

WILLIAM HENRY FUNK III, ESQ.
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PROFESSIONAL ASSETS & OBJECTIVES

Employing my extensive and diverse work experience to preserve our shared wild heritage with proven leadership and co-creative teamwork, supportively inclusive project management, innovative communications, and enthusiastic fundraising, while employing a comprehensive understanding of applicable laws and governmental policies to achieve provable, resilient conservation victories.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Vermont Law & Graduate School

South Royalton, Vermont

Juris Doctorate 1997 Virginia State Bar # 72573

Master's Degree in Environmental Policy 1994

Centre College

Danville, Kentucky

Self-designed Liberal Arts BA (Anthropology, Government, Religion, History) 1991

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Award-Winning Freelance Journalist, Environmental Attorney, Documentary Filmmaker

Based in Staunton, Virginia

September 2009 – Present

- Formulating, researching, and developing impactful contacts to write award-winning feature articles for national and international publications, developing a reputation for explicating complex policy and scientific matters in illuminating, compelling prose. Fluent in Office, etc.
- Awarded numerous grants and fellowships from and spoke at conferences for distinguished national and international journalistic organizations. Publishing multinational articles and essays in a wide variety of print and online magazines including *Vice*, *Yale Environment 360*, *Aeon*, *Cosmos*, *Mashable*, *Mongabay*, *Ensi*, *Sierra*, *Humanities*, *Chesapeake Bay Journal*, *FuturePerfect*, *World History Encyclopedia*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *The Revelator*, *The Southern Quarterly*, *Grit*, *The Utne Reader*, *African Wildlife News*, *Earth Island Journal*, *Virginia Wildlife*, *Wildlife in North Carolina*, *Virginia Living*, *History Today*, *Blue Ridge Outdoors*, *Virginia Sportsman*, *Africa Geographic*, *Virginia Business*, *Quest: The Science of Sustainability*, and others.
- With a local law firm, worked on cases involving conservation easements; wills, trusts, and estates; real property; domestic relations; contract and lease disputes, and corporate law.
- Staff Reporter for the *Bay Journal* covering the Shenandoah Valley's ecological contributions to the Chesapeake Bay.

Communications Director

Save the Yellowstone Grizzly - Livingston, Montana

November 2022 – May 2024

- Brought aggressive lawsuits against the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the State of Idaho to prevent premature delisting of grizzlies from the protections of the Endangered Species Act, with myself acting as chief legal liaison to a private Montana firm.

- Drafted meticulous grant applications, one for \$500,000.00, to varied foundations and fellowships with positive results, and made valuable contacts with major sources of charitable conservation donations, including the Holdfast Collective.
- Facilitated the deployment of highway cameras to determine the migratory patterns of “explorer bears,” (usually young males) seeking to disperse their genes across native landscapes.
- Promoted and studied potential wildlife under/overpasses on I-90 in Montana, which would save both human and nonhuman lives and reduce insurance premiums.
- Published prominent articles on grizzly conservation and the numerous challenges these animals are facing, as well as regular posts across social media and the Save the Yellowstone Grizzly website.
- Worked to premiere the second of our celebrated documentary films about grizzly conservation and the challenges this iconic American species is facing throughout its range.

Easement Specialist & Communications Director

Conservation Partners, LLC - Lexington, Virginia

June 2007 – August 2012

- Provided specialized consultation to conservation easement donors and their attorneys, appraisers, and accountants, covering all aspects of the easement donation process, necessitating a thorough understanding and application of relevant state/federal law including the Internal Revenue Code.
- Actively managed easement donation for clients, facilitated the drafting of deeds of easement, prepared tax documentation for state agency review, and registered clients’ state tax credits.
- Worked collaboratively with local land trusts to advance conservation throughout Virginia.
- Furthered the mission of Conservation Partners, LLC, by serving as lead public relations contact and writing dozens of thoughtful op-ed articles on the conservation easement process appropriate to regional newspapers throughout Virginia.
- Evaluated real estate appraisals for qualification under the Code of Virginia and U.S. Treasury regulations relevant to conservation easements.

Executive Director

Valley Conservation Council (VCC) - Staunton, Virginia

December 2002 – December 2004

- Provided leadership for a nine-county regional land trust by elucidating the finer points of conservation easements before individuals and civic groups; helped propel VCC’s land conservation agenda toward a record-breaking year. Managed the budget carefully so as to maximize a nonprofit’s varying income.
- Supportively and professionally managed a dedicated, diverse staff of employees.
- Successfully wrote foundational grants for both general operations and specific projects. Personally solicited major gifts from private donors and secured funding and housing for a satellite office.
- Successfully helped reorganize the board into action committees that better contributed toward VCC’s strategic plan.
- Lobbied the Virginia legislature to raise funding for natural resource agencies and enact priority legislation.
- Supervised staff members and professionally interacted with a twenty-member board of directors.
- Regularly represented VCC before governmental agencies, educational groups, and local and national conservation NGOs, and partnered with these organizations to achieve mutual goals.