



GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY MARCH 2009

Introduction

The purpose of this gift acceptance policy is to give guidance to individuals within the Vermont Land Trust concerned with the disposition of private sector gifts.

This policy must be viewed as flexible and realistic to accommodate unpredictable situations and donor expectations, as long as such situations and expectations are consistent with The Vermont Land Trust's mission and policies. This policy may, therefore, require that the merits of a particular gift be considered by the appropriate staff and/or legal counsel.

All fundraising policies, and their day-to-day implementation, are designed and managed by the Community Relations staff, and are subject to approval by the President of the Vermont Land Trust.

Gift Acceptance Policy

The Vermont Land Trust actively solicits gifts and grants to further the mission of the organization. If there is a potential that the acceptance of certain gifts could compromise the ability of the organization to accomplish its goals or could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, the following gift acceptance policy may be applied:

1. The Management team, board, and staff members have the authority to solicit and/or accept gifts on behalf of the Vermont Land Trust. Occasionally, small fundraising committees, working on specific conservation projects, also solicit and/or accept gifts that are made out to the Vermont Land Trust as the fiscal agent for the community effort. These committees are trained by VLT staff before individuals solicit gifts.
2. The Vermont Land Trust's responsibility is to ethically and effectively pursue gifts that will further the organization's mission, goals, and objectives. Gifts to VLT must benefit the organization in the most ethical and unencumbered manner. To that end, the following caveats will be considered:
 - a. *Core Values*. Is the gift one that is consistent with the organization's standards, principles, and core values?
 - b. *Compatibility of Cause*. Will the gift unnecessarily challenge the organization's ability to further its mission, goals, or objectives as described in the VLT Ends Policies?

- c. *Public Relations.* Does the acceptance of the gift present the organization in an unfavorable light? Does it appear that there may be a conflict of interest between the donor and the organization?
- d. *Form of Gift.* Will the nature of the gift (in-kind or otherwise) create problems, such as in advertising or sponsorship?
- e. *Source of Gift.* Does the donor represent a perceived conflict of interest, or might the donor's objectives not fit with the mission of the organization?

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