



COLD HOLLOW
TO CANADA

Cold Hollow Land Conservation Fund Criteria for Landowners

Overview

The Cold Hollow Land Conservation Fund has been established by Cold Hollow Canada through a grant from the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust Fund at The Boston Foundation and the Lintilhac Foundation to decrease the barriers for landowners who would like to conserve their woodlands.

The Cold Hollow to Canada (CHC) region has one of the fastest rates of growth in VT as it's located just north of Burlington, Vermont's economic hub, and just south of Montreal whose residents favor the area for second homes. It's also economically challenged and comprised of small rural towns, surrounded by farm and forest land. The cost of land is low compared with other areas of Vermont, but includes the largest area of private unfragmented forest in the state. The CHC region is currently under pressure of subdivision and fragmentation which affects water quality, forest block integrity and connectivity that is critical to the health of the Northern forest and the water quality of Lake Champlain. CHC is uniquely positioned to work with local landowners and our statewide partners to protect this landscape.

The Cold Hollow Land Conservation Fund will provide financial assistance to qualified forest landowners who permanently protect their land by donating a conservation easement. Up to \$10,000 from the fund may be used to defray transaction and associated costs for an individual project, associated with a landowner's contribution. These costs for which a landowner may allocate awarded funds include: procurement of surveys, appraisals and appraisal reviews; attorney services; title searches, closing services, deed preparation, baseline documentation, easement and land recording, and other professional services.

To be eligible for the Cold Hollow Land Conservation Fund, landowners must:

1. Own subject land in the Cold Hollow to Canada service area defined by these seven towns - Richford, Bakersfield, Enosburg, Montgomery, Fletcher, Belvidere, Waterville.
2. Fall within core forest habitat or wildlife connectivity areas identified by Cold Hollow to Canada's landscape analysis (see map at <https://www.coldhollowtocanada.org/what/conservation-fund/>).
3. Projects must conserve at least 50 acres of land, at least 60% of which must be forested. The focus of CHC is the Northern Forest, and so properties that are primarily agricultural land will not be selected unless the property has less than 40% of the land as open or agricultural. Other funding opportunities (NRCS, VHCB, etc.) may be sought for properties with more than 40% agriculture or open.

Additionally, projects will be ranked according to the following criteria (not in order of priority):

- Participation in the Cold Hollow Woodlots Program
- Forestland identified as “Highest Priority” in Vermont Conservation Design plan by VT Fish & Wildlife and the Vermont Land Trust
- Total project acres conserved
- Part of an aggregation project (two or more contiguous parcels)
- Contiguous to already conserved lands
- Eligible for other outside funding (e.g. Vermont Land Trust, municipal conservation funds, etc.)
- Considered a stepping-stone parcel in fragmented regions
- Riparian forest corridors and surface water protection identified as “Highest Priority” in Vermont Conservation Design plan by VT Fish & Wildlife and the Vermont Land Trust
- Forested wetland protection based on VT Agency of Natural Resource’s Wetland Inventory

Application Deadline

Applications may be submitted at any time, and will be batched for review on a quarterly basis. Completed applications may be submitted by email to Administrative Coordinator Liza Morse at liza@coldhollowtocalada.org. For questions regarding the Cold Hollow Land Conservation Fund, please contact Liza Morse at (802) 448-0343 or liza@coldhollowtocalada.org.

Cold Hollow to Canada reserves the right to modify this and other application materials in future rounds, based on experience gained from administering the funding program, changes in funding and/or legal requirements.

July 2017

Amended March 2018

Amended January 2020