

## **Appendix 1. Interview protocol development**

Along with the academic literature on relational values and empathy, we developed the interview protocol using two question sets created by Vermont natural-resource practitioners used to understand communities' and individuals' place-based relationships and values. The first source of inspiration was Nancy Bell's Community Forum Method (personal communication), and the second was Lauren Sopher's 2019 MS Thesis from the University of Vermont Field Naturalist Program titled "The Greensboro Bend PLACE Program & Socially Just Conservation."

The Community Forum Method involves six questions:

- What do you love about where you live?
- What is your vision for its future?
- What do you see as threats to that vision?
- What do you see as solutions?
- Who would you need to be to fulfill your vision?
- What is one action you are willing to commit to fulfill that vision?

Relevant questions from Sopher's interviews include:

- What's important to you about your relationship to this place?
- What are some places [here] that are important to you?
- What are your thoughts about conservation in Greensboro Bend?