



FOREST AND FOREST FRIEND AGREEMENT¹

This contract is made this ___th day of _____, 201_ between a ___acre _____ forest community located in _____, Vermont and further described on the attached map, and here-in-after described as “Forest” and _____ of _____, Vermont here-in-after referred to as “Forest Friend”.

Forest agrees to:

1. Provide a beautiful place for soul restoration, peaceful contemplation, and re-creation;
2. Filter and provide clear, clean, wonderful water supplies;
3. Recycle leaves, twigs, branches, stems, and roots, and return them to the soil;
4. Provide a protective organic mantle that prevents the soil from compaction and erosion;
5. Mine bedrock for nutrients and minerals;
6. Provide habitat for a wide range of native plants and animals;
7. Recover fully from natural disturbance events; and
8. Provide many forest products as long as the ecological capacity of the forests allows such.

Forest Friend agrees to:

1. Conserve forest health as the highest priority;
2. Remove forest products from the forest only when it does not reduce the forest’s capacity for self renewal;
3. Identify the natural communities of the forest as one of the first steps in management;
4. Carefully design, layout, construct, maintain, and close all elements of the access network in full compliance with the spirit and intent of applicable best management practices;
5. Protect site productivity through excellent design of access and by exercising restraint in removing biomass;
6. Be more concerned with what is left than what is taken;
7. Practice full cost and benefit accounting;
8. Mimic natural systems to the maximum extent possible; and
9. Combat invasive exotics.

It is mutually agreed that:

1. Forest health is the forest’s capacity for self-renewal;
2. Conservation is the effort by humans to understand and preserve that capacity;
3. Wilderness provides the base-datum of normality of how a healthy ecosystem looks and functions;
4. Forests were healthy long before humans arrived to cultivate them; and
5. Without healthy forest ecology there cannot be a healthy forest economy or community.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ Witness: _____
(Forest)

Signed: _____ Date: _____ Witness: _____
(Forest Friend)

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¹ This document has been assembled by VFF but it was inspired by the creative work of Aldo Leopold, Wendell Berry, Paul Hawken, Justin Brande, Terry Tempest Williams, and many others. We thank and honor them all.