

# GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

## 2009 Report for Town Meeting Day

We are proud that the Green Mountain National Forest is part of Vermont and part of your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous green space in the state. Our desire is to achieve quality public land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of the people—people in your town as well as all the visitors who come every year. Below is a brief summary of what happened to your National Forest during 2009:

### Land Acquisition

The Forest **grew by 469.62 acres** through the acquisition of 3 parcels of land in the Towns of **Jamaica and Shaftsbury**. The National Forest is now approximately 397,945 acres.

### Recreation and Heritage Programs

Along with the continuous support and hard work of numerous volunteers and organizations, the Recreation & Wilderness Management staff had a successful year **maintaining public recreation opportunities and wilderness areas**. Several of the Forest Service partners, such as: **Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST)**, the **Green Mountain Club (GMC)**, the **Catamount Trail Association (CTA)**, **Vermont Youth Conservation Corp (VYCC)**, the **Moosalamoo Association**, and the **Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA)** and many more, continue to help us provide a **quality recreation experience in alignment with an environmental stewardship ethic**. We wish to thank these organizations and the town volunteers who helped us.

The Forest conducted its annual **Passport in Time** adult volunteer program -- "Remember Me As You Pass By" -- in October (2009). A crew of 7 people spent a chilly week doing maintenance and repair on historic cemeteries.

In addition to this project, and in partnership with the **Vermont Archaeological Society (VAS)**, **Green Mountain Club**, and **UVM's Consulting Archaeology Program**, the Forest sponsored a **prehistoric excavation** at Little Rock Pond. As part of the Beattie Timber project, a Stewardship project combined clearing encroaching vegetation from the remains of the large 19<sup>th</sup> century Beattie Farm site to help preserve the archaeological remains with stacking the cut brush into piles to create small critter habitat. The historic **CCC-era picnic shelters at Hapgood Pond** were re-roofed, and the CCC-built **Old Job Shelter** was rehabilitated, receiving a new roof, sills and floor.

### Fisheries and Forest Vegetation Management

Much of the work accomplished last year was done through cooperative efforts between the GMNF and other Federal and state agencies, NGOs and private citizens including volunteers with a shared goal of enhancing or **restoring fish populations and habitat** in streams and ponds throughout the Forest. We awarded **3 Stewardship Contracts**, and sold about **7,800 ccf of timber in contracts and permits** (roughly equal to 4.8 million board feet); We provided **maple tapping** opportunities to 5 individual permits; we completed about 1,500 acres of **forest inventory** and 16,000 acres of **terrestrial ecological unit inventories**; we provided permits for 476 cords of **firewood** for public consumption and worked in **restoring native trees** with research partners (butternut and Am. chestnut); We partnered with State of Vermont county foresters and **Wood Warms program** assistance; we developed ARRA stimulus project, jointly with State of Vermont, Div. FP&R to monitor and **control invasive pests** and met with select boards on **stewardship projects**; and finally, we coordinated invasive insect surveys and control efforts through a "**Don't Move**" firewood program.

### 19 Teachers Participated in A Forest For Every Classroom in 2009/2010

This **professional development program for teachers** graduated 19 teachers from the 2009/2010 program in January. The Vermont program has been set up as a national model and is now being replicated in New Hampshire, Texas and Montana. A new set of teachers will begin in May 2011. They will attend four workshops (one in each season) concentrating on forest stewardship, conservation and place-based education. **A Forest For Every Classroom** is a partnership between the Green Mountain NF, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, Shelburne Farms and the National Wildlife Federation.

### Grantwriting Workshops Attended by 18 Towns Surrounding GMNF

During the past year, 75 people participated in free **Grantwriting Workshops** offered by the Green Mountain National Forest. These 2-day workshops are targeted first to the 45 towns impacted by the Green Mountain National Forest. Participants from the following towns attended these workshops: **Bennington, Brandon, Bristol, Dorest, Dover, Granville, Lincoln, Londonderry, Manchester, Middlebury, Mt. Holly, Pittsfield, Rutland, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Wardsboro, and Weston**.

The grantwriting workshops will be offered again in late spring, 2010. If town officials are interested in scheduling a grantwriting workshop specifically for their town, they should call Kathleen Diehl (802-747-6709) to set it up.

## Southeastern Vermont Community Action

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is an anti-poverty, community based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965.

Our mission is to enable people to cope with and reduce the hardships of poverty; create sustainable self-sufficiency; reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty. SEVCA has a variety of programs and services to meet this end. They include: Head Start, Weatherization, Emergency Services (i.e., fuel/utility, housing and food assistance), Crisis Intervention, Parent Education, Micro-Business Development, Individual Development Accounts, Tax Preparation, and Thrift Stores.

In the community of Londonderry we have provided the following services during FY09:

**Weatherization:** 2 households (5 individuals) weatherized at a cost of \$23,189

**Micro-Business Development:** 1 household (1 individual) received counseling, Technical assistance and support to start, sustain or expand a small business

**Tax Preparation:** 3 households received tax refunds and credits totaling \$4,094

**Thrift Stores:** 1 household (2 individuals) received clothing, furniture and/or housewares valued at \$79

**Family Services (Outreach):** 18 families (39 individuals) received 168 services (including fuel/utility and housing assistance, crisis intervention, financial counseling, nutrition education, referral to and assistance with accessing needed services)

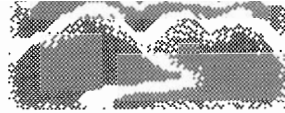
**Fuel/Utility Assistance:** 31 assists totaling \$7,541

**Housing & Other Assistance:** 10 families (23 individuals) rec'd \$2,459 in assistance

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of federal, state, private, and town funds allow us to not only maintain, but to increase and improve service.

We thank the residents of Londonderry for their continued support.

Stephen Geller  
Executive Director



**WINDHAM  
REGIONAL  
COMMISSION**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Windham Regional Commission (WRC) works with its 27 member towns to address regional issues and to help them provide effective local government. Each town annually appoints two representatives to the Commission. Londonderry's current representatives are Tom Buchanan and Denis Pinkernell. Regional commissioners serve on a number of committees that address regional issues and concerns. Some of the highlights of fiscal year 2009 include:

- Assistance for local and regional transportation projects, including traffic analysis, Road Safety Audit Reviews, public transit planning, infrastructure inventories, and the Route 103 corridor management plan that was conducted in partnership with affected towns and a neighboring regional planning commission.
- Direct staff support to the Local Emergency Planning Committee and additional work on emergency preparedness, the Radiological Emergency Response Program, the National Flood Insurance Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation planning, and Rapid Response and Emergency Operations Plan assistance.
- Expansion of the very valuable regional Brownfield initiative through receipt of new EPA grants totaling \$400,000, extending our ability to bring EPA-funded assistance to many towns, development organizations and commercial property owners to support redevelopment of abandoned or under-utilized commercial sites.
- Increased work on energy issues, including having successfully appealed the federal government's denial of county funds for energy efficiency work thus bringing an additional \$130,800 into the region for the upcoming year.
- GIS support for towns, including highway data, land use planning scenarios, planning and zoning maps, natural resources & conservation mapping, natural hazard maps, road name and E-911 maps, and more.
- Review of regionally important projects under Act 250 (state land use permits), "section 248" (energy generation and transmission), and other state and federal programs.
- Response to almost daily requests/questions from local officials and the public on a host of planning related issues.
- Additional work covered a broad range of topics, including natural resources planning, village redevelopment and revitalization projects, economic development planning, and a variety of education and training events for local officials.

The WRC's core budget is partially funded by—and relies on—member town assessments. The \$1.64 per resident rate will result in a total assessment of \$2940.52 from Londonderry for the new fiscal year. Londonderry may wish to budget additional amounts for town-specific work needed from the WRC. For information on the WRC and its programs, contact one of your town's regional commissioners or the WRC office at 139 Main Street, Suite 505, Brattleboro, (802) 257-4547; [wrc@sover.net](mailto:wrc@sover.net). Visit our website at [www.rpc.windham.vt.us](http://www.rpc.windham.vt.us)

Southeastern Vermont Rehab Loan Fund

**ARE YOU IN NEED OF AFFORDABLE HOME REPAIRS?**

The Southeastern Vermont Rehab Loan Fund provides loans to low and moderate income homeowners in Windham and Windsor counties to make repairs necessary to bring their homes up to code and make them safe places to live. A staff Rehabilitation specialist inspects your home for health and safety issues and determines what repairs are necessary. Then, we help you plan your project by getting quotes from reliable contractors. Finally, we finance the project at a low interest loan, depending on your income level. As you repay your loan, your payments are returned to the fund, making them available for future homeowners in need of home repair. For more information or to see if you are eligible, visit [www.windhamhousingtrust.org](http://www.windhamhousingtrust.org) or call Windham Housing Trust at 802-254-4604 ext 116.



Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center, Serving Windham County:  
An Invitation to Serve in Londonderry

For 36 years RSVP has been coordinating the work of volunteers in the Town of Londonderry with non-profit organizations and institutions. We are part of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Since 1973, RSVP has matched hundreds of individuals with agencies and neighbors who benefit from their donation of skills and talents.

Londonderry volunteers donated over 500 hours of service last year by volunteering at the Thrifty Attic, the Council on Aging, and knitting for the Linus Project, a program that donates handmade blankets to children in hospitals. Londonderry seniors can take a Bone Builders class at the South Londonderry Town Office led by RSVP volunteers. Participants fight against osteoporosis by preventing or reversing the effects of the disease through a series of weight bearing exercises. Over 350 seniors participate in RSVP Bone Builder classes in Southern Vermont.

We look forward to hearing from retired individuals and those who are still in the workforce who wish to learn more about volunteering. RSVP can be reached in Windham County by calling Peter Seares at 254-7515.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia M. Palencsar, Executive Director  
Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center