



Stewardship Monitoring Report

Property Information

(1) Name of Property: **East Monitor Barn Easement**

(2) Property Ownership:

☐ RLT

☒ Private

If privately owned, record name and address of current owner:

Name(s): Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC)

Address: 1949 East Main Street, Richmond, Vermont 05477

Contact Name & Phone #: Keegan Tierney: 802.434.3969 x141, keegan.tierney@vycc.org

(3) Has there been a change in ownership since last report?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Visit Report.....

(4) Date and Time of Inspection: Wednesday 10/21/2009, 8am-10:30pm

(5) If privately owned, was owner contacted prior to visit (if yes how)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

I contacted Keegan Tierney, VYCC Land and Facility Manager several weeks prior to the visit via email.

(6) Did owner (or representative) accompany the monitor?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Keegan Tierney (VYCC Lands and Facility Manager) accompanied me on the monitoring tour.

(7) Describe how the land is currently being used (in restricted area only). Give specific detail about agricultural and forest uses if applicable:

The property under easement covers approximately 44 acres and is a mix of forest (white and red pine plantation, and red oak-northern hardwood forest) and old field.

(8) Monitor's best assessment of whether the terms of the conservation restrictions are being observed: (if no, explain below or on attachment)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Woody vegetation, mostly staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) and white pine (*Pinus strobus*), is actively encroaching upon the open field areas and is established in these fields. According to the conservation easement requirements, open field areas should be brush-hogged every third year if they are not under agriculture. In summer 2009 the land owner began efforts to clear the fields with crews cutting sumac. The landowner reports making arrangements to brush hog the field areas in fall 2009 with a start date of approximately November 1st. Brush hogging activities will focus on dense stands of golden rod (*Solidago spp*) and field crews will focus on clearing white pine and sumac.

Otherwise, the property appears to be maintained in a manner consistent with the goals set in the easement (the conservation of productive agricultural and forestry lands; conservation of scenic, recreational and natural resources).

No sign of recent ATV activity was found.

(9) Did you note any possible violations of the terms of the conservation restrictions? (if Yes, explain below or on attachment)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Aside from the ongoing need to clear the areas open defined as "open field," no issues or conditions were observed on the East Monitor Barn property under easement that clearly appear to be a violation of the conservation restrictions.

(10) General Remarks:

An infestation of the exotic, invasive shrub Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) identified on the east side of the property along a trail (#1 on attached map) during the 2007 stewardship monitoring tour. Both the previous property owner and the current owner were made aware of its location in 2007 and 2008 (respectively). The infestation remains in place. The current landowner reports having found an additional, and more extensive, infestation near the first (#2 on attached map).

Japanese barberry forms dense stands in natural habitats including canopy forests, open woodlands, wetlands, pastures, and meadows and alters soil pH, nitrogen levels, and biological activity in the soil. Once established, barberry displaces native plants and reduces wildlife habitat and forage.

Prevention of seed production should be a management priority as birds readily spread seeds. Because barberry can re-sprout from root fragments remaining in soil, thorough removal of root portions is important. Manual control works well but may need to be combined with chemical in large or persistent infestations.

These plants should be removed before they can spread and the surrounding area should be checked for additional plants. Follow-up visits should be made for two years to ensure that dormant seeds haven't sprouted.

VYCC reports mapping infestation locations (GPS point data) and plans to monitor infestation sites in future years

(11) Attachments (Note how many of each - leave blank if none):

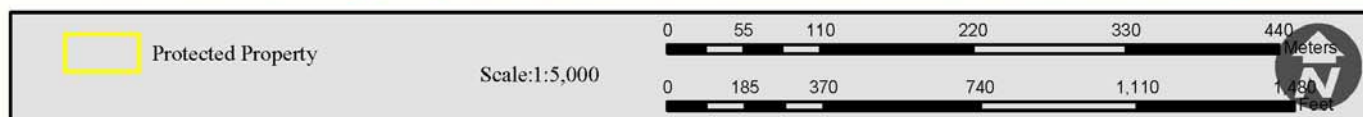
___ Photos 1 Map ___ Drawings Other_____

(12) Name of Stewardship Monitor: Jon Kart

Signature:



Date: 10/29/2009



Easement based on the 10/21/2009 RLT Monitoring Visit

Base map from Vermont Land Trust Monitor Barns/VFBS orthophoto map