraw, Summer Sedge and Slender Rockbrake, all Regional Forester Sensitive Species. Lincoln Brook supports native fish communities of Longnose dace, Blacknose dace, and wild Brook Trout. The property contains significant breeding habitat for bear, northern river otter and bobcat, all Species of Greatest Conservation Need (VT Fish & Wildlife, 2015).

Landscape context and Climate Resiliency: Surrounded by 140,000 acres of the Green Mountain National Forest and 460,000 acres of public and private conservation lands, the Lincoln Peak property is within the internationally significant Green Mountain Wildlife Linkage, the largest north-south wildlife linkage in Vermont, allowing species to move to adapt to a changing climate. This acquisition would substantially enhance landscape-level connectivity in one of the top 1% of priority habitat blocks in Vermont (VT Fish & Wildlife 2015). The property is also designated a "Highest Priority Connectivity Block" by Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, and it contains landscape features either rare or under-represented in other block types for an ecologically-functional landscape. The Lincoln Peak parcels are within a Priority Climate Area, according to a 2012 study by The Nature Conservancy, "Resilient Sites for Terrestrial Conservation in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Region", which found that the property has an above-average ability to maintain ecological functions and a diversity of native species, even as the species composition changes in response to climate.

The permanent protection of these parcels will avoid user conflicts that inevitably arise from a patchwork of private and public ownership, an especially acute risk here due to the popularity of the Long Trail and Catamount Trail, and proximity to Sugarbush Ski Resort. Consolidation of federal lands reduces threats of trespass, encroachments, and invasive species migration. Conservation of the headwaters of Lincoln Brook will reduce restoration needs associated with lower portions of the watershed.

#### **Budget:**

The estimated total cost of the project is \$480,000. This includes land acquisition of 619 acres in Warren and Lincoln and project expenses. We have secured 75% (\$358,000) to date from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and private donors. We are requesting \$84,000 from the Warren Conservation Reserve Fund, which will be leveraged more than 5:1 from other public and private funds. Please see attached budget.

#### **Impact of Proposed Project:**

A successful conservation outcome at Lincoln Peak will have a lasting positive impact on the Town of Warren, including:

- Permanently protecting and incorporating two significant inholdings of undeveloped forest into the Green Mountain National Forest, located within Core Habitat and Connected

Habitat Unit, as identified by Arrowwood's 2008 Natural Heritage Inventory and Assessment of Warren.

- Protecting a threatened segment of the Catamount Trail and a significant corridor of the Long Trail.
- Providing new and improved recreational opportunities to thousands of outdoor enthusiasts each year.
- Protecting habitat connectivity and large-scale wildlife corridors, one of the top priorities of the Warren Conservation Commission.
- Generating economic benefits for local communities through outdoor recreation and tourism, sustainable timber harvesting, and flood mitigation.

The Lincoln Peak project will preserve a landscape that helps define the Vermont quality and way of life. The Green Mountain range is critical to Vermont's recreation economy and outdoor traditions. The Long Trail and the Catamount Trail span the entirety of the range and are a magnet for hikers and skiers, while scores of rivers, lakes, and other natural features draw hunters, anglers, and paddlers. A 2016 study, the Economic and Fiscal Impact Analysis of the Vermont Trails and Greenway Council Member Organizations, concludes that the 10,000 annual users of the Catamount Trail and the 200,000 annual users of the Long Trail result in \$9.6 million of annual economic benefit from visitors to the towns that host the trails. The Mad River Valley, and Lincoln Peak, provide Vermont with a valuable tourism asset as national recreation trends increasingly favor close-to-home recreation. Our goal is to ensure that these invaluable resources will be protected for generations of Vermonters and visitors to come.

Lastly, as directed in the Town of Warren Conservation Commission & Conservation Reserve Fund Charter, this project responds to many of the core values of Warren and addresses many of the goals and strategies in the Warren Town Plan, such as:

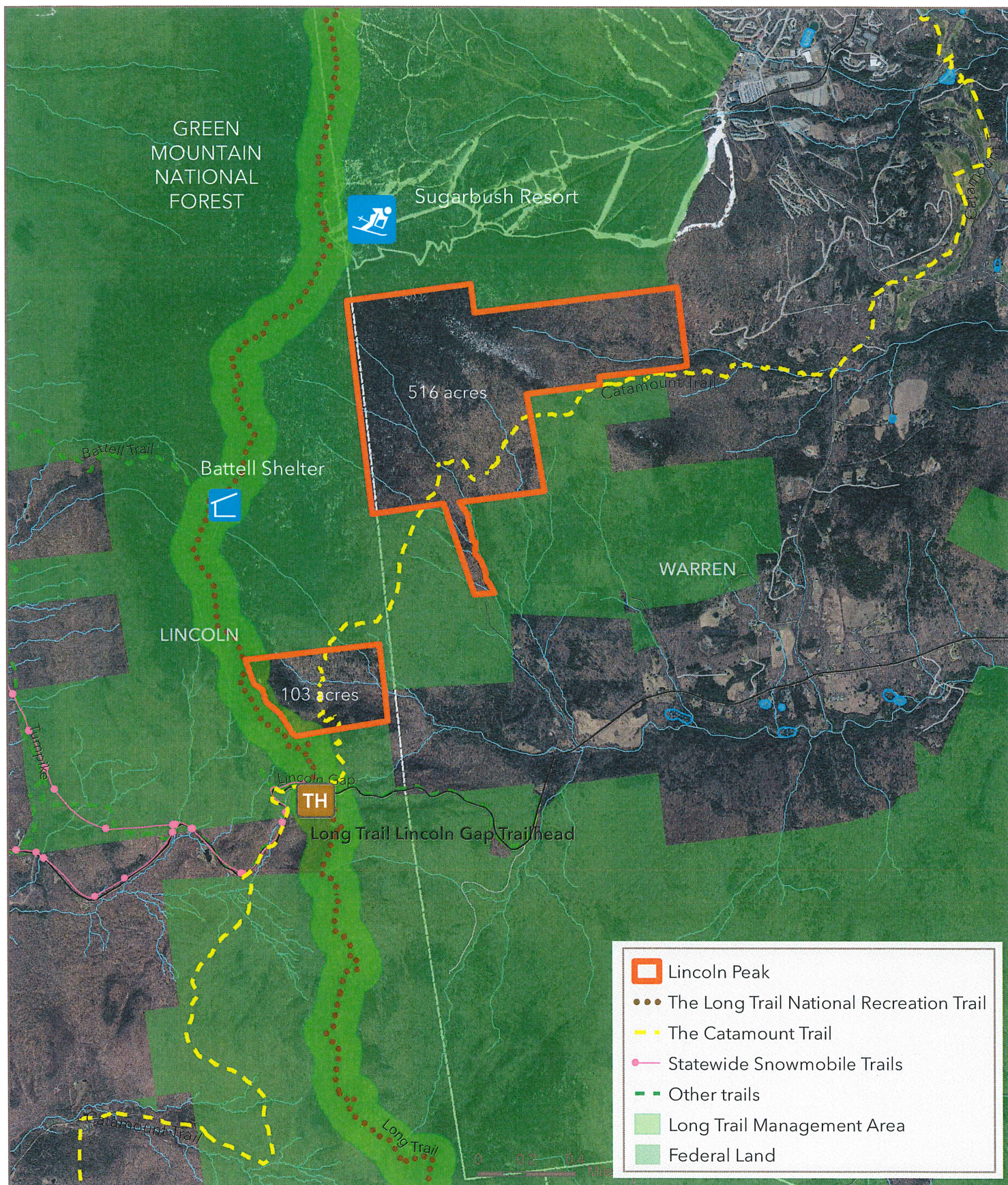
- Maintain, preserve and enhance the town's natural resources and environmental quality;
- Ensure that critical wildlife habitat is protected from development and that fragmentation of forest land is minimized;
- Maintain and enhance recreational opportunities for residents and visitors;
- Support the efforts of the Catamount Trail Association, U.S. Forest Service and other parties to create and maintain an integrated trail network throughout town; and
- Encourage flood resilient communities.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Best,

Kate Wanner, Project Manager  
The Trust for Public Land  
3 Shipman Pl  
Montpelier, VT 05602





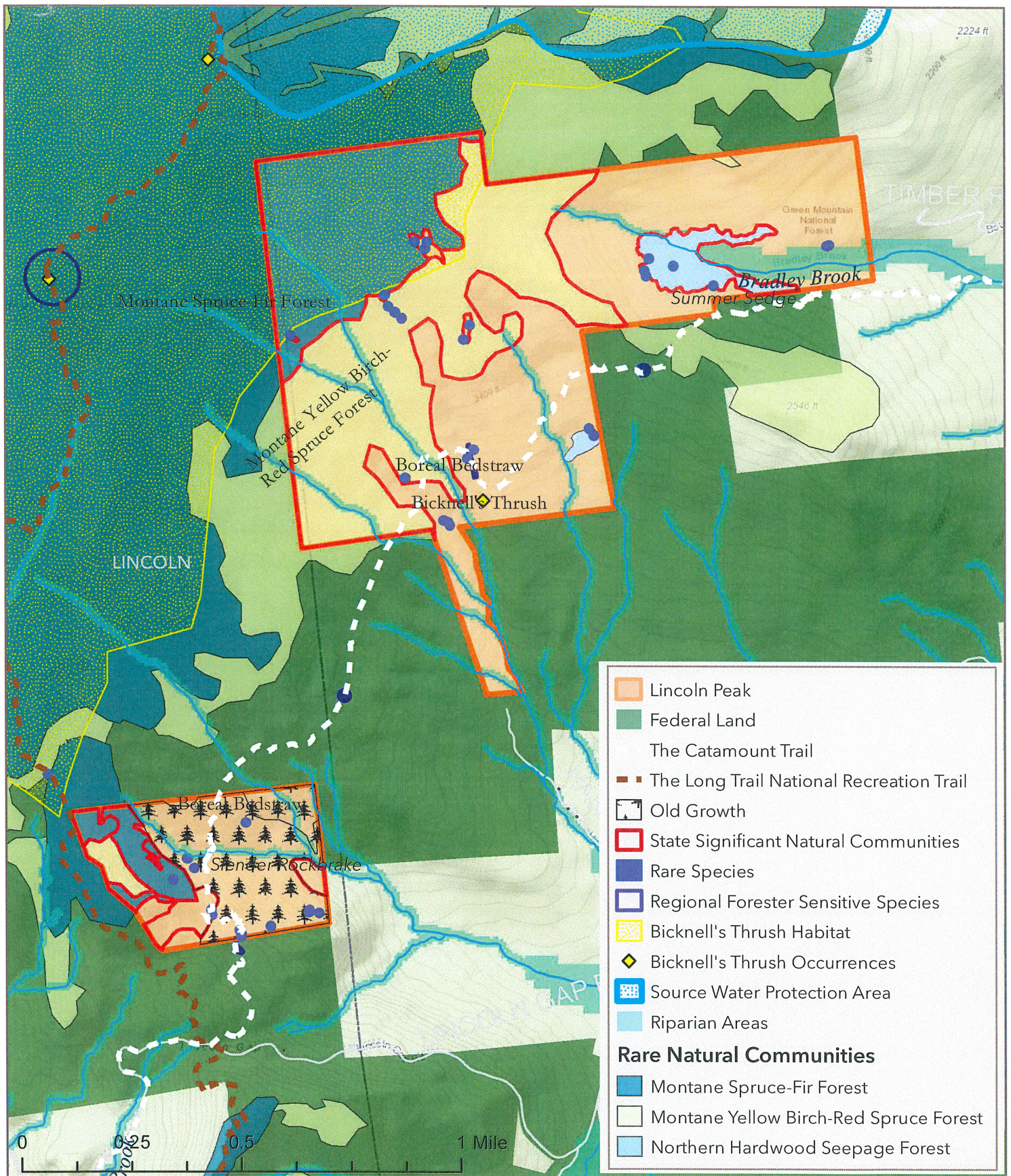
May 22, 2019

## Lincoln Peak: Additions to Green Mountain National Forest



Warren & Lincoln, Vermont





March 16, 2017

## Lincoln Peak: Natural Values

Warren & Lincoln, Vermont

