

5-2008

Community Forests: Needs & Resources for technical Assistance in Northern New England

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COMMUNITY FORESTS

NEEDS AND RESOURCES
FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
IN NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

A Report by Misha Mytar

prepared for the Community Forest Collaborative
and for fulfillment of the capstone requirement for the
Master's in Community Planning and Development
Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service
University of Southern Maine

May 2008

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PREFACE

The Community Forest Collaborative seeks to expand community ownership and management of forestland in northern New England and has documented the value of community forests both as a community investment strategy and as a component of regional landscape conservation strategies¹.

However, research conducted over the last three years has determined that, in order for the potential of community ownership to be realized, there needs to be a concerted effort to develop an infrastructure of support for communities that want to acquire, own and manage forestland. A 2007 report "Community Forests: A Community Investment Strategy" recommended two principle actions:

Expand resources for acquisition and stewardship of Community Forests.

To acquire forestland, communities need access to capital through varied and flexible financing instruments. To achieve community goals, communities need access to grant support to implement stewardship and management practices.

Expand, formalize and institutionalize technical assistance to communities.

Communities need help identifying and developing leaders, facilitating community discussion and decision-making, coordinating acquisition projects, developing and implementing stewardship and business plans, and managing the finances of a community forest project.

In order to better understand existing and potential resources and move toward these goals, The Collaborative undertook two projects:

¹ Lyman 2007

Community Forest Fund Feasibility Study

The Collaborative hired the Open Space Institute to conduct a feasibility study for a regional Community Forest Fund. The Study concluded that there is both the demand and the capital for such a fund and has recommended a \$5 million initial capitalization.

Technical Assistance Inventory

This report responds to the second recommendation by assessing community needs for technical assistance, inventorying existing resources, and exploring the feasibility of organizing a forum for coordinating a regional or state-by-state technical assistance program.

The following document provides a summary of work conducted during the spring of 2008.

Based on its findings, The Community Forest Collaborative hopes to organize one or more roundtables to gather individuals from the organizations, agencies and institutions inventoried in this report to pursue the coordination of technical support for communities that want to acquire, own and manage community forests.

INTRODUCTION

The Forests of Northern New England²

Northern New England is the most heavily forested region in the country. Collectively, the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont are eighty-seven percent forested—covering 17.7 million acres in Maine, 4.7 million acres in New Hampshire and 4.6 million acres in Vermont.³

These twenty-seven million acres of forestland have provided a remarkably multifunctional base upon which the region's rural communities have grown and prospered. Forests have provided raw materials to meet basic needs for food, fuel and shelter. They have protected water resources and air quality and have supplied habitat for wildlife and opportunities for recreation and tourism. Finally, the forest products industry has provided employment and economic well-being for hundreds of years—forest-based activities currently contribute over \$10 billion to the regional economy.⁴

Northern New England's forestlands are defined by private ownership, ranging from large industrial to small family landowners. This is unlike the western region of the United States, where federally-controlled or other public land constitutes the major forest ownership. Ninety-three percent of Maine's timberlands are in private ownership, as are eighty-six percent in New Hampshire and Vermont.⁵

² Based on research for a recent paper, "The New England Forest: Issues and Problems Confronting the Dominant Regional Land Use", delivered at the Association of American Geographers 2008 Annual Meeting.

³ Irland 1999, 4

⁴ Northeast State Foresters Association 2004

⁵ Irland 1999, 207

The predominance of private ownership leaves communities vulnerable to shifting land use patterns and creates a complex environment for responding to region-wide challenges. Although New Englanders have long-valued local control, changing landownership patterns are removing decisions about the future of valuable forestlands from community hands.

Industrially-owned timberlands are being transferred from private companies at unprecedented rates, resulting in new and greater numbers of forestland owners. Just over a decade ago, industry owned over eight million acres of Maine's remote forestlands; in 2004, U.S.-based industrial owned nothing and Canadian-owned firms held only 10 percent of the state.⁶ Forestlands are being conveyed to relative newcomers to the region's forest ownership landscape: large financial institutions (timberland investment management organizations "TIMOs" and real estate investment trusts "REITs"), conservation organizations and private individuals.

This new generation of landowners does more than bring new names and new boundary lines — they bring new motivations and objectives as well. The traditional motivation for ownership was timbergrowing. The objective was to supply raw materials to the mills which were the profit-center of the operation. However, many new forest landowners such as TIMOs and REITs view the land itself as the profit-center and seek opportunities to maximize financial returns from their lands, from timber sales, development or otherwise.

These changing landownership patterns contribute to forestland conversion. In New Hampshire, eighty-five towns are predicted to lose more than 500 acres of forestland by 2025⁶ and the state as a

⁶ Irland 2005, 18

whole is losing about 17,500 acres of forestland every year.⁷ This general trend holds in Maine and Vermont as well, causing development and resulting fragmentation to be identified as the primary threats to northern forests.⁸

As more and more private individuals have become forest landowners, interest in timbergrowing has declined. A recent survey found that less than ten percent of woodland owners consider management for timber products an important motivation for their ownership.⁹ Instead, many forest owners site “part of residence”, “aesthetic enjoyment” and “recreation” as primary motivations instead.

This new generation of landowners may also threaten the tradition of public use of private forests. On industrial lands, there once existed an informal “gentleman’s agreement” - that industry would permit public access and camp leases if the people of Maine did not heavily regulate industry. Some suggest that this agreement has been broken.¹⁰ Regardless, new landowners of large timberland tracts do not necessarily see themselves bound by this informal contract. Additionally, studies shows that Maine’s small woodland owners have drastically increased posting on private lands. This decline in public access is coupled with increasing demands for outdoor recreation opportunities.

Due to these shifting patterns in private ownership, rural residents can no longer count on the forest-based work that stabilized their economy, the environmental protection that intact forests provided, or the generations-old access for outdoor recreation, hunting, fishing or wood-cutting.

⁷ New Hampshire’s Changing Landscape 2005

⁸ Northern Forest Alliance 2002

⁹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 2004

¹⁰ Fairfax 2008

Responding to this uncertainty, and to provide some balance to northern New England's private landownership pattern, the region is experiencing a resurgence of interest in community forests.

History of Community Forests in Northern New England¹¹

Northern New England has a long tradition of community forestry, rooted in its English ancestry. The region's community forest tradition began as a system of common lands and communal woodlots. Common lands consisted of a community's outlying regions not designated for use as house lots or public buildings. A town's inhabitants were able to access this land for grazing, cultivation and felling of timber and wood for countless purposes. More formally bounded and controlled, communal woodlots were shared by a number of proprietors, often with limited access granted to town inhabitants.

As town administration became more sophisticated, forest resources began to serve a more public function. For example, towns developed taxing systems for wood products harvested on town commons. And specific parcels were allotted to support community institutions—primarily churches and schools. A surprising number of these “sylvan public lands” remain intact across northern New England, particularly in New Hampshire and Vermont.

Eventually, as the conservation movement developed in the late 19th century, public concern over the depletion of forest resources and the degradation of water resources heightened. As a result, interest in community forests increased and the primary purpose of public forestland shifted to conservation. Interest in preserving recreational and scenic values heightened as well and town forests became New England's dominant category of local woodland.

¹¹ McCullough 1995

Consistent management has been the most critical historical challenge to community forests. As interest in conservation, recreational and scenic values increased, timber management took a back seat. And, fearing a loss of local control to state and federal experts, many communities were wary of seeking outside technical assistance. Doubts about the quality of municipal forest management disrupted the community forest movement in the mid 20th century.

An Updated Community Forest Model

Today's community forest model builds on northern New England's tradition of communal lands and town forests, but adds to it with theories of sustainable development and community-based natural resource management. Following the "three-legged stool" model of sustainable development, community forests address three objectives: community development, economic development and environmental protection. The field of community-based natural resource management links these objectives by demonstrating that if a community owns or has access to rights to a resource, participates in management decisions affecting the resource, and receives benefits from the value of the resource, then the resource will be better managed.¹²

Following these models, The Community Forest Collaborative has defined Community Forests by four concepts¹³:

1. Community forests are owned and managed by a municipal entity or by another group (e.g. land trust) on behalf of a community.
2. The acquisition and management structure ensures community participation in and responsibility for management decisions.

¹² Lyman 2007, 5

¹³ Lyman 2007, 10

3. The community has secure access to the value and benefits of the forest, both monetary and non-monetary, that can support and reinforce community priorities and economic development objectives.
4. The conservation values of the forestland are permanently protected through a conservation easement and sustainable forest management practices.

The concept is that community forests can achieve twin objectives of healthy forests and healthy communities—both socially and economically. In 2007, The Collaborative completed a study of five communities across the region; the findings show that Community Forests have indeed played an important role in conservation as well as community and economic development.

This new Community Forest model is not without its own challenges. Skepticism about community ability to efficiently manage forestland remains and has been augmented with three new challenges. First, since community forestry's decline in the mid-20th century, the average New Englander has become even further removed from active involvement in forest management. Many residents are simply not fully aware of forestland's benefits as a community asset. The result is twofold: 1) communities are not always in favor of taking on the responsibility of managing new community forests and 2) much existing municipally-owned forestland is not being actively managed as a community asset.

Secondly, the Community Forest model is not a wide-spread concept. Where it is known, there are varying understandings of its definition. To many, "community forestry" has become synonymous with "urban forestry" and describes street tree and urban park management. This can be largely attributed to the U.S. Forest Service's well-known Urban and Community Forestry initiatives.

Subsequently, many individuals engaged in rural economic development work or large-scale conservation efforts do not see how community forestry relates to their objectives. This is a barrier to building an infrastructure of support for community forests.

Finally, there is a widespread belief that municipal governance structures do not offer sufficient safeguards to ensure long-term conservation. Although the Community Forest model addresses these concerns, research over the last three years has shown that additional technical assistance is required to help communities overcome these challenges and achieve its four components. The remainder of this document reports on current community needs and technical assistance resources for expanding community ownership and management of forestland through application of the Community Forest model.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Before identifying and assessing technical assistance resources it was important to develop an understanding of community needs. Needs were assessed through a series of phone interviews with representatives from community forest owners (municipalities and land trusts) as well as staff members at support organizations, institutions and agencies.¹⁴ The objective was to identify categories of technical assistance to be covered in the inventory, as well as to provide a basis for assessing their sufficiency.

During interviews, community forest owners described where they seek advice, information and technical assistance, what resources have proven most valuable, and where they require further support. Based on experience working with communities, technical assistance providers described

¹⁴ See Interview List, page 23

what services and information are most frequently requested and what needs they perceive to be most important or underserved.

Community needs fell into six categories: 1) community capacity building & facilitation; 2) acquisition and financing; 3) economic development; 4) conservation planning; 5) stewardship and; 6) funding.

Community Capacity Building & Facilitation

This category includes resource needs for building community infrastructure, generating community support, facilitating meaningful discussion and reconciling competing needs and priorities. A number of community members and organizational leaders identified this category as the most critical resource challenge facing community forests.

For many rural towns, the burden of administering a community forest is overwhelming, especially when lacking paid staff. Communities often need help building community infrastructure, which need not exist only in the town office. For example, communities may create new volunteer committees or entirely new nonprofit organizations to administer Community Forest initiatives.

More specifically, community leaders often need help developing communication strategies. One community volunteer explained that communication occurred only when there was a major update to report: "It's easy for the core group of organizers to feel that there is momentum, even between major events. However, the rest of the community needs to be kept up to date. Otherwise, people think that the project has failed or been dropped." Even those leaders who valued communication early in the project, upon reflection, felt like they needed to do much more. This realization often

occurred after surprising controversies surfaced during the final project phases. Particular areas of conflict or misunderstanding include forest management practices, conservation easements, suspicion over funding sources and conflicts between recreational uses.

Facilitation and communication skills are not well-developed in many communities. And without effective leadership, community members are often unable to meaningfully contribute to a dialogue. Outside expertise may be valuable, but may also compromise the Community Forest model—the decision to undertake a community forestry project should be driven and led by the community. Several community and organizational leaders explained that this need is especially dire because it has been so tricky to fulfill—not for lack of trying.

Although consulting organizations, agencies and institutions can provide valuable expertise, it may be more helpful for community leaders to learn directly from similar municipalities. Sharing stories at community meetings and organizing community forest field trips were both considered valuable activities. In particular, demonstration forests can help resolve apprehension about timber harvesting, allowing community members to see what forest management looks like on the ground.

In addition to outside expertise and perspectives, time is a necessary component of successful community capacity building & facilitation processes. Communities need the luxury of time to allow for a thorough and patient process of self-education for both leaders and the broader community.

Several communities did report that Master Planning or Comprehensive Planning processes helped to build facilitation and leadership skills in a community, which could be called upon during the community forest planning process. In turn, communities reported that the community forest

planning process helped further develop these skills, which can now be called upon for managing future community issues. These stories highlight the community building outcomes of the Community Forest model.

Acquisition & Financing

The acquisition and financing of new community forests can be extremely complex and typically requires a significant amount of professional expertise and guidance. Communities need help identifying necessary steps, connecting with groups that know how to perform these steps, and finding funding resources.

Many interviewees reported relative ease in accessing these resources. This may be partly due to a potential weakness in study design—interviews were primarily conducted in communities which had received assistance from regional or national conservation organizations. Interview subjects were originally selected with the assistance of major conservation service providers. However, it does appear that until greater numbers of communities begin to recognize the potential of community forests, acquisition and financing technical assistance resources are keeping pace. However, although these resources exist in sufficient numbers, their funding sources are less certain. And, if The Collaborative's goal of expanding the Community Forest model is successful, community needs may begin to exceed available resources.

Finally, when community forest lands are donated or acquired through forfeiture, communities may not require sophisticated acquisition and financing resources. Instead, they may nonetheless need help with deed research—one interviewee explained that it is fairly common for such properties to have "mucky" deeds.

Economic Development

One interviewee identified a key challenge facing the community forest movement: “community members do not always understand the value streams that come from forests or how to capture them.” This concern was almost unanimously echoed in subsequent interviews. In turn, many communities have faced skepticism about justifying the added municipal responsibility and capacity needed to manage forestland. Communities need help recognizing and realizing the economic benefits of community forests in order to justify their costs.

Conservation Planning

The line between conservation planning and stewardship can be hard to discern. In general, conservation planning involves identifying and inventorying a forest’s valuable resources and designing stewardship plans that respects this knowledge as well as community priorities. Conservation planning actions might include conducting natural resource or forest inventories and creating maps and planning documents. Stewardship describes the implementation and updates of these plans. The distinction becomes clearer in the inventory section because different organizations tend to perform one role or the other and only sometimes both.

As with acquisition and financing resources, communities reported relatively easy access to conservation planning resources. The exception, once again, was in funding these organizations.

Stewardship

Communities often need assistance implementing conservation and management plans. This need was identified repeatedly, but more often by resource providers than by community members.

Mytar, Capstone

Many organizations that provide assistance with acquisition & financing and conservation planning do not provide ongoing stewardship assistance. These organizations receive frequent requests for these services and express concern that this may be leaving a gap in community forest support infrastructure. In the two-phase process of conservation planning and stewardship, the greater need is in phase two – plan implementation.

In addition to forest management, stewardship may include several additional community program goals—four were mentioned repeatedly during interviews. In each case, communities need access to good ideas and blueprints of successful programs.

- Educational programs – curriculum development for school or other educational groups. Several organizations have experienced an increased interest in integrating community forests into school programs. However, this often proves to be more difficult than expected. Just because the educational resource is there, doesn't mean it will be used.
- Recreation programs – trail building and management. Some communities manage recreation by making arrangements with independent clubs that become responsible for certain activities. Models for these agreements could be shared. Whether communities are managing recreation directly or indirectly through independent clubs, communities need help creating innovative solutions to conflicts surrounding motorized recreational use.
- Permitting programs – permits for firewood, wood for craftsmen, tipping, etc.
- Capturing new markets – potential biomass or carbon credit opportunities.

Funding

Last, but certainly not least, funding was identified as a critical limit on the success of the Community Forest model. In fact, funding was projected to become increasingly constrictive as the acquisition of forestlands becomes increasingly expensive.

Because the Community Forest model has multiple objectives, projects tend to fall within the guidelines of numerous funding sources. However, it is difficult to find funding sources that are uniquely designed for community forests. This can cause communities to bend their objectives to match the funding source. Many interviewees identified a shortage of funds that are sensitive to the wide range community forest goals— in particular, those that look beyond environmental goals to economic and social goals as well.

Acquisition funding sources often require communities to put together a stewardship plan at the time of application. These early, “quick and dirty” plans likely need to be expanded and improved and this cost often precedes timber income. Only a few lucky communities are able to make an early harvest to capture immediate revenue potential. Otherwise, these early planning costs accumulate and can be difficult or impossible for some communities to absorb. Several communities identified funding for conservation planning as a priority need.

In general, communities report that it is easier to obtain funding for actual stewardship projects than for planning or monitoring programs. This may be counterproductive for funders, because communities need the monitoring and planning phase in order to make informed decisions about the best use of stewardship funds.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Technical assistance resources were identified through telephone interviews and internet research with the goal of discerning the nature and geographic scope of the services provided, as well as the level of interest in coordinating with other Community Forest technical assistance providers. The inventory search employed a "snowball" method—referrals from an initial search generated additional searches, until the same names kept being repeated. The full inventory is attached as an appendix and a brief summary is provided below.

The inventory process could have continued indefinitely and was eventually suspended due to time restraints. This highlights a strength of the Community Forest model—its ability to integrate conservation with economic and community development. However, it also presented a challenge for the inventory process. The intent was to look beyond the key players in the community forest movement and include peripheral or potential technical assistance providers. But countless numbers of organizations work around these three issues across these three states. For this reason the inventory surely fell short in its goal and there are certainly individual organizations and even whole categories of organizations that have not been identified. However, the inventory does present a general picture of the variety and depth of the region's current and potential infrastructure of support for Community Forests.

Over fifty organizations, agencies and institutions were identified, including federal and state agencies, regional planning and development agencies, land trusts, timber investment management organizations (TIMOs), university extension offices, private foundations, rural development organizations, and other forest-related nonprofits.

These resources were organized into five rough categories: 1) government agencies; 2) nonprofit organizations; 3) professional forestry organizations; 4) businesses; and 5) funding organizations. Nonprofit organizations were by far the largest category and were classified according to whether they were regional (serving all of northern New England), state-wide (serving a single state), or local (serving a sub-state region). The largest category by far was state-wide nonprofit organizations. Excluding funding organizations, statewide nonprofits comprised almost half the inventory.

Following the framework of the needs assessment, resources were also classified into six categories of technical assistance and identified with a simple key. Conservation planning and stewardship were the most prevalent services offered. Sixty percent of groups provided stewardship resources in some form. However, stewardship assistance can take many forms and of the twenty-six relevant organizations, only four offered education or recreation services. The majority provide assistance for the implementation of conservation or forest management plans.

Economic development and acquisition & financing resources followed, with close to thirty percent of organizations providing these resources in some form. However, a closer look at the nature of these services reveals that, while acquisition & financing organizations provide direct support to community forest projects, a significant number of economic development organizations have applied their expertise to Community Forest projects only rarely and sometimes never.

Interestingly a number of parallel organizations across the three states provide significantly different resources. For example, Cooperative Extension in Maine focuses on community capacity building & facilitation and economic development, while Vermont focuses on economic development and stewardship. New Hampshire Cooperative Extension offers four levels of technical assistance—

community capacity building & facilitation, economic development, conservation planning and stewardship.

Finally, only two organizations provide the full range of Community Forest technical assistance resources and both are collaborative initiatives. The Vermont Town Forest project is a network of over thirty public and private partners working around various aspects of community forestry in Vermont. The Community Forest Collaborative is a partnership between the Trust for Public Land, the Quebec Labrador Foundation and the Northern Forest Center. Although each of these organizations has a different focus, combined they cover each technical assistance category with only minimal overlap.

OBSERVATIONS

The following fourteen observations summarize the findings of both the needs assessment and resource inventory.

- Technical assistance resources are currently decentralized and inconsistently applied across the northern New England region.
- Most support resources are organized on a state-by-state basis and state-level resources are consistent.
- Organizations are interested in meeting to discuss building a more formalized infrastructure of support.
- Community capacity building & facilitation constitutes one of the greatest needs and provides the greatest challenge for the Community Forest model.
- Community capacity building & facilitation take time and skills are built through practice.

- Controversy and misunderstanding often occur around forest management practices, conservation easements, outside funding sources and conflicts between recreational uses.
- Shared community experiences and demonstration projects are powerful communication and education tools.
- Acquisition & financing and conservation planning resources are being accessed with relative ease.
- Many existing economic development and conservation planning resources are not being applied to Community Forest projects.
- Communities lack understanding of the value streams that come from forests and how to capture them.
- Communities need assistance implementing education, recreation and permitting programs.
- Funding is a critical limit on the success of the Community Forest model.
- Few funding sources are interested in all three Community Forest objectives and may weigh environmental goals too heavily to make a good fit.
- Community forest projects often accrue significant costs before they achieve financial returns.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Observations about community needs and existing resources led to ten key recommendations.

- Continue to communicate Community Forest model, distinguishing it from urban forestry. Focus these efforts on economic development and conservation organizations.
- Support and enhance coordinated support infrastructure, perhaps by replicating the Vermont Town Forest Project model in Maine and New Hampshire.

- Focus technical assistance enhancement efforts on Community Capacity Building & Facilitation, Economic Development and Funding resources.
- Focus on developing community leaders rather than on providing outside leadership.
- Develop model communication guidelines and timetables.
- Develop framework for sharing and demonstrating success stories. Direct methods, such as guest speakers or a network of peer advisors may be more effective than case studies.
- Help communities buy time to build support and reconcile conflicts.
- Develop models and blueprints of successful education and recreation programs.
- Continue to build a regional Community Forest Fund.
- Develop a revolving loan fund to help communities cover early project costs.

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INTERVIEW LIST

Phone interviews were conducted with the following individuals :

ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS

Maine Forest Service – Jan Ames Santerre
New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands – Ken Desmarais and Mary Reynolds
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation – David Paganelli
University of Maine Cooperative Extension – Ron Beard
University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension – Karen Bennett
Quebec-Labrador Foundation – Martha West Lyman
Northern Forest Center – Steve Rohde
Vermont Town Forest Project – Jad Daley
Forest Society of Maine – Pete McKinley
Vermont Land Trust – Mark McEathron
Small Woodland Owners of Maine – Tom Doak
Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences – John Hagan
Maine Natural Areas Program – Kristen Puryear and Sarah Demers
Yellow Wood Associates – Shanna Ratner
Maine Rural Partners – Mary Ann Hayes
Vermont Council on Rural Development – Paul Costello
Land for Maine's Future – Tim Glidden
Orchard Foundation – Brigitte Kingsbury
Trust for Public Land – Rodger Krussman
Wilderness Society – Ann Ingerson

COMMUNITY FOREST OWNERS

Downeast Lake Land Trust – Mark Berry and Steve Keith
Errol, NH – Bill Freedman and Julie Renaud Evans
Randolph, NH - Dave Wilcox
Craftsbury, VT - Ann Ingerson
West Fairlee, VT – Patricia Ayres Crawford

COMMUNITY FORESTS

INVENTORY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES IN NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

The following inventory of organizations, agencies and programs represents a rough scan of Community Forest resources in northern New England. The goal was to develop a general picture of the variety and depth of the region's infrastructure of support for community forestry.

Information was collected through web research and/or telephone interviews. Errors and omissions are undoubtedly present; Correction and additions are encouraged.

The document is roughly arranged by organization and resource type. Sections include Government Agencies, Nonprofit Organizations (regional, statewide, and local), Professional Forestry Organizations, Businesses and Funding Organizations.

Organizations frequently span category definitions. And two similar agencies in different states often offer differing resources. For these reasons, this inventory has also been equipped with the following key, to facilitate easy browsing.

Categories of Technical Assistance



Community Capacity
Building & Facilitation



Acquisition
& Financing



Economic
Development



Conservation
Planning



Stewardship



Funding

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Maine Forest Service
Augusta, ME
www.maine.gov/docs/mfs



R. Alec Giffen, Director
(207) 623-2371
alec.giffen@maine.gov

Jan Ames Santerre, Project Canopy
(207) 287-2791
jan.santerre@maine.gov

The Maine Forest Service is responsible for overseeing Maine's private forests. They provide information on many subjects related to woodland management including regulation and stewardship. District foresters and insect and disease specialists are available to provide on-site consultations while additional staff members are available to provide public education, including school programs and forest tours. The Project Canopy program provides planning and education grants up to \$10,000 for municipal forest lands. Additionally, the WoodsWise program may provide support for forest management activities on land trust properties - municipally owned lands are not eligible.

New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands
Concord, NH
www.dred.state.nh.us/divisions/forestandlands



Ken Desmarais, Bureau of Forest Management Administrator
(603) 271-2214
kdesmarais@dred.state.nh.us

The Division's Forest Management Bureau provides forest resource information and education to communities but resources are limited. When Division Foresters are unavailable, they will refer communities to local consultant foresters. The Division also operates a Community Forestry Program, which has been traditionally focused on urban forestry and community tree programs.

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (VDFPR)
Waterbury, VT
www.vtfpr.org



Ginger Anderson
Chief of Forest Management
(802) 241-3680
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Danielle Fitzko
Urban and Community Forestry Program
(802) 241-3673
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Through VDFPR's Forest Resource Management program, county foresters are available to offer advice on managing forestland for resource values such as trees, wildlife, soils, water, and recreation. When time and resources permit, they may also be able to help with boundary location, forest inventories, mapping, implementing a timber sale as well as conducting school programs or forest tours. The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) offers cost-share grants

through the Trees for Local Communities (TLC) grants program. Grants are awarded in five categories: education, planning, planting, maintenance, and "mini." Communities have use funds to develop or implement management plans and improve recreational access. Community forests owned by a non-governmental organization, like a land trust, may also be eligible for cost-share funding through the Vermont Forest Land Enhancement program.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

www.nrcs.usda.gov



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NRCS is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They offer technical assistance and conservation programs to individuals, groups, towns and other units of government to protect, develop and wisely use soil, water and other natural resources.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension

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 (207) 372-6353
lhyde@umext.maine.edu

University of Maine Cooperative Extension provides facilitation and other community-building services to non-profits and communities. They also offer a number of educational programs related to forestry and wildlife through the Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center.

University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

Durham, NH
extension.unh.edu



Karen Bennett
 Extension Professor/Specialist, Forest Resources
 (603) 862-4861
karen.bennett@unh.edu

University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension Program provides assistance to communities and conservation groups with community forest projects through several programs. As part of the Forestry and Wildlife program, county foresters offer technical assistance and education. Through the Community Conservation Assistance program, a team of extension educators provides direct assistance for creating and implementing conservation plans. Finally, Cooperative Extension can also help design and lead community planning and decision-making processes.

University of Vermont Cooperative Extension
Burlington, VT
stumpage.uvm.edu



Thom McEvoy, Extension Forester & Associate Professor
(802) 656-2913
tmcevoy@together.net

University of Vermont Cooperative Extension provides assistance in the areas of community development and forestry. Additionally, they offer numerous publications and educational programs.

Regional Planning and Development Organizations

Regional planning and development agencies operate as non-profit local government organizations. Regional planning agencies are created by state legislatures, while regional development agencies are designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce. In Maine, single organizations often play the role of both regional planning and development organizations. In New Hampshire and Vermont, these roles tend to be quite distinct. These agencies serve in an advisory role to local governments in order to promote coordinated planning, orderly growth, efficient land use, transportation access, environmental protection and economic development. They often help develop regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies and administer federal funding such as Community Development Block Grants and transit funds.



MAINE

Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments

Auburn, ME
www.avcog.org
Robert Thompson, Executive Director
(207) 783-9186
thompson@avcog.org
* Federally designated Economic Development Agency

Eastern Maine Development Corp

Bangor, ME
www.emdc.org
Charles Webb, President
(207) 942-6389
info@emdc.org
* Federally designated Economic Development Agency

Greater Portland Council of Governments

Portland, ME
www.gpcog.org
Neal Allen, Executive Director
(207) 774-9891
info@gpcog.eddmaine.org

Hancock County Regional Planning

Ellsworth, ME
www.hpcme.org
Thomas Martin, Executive Director
(207) 667-7131
tmartin@hpcme.org

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments

Fairfield, ME
www.kvcog.org
Kenneth C. Young, Executive Director
(207) 453-4258
kvcog@kvcog.org
* Federally designated Economic Development Agency

**Lincoln County Economic Development
Office**

www.lincolncountymaine.org
Wiscasset, ME
Amy Winston, Director
(207) 882-7552
arw@ceimaine.org

**Mid-Coast Council for Business
Development & Planning**

Bath, ME
www.mcdbp.org
Jeffrey Sneddon, Executive Director
(207) 443-5790
jsneddon@mcdbp.org

Northern Maine Development Commission

Caribou, ME
www.nmdc.org
Robert Clark, Executive Director
(207) 498-8736
nmdc@nmdc.org
* Federally designated Economic Development
Agency

Penobscot Valley Council of Governments

Bangor, ME
www.emdc.org
Chris Shrum, Executive Director
(207) 942-6389
info@emdc.org

**Southern Maine Economic Development
District**

A partnership of the Greater Portland Council
of Governments and the Southern Maine
Regional Planning Commission.
* Federally designated Economic Development
Agency

**Southern Maine Regional Planning
Commission**

Springvale, ME
www.smrpc.maine.org
Paul Schumacher, Executive Director
(207) 324-2952
psawyer@server.eddmaine.org

**Washington County Council of
Governments**

Calais, ME
www.wccog.net
Judith C. East, Executive Director, AICP
(207) 454-0465
jceast@wccog.net

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Regional Planning Agencies

**Central New Hampshire Regional Planning
Commission**

Concord, NH
www.cnhrpc.org
Sharon Wason, Executive Director
(603) 226-6020
swason@cnhrpc.org

Lakes Regional Planning Commission

Meredith, NH
www.lakesrpc.org
Kimon Koulet, Executive Director
(603) 279-8171
lrpc@lakesrpc.org

Nashua Regional Planning Commission
Nashua, NH
www.nashuarpc.org
Stephan Williams, Executive Director
(603) 883-0366
stephanw@nashuarpc.org

North Country Council
Bethlehem, NH
www.nncouncil.org
Michael King, Executive Director
(603) 444-6303
mking@nncouncil.org
* North Country Council is unique in New Hampshire in that it is also the region's economic development agency.

Rockingham Planning Commission
Exeter, NH
www.rpc-nh.org
Cliff Sinnott, Executive Director
(603) 778-0885
csinnott@rpc-nh.org

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission
Manchester, NH
www.snhpc.org
David Preece, Executive Director
(603) 669-4350
dpreece@snhpc.org

Southwest Regional Planning Commission
Keene, NH
www.swrpc.org
Tim Murphy, Executive Director
(603) 357-0557
tmurphy@swrpc.org

Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Dover, NH
www.strafford.org
Cynthia Copeland, Executive Director
(603) 742-2523
cjc@strafford.org

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
Lebanon, NH
www.uvlsrpc.org
Christine Walker, Executive Director
(603) 448-1680
cwalker@uvlsrpc.org

Regional Development Agencies

Belknap County Economic Development Council
Guilford, NH
www.bcedc.org
Eliza Leadbeater, Executive Director
(603) 524-0314
info@bcedc.org

Capital Regional Development Council
Concord, NH
www.crdc-nh.com
Niel Cannon, Executive Director
(603) 228-1872
ncannon@crdc-nh.com

Coastal Economic Development Corp
North Hampton, NH
www.coastaledc.org
Daniel Gray, Managing Director
(603) 929-9244
dgray@coastaledc.org

Coos Economic Development Corp
Lancaster, NH
www.buzzgate.org/coos
Peter Riviere, Executive Director
(603) 788-3900
cedc@ncia.net

Gateway Industrial Development Corporation
Milford, NH
Doug Brown, Executive Director
(866) 352-8250
gidc@verizon.net

Grafton County Economic Development Council

Bristol, NH
www.graftoncountyedc.org
Mark Scarano, Executive Director
(603) 744-2393
mscarano@graftoncountyedc.org

Monadnock Economic Development Corp

Keene, NH
www.monadnock-development.org
Jack Dugan, President
(603) 352-4939
jdugan@monadnock-development.org

Mt. Washington Valley Economic Council

Conway, NH
www.mwvec.com
Jac Cuddy, Executive Director
(603) 447-6622
jac@mwvec.com

North Country Council

Bethlehem, NH
www.nncouncil.org
Michael King, Executive Director
(603) 444-6303
mking@nncouncil.org

* North Country Council is unique in New Hampshire in that it is also the region's planning agency.

Rockingham Economic Development Corporation

Exeter, NH
www.redc.com
Marie Cappello, Executive Director
(603) 772-2655
marie@redc.com

Southeast Economic Development Corporation

Dover, NH
www.sedcnh.org
Dennis McCann, Executive Director
(603) 749-2211
dmccann@sedcnh.org

Wentworth Economic Development Corporation

Wolfeboro, NH
www.wedco-nh.org
Denise Roy Palmer, Executive Director
(603) 569-4216
drp@wedco-nh.org

VERMONT

Regional Planning Agencies

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Middlebury, VT
www.acrpc.org
Adan Lougee, Executive Director
(802) 388-3141
alougee@sover.net

Bennington County Regional Commission

Arlington, VT
www.rpc.bennington.vt.us
George Burke, Executive Director
(802) 375-2576
brcrburk@verizon.net

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

Montpelier, VT
www.centralvtplanning.com
Susan M. Sinclair, Executive Director
(802) 229-0389
cvrcp@cvregion.com

Chittenden County MPO

S. Burlington, VT
www.ccmppo.org
D. Scott Johnstone, Executive Director
(802) 660-4071
sjohnstone@ccmpo.org

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
S. Burlington, VT
www.ccrpcvt.org
Greg Brown, Executive Director
(802) 846-4490
administrator@ccrpcvt.org

Lamoille County Planning Commission
Morrisville, VT
www.lcpcvt.org
Michele Boomhower, Executive Director
(802) 846-4490
lcpc@lcpcvt.org

Northwest Regional Planning Commission
St. Albans, VT
www.nrpcvt.com
Catherine Dimitruk, Executive Director
(802) 524-5958
cdimitruk@nrpcvt.com

Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Rutland, VT
www.rutlandrpc.org
Mark Blucher, Executive Director
(802) 775-0871
mlucher@rutlandrpc.org

Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission
Ascutney, VT
www.swcrpc.org
Thomas J. Kennedy, Executive Director
(802) 674-9201
tkennedy@sover.net

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
Woodstock, VT
www.trorc.org
Peter G. Gregory
(802) 457-3188
info@trorc.org

Windham Regional Commission
Brattleboro, VT
www.rpc.windham.vt.us
James Matteau, Executive Director
(802) 257-4547 ext 106
wrc@sover.net

Regional Development Agencies

Addison County Economic Development Corporation
Middlebury, VT
www.addisoncountyedc.org
Jamie Stewart, Executive Director
(802) 388-7953
info@addisoncountyedc.org

Bennington County Industrial Corporation
North Bennington, VT
www.bcic.org
Lance Matteson, Executive Director
(802) 442-8975
peter@bcic.org

Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation
Brattleboro, VT
www.brattleborodevelopment.com
Kurt Isaacson, Interim Director
(802) 257-7731
bdcc@sover.net

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation
Montpelier, VT
www.central-vt.com
Sam Matthews, Executive Vice President
(801) 223-4654
cvedc@sover.net

Franklin County Industrial Corporation
St Albans, VT
www.fcidc.com
Timothy Smith, President
(802) 524-2194
fcidc@adelphia.net

Great Burlington Industrial Corporation
Burlington, VT
www.vermont.org/gbic
Frank Cioffi, President
(802) 862-5726
frank@vermont.org

Green Mountain Economic Corporation
White River Jct., VT
www.gmedc.com
Neal Fox, Executive Director
(802) 285-3710
nfox@gmedc.com

Lamoille Economic Development Corporation
Morrisville, VT
www.lamoilleeconomy.org
Karen Temple Lynch
(802) 888-5640
karen@lamoilleeconomy.org

Northeastern Vermont Development Association
St. Johnsbury, VT
www.nvda.net
Steve Patterson, Executive Director
(802) 748-5181
spatterson@nvda.net

Rutland Economic Development Corporation
Rutland, VT
www.rutlandbusiness.org
William McGrath, Director
(802) 773-9147
www.wmcgrath@rutlandeconomy.com

Springfield Regional Development Corporation
Springfield, VT
www.springfielddevelopment.org
Carol Lighthall, Director
(802) 885-3061
gbristol@sover.net

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS REGIONAL

Trust for Public Land (TPL)

Montpelier, VT
www.tpl.org



Rodger Krussman, Senior Project Manager
(802) 223-1373 ext13
rodger.krussman@tpl.org

TPL is a national land trust that conserves "land for people". Their expertise is in legal and finance strategies for land acquisition, but they also have some capacity to assist with stewardship planning as well. Assistance is provided to communities on a case-by-case basis and TPL tends to focus its efforts on large, complex community forest acquisition projects. TPL also maintains a large network of partner organizations and may be able to link communities with additional resource providers. TPL is a Community Forest Collaborative partner organization.

Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment (QLF)

Manchester, NH
www.qlf.org



Martha West Lyman, Community Forest Program
(603) 647-8081
mlyman@qlf.org

QLF works to support the rural communities and environments of eastern Canada and New England; and to create models for stewardship and cultural heritage that can be applied worldwide. QLF's Community Forest Program works to provide assistance to communities that want to acquire, own and manage forestland as a community asset. QLF is a Community Forest Collaborative partner organization.

Northern Forest Center (NFC)

Concord, NH
www.northernforest.org



Steve Rohde, Sustainable Forest Futures Director
(603) 229-0679, ext 107
srohde@northernforest.org

NFC works through networks and partnerships to build sustainable economies, revitalize local communities and conserve the Northern Forest of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. As part of its Sustainable Forest Futures (SFF) program, NFC seeks to promote the establishment and implementation of community forests. NFC's main area of expertise is in

innovative financing options, including the New Markets Tax Credit program. However, they may also provide assistance with ongoing stewardship issues. NFC is a Community Forest Collaborative Partner.

The Conservation Fund (TCF)

Shrewsbury, VT
www.conservationfund.org

Nancy Bell
(802) 492-3368
nancy_bell@vermontel.net



TCF works with public, private and nonprofit organizations on conservation projects of nationwide significance. They offer expertise in land transactions, community and economic development, and leadership training. They have also provided significant funding for community forest projects.

Open Space Institute (OSI)

New York, NY
www.osiny.org

Peter Howell
(212) 290-8200
phowell@osiny.org



OSI works to protect scenic, natural, and historic landscapes through land acquisition, conservation easements, regional loan programs, fiscal sponsorship, creative partnerships, and analytical research. OSI has provided significant funding for Community Forest projects through its Northern Forest Protection Fund and is currently working to develop a Community Forest Fund, which is anticipated to be make grants later in 2008.

New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF)

Littleton, MA
www.newenglandforestry.org

Lynn Lyford, Executive Director
(978) 952-6856
llyford@newenglandforestry.org



NEFF is a regional organization that works for the conservation and ecologically sound management practices of New England's private and municipal forests. NEFF works to conserve forestland through outright ownership, conservation easements and by providing management support to private landowners.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

www.nature.org

Brunswick, ME
Mike Tetreault
Executive Director
(207) 729-5181
naturemaine@tnc.org

Concord, NH
Daryl Burtnett
State Director
(603) 224-5853
dburtnett@tnc.org

Montpelier, VT
Robert Klein
State Director
(802) 229-4425
vermont@tnc.org



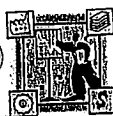
TNC is an international land conservation organization that works to protect biodiversity through a science-based planning process. Forest conservation is one of TNC's global initiatives and they have negotiated a number of working forestland easements in northern New England. TNC works with northern New England communities through three state chapters.

STATEWIDE

Vermont Town Forest Project, Northern Forest Alliance

West Fairlee, VT
www.northernforestalliance.org/townforest

Patricia Ayres Crawford
(802) 333-4010
p.ayres.crawford@stanfordalumni.org

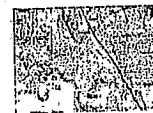


The Vermont Town Forest Project is the result of a collaboration between the Northern Forest Alliance and a broad team of partners. Together, they work to advance forest stewardship and conservation in Vermont by partnering with communities to develop new cultural and educational programs in their town forests, improve stewardship of town forests, and in some cases purchase a new town forest. The project can provide communities with small amounts of funding, staff time and expertise, and networking opportunities in the areas of building educational and cultural connections, fostering community conversations, enhancing stewardship and supporting forestland acquisition.

Maine Association of Conservation Commissions (MEACC)

Falmouth, ME
www.meacc.net

Bob Shafto
(207) 878-8933
meacc@meacc.net



MEACC works to build the capacity of existing conservation commissions as well as expand the number of Maine communities that have functioning conservation commissions. Conservation commissions are municipal advisory boards that work to educate community members about local

environmental issues, advise elected officials regarding environmental policies and practices, and organize and implement special initiatives, such as community forest projects.

New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC)

Concord, NH
www.nhacc.org

Carol Andrews, Executive Director
(602) 224-7867
info@nhacc.org



NHACC provides assistance to New Hampshire conservation commissions and facilitates communication and cooperation among commissions.

Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions

Waterbury, VT
www.avccr.org

Danielle Fitzko, Chair
(802) 241-3673
danielle.fitzko@state.vt.us



AVCC works to increase the effectiveness of conservation commissions and community groups in Vermont. The statewide organization facilitates communication and resource sharing between local conservation commissions.

Maine Land Trust Network (MLTN)

Topsham, ME
www.mltn.org

Megan Shore, Coordinator
(207) 729-7366
mshore@mltn.org



MLTN is Maine's state-wide network of local land trusts. Their website provides links to conservation resources for landowners as well as a searchable list of land trusts around the state.

Forest Society of Maine (FSM)

Bangor, ME
www.fsmaine.org

Pete McKinley, Director of Forestland Conservation
(207) 945-9200
peter@fsmaine.org



FSM is a state-wide land trust, working to maintain the ecological, cultural, and recreational values of the Maine woods through the conservation of working forestlands. They provide assistance in the areas of land acquisition, conservation planning, development and implementation of stewardship plans, and fundraising.

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (The Forest Society)

Concord, NH
www.spnhf.org

Paul Doscher, Vice President, Land Conservation
(603) 224-9945
pdoscher@forestsociety.org

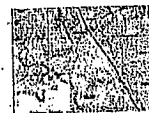


The Forest Society is a state-wide land conservation agency that has been working for over 100 years to maintain New Hampshire's forest resources. They provide assistance in land acquisition and the negotiation of conservation easements, conservation planning and stewardship. Additionally, they offer a number of educational programs.

Vermont Land Trust (VLT)

Montpelier, VT
www.vlt.org

Gil Livingston, President
(802) 223-5234
gil@vlt.org

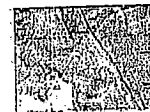


VLT is a statewide land trust with significant experience with Community Forest projects. They help communities acquire land, negotiate and hold conservation easements, inventory natural resources and create management plans. They may also assist with grant-writing, local fundraising and financial administration. Additionally, they have experience with priority-setting, planning and publicity strategies.

Maine Audubon

Falmouth, ME
www.maineaudubon.org

Rob Bryan, Forest Ecologist
(207) 781-2330
rbryan@maineaudubon.org



Maine Audubon's Forestry program works to identify and protect forestland of high conservation value, promote sustainable forest practices and support healthy, economically diverse local

communities. In particular, through their Focus Species Forestry program, Maine Audubon can assist communities in designing forest management strategies that promote biodiversity.

New Hampshire Audubon

Concord, NH
www.nh Audubon.org



Sarah Barnum, Vice President of Conservation
(603) 224-9909 ext 331
sbarnum@nh Audubon.org

New Hampshire Audubon has programs in wildlife conservation, land protection, environmental policy and education. In particular, they can provide communities with biological and ecological information about local forestlands.

Audubon Vermont

Huntington, VT
www.vt.audubon.org



Jim Shallow, Conservation and Policy Director
(802) 434-3068
jshallow@audubon.org

Audubon Vermont works to protect birds and other wildlife through science, education and advocacy. In particular, through the Forest Bird Initiative, communities can learn how to manage forest land for bird habitat.

Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM)

Augusta, ME
www.nrcm.org

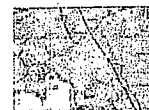


Cathy Johnson, North Woods Project Director
(207) 622-3101
cjohnson@nrcm.org

NRCM is a state-wide advocacy organization that works to protect Maine's natural areas, particularly in the North Woods area. Their areas of expertise include responsible land development, sustainable forest practices and public land ownership.

Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC)

Montpelier, VT
www.vnrc.org



Jamey Fidel, Forest Program Director

(802) 223-2328, ext 117
jfidel@vnrc.org

VNRC is a statewide environmental research, education and advocacy organization. They offer natural resource planning assistance to communities—helping to identify priority forestland resources and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of current conservation strategies.

Manomet Center for the Conservation Sciences

Brunswick, ME
www.manometmaine.org



John Hagan
(207) 721-9040
jmhagan@ime.net

Manomet is an independent environmental research organization with a forest conservation program focused on northern and interior Maine. They work to bring together environmental stakeholders—communities, individuals, universities, government agencies, and businesses—to develop cooperative, science-based policies and management strategies. Their resources include indicator programs related to biodiversity and recreational management. Recently, they have expanded their technical orientation to look at social processes as well.

Beginning with Habitat (BwH)

Augusta, ME
www.beginningwithhabitat.org

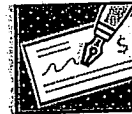


Steve Walker, Program Manager
(207) 287-5254
steve.walker@maine.gov

Beginning with Habitat provides Maine towns with a collection of maps and accompanying information depicting and describing various habitats of statewide and national significance found in the town. These maps provide communities with information that can help guide conservation planning exercises.

Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP)

Augusta, ME
www.mainenaturalareas.org



Kristen Puryear
Community Ecologist
(207) 287-8043
maine.NAP@maine.gov

Sarah Demers
Landowner Incentive Program
(207) 287-8670
maine.NAP@maine.gov

MNAP collects and disseminates information about natural communities and rare plants and animals in Maine. MNAP data is readily available as part of the Beginning with Habitat program. However, where this data may be incomplete or out of date, municipalities and non-profits can request site reviews for rare and unique botanical features. At a forester's request, MNAP will also review management plans to ensure that sensitive populations are appropriately identified and managed. Additionally, MNAP administers the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), which provides funding for habitat protection within specified geographic areas. Privately-owned lands (including land trust properties) are eligible for this program, while municipally-owned lands are not. However, privately-owned lands with municipally-held conservation easements are eligible.

Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM)

Augusta, ME
www.swoam.org

Tom Doak, Executive Director
(207) 626-0005
info@swoam.org



SWOAM works with individuals, organizations and municipalities who own from 10 to 1,000 acres of woodlands. The organization helps landowners navigate a variety of ownership and management issues including taxes, public use, land use regulations, protecting wildlife habitats and water quality, and marketing and utilization of forest products. SWOAM has several foresters on staff and works to connect woodland owners with other consulting foresters, usually arranging a first consultation free of charge. SWOAM also operates two demonstration forests, a land trust, a certification program and numerous educational workshops.

Coastal Enterprises, Inc (CEI)

Portland, ME
www.ceimaine.org

Steve Weems, Executive Investment Officer
(207) 772-5356 x 118
nmtc@ceimaine.org



CEI is a non-profit Community Development Corporation and Community Development Financial Institution, primarily serving Maine but with newly-expanded programs across northern New England. They provide financing and support for the development of natural resources industries and community facilities. In particular, their for-profit subsidiary, CEI Capital Management Llc (CCML), works to help attract capital to low-income areas using the federal New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program. CCML looks to underwrite projects that provide positive economic and community development impacts, social equity, and environmental protection. Although projects must meet certain geographic and size requirements, Community Forest initiatives may be eligible to benefit from this new and innovative rural development financing tool.

Maine Rural Partners (MRP)

Orono, ME
www.mainerural.org



Mary Ann Hayes, Executive Director
(207) 581-4520
maryann@mainerural.org

Maine Rural Partners is a non-profit rural development organization. They provide facilitation services to a select number of communities around asset-based community development. Additionally, they serve as a network clearinghouse for numerous rural development programs.

Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD)

Montpelier, VT
www.sover.net/~vcrd



Paul Costello, Executive Director
(802) 828-6024
vcrd@sover.net

A member of National Rural Development Partnership, VCRD is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Vermont's rural communities. Through their Community Visit and Creative Communities programs, they offer community-based facilitation services to a select number of communities each year. Through their extensive work in forest policy, they can bring a significant amount of expertise to community discussions around forest resource issues.

LOCAL

Western Mountains Alliance

Farmington, ME
www.westernmountainsalliance.org

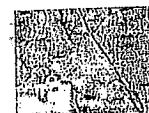


Tanya Swain, Executive Director
(207) 778-3885
tswain@westernmountainsalliance.org

The Western Mountains Alliance is a regional network of individuals and organizations that support sustainable, multiple uses of the region's natural resources. Areas of expertise include leadership capacity training, economic development and resource and conservation planning.

Maine Mountain Heritage Network

Farmington, ME
www.mainemountains.org



Bruce Hazard
(207) 778-3885
bhazard@mainemountains.org

The Woods and Water Group of the Maine Mountain Heritage Network provides strategic planning and coordination support to groups undertaking large landscape resource studies in the Rangeley, High Peaks, Upper Kennebec and Hundred-Mile Wilderness areas of Maine. Types of assistance range from resource mapping to leading consensus building processes. The network is currently working to join forces with additional partners (many who have already been included in this inventory) to create the Maine Woods Consortium.

NorthWoods Stewardship Center
East Charleston, VT
www.northwoodscenter.org



Walter Medwid, Executive Director
(802) 723-6551 ext 116
wmedwid@northwoodscenter.org

The NorthWoods Stewardship Center provides scientific, educational and conservation service programs in northeastern Vermont. They provide leadership in ecologically sensitive forest management practices through a demonstration forest and direct landowner assistance. They also run educational programs and a conservation corps program, which undertakes trail construction, habitat restoration and natural resource inventory projects.

PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY ORGANIZATIONS

Society of American Foresters (SAF)

Bethesda, MD
www.safnet.org



Michael T. Goergen Jr., Executive Vice-President and CEO
866.897.8720
safweb@safnet.org

SAF is the national scientific and educational organization representing forestry professionals. They provide education and networking opportunities for member foresters. SAF also provides a forester certification program and maintains a database of certified foresters on their website.

National Network of Forest Practitioners (NNFP)

Athens, OH
www.nnfp.org



Colin Donahue, Executive Director
740-593-8733
colin@nnfp.org

NNFP is an alliance of rural people working to build a sustainable and equitable forest economy. They serve as a clearinghouse for information and technical assistance on economic development and forest management.

The Forest Guild

Holden, MA
www.forestguild.org



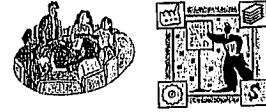
Bob Perschel, Northeast Regional Director
(505) 756-4625
bob@forestguild.org

The Forest Guild's is a national organization of forestry and natural resource professionals with regional offices and programs around the country. The Community Forestry program provides technical assistance and education to rural, forest-dependent communities, including business assistance and forestry training for workers and youth.

BUSINESSES

Yellow Wood Associates

St. Albans, VT
www.yellowwood.org



Shanna Ratner, Principal
(802) 524-6141
shanna@yellowwood.org

Yellow Wood Associates is a small consulting firm specializing in rural development. Their services include research, planning and facilitating/ designing group interactions. In addition, they offer specific community trainings on managing town forests and community forests. "See the Forests" is a unique community forestry education program which integrates experiential learning about forest science and economics with practical tools for guiding local decision-making. The program features activities and experiences to engage community members of all ages and perspectives in reflecting about the social, environmental, and economic values and functions of forests within their community.

The Lyme Timber Company

Hanover, NH
www.lymetimber.com



Peter Stein
(603) 643-3300
peterstein@lymetimber.com

Lyme Timber is a timber investment management organization (TIMO) that specializes in properties with unique conservation values. Lyme has often worked in partnerships with government agencies and environmental organizations. Lyme's consulting division, LTC Conservation Advisory Services (LTCCAS), provides strategic advice around the sale of land and conservation easements, the selection and management of appraisal teams and limited development initiatives.

Hancock Land Company

Casco, ME
www.hancockland.com



Glen Albee
(207) 627-7676
galbee@hancockland.com

Hancock Land is a timber investment and land management company in Southern Maine. Hancock Land has actively sought opportunities to partner with land conservation organizations to permanently protect working forests through conservation easements.

U.S. Forest Capital
Portland, OR
www.usforestcapital.com



Tom Tuchmann
(503) 220-8103
tuchmann@usforestcapital.com

U.S. Forest Capital is a forestry and financial service company that provides integrated advisory services to current and prospective landowners, including non-profit and government organizations. Their services include managing land transactions, arranging conservation financing, designing governance structures and assisting with public policy and communications strategies. They have developed a tax-exempt Community Forestry Bond program.

FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

U.S. Forest Service – Forest Legacy Program

www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml



Augusta, ME

Alan Stearns

Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands

(207) 287-4911

alan.stearns@maine.gov

Concord, NH

Susan Francher

Division of Forests & Lands

(603) 271-2214

sfrancher@dred.state.nh.us

Waterbury, VT

Kate Willard

Division of Lands

(802) 241-3697

kate.willard@anr.state.vt.us

The FLP provides funding for the conservation of forestland threatened by development. The program provides up to 75% of the cost for fee acquisition or purchase of conservation easements. The FLP is administered through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and state forestry organizations, which identify and prioritize potential forest projects.

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities

Greenville, SC

www.usendowment.org



Carlton N. Owen, President & CEO

(864) 233-7646

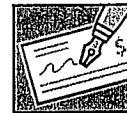
carlton@usendowment.org

The Endowment was established at the request of the United States and Canadian governments in accordance with the terms of the Softwood Lumber Agreement. The Endowment supports projects addressing forest management and sustainability in timber-reliant communities. Partner organizations and communities are selected through both an invitational and RFP process.

Land for Maine's Future (LMF)

Augusta, ME

www.maine.gov/spo/lmf



Tim Glidden, Director

(207) 287-1487

tim.glidden@maine.gov

LMF was created by the Maine Legislature to secure “the traditional Maine heritage of public access to Maine's land and water resources or continued quality and availability of natural resources important to the interests and continued heritage of Maine people”. LMF distributes grants for the permanent conservation of lands that provide significant natural or recreational benefits. Program requirements include 1/3 matching funds, permanent land protection by means of a conservation easement, and public access for hunting and fishing. Note: LMF funds cannot be used to purchase

lands where the primary use value is commercially harvestable timber. However, community forest projects with multiple use values (including timber management) are eligible.

Land and Community Heritage Investment Fund (LCHIP)

Concord, NH
www.lchip.org



Deborah Turcott, Executive Director
(603) 224-4113
dturcott@lchip.org

LCHIP is an independent state authority that makes matching grants to New Hampshire communities and non-profits for the conservation of natural, cultural and historic resources.

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB)

Montpelier, VT
www.vhcb.org



Karen Freeman
Director of Conservation Partnerships and Training
(802) 828-5067
kfreeman@vhcb.org

VHCB is an independent, state-supported funding agency providing grants, loans and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations, municipalities and state agencies for the conservation of important agricultural land, recreational land, or natural areas in Vermont. They provide acquisition funding for forestland of statewide significance and matching funds for projects of local priority. Smaller feasibility grants are also available.

Maine Community Foundation (MCF)

Ellsworth, ME
www.mainecef.org



Peter Taylor, Director of Grantmaking Services
(207) 667-9735
ptaylor@mainecf.org

MCF is a non-profit community foundation that works to strengthen Maine by providing leadership and support to address community issues, connecting donors to organizations and programs they care about, and building and stewarding philanthropic resources. The foundation manages a number of grant programs. In particular, community forest projects may be well-suited to meet the guidelines of the Community Building Grant Program, the County Program, the King and Jean Cummings Charitable Trust Fund, and the Fund for Maine Land Conservation.

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF)

Concord, NH
www.nhcf.org



Jennifer Hopkins
Director of Grantmaking
(603) 225-6641 ext 1239
jph@nhcf.org

Racheal Stuart
Vice President of Programs
(603) 225-6641 ext 1268
rs@nhcf.org

NHCF is a non-profit community foundation that works to improve the quality of life in New Hampshire communities by matching community needs with philanthropic resources. Community forest projects may fit with a number of grant programs. Community Impact and Express grants are available on state-wide and regional levels to support non-profit capacity building, community and economic development, and conservation, among other priority areas. Additionally, a special purpose grant programs, including the Tillitson Fund, have a history of supporting community forest projects.

Vermont Community Foundation

Middlebury, VT
www.vermontcf.org



Mary Conlon, Community Philanthropy Steward
(802) 388-3355 ext 233
mconlon@vermontcf.org

VCF is a non-profit community foundation that works to foster healthy and vital Vermont communities through growing and managing philanthropic activity. Community forest projects may find support in several community fund programs. In particular, the Sustainable and Successful Community Funds are focused on economic development, the environment and civic engagement.

Jane's Trust

Boston, MA
www.hembar.com/selectsrv/janes/



Gioia Perugini, Program Officer
(617) 557-9777
gperugini@hembar.com

Jane's Trust provides grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 for the conservation of natural resources. In particular, Jane's Trust aims to support meaningful and innovative contributions to the protection of critical or historically significant natural resources in traditionally underserved communities. Jane's Trust makes grants to 501(c)(3) organizations working either independently or collaboratively with municipalities.

Northeast Land Trust Consortium - The Pew Charitable Trusts

Danbury, NH
www.pewtrusts.org



Thomas S. Curren, Project Director
Northeast Land Trust Consortium
(603) 768-3192
tcurren@pewtrusts.org

The consortium partners with local and regional land trusts, raising funds for land acquisition or the purchase of conservation easements.

Sudbury Foundation

Sudbury, MA
www.sudburyfoundation.org/environmental



Julia Blatt, Program Officer
(978) 443-0849
blatt@sudburyfoundation.org

The Sudbury Foundation's Environmental Program focuses on Northeast regions facing significant challenges to ecological integrity and community sustainability, including the Northern Forest in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. The Foundation supports organizations focused regionally on promoting a healthy balance between natural resource protection and community sustainability. As of 2008, the Foundation is accepting proposals by invitation only.

Davis Conservation Fund

Falmouth, ME
www.davisfoundation.org



(207) 781-5504
info@davisfoundation.org

The Davis Conservation Foundation provides grants to charitable organizations primarily in northern New England in support of the wise utilization, protection and advancement of our environment. Grant amounts range from \$2,000 to occasionally up to \$100,000 and have supported community forest projects in the past.

Orchard Foundation

South Portland, ME
www.orchardfoundation.org



(207) 799-0686
orchard@mainerr.com

The Orchard Foundation's Environmental Program makes grants across the region. Although the foundation has no history of supporting community forest projects, they may fit program guidelines. Environmental funding is currently focused on climate change and they do not fund land acquisition projects.

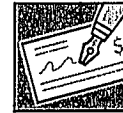
Betterment Fund

New York, NY

www.megrants.org/betterment.htm

(212) 852-3388

betterment@ustrust.com



This charitable fund focuses on improving education and health services in Maine. However, grantmaking has also supported Maine communities in efforts to improve and sustain the quality of life and to preserve and promote responsible use of Maine's natural resources. Grants range from \$10,000 to occasionally over \$100,000 and is primarily focused in the Western Mountains of Maine.

The Orton Family Foundation

Middlebury, VT

www.orton.org

(802) 388-6336

info@orton.org



The Orton Family Foundation supports planning processes to help small cities and towns identify and steward community assets. The Foundation promotes inclusive, proactive decision-making and land use planning by providing guidance, tools, research, capital and other support to citizens and leaders.