



HELP OPEN WOMEN'S LAND

PROPOSAL TO THE VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION TRUST FUND
from the HOWL (Help Open Women's Land) Project
Huntington Center, VT 05462

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PROFOSAL NARRATIVE

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The HOWL project requests \$150,000 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund for the purchase of 195 acres of land in Huntington Center, Vermont. The purpose of HOWL is to establish a women's land project that will practice natural resource and wildlife conservation, and provide rural living and recreation space for women and their children.

The HOWL project grew from the vision of feminist women in northern Vermont to create a women's land trust and international women's park. It would be a safe space for women to live, work, grow food, and share knowledge; a place for women to gather for education, recreation, celebration and retreat in the rural out-of-doors.

In response to the epidemic nature of violence against women which prevents us safe access to the outdoors, Burlington area feminists, incorporated as Commonwoman, initiated the HOWL project in 1985. Commonwoman is a nonprofit organization founded in 1978 as a forum for communication and education among women of varied economic, cultural and political backgrounds. For seven years the vehicle for this work was the publication of the Commonwoman newspaper. The focus has shifted toward a women's land trust and land project that will provide a permanent land base for all women.

HOWL is a diverse group of women, encompassing different races, ages, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The structure of the project includes a board 15-20 women. This board meets regularly to develop policy and to act on recommendations from HOWL's task-oriented committees. Current committees include: Land Care, Fundraising, Lease, Newsletter, Membership and Community Relations. Ad hoc committees are formed when the need arises to address specific concerns. All decisions are made by consensus.

The HOWL by-laws include the intent to: foster collective stewardship of the land; conserve natural resources; create a safe space for women and their children for residential, vocational, recreational and educational uses; encourage diversity by focusing on issues of accessibility; and demonstrate a policy of neighborliness with surrounding communities and beyond.

In 1985, HOWL located on 195 acres of Chittenden County land bordered on two sides by Camel's Hump State Forest. The land is currently an inactive farm at the end of a town-maintained road. It encompasses woodlot, hayfields, meadows, pasturage, unmaintained orchards, an old house, a barn, gardens and three active streams. The land is inhabited by a diversity of wildlife including deer, bear and coyote. It has abundant southern exposure and expansive views of the Huntington River Valley.

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since its inception HOWL has developed an organizational structure, located an appropriate site, initiated a fundraising campaign, raised \$30,000, and sponsored educational and cultural programs on the Huntington Center site and in Burlington. We have operated entirely on a volunteer, grassroots basis.

Over the past two years women have worked to maintain the land as a recreational facility and insure its environmental integrity. HOWL walked the woodland in consultation with a state forester and posted the land against hunting, fishing and trapping. Women planted and cultivated a vegetable garden and maintained perennial gardens of herbs, bushes and trees. The fields have been hayed to keep them from further succeeding to woodland. Women repaired the barn roof and made the house usable as a meeting space. In the spring of 1986 HOWL established a land coordinator position to oversee land-care projects and to orient visitors and collect camping fees. Finally, HOWL has performed a soil survey and analysis for land use planning reference.

HOWL has sponsored weekend land events including a summer solstice celebration, a no-voice weekend for deaf and hearing women, a Jewish women's conference, a creative arts weekend, and a work day with a busload of girls from a Vermont Farm and Wilderness Camp. HOWL sponsored skills sharing workshops in gardening, herbal medicine, roof repair and woodworking among others.

Certain areas of the Huntington Center site have been open for primitive camping. HOWL is maintaining and extending a nature trail network for hiking and skiing. Over 300 women have used the land to date, coming from all over Vermont, the Northeast and the U.S., Canada, Holland, England, Australia, South Africa, Israel and Greece.

Fundraising events in Burlington have included concerts, a film series, a lecture by Merlin Stone, women's culture workshops, and a dinner, dance and slideshow for over 120 women serving pesto made from basil grown on the land.

STATEMENT OF NEED

" Women constitute half of the world's population, perform nearly two-thirds of its work hours, receive one-tenth of the world's income and own less than one hundredth of the world's property." (World Labor Organization, United Nations Report, 1980.)

" The hungry," "the homeless," and "the poor" are predominantly and increasingly women and their children. In Vermont, the number of women-led low-income families increased by 69.9% between 1970 and 1980.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Statistics for 1986 report that one in every three women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime; one in every four girls are sexually abused before age eighteen; and fifty percent of all women are battered at some time in life. A women owned and controlled land base will provide safe space away from male violence against women--a place essential to women's creativity and empowerment.

In December 1985, a local woman purchased the Huntington Center land for \$150,000. She arranged to lease the land to the HOWL project through December 31, 1987. Until then the land is available to HOWL at the 1985 purchase price which is below current market value. After December, 1987 the land will be up for resale at a competitive market price. In short, the land will very soon become available for speculative marketing with virtually no chance of accessibility to low-income Vermonters. In Vermont private ownership of land has led to farmland and wilderness being divided into ten acre homesites, endangering many ecosystems and wildlife habitats.

Since the turn of the century there has been a marked and steady decline in the amount of farmland in Vermont (see Table I in Appendix V). In recent years in Chittenden County, there has been a marked decrease in the number of acres farmed (see Figure I in Appendix V). Huntington Center is one of the few remaining townships in Chittenden County free of large-scale commercial development. In the last four years, neighboring Huntington has felt the effects of development activities for a large condominium and ski complex on the Sherman Hollow Road. Wildlife, too, has been affected.

The HOWL land site is a large tract of farmland particularly susceptible on the open market to developers who can afford a large cash outlay. Because there is less farming in this part of the county, the threat of speculation and/or development is high for this piece of land adjoining the Camel's Hump State Forest and the Catamount Ski Trail. The ecologically heterogeneous aspects of this land give it especially high wildlife potential (see Appendix IV). Destruction of the integrity of this land would put wildlife in the area at serious risk.

MANAGEMENT PLANS

AGRICULTURAL LAND RECLAMATION PLAN

As described above, Chittenden County has experienced a serious loss of farmland to large scale commercial development. HOWL has plans to reclaim much of the agricultural potential this land holds. As well, HOWL's agricultural projects will provide an educational model to women working on the land and to visiting groups. Agricultural endeavors will start as modest self-sufficient projects within the structure of a cooperative. As the HOWL agricultural cooperative grows, it will initiate innovative projects. Surplus revenues will be used to implement new projects.

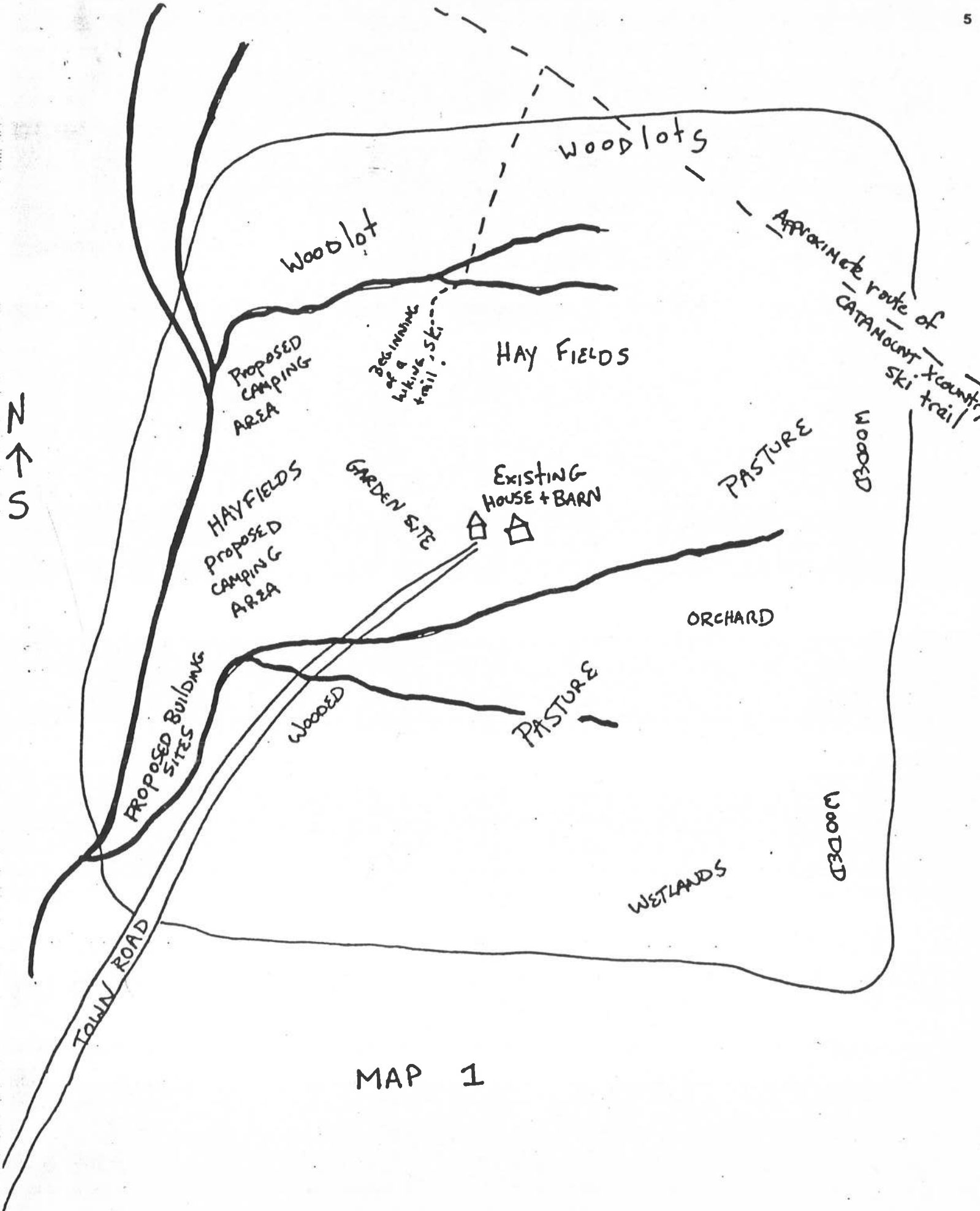
For the past two years women have maintained a prolific seasonal organic garden on the HOWL land site (see Map I) with very little capital outlay. In the next year, HOWL will extend the garden to yield produce for cooperative self-sufficiency and marketing purposes. This agricultural cooperative will participate in the Burlington Farmers' Market and sell wholesale to local food cooperatives and restaurants. As in the past, the garden will be a diversified organic produce garden. Pest control will be accomplished by companion planting methods, introduction of predators, and other ecologically sound strategies.

Haying activity is indicated on Map I. HOWL will continue to hay these areas in the coming years. As a long term project, some of the previously hayed fields could be used as pasture for sheep and goats, utilizing the Voisin pasture method and/or other innovative methods for educational model purposes. The marketing of wool and sheep and goat milk products to local markets will be explored.

Another goal of the HOWL collective is to restore the apple orchard on the land. Some pruning of apple trees has already been undertaken in the past year. In addition, HOWL plans to grow other fruits such as strawberries, raspberries and blueberries. Other plans include raising chickens and ducks, clearing a section of the land to grow oats, wheat, and other grains, and growing a large herb garden for local marketing of HOWL herbs, spices and salves. HOWL's long term agricultural goals include the maintenance of a self-sufficient, sustainable agriculture available to serve as an educational resource to women in Vermont and in the world at large.

RECREATION AND ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

HOWL will continue to provide recreational facilities and activities for all women. As with agricultural plans, HOWL will begin with small, minimal investment projects for recreation. In the development of all recreational, educational and housing options, HOWL is committed to handicapped accessibility programming and construction.



MAP 1

In the past two years HOWL has been open for seasonal primitive camping for a sliding fee of 3-8 dollars per night. The land will continue to be open for camping for a minimal fee. Improvements to camping facilities will include the construction of more tent platforms, maintenance of a firepit/cooking area and wheelchair accessible rampways for increased access.

HOWL intends to establish a nature trail on the land. Women have worked to clear a trail network on the land for hiking and skiing. As a long term project the network will be mapped and include a natural history program (either within a brochure or guided by a naturalist). A boardwalk will be constructed for a nature trail accessible to blind women, old women, women in wheelchairs, and other differently abled women.

Events and workshops will occur regularly for educational, cultural, and fundraising purposes. HOWL sponsored a weekend workshop series this past summer that was well attended. Such series will continue in the next year and become less seasonal as more facilities are developed on the land. They will include innovative arts, crafts, music, spiritual and educational programming similar to past events on the land. In addition, HOWL facilities will be available as a conference and retreat center to women's agencies locally, throughout the country and worldwide. A fee will be charged for conferences and retreats to cover the costs of housing them.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

As suggested earlier, wildlife habitat as well as Vermont's agricultural land is rapidly declining while commercial development increases. Loss of such land as the Huntington Center HOWL site poses a grave danger to Vermont's wildlife populations. The HOWL project recognizes that this increasing development demands more of Vermont's natural resources while at the same time diminishing them. Clean air and clean water as well as our natural heritage is increasingly at risk.

The HOWL project will designate areas of the land to be left undisturbed, where natural processes will occur without disruption. "Low impact" areas will include the nature trail areas described in the recreation and accessibility plan. These natural areas will be available for educational purposes by school groups, children's camps and other groups. To further promote conservation efforts, the HOWL land will be available as a research station to women in the field sciences.

In order to maintain wildlife habitat, a woodlot management program will be instituted on the land. This will occur in consultation with a state forester and with the assistance of state forestry agencies where applicable. Plans will include tree and shrub planting and selective thinning. To further support

wildlife, HOWL will plant food plots of crops like sorghum on the borders of the designated undisturbed areas.

Finally, long term plans include the introduction of a pond ecosystem. A pond will offer further ecotype diversity and thus increase the land's wildlife potential. A limited section of the pond will be available for swimming and skating, but the majority will remain undisturbed. Research into the implementation of a pond project can happen in conjunction with an internship program. Field interns could perform research into exact appropriate location for the pond and identification of materials and structure necessary for the project. A fund raising plan specific to the pond project will be initiated when plans are developed.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN

As large scale development continues to be rampant in Chittenden County, available affordable housing is lost. The establishment of the HOWL Land Trust in Huntington Center will insure affordable housing to women interested in a rural agricultural, conservation, and recreation project in Vermont. The land trust board of directors will oversee outreach efforts to potential applicants for housing and consequent selection processes.

Initially the housing project will involve renovations to the existing house. This is necessary in order to provide accommodation for one to two year-round caretakers. The renovations will happen in conjunction with women's job training agencies such as the Women's Economic Opportunity Program in Burlington. Grant monies will be solicited specifically for this project.

Eventually up to six housing units could be constructed on the lower acreage (see Map I). The soil in this area has an estimated potential capacity for 1000 gallons per day and is the most appropriate soil for a septic system on the land. Research into the potential for and maximization of passive solar strategies of construction will be a priority for the housing project. To minimize reliance on wood heat, the potential of alternative energy systems--such as methane production--will also be researched. The housing units will be equipped with facilities that are accessible to women in wheelchairs, old women, and other differently abled women. One of the housing units will serve as an information and social center. It will be a meeting space for visiting women, workers, and women who live on the land. It will be a lodge to house a women's library and space for reading, relaxation, and conference facilities.

APPENDIX I: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FUNDRAISING APPROACH

As of August 1, 1987 HOWL raised \$30,000. The bulk of this money has come from private donations (over \$27,000), through a pledge campaign (over \$900), and some revenues are from fundraising events, craft sales, and camping and rental fees. HOWL recently completed a third newsletter and bulk mailing to "women of means" soliciting further donations. A follow up phone-a-thon has brought pledges totalling over \$2700 to date.

HOWL has approached several funding sources. Many foundations are willing to fund the programming that HOWL has plans to implement, but will not fund capital investment itself. In 1987 a professional grant writer was consulted to develop a proposal for hiring a Capital Campaign Coordinator, Program Coordinator, and Land Care Specialist for the upcoming year. HOWL submitted this proposal to: 1) The Sunflower Foundation, 2) the Ben and Jerry's Foundation, 3) the Chicago Resource Center, 4) the MS Foundation, and 5) the Estraea and Windom Fund. The project expects to receive favorable responses from these groups after our lease expiration date.

Once the land is purchased, the HOWL group feels confident that grant sources will be available for funding project staff and programs. HOWL plans to work with the State Department of Employment and Training to offer courses in non-traditional job development for women. The Huntington Center property will serve as a site for home renovation work and construction of new housing. A women's agriculture project will operate a sustainable small-scale diversified farm with minimal capital outlay for equipment, seeds and animals. Other such projects in Vermont have become self-sufficient from sales of honey, maple syrup, herbal salves, goat-milk products and annual vegetables and perennials. Finally, where eligible, HOWL will utilize Vermont Forest Demonstration Project assistance for woodlot management and wildlife habitat improvement plans for the land.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Revenues and Expenditures: April 4, 1985 to March 31, 1987
(project began April 4 with \$0.00 start-up)

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Inkind</u>	<u>Actual</u>
donations		\$ 25,494.97
dividends		104.04
pledges		710.00
T-shirt sales		854.05
greeting card sales		30.50
events		1,139.84
camping/rental fees		<u>935.00</u>
Total Revenues		\$ 29,473.40
 <u>Expenditures</u>		
insurance		\$ 287.00
taxes	\$ 918.00	
land care	486.00	60.00
legal fees		203.50
postage		397.64
printing	67.00	757.59
administrative supplies	110.00	288.97
fundraising supplies		859.13
fees		142.75
miscellaneous	<u>276.00</u>	<u>310.43</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,857.00	\$ 3,307.01
 <u>Assets</u>		
Onion River Credit Union		\$ 2,471.43
Calvert Group Money Market		24,121.20
Chittenden Bank		<u>426.20</u>
Total Assets April 1, 1987		\$ 26,166.39

Revenues and Expenditures: April 1, 1987 to July 31, 1987

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Inkind</u>	<u>Actual</u>
donations		\$ 1,805.13
dividends		459.90
pledges		195.00
T-shirt sale		451.80
greeting card sales		25.00
events		991.00
camping/rental fees		288.00
newsletter advertisements		50.00
miscellaneous	\$ 1,041.64	
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Total Revenues	\$ 1,041.64	\$ 4,265.83

Expenditures

taxes		\$ 9.64
land care		9.99
postage	\$ 4.13	176.13
printing (newsletter/brochure)	4.68	563.71
administrative supplies		15.09
fundraising supplies	140.00	271.37
miscellaneous		85.00
utilities		73.92
publications/films	75.00	137.00
fees		150.00
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Total Expenditures	\$ 223.81	\$ 1,491.85

Assets

Onion River Credit Union	\$ 4,343.68
Calvert Group Money Market	24,596.80
Chittenden Bank	236.66
	<hr/>
Total Assets August 1, 1987	\$ 29,177.14

APPENDIX II: MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

FINANCES

- Purchase and closing of land
- Solicitation of funds for HOWL project
- Development of Donor Base for HOWL project
- Apply to Vermont Use Value Appraisal Program

AGRICULTURE

- Organic garden and produce marketing project
- Long term planning for environmentally sound sustainable agriculture

RECREATION

- Open camping facilities
- Recreational facilities improvements
- Summer program
- Initiate planning and development of trails network
- Establish conference/retreat center on HOWL

CONSERVATION

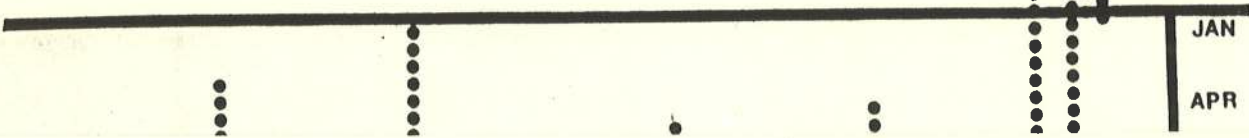
- Consult forester for conservation management plans
- Apply to County Forester for ASCS assistance
- Fond project development

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Proposal for renovation training project
- Renovation of existing house
- Identify housing sites and determine number of units
- Research alternative energy systems
- Construction of housing units

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APPENDIX III: LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT

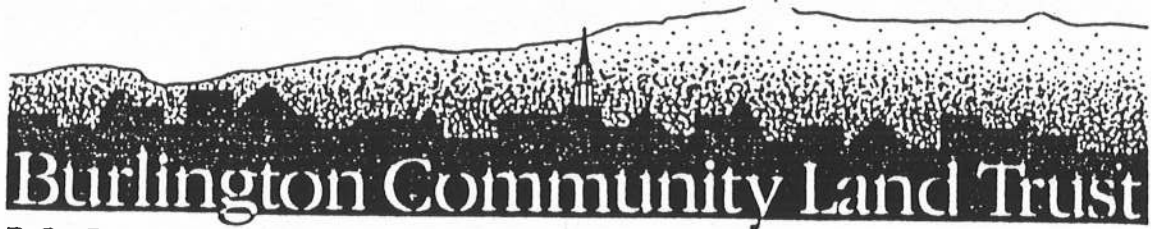
Burlington Community Land Trust

Burlington Women's Council

Joy A. Livingston, Ph.D.

KWANZAA

Women's Rape Crisis Center



P.O. Box 523 • Burlington, Vermont 05402 • (802)658-7829

May 22, 1986

To Whom It May Concern:

The Burlington Community Land Trust has been working in Burlington for two years to increase access to land and housing for low-income renters. As you no doubt know, real property and capital are disproportionately in the hands of men in our society, creating poverty and fundamental loss of opportunity for women. Thus the Burlington Community Land Trust heartily supports and welcomes the achievements of HOWL, Vermont's first Land Trust of Open Women's Land.

We plan to provide technical assistance to HOWL, and welcome this asset to the growing pool of land that is removed from the speculative market to serve broader human and social goals.

Sincerely,

Mark Severance
President

MS:vc

BURLINGTON WOMEN'S COUNCIL



BURLINGTON
VERMONT 05401
658-9300 Ext.125

May 20, 1986

Burlington Women's Council
City Hall
Burlington, Vt. 05401

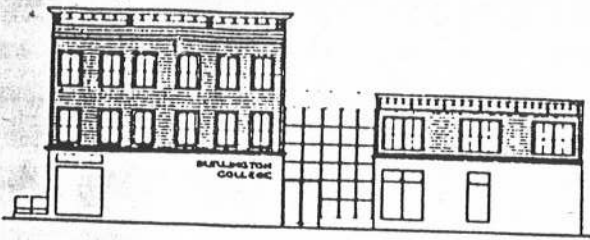
Dear Foundation Director:

HOWL is the latest member group of the Burlington Women's Council and a welcome addition to our coalition. HOWL'S vision of open land for women is everyday becoming a reality. A conference space in a beautiful part of Vermont, the potential for a living space for older women in a caring community are a few of the possibilities that the Council sees for area women in the HOWL project. The members of HOWL have been activists for many years, working for women's rights and in education, health and substance abuse work.

There is a wealth of woman power to be put to work in Hunington and I am confident that this is a group that will make the land work for many women. HOWL members have pioneered in many projects in this community; self-defense classes for women, the opening of the Vermont Women's Health Center, the formation of the Burlington Women's Council and the Battered Women's shelter to name a few. There is a committment to the community, the locality and the land. The Burlington Women's Council wishes to express its strong support of the efforts being made by the HOWL project.

Yours truly,


Executive Director



Burlington College

95 North Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401-8477 (802) 862-9616

May 19, 1986

To whom it may concern:

It is my great pleasure to write this letter of support for the H.O.W.L. project. The project offers very exciting potential.

As you well know, finding space is often the most difficult part of making any program a reality. And the space a program uses has a great deal to do with the ultimate nature of that program. The H.O.W.L. project will provide a wide variety of women's programs with the needed space; safe, healing, open space.

My work with adult women students, mainly low-income single parents, has made me particularly excited about the H.O.W.L. project. I look to the project to provide space for programs my students would benefit from. For example, we have wanted to create a summer institute for Women's Studies, particularly to explore such issues as mother/daughter relationships, career development, and power relations in conflict management. Given our student population, such an institute would require space enough to house both students, and their children. The H.O.W.L. space would be especially suited, since it would provide space for the students to meet while their children would have an opportunity to play in a wonderfully healthful environment.

H.O.W.L.'s most attractive feature is its broad base of support. It will be a project for women with a wide range of experiences and life choices. The commitment is truly to providing an open space for all women. I hope you will want to share in this exciting project.

Sincerely,


Joy A. Livingston, Ph.D.

WRCC

W O M E N ' S • R A P E • C R I S I S • C E N T E R

November 2, 1987

Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund
149 State Street
Montpelior, VT 05602

To the Board:

I am writing in full support of the HOWL project to provide safe and open space for women. As coordinator of the Women's Rape Crisis Center in Chittenden County, I hear endless stories of women's experiences of being hasselled, abused and assaulted in their homes, at their jobs or walking down the street. The WRCC was formed in 1973 in response to the lack of resources available to survivors of rape. In addition to providing services for sexual assault survivors and their families and friends, the WRCC works to end the threat of violence in women's lives.

While we are making steps forward in this area, there remains an incredible need for a tract of land available to women as a place for retreat and to live away from the daily threats we face. It is emotionally, physically and financially taxing to live in fear of violence. HOWL will provide a place away from this unfortunate but true depiction of our county and society as a whole.

I hope you will support this effort to provide safe living and recreation space for women in Vermont. Over the past two years the HOWL project has filled a societal void by sponsoring women's cultural and educational events. I am enthusiastic that the project be able to continue and grow. HOWL's work has been a promising and necessary step forward in our movement for the empowerment of women.

Sincerely,



Jamie Shaw
Coordinator

"WORKING TOGETHER TO END SEXUAL ASSAULT"

P.O. BOX 92 • BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05402 • 802/863-1236

APPENDIX IV: SOIL SURVEY OF THE HOWL LAND SITE

The HOWL Women's Land is located on the Peru-Marlow soil association that occupies the side slopes and foothills of the main range of the Green Mountains. These soils are formed in glacial till that is derived from quartzite, phyllite, and schistose. About 50% of the land is Peru soil, 30% Marlow, and 20% Lyman-Marlow, Cabot and Colton soils. The land is gently sloping to steep. These soils have low natural fertility and a topsoil pH of 4.0. Sixty percent of the land is stony or rocky. The northern wooded areas contain 5 headwaters for the 3 major streams that drain the land's watershed. Two springs are found on the land.

The Peru soils are moderately well drained, loamy throughout the profile, and have a dense basal till layer between 18 and 34 inches of the surface. The permeability is moderate above the dense basal till layer and slow within it. This layer restricts plant rooting depth. The Peru soils are gently sloping to steep. Presently on this land the Peru soils support woodlands on the steeper sites, hayfields, old pastures, and wet areas on level sites. Peru soils have the highest wildlife potential as wooded or open land.

The Marlow soils are similar to Peru, but well drained. They have a dense basal till layer between 15 and 30 inches of the surface. These soils are gently sloping to moderately steep. The stony Marlow soils presently support open fields and hayfields except for the extremely stony phase. The extremely stony Marlow is mostly wooded and best suited to woodland for wildlife potential. Both Marlow soils have wet areas. The gently sloping Marlow soils have moderate potential for low buildings and camp areas.

The minor soils on the land are somewhat excessively drained Lyman-Marlow complex, somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained Cabot, and excessively drained Colton and Colton-Stetson soils. The Lyman soils are loamy throughout the profile, but shallow to bedrock and very rocky so they can be droughty. Presently Lyman soils support woodland with some area in scrubby brushland. The Cabot soils are lower and less sloping than the Lyman soils which range from level to steep. Cabot soils are silt loams with high natural fertility. They contain a dense basal till layer at 12 to 24 inches below the surface. This soil presently supports hayfields, old pastures, open land, and wet areas. The HOWL vegetable garden and orchard are located on Cabot soil. The highest wildlife potential for Cabot soil occurs on open land, wetland, and woods. The Colton and Colton-Stetson soils are formed in material weathered from water deposited sand and gravel. These soils are gently sloping to steep. Colton soils presently support hayfields with the steeper Colton-Stetson complex wooded. The highest wildlife potential on Colton soils is in woodland. The Colton soil has moderate potential for low buildings, camp areas, and septic systems.

Much of the HOWL land site has some limitations for use other than farming due to slope, stoniness or rockiness, slow permeability, and wetness. The two soils that can support low buildings are the Colton gravelly loamy sand with a 5 to 12 percent slope and the Marlow stony loam with a 5 to 20 percent slope. The Colton is deep and excessively drained with a moderate potential for septic systems. This soil has the depth to accommodate an in ground system or mound system. The Marlow stony loams are well drained but have a dense basal till layer between 15 and 30 inches of the surface. A mound system would be more appropriate for these soils.

The Cabot soils have the highest potential for farm ponds because they have a high natural water table and finer soil texture. Peru and Marlow soils also have potential for ponds. Peru soils, however, have limitations due to a temporary seasonal water table and texture. Marlow soils have limitations because of a deep water table and texture. A thorough on site investigation is necessary before finalizing the location of septic systems, housing units, and ponds.

Pastures on the HOWL land site under ordinary management will provide 145 to 230 cow-acre-days. (A cow-acre-day expresses the carrying capacity of the pasture based on the number of animals per acre multiplied by the number of days a pasture can be managed without damage.) Using this notation 1 cow, steer, or horse is equivalent to 7 sheep or goats which is also equivalent to 5 hogs. This means the land is able to support 7 to 14 sheep and/or goats per acre for the first grazing season. If an improved management system is developed such as the Voisin system of grazing management, these numbers can increase each year with the amount and nutritional quality of the feed produced. The hayfields under ordinary management will provide 1.5 to 2.0 tons of clover grass hay per year. To prevent erosion it is necessary to maintain most of this land under a vegetative cover.

The most important and interesting ecological feature of the HOWL land is the number of different communities and their ecotones which is reflected by the soil types present. (An ecotone is a zone where two or more different ecological communities meet and integrate.) Ecotones contain the highest diversity of insect life, and plant and animal species from both communities. It is here that the variety and density of life is often the greatest. The land has mixed northern hardwood forests containing maples, beech, yellow and paper birch, and scattered areas of red spruce, balsam fir, and white pine, shrub areas in transition to forest, open fields containing upland herbaceous species, hayfields, and old pastures, wetland areas and streams. The land is a checkerboard of ecotones that contains an uncommon diversity of plant and animal wildlife.

APPENDIX V: OTHER

Catalyst Article

Nonprofit status letter

Table 1: Population, Farm Number, Size, and Percent Farmland in Vermont, 1840 to 1982

Figure 1: Acres Farmed by County, 1978 and 1982

TABLE 1.

POPULATION, FARM NUMBER, SIZE, AND PERCENT FARMLAND

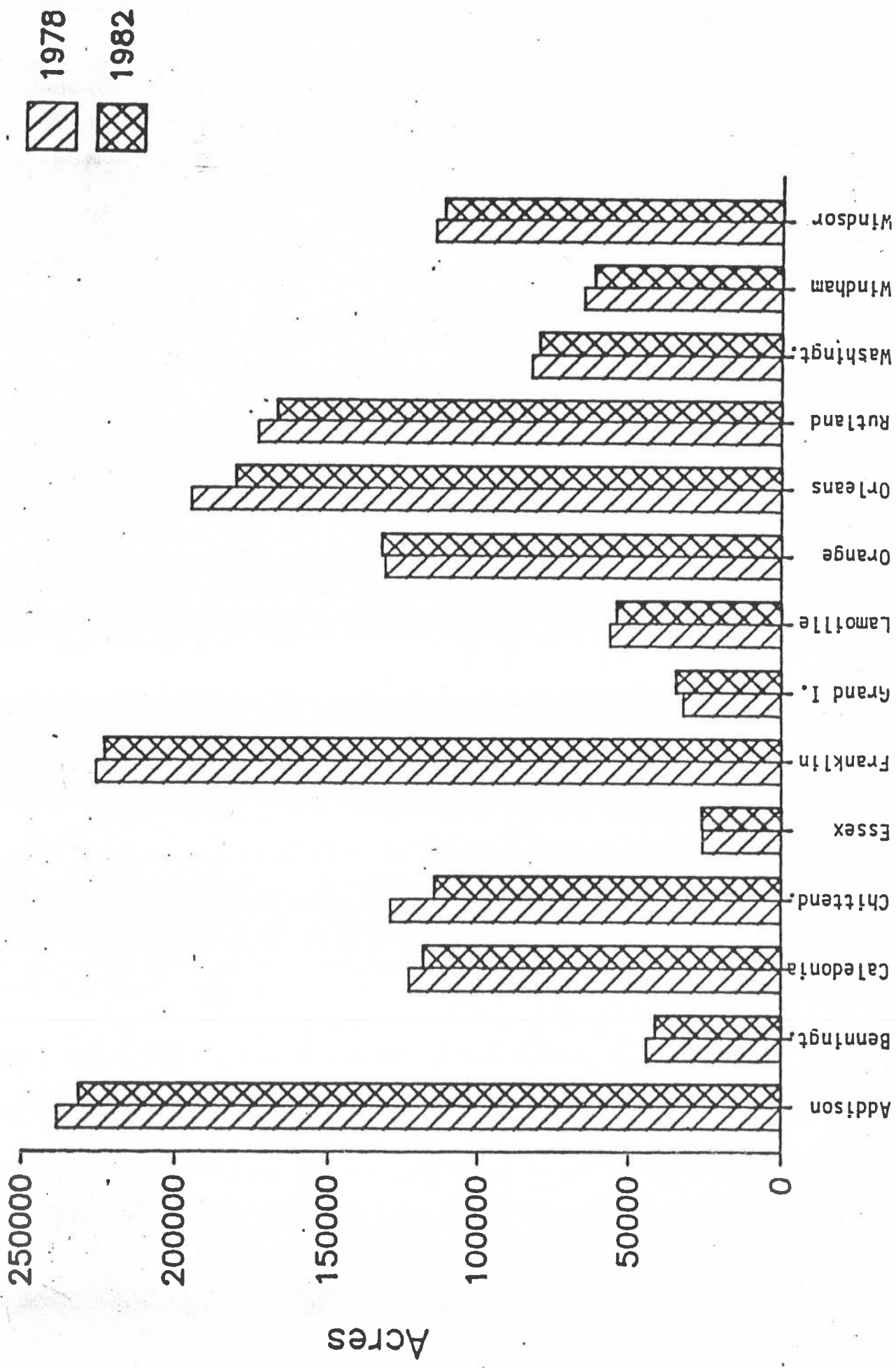
Vermont, 1840 to 1982

Year	Population	# Farms	Acreege in farms Total	% Land Area in Farms	% Farm Land Improved	Average Acres/Farm	% Land Area in Farm Relative to Maximum
1982		6,315	1,574,441	26.1	49.0	249.3	39.3
1980	511,456		772,055				
1978		5,852	1,633,049	27.5	49.4	279.1	33.4
1974		5,906	1,667,561	28.1	46.7	282.4	34.2
1969	444,732	6,874	1,915,520	32.3	43.6	278.6	39.3
1959	389,881	12,099	2,945,343	49.6	34.9	243.4	60.3
1950	377,747	19,043	3,527,381	59.4	44.1	185.2	72.3
1940	359,231	23,582	3,666,835	61.7	39.5	155.5	75.1
1930	359,611	24,898	3,896,097	65.6	35.9	156.4	79.8
1920	352,428	29,075	4,235,811	71.3	39.9	145.6	86.7
1910	355,956	32,709	4,633,577	78.5	35.0	142.5	95.5
1900	343,641	33,104	4,724,440	79.5	45.0	142.7	96.7
1890	332,422	32,573	4,395,646	74.0	60.4	134.9	90.0
1880	332,286	35,522	4,882,588	82.2	67.3	137.4	100.0
1870	330,551	33,827	4,528,804	76.3	67.8	133.8	92.8
1860	315,098	31,566	4,274,414	72.0	66.0	135.4	87.6
1850	314,120	29,763	4,125,822	69.5	63.1	138.6	84.5

Figure 1. From Agriculture in Vermont 1974-1982, Compiled by the Center for Rural Studies, Department of Sociology, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont 05405

Acres Farmed by County

1978 and 1982



REFERENCE MATERIALS

Publications

Center for Rural Studies. 1987. Agriculture in Vermont 1974-1982.
Department of Sociology, University of Vermont, Burlington,
Vt. 05405

Murphy, Bill. 1987. Greener Pastures on Your Side of the Fence:
Better farming with Voisin grazing management. Arriba
Publishing, 213 Middle Rd., Colchester, Vt. 05446

United States Department of Agriculture. 1974. Soil Survey of
Chittenden County, Vermont.

Programs and Agencies Available

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Program
Chittenden County Agricultural Stabilization
and Conservation Service
East Gate, Bldg. 4.
Fort Ethan Allen
Winooski, Vt. 05404

Wildlife Habitat Management Improvement Program
Vermont Environmental Conservation Agency
Department of Fish and Game
111 West St.
Essex Junction, Vt. 05452

The Vermont Use-Value Appraisal Program
The Vermont Department of Taxes
Division of Property Valuation and Review
43 Randall St.
Waterbury, Vt. 05676

Forest Management Services
Chittenden County Forester
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
111 West St.
Essex Junction, Vt. 05452

Land Management Planning
Natural Resources Conservation Districts
Winooski Office
Burlington Savings Bank Bldg.
40 Pearl St.
Burlington, Vt. 05401

Soil Conservation and Management
The Soil Conservation Service
69 Union St.
Winooski, Vt. 05404

Information and specialists in forestry, insect pests and pest management, plant disease, vegetable and ornamental horticulture, fruit and berry production, maple trees, and taxation.

Cooperative Extension Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Morrill Hall

University of Vermont

Burlington, Vt. 05405



Kwanzaa

|| TO BEGIN...

a black, native American
and
third world
cultural/educational
resource group

To The Board:

November 1, 1987

Kwanzaa would like to extend its support to the HOWL Land Project in the spirit of Umoja: working and building our union; community strength. HOWL has sponsored many cultural, cross-cultural and educational events and has showed its dedication to learning, educating and crossing the boundaries that keep us in fear.

While women around the world replenish, tend and care for the land very little of it is owned by women. Women and children are assaulted, raped, battered and abused at an increasingly higher and higher rate. It is an absolute outrage! Women need land. Women and children need safe places to live and natural environments to explore and become strong in. HOWL is one way to begin to change the incongruities that exist in women's lives today. HOWL's focus on respect and care for nature, on maintaining safe spaces for women and children, and on seeing "community" extend world wide is an urgent necessity. Kwanzaa hopes you will share in this spirit and assist the HOWL Land Project in continuing its efforts.

Sincerely,

Nari E. Penson
Coordinator

p.o. box 583, burlington, vt 05402