



# 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 #: Bradley Materick: 802.434.3969 x149, bmaterick@vycc.org

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Yes, this property was owned by the Vermont Farm Bureau until earlier this year when it was acquired by the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

## *Visit Report.....*

(4) **Date and Time of Inspection:** Monday 10/27/2008

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

I contacted Bradley Materick, VYCC Land Stewardship Specialist several weeks prior to the visit via email.

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Both Bradley Materick (VYCC Land Stewardship Specialist) and Keegan Tierney (VYCC Conservation and Community Leadership Program Coordinator) 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 is actively encroaching upon the open field areas and establishing itself in these fields. According to the easement, open field areas should be brush-hogged every third year if they are not under agriculture.

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). Sign of recent ATV activity was not found.

**(9) Did you note any possible violations of the terms of the conservation restrictions?**

**(if Yes, explain below or on attachment)**

☒ Yes

☒ No

No issues or conditions were observed on the East Monitor Barn property under easement that clearly appeared to be a violation of the conservation restrictions.

**(10) General Remarks:**

The exotic, invasive shrub Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) was found growing on the east side of the property along the trail (see map) during the 2007 stewardship monitoring tour and the previous property owners were made aware of its location. It does not appear that the previous owners took any actions to control this infestation.

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.

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

\_\_\_ Photos

1 Map

\_\_\_ Drawings

\_\_\_ Other (describe \_\_\_\_\_)

**(12) Name of Stewardship Monitor:** Jon Kart

Signature:



Date: 10/27/2008

# Stewardship Recommendations for the East Monitor Barn Easement based on the 10/27/2008 RLT Monitoring Visit

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

