

## Contact

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## Top Skills

Strategic Planning  
Nonprofits  
Management

# Sarah Waring

USDA RD State Director VT/NH  
Montpelier, Vermont, United States

## Summary

In my work, I've focused on the human dimensions of natural resource management, from public lands and community development, to local food and working landscapes. I have experience with:

- Federal Land Use Management Agencies
- Non-profit and educational institutions
- Wilderness Risk Management
- Non Profit Management
- Collaborative Network Building and Project Management
- Team/Role clarity and Grant/Funder relationships
- Philanthropy and Govt' Community Development

In my current work, I have the chance to be at the intersection of rural development - both economic and community - and resource generation. It's an incredible learning opportunity to work with communities across Vermont and New Hampshire, help them to develop their own capacity, help them to build their own success, and to work with talented folks everyday.

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## Experience

United States Department of Agriculture  
State Director for USDA Rural Development  
January 2022 - Present (1 year 8 months)  
Montpelier, Vermont, United States

**PUBLIC ASSETS INSTITUTE INC**  
Board Of Directors  
2018 - September 2022 (4 years)

In its work on Vermont's tax and budget policy, Public Assets focuses on three areas: health care finance, education finance, and family economic security. We provide facts, analyses, and policy ideas to inform and stimulate public discussion about how Vermont can be a state that works for all of its residents.

Vermont Community Foundation  
Vice President for Grants and Community Investments  
January 2019 - January 2022 (3 years 1 month)  
Middlebury, VT

In my new role at the VCF, I'm excited to be working with excellent team members on tackling the Opportunity Gap in Vermont through grants, investments, partnership, research and more!

The Vermont Community Foundation  
Board Of Directors  
2018 - December 2019 (1 year)

The Vermont Community Foundation was established in 1986 as a permanent source of support for the state. We are a family of hundreds of funds and foundations created by Vermonters to serve their charitable goals. We provide the advice, investment vehicles, and back-office expertise to make your giving easy and inspiring. Together, our funds and programs provide more than \$12 million a year in grants in Vermont and beyond. The Vermont Community Foundation is committed to building philanthropic resources that will sustain healthy and vital Vermont communities now and into the future.

NEK Collaborative  
Chair Of The Board Of Directors  
2018 - January 2019 (1 year)

The NEK Collaborative is a convener and leader of collective action for the benefit of the communities of the Northeast Kingdom. We do this through coordination, collaboration, and the effective use of public and private resources to deepen our desired impacts. We focus on economic and community development, addressing both areas of critical concern for the region, and pushing for dynamic action for the future. The NEK Collaborative supports strong and vital communities, a dynamic economy, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, public health, and wellness. We are a powerful fulcrum for the NEK, acting as a focal point for the renewal of the Kingdom to achieve unity and collective action at scale.

Center for an Agricultural Economy  
Executive Director  
February 2013 - January 2019 (6 years)  
Hardwick VT

Working with an incredible team of talented folks, I'm thrilled to be at the CAE in Hardwick. We own and operate the Vt Food Venture Center, Vermont's

unique food business incubator/food hub and educational facility. Our mission is to engage the public in building a regenerative, locally based, healthy food system through collaboration opportunities, food access and hunger relief, educational outreach and providing infrastructure. We believe in working lands, working people, and local food.

Programs include Community/Education/Food Independence  
Farm and Food Business Advising and Food Hub Management  
Farm Product Marketing and Value-Added Processing

### Farm and Wilderness Foundation

Program Director

January 2010 - January 2013 (3 years 1 month)

Plymouth, VT

Managed camp directors, risk management, program design and planning, strategic planning, and staff oversight. F&W has nearly 240 seasonal staff, upwards of 800 campers yearly, in addition to events, school-year workshops and programs, and key partnerships with organizations around the state.

### Vermont Council on Rural Development

Program Director

2007 - 2010 (3 years)

In this position I have managed the state wide public dialogue, the Council on the Future of Vermont. This is two year initiative including research with Vermont universities, statistical surveying, a series of public forums, interviews with Vermont stakeholders and intensive collaborative work to write, edit and publish the final report. The project included work to produce two major statewide events; April and May of 2009. All information on the project is online at [www.futureofvermont.org](http://www.futureofvermont.org).

### Sonoran Institute

Program Manager

September 2005 - September 2007 (2 years 1 month)

I was liasion for SI with federal land management agencies, working in research and training in the SocioEconomics Program.

### Environmental Defense Fund

Independent Consultant

2004 - 2004 (less than a year)

designed independent research project which examined the purchasing behavior of owners of large light trucks, executing in-depth interviewing, quantitative data collection, literature review of social science and consumer market research.

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## Education

University of Maryland

MAA, Applied Anthropology and Resource Management · (2002 - 2004)

Haverford College

Bachelor's degree, Anthropology · (1997 - 2001)