The Kingdom Heritage Trail was first conceived in 1998 but didn’t become reality until 2001, when the Green Mountain Club became caretaker manager for hiking trails on the former Champion Lands and then 2010 when Northwoods Stewardship Center crews constructed the first sections of trail on the north side of Middle Mountain. With support of the partners—Weyerhaeuser, Sweet Tree, the Town of Brighton, VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Nature Conservancy, and Vermont Land Trust—The Kingdom Heritage Trail system now rambles over 20 miles of Northern Forest terrain.

You can help steward this resource by volunteering time, supporting the nonprofit trail management groups, and investing in the local economy.

The Kingdom Heritage Trail passes through a working forest that is actively managed for multiple uses and focused on supporting the local economy. Respect private timberlands and avoid active operations.

EMERGENCY CALL 911

The Kingdom Heritage Lands are remote and unpatrolled where hazards, changing conditions, and varied terrain all affect your safety. Be prepared for a backcountry emergency.

Your Kingdom Rolling Stones are sunburned and expanded where hazards, changing conditions, and varied terrain all affect your safety. Be prepared for a backcountry emergency.

EMERGENCY CALL 911

The Grand Trunk Railway, its Hells, Levels, and Alleys, made Island Pond an important rail center when, in 1853, the village became the half-way point for trains connecting the markets of Montreal, QC and Portland, ME.

In 1998, Champion International sold their lands in northeastern Vermont. Through a complex agreement, 22,000 acres became the state-owned West Mountain Wildlife Management Area, the US Fish and Wildlife Service acquired 26,000 acres for the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge, and 84,000 acres were purchased by a private timber company (now Weyerhaeuser) with easements that ensure the lands will remain open to the public and continue as working forest.

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Map 1- Middle and Gore Mountains

Gore Mountain once served as a forest fire lookout station, overlooking the east foothills of northern Essex County. Built in 1912, it was the second oldest lookout in Vermont. In 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed a new fire tower that was in use until it was removed in 1972.

The Nulhegan Basin Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and protects 26,000 acres of forestland that supports rich ecological, recreational, archeological, and migratory songbird habitat. The lands are available for hunting, fishing, and compatible recreation.

Practice Leave No Trace Principles:
• Plan ahead and prepare.
• Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
• Dispose of waste properly.
• Leave what you find.
• Minimize campfire impacts and be careful with fire.
• Respect wildlife.
• Be considerate of other visitors.

Map 2

Silvio O Conte NWR

The rugged and remote Gore Mountain Trail was abandoned in the 1970s and later re-established by Northwood Stewardship Center through the Political Gravel Legacy Program. The lands, currently owned by Sweet Tree LLC, Peter Piper Timber, and others are protected with easements ensuring that forest management and public access continue in perpetuity.

In 1926, the State of Vermont and Hurricane Timber Resources Group conserved 31,700 acres of timberland through the Political Gravel Legacy Program. The lands, currently owned by Sweet Tree LLC, Peter Piper Timber, and others are protected with easements ensuring that forest management and public access continue in perpetuity.

Unknown Pond is the headwaters of the North Branch Nulhegan River, one of several waterways that drain into the Nulhegan River basin. The forests of the Nulhegan Basin support abundant wildlife and a game trail that leads to the region's long-standing logging tradition.

Drafted by Luke O'Brien, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, 2019

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