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## GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY

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### Introduction

The purpose of this gift acceptance policy is to give guidance to the Board of the Vermont Woodlands Association regarding the disposition of private sector gifts.

This policy must be viewed as flexible and realistic to accommodate unpredictable situations and donor expectations, as long as such situations and expectations are consistent with The Vermont Woodlands Association's mission and policies. This policy may, therefore, require that the merits of a particular gift be considered by legal counsel.

### Gift Acceptance Policy

The Vermont Woodlands Association actively solicits gifts and grants to further the mission of the organization. If there is a potential that the acceptance of certain gifts could compromise the ability of the organization to accomplish its goals or could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, the following gift acceptance policy may be applied:

1. The Board has the authority to solicit and/or accept gifts on behalf of the Vermont Woodlands Association.
2. The Vermont Woodlands Association's responsibility is to ethically and effectively pursue gifts that will further the organization's mission, goals, and objectives. Gifts to VWA must benefit the organization in the most ethical manner. To that end, the following caveats will be considered:
  - a. **Core Values.** Is the gift one that is consistent with the organization's standards, principles, and policies?
  - b. **Compatibility of Cause.** Will the gift unnecessarily challenge or encumber the organization's ability to further its mission, goals, or objectives?
  - c. **Public Relations.** Does the acceptance of the gift present the organization in an unfavorable light, jeopardize our organizational good will, integrity and credibility, or otherwise damage VWA's public image?
  - d. **Conflicts of Interest.** Does it appear that there may be a conflict of interest between the donor and the organization?
  - e. **Form of Gift.** Will the nature of the gift (in-kind or otherwise) create problems, such as in advertising or sponsorship?
  - f. **Source of Gift.** Does the donor represent a perceived conflict of interest (See (c) above), or might the donor's objectives not fit with the mission of the organization?
  - g. **Gift Restrictions.** Will the gift be too difficult or expensive to administer?

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