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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GMHA Awarded Funding for Trail Preservation Program

December 27, 2010: Green Mountain Horse Association recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Davis Conservation Foundation to continue its Open Space and Trail Preservation Program for a second year. Cyndy Kozara, a local land use consultant, was hired in March to spearhead this rigorous two-year effort. The funding will help to support her work to preserve and secure the GMHA equestrian trail network for future generations of horse riders to experience and enjoy.

GMHA has a long-standing dedication to the preservation of countryside and working landscapes. To fulfill its mission in the face of increased property turnover and potentially fragmented land parcels, GMHA has strengthened its resources to protect trails into perpetuity through the use of specialized trail easements. GMHA works directly with landowners to identify individual concerns and mutual values, define and map the trail or trails to be donated and customize the legal document. This includes a management plan addressing responsibilities of parties, erosion and maintenance, trail closure and more. The process is friendly and professional and allows everyone to achieve common ground.

In the last year, GMHA has finalized three trail easements, with another soon to be completed, three more in various stages of the process and several strong potential opportunities in hand. As landowners continue to learn more about this important program of land conservation undertaken at GMHA, they become excited about the legacy they might leave. They understand the part it plays in keeping GMHA so vital to the community in which they live.

For more information about the GMHA trail easement, please visit our website at: www.gmhainc.org/trailpreservation or call us at 802-457-1509, ext. 220.

The Green Mountain Horse Association, founded in 1926, is a 65-acre equestrian facility in South Woodstock, Vermont. It is a non-profit 501(3)(c) organization fully committed to serving five equine disciplines including: trail riding, hunter/jumpers, dressage, eventing and driving. With approximately 1,900 members, GMHA is a vital community of equestrian enthusiasts. Each event season contributes over \$4 million to the local economy. In addition to competitions and pleasure rides, GMHA offers many educational activities and is a leader in open space and trail preservation. Member support helps to ensure that GMHA will continue to exist for future generations and preserve its legacy in the equestrian community.

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