

Woody Adams Conservation Forest

and the Norwich Town Forest on Gile Ridge



From Gile Mountain, on a clear day one can see the highest summits in the Upper Valley and mountains far away -- Mount Ascutney, Killington Peak and the Green Mountains, Mount Cardigan, Smarts Mountain, Mount Moosilauke and many of the White Mountains beyond. Along with access to amazing views, the forested slopes on Gile Ridge harbor many ecological features important for wildlife habitat, flood resilience and climate change mitigation. Now we have an urgent opportunity to protect these.

Gile Ridge: Resources at Risk

The 186-acre Woody Adams tract sits between the Norwich Town Forest and the Town-owned property where the Fire Tower, one of the region's most popular hiking destinations, is located. The Blue Ribbon Trail along the ridge passes through the Woody Adams tract.

All three parcels contain significant high-elevation forest resources in the



upper reaches of a watershed that has experienced previous significant downstream flooding.

A Conservation Solution

When the Adams property was listed for sale, there was concern that the forest might be fragmented and the trail experience degraded.

The Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) and the Town of Norwich moved quickly to secure the property. Acquisition of the Woody Adams tract will more than double the Gile Ridge acreage in Town ownership. All three parcels will be protected with a conservation easement held by UVLT and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The total conserved acreage will be 290 acres.

We must raise \$65,000 in private contributions to complete the transaction and protect this special area.

The time to act is now!

The property has been removed from the real estate market for a limited time to allow UVLT and the Town to raise the funds to buy and protect it. If we are unable to secure the funding, we will lose this opportunity.

Conservation Benefits

- Water quality of streams, seeps, and vernal pools in two watersheds
- Flood prevention in the upper reaches of a watershed that's had previous significant downstream flooding
- Forest contiguity and ecosystem integrity in a high priority unfragmented forest block
- Wildlife connectivity of important North-South and East-West wildlife corridors
- Climate change resiliency by protecting higher elevation sites for shifting species distributions
- Climate change mitigation via forest carbon sequestration and storage
- Permanent public access on existing "Blue Ribbon" trail and opportunity for a higher-elevation back-country Nordic ski and snowshoe loop

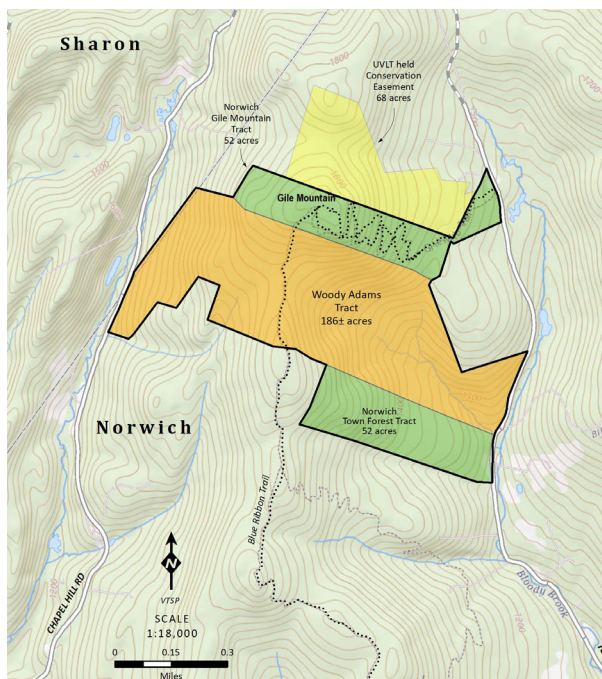
YOU CAN HELP!

Make your tax deductible gift payable to:

Upper Valley Land Trust
19 Buck Road
Hanover, NH 03755

Or make a secure online contribution at:

www.UVLT.org





Above: Perennial stream and vernal pool located on the Adams property. The 186-acre parcel, to be named in honor of Tony Adam’s father “Woody,” is centrally located in a 9500-acre forest block that is considered a “Priority Interior Forest Block” and a “Highest Priority Connectivity Block” by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. This forest block also contains Gile Mountain -- the highest peak in Norwich.

Below, right: The acquisition of the Woody Adams forest and the conservation of the two parcels currently owned by the Town will protect existing trail access and user experience on the Blue Ribbon Trail and a woods road across the Town Forest. The conservation easements will improve opportunities for sustainable forest management and stewardship of wildlife habitat and natural communities.

Join UVLT and the Norwich Conservation Commission and say YES to resilient forests, healthy watersheds and protection of trail access to Gile Mountain.

We’re 80% of the way to our fundraising goal!

Please join in the campaign to raise the remaining 20%!

For more information contact:
Peg Merrens, Upper Valley Land Trust
peg.merrens@uvlt.org

Costs:	
Purchase price of Woody Adams Forest*	300,000
Legal and transaction costs to protect all three parcels	20,000
Endowment for easement enforcement	<u>10,000</u>
	330,000
Funding:	
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board	125,000
Town of Norwich Conservation Fund	130,000
UVLT Restricted Funds	10,000
<i>Campaign for Woody Adams Conservation Forest</i>	<u><i>65,000</i></u>
	330,000

**The appraised value of the Adams property is \$510,000. The owner has agreed to sell it far below market value and contribute to the conservation of the Gile Ridge forever.*

