

VT Envirothon 2018 Current Issue

Public Land Management – Balancing Diverse Views

Welcome to the 2018 VT Envirothon Current Issue

Welcome to the 2018 VT Envirothon Current Issue. This year's topic is *Public Land Management – Balancing Diverse Views*. It happens to be very timely. In the course of your work on the issue, you will learn what public lands are, why they exist and what agencies or municipalities own and manage them. You'll also learn about the variety of groups wanting to use these lands and how these users' interests frequently don't mesh. You'll learn about the people who make management decisions on our public lands and how they make their decisions, considering these diverse, and sometimes competing, interests. It's rarely an easy process and requires a thoughtful, far-sighted approach.

I. Introduction

Public lands are lands owned and managed by federal, state or municipal governments. "Public" refers to the land's management or ownership, not its use. Many private lands are open to the public but they are owned and operated by private citizens. Public lands are owned by the public and managed by a government agency, usually with restrictions as to how they may be used. In the US, the federal government is the largest holder of public lands, managing 640 million acres or about 28% of the nation's 2.27 billion acre land mass. Most of these large federal tracts are national forests, national parks and monuments, Bureau of Land Management rangelands or national wildlife refuges. All fifty states and many municipalities also manage public land. The percentage of public land is much higher in the western US than in the East with Nevada's 84.9% as the highest. (Iowa and CT are tied for lowest at .3%.) Most public land has limitations imposed on its use – and that can be controversial if some of the public feels their interests aren't being served. Just in the past year, public lands have dominated the national news several times. In January 2017, armed protesters took over the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon for 41 days. In early December 2017, President Trump announced he would seriously scale back the acreage of two National Monuments in Utah, in part as a response to voters who are opposed to the federal government's restrictions on the land's use. The new 2017 Tax law includes a provision to open the previously protected Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Aspects of public land management are frequently debated and sometimes the debate gets very heated.

VT has its share of public land, a little less than 15% of the state, and while the level of strife isn't as high here as it has been in some western states, Vermonters feel just as strongly about our public lands and what happens on them. Just a few current examples from around the state include: anglers concerned about stream siltation caused by nearby ATV trails; people worried about the impact of mountain bike use on

fragile wildlife habitat; issues between motor boaters who enjoy public waterways and paddlers who want a quiet experience; controversy between people who want to continue using shooting ranges on public lands and neighbors who feel their safety is in jeopardy. There are over 900,000 acres of public lands in Vermont out of a total land base of about 6.1 million acres. Some are large (by Vermont standards): the Green Mountain National Forest includes 400,000 acres in VT. Others, like some town properties or state fishing access points, may be just a few acres—or less. Together, this varied and complex mosaic of public lands creates an equally complex mosaic of potential uses in almost every area of Vermont. Some have been public lands for over a hundred years; others are much more recent acquisitions. But no matter their ownership, size or history, what they all have in common is that they are managed for the benefit of the public – us.

We, the public, have lots of ways we want to use those lands. Some of us make a living logging and rely at least partially on the income earned from jobs on public lands; other people would prefer to let trees grow without human involvement. Some of us like to walk or snowshoe in the quiet of the woods while others like to get out on snowmobiles and ATVs. Some people value the land for the ecosystem services it provides – services like protecting water quality and providing wildlife habitat. Some people like to use public lands for recreation, some to earn their living and some people never actually get out onto those lands but enjoy the scenic beauty from afar. There are as many ways of using the land – or not using it – as there are people.

Decisions about how our public lands are used and managed are made by land managers -- a person or team of people who work for the agency that owns it. Land managers try to balance many diverse interests, opinions and natural resources when developing a management plan. In addition, there are often funding and/or legal constraints on a certain piece of land which help dictate what can or cannot happen on it or in certain areas of it. Often, there are processes in place which potential users must follow to be eligible to use the land – permits, applications, user fees, group size, allowable areas for various activities. The land manager also has to consider the long-term sustainability of the land, the reason it is in public ownership and sometimes, the impact on neighboring parcels. In most cases, the land manager must gather input from the public before coming up with the management plan. A variety of tools can be employed: large meetings, “kitchen table” meetings, written/electronic feedback etc. The job of a land manager is very complex and requires a broad skill set. The best managers bring a creative approach to management, one that enables many diverse uses of the land as well as promoting its long-term sustainability.

II. Your challenge

Although many steps and a lot of information are outlined below, nearly all the work can be done inside over the winter. Basically, you’ll learn about public lands and focus on one in your town. You’ll find out how decisions about its use are made, who makes the decisions and who wants to use the land (or perhaps preserve it.) Then you’ll think

about how you would go about getting enough information from the public if you were to create a plan of your own.

A. Public Lands and Uses

1. Over the winter, learn about public lands in Vermont: federal, state, municipal and any others. Who manages them? What purpose is served by having them public rather than private? Different public lands serve different purposes. What issues are similar no matter what agency is managing the public's land? What issues are different?
2. Who are the people or groups interested in using different types of public lands? Part IV of this document lists some of these "user groups"; brainstorm others. (Understand that sometimes groups are interested in activities such as preservation/conservation of the land, watershed, wildlife habitat, historical artifacts and scenic beauty which aren't active uses but are still perfectly valid and important) Do some interests seem to be in competition with each other? Which ones could happen together, in the same space, at the same time? Which would be incompatible?
3. How much public land is in your community? (Define "your community" as you wish.) Start by asking your town clerk, regional planning commission or using the VT ANR website called BioFinder (see Resources.) What kinds of public land are in your community? Who manages them?

B. "Your" land – its manager, existing management plan and user groups

1. Choose one piece of public land in your community or nearby. Does anyone on your team (or a relative or friend) want to use this land? Who else might want to use it? For what purposes? (Remember that conservation/protection count as uses.) Find out why this land was acquired and why it is held in public trust. How big is it? What agency/organization manages it? Learn whatever you can about the land and the people who want to use/preserve it before proceeding to the next step.
2. Find the name and contact information for the person or group in charge of making management decisions about this land. Interview this land manager in person or by phone, not by email. Prepare for your interview with a list of questions. The following are some you may want to ask but you will doubtless have others. What are the long-term management goals for this land? What issues does this person (or team) address? What are the major challenges s/he faces? Are there restrictions on how the land can be used? Do user groups need permits for some or all uses? Who are the user groups and what are their interests in using the land? How does a manager find out about these people and their diverse, sometimes competing, interests? How does s/he make decisions about land use?

3. Ask the land manager if there is a management plan already in place. If so, ask if your team can take a look at it. (If there is no management plan in place, find out why and move on to the other steps below.) A management plan will tell you about decisions that have been made for the land, some of the user groups/interests involved, and perhaps something about a past public process. Some may also include land use history, how and why the land was made “public”, legal constraints related to uses, and sections on how, why, and for whom the land is managed. It may identify the user groups, issues related to each use, and how issues were resolved. Since public wishes for a place’s use are complex and can change over time, there may be lingering challenges not addressed in the plan. Read the plan and ask the manager about any such continued challenges.
4. Visit the land. If possible, do so with the land manager. Check out locations where different uses take place. Is the diversity of user groups and interests obvious? Do interests seem to mesh or clash? How do they impact the ecological values the land provides?
5. After your discussion with the land manager, your reading of the management plan (if one exists) and your visit to the property, look again at your list of groups interested in this land. If there are more than five groups, choose five of particular interest. Do members of your team represent any of them? How about your family and friends? Do you see potential conflict between interests or does the setting allow for all of these diverse uses now and in the future? Are these uses and interests compatible with the original purposes of acquiring the public land?

C. The public process, planning and map

1. Before creating a management plan for a piece of public land, the manager has to solicit information from the public. Think about the various interest groups for your land. How would you go about reaching out to them? If you really wanted to get a wide variety of opinions from a wide variety of people, you would probably need to use several different methods. Think about what approaches would work best for different people. What methods do you think would be most effective for the interest groups you’ve identified?
2. If you were the land manager, how would you go about creating a management plan for this land, considering the interests of your five chosen groups and the need for long-term sustainability? What would your process look like? This isn’t a competition between user groups; the land manager wants to enable diverse sustainable uses as long as these uses are compatible with the property’s goals. Can you satisfy everyone? If not, how do you decide what to do? In some cases, the reason groups value the land may be incompatible with each other while in other cases they may be able to co-exist if the land manager uses thoughtful and creative strategies. In this Current Issue, we are looking for the process you would use to create a plan, not a real plan itself, which would require a public process.

3. Do some brainstorming about how to manage this land for the diverse groups interested in it. Come up with two management scenarios that you think could be satisfactory for balancing the interests of your five interest groups. Be sure to keep in mind the overall purpose of the public land, too. Could competing uses take place in different areas? Could they occur at different times of year? If there is a current management plan, you can consider it in your solutions, but don't be constrained by it. Get creative!
4. Make a map of the land indicating access points, areas of special concern, where and how user groups want to use – or protect -- the land, and where and how (and if!) your two scenarios will enable them to do so. We're interested to see what you devise.

Note: As stated above, we are *not* asking you to create an actual plan. Your presentation will be on the description of the *process* you would use. Since the gathering of information from the public is integral to managing public lands, and since you won't actually be conducting the required public meetings, you can't really come up with a plan.

III. On the day of the Envirothon...

On the day of the Envirothon, your team will have 20 minutes in front of a panel of judges. 15 minutes is for you to present your work and the last five minutes are for questions from the panel. Everyone on your team should help present your work and be able to answer questions. Although you can't use any electronics that day, you may use them in advance to prepare your map and any other displays. A month or two before the Envirothon, your team will receive a copy of the rubric the judges will use to assess your work. This will help you fine-tune your efforts – but don't wait for it before you start!

Your presentation should include:

A. Information from your research on public lands in Vermont in general and in your community specifically. You should know what public lands are in Vermont, what kinds are in your community, where they are located, why they exist, who manages them and any special concerns about them. You should also know who wants to use and/or protect these public lands and what their interests are.

B. A description of the piece of local public land you selected to study. What agency manages it? Why/when did it become public land? Are there legal or funding issues that influence management decisions? Who is the actual person who manages this piece of land? Did you visit them in person or interview them by phone?

C. Information from your meeting with the land manager and your visit to the land. What are the primary groups and interests that the land manager must balance? Is

there conflict between any of these uses? How does the land manager decide what to do? What other constraints does s/he have? Is there a current management plan? Do you have any thoughts/suggestions about the process that was used to create it? How can a management plan be useful for the land manager?

D. Your two potential scenarios as to how the land might be managed to balance the goals or purposes of the public land (often involving sustainability of natural resources) and the diverse groups' interests. Consider any legal and funding restrictions that already are in place.

E. A description of how you would get information from the various interest groups. Explain why "one size fits all" might not actually work and the methods you would use to reach out to the full spectrum of interested parties.

F. Your map of the land as described above.

IV. Background Information

A. VT's Municipal Lands

In most Vermont communities, some land is owned by the municipality -- the town or city. These lands include town greens, community forests, school grounds, recreational areas, the land surrounding municipal buildings, and more. These lands have been acquired for a multitude of reasons, and they may be maintained to achieve a variety of goals.

Purposes of Municipal Land

When a town acquires land, it is often for a specific use. For example, land may be purchased for a town hall, school, fire department, road/highway department, water supply (or storage or treatment), recreational fields, or for use as a transfer station. Other land may be acquired specifically as open space or for public use, such as town greens, access points to lakes, beaches, or boat launches, or public trail networks. Some land is acquired as a source of financial or physical resources, such as for timber harvesting or for the extraction of materials such as sand or gravel.

In these examples, the main purpose for ownership of the land is clear. However, imagine a scenario in which land is purchased for a school, but the property acquired is much larger than necessary for the school buildings and associated fields and structures. What are the goals for the remaining portion of the property? Who gets to decide? Community members may have numerous ideas—trail networks or opportunities for outdoor recreation, timber management, space for social events, use for other municipal needs, land to sell for development, etc. Each community must decide how to handle these decisions.

On the other hand, some municipal lands are not actively used by the municipality for *any* purpose and are rarely accessed. Few people may know about these lands. In fact, municipal ownership may not have even been intentional. For example, some towns have acquired land as payment for delinquent (unpaid) taxes or following buy-outs of flood damaged homes. These lands may not be located in places appropriate for the needs of the community, or there may simply be no one to take an active role in figuring out what to do with them.

Management

When a community decides that management of its municipal land is necessary, administration is varied. In some cases, a board or committee is appointed specifically to manage a single parcel, such as a Town Forest Committee. This is most common when the parcel has many uses and/or heavy use. In other cases, the town's Conservation Commission, a municipal lands board, another town board, or occasionally a town administrator manages a community's land. For example, the school board sometimes manages the open land behind a school, even if use includes forestry, trail-based recreation, hunting or other activities in addition to education. In some cases, a county forester—a state employee of Vermont Department of Forests,

Parks and Recreation—may be involved in managing a town forest, especially when management involves forestry.

In each case, these boards or individuals are responsible for balancing possible uses of the land and making management decisions. In most cases, however, they play *advisory* roles in the local government structure. Final decisions are up to the Select Board or the citizens of a town. In other words, a Town Forest Committee may be specifically set up to do all the necessary research on possible uses of the land, issue surveys to determine citizen interest, create management plans, contract with land management professionals, or even conduct management activities such as trail building or invasive species management. Before moving forward with any activity, however, approval may be needed from the town's Select Board, and some activities may require a vote from citizens at a public meeting.

Learning More

While management of municipal land is different in each community, the town clerks of most towns can tell you what land is owned by the city or town and who is responsible for management. A list of lands that have been specifically designated as Town Forests can be found at <https://vtcommunityforestry.org/YourVTTownForest>. There is also a map on the BioFinder website (<http://biofinder.vermont.gov/>), maintained by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, where you can find conserved lands, including those owned by municipalities even if they have not been designated as Town Forests. For help using this resource or finding municipal land in your community, please contact monica.przyperhart@vermont.gov.

B. VT's State Lands

Vermont state land – in the form of state forests, state parks and wildlife management areas – along with other public lands, are an important part of the Vermont landscape. These lands are conserved in perpetuity - protected for current and future generations of Vermonters and visitors. The forests of Vermont provide important ecosystem services like clean air and water; they sustain important wildlife habitat and support an active timber harvest program that both generates forest products and improves wildlife habitat; and they provide a setting for a wide range of recreational activities (i.e. hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling).

The (ANR) is responsible for the management of state-owned land for a variety of purposes, ranging from the protection of important natural resources to public uses of land. ANR plans for the management of its state-owned lands through the careful development of long-range management plans (LRMP). Planning processes are important for guiding the allocation of resources, such as where and what types of recreation occur, where and how timber is harvested, the management of wildlife habitats and to address the growing and diverse pressures placed on state land by users and potential users. A comprehensive planning process is critical when such diverse interests are at stake. State lands are managed by stewardship teams through

the five district offices. These teams include staff from the Departments of Fish and Wildlife; Forests, Parks and Recreation; and Environmental Conservation.

There are nearly 350,000 acres of state-owned land across Vermont.

- 177,000 acres of state forests
- 51,000 acres of state parks
- 121,000 acres of wildlife management areas

In addition to these lands, ANR manages nearly 140,000 acres of conservation and public access easementsⁱ on private land. On these lands, management decisions must be a joint effort between the landowner and ANR, guided by the terms of the conservation easement. (Easement – properties where landowners voluntarily place restrictions on their property in order to protect natural resources. Some/many support public access.)

Land ownership and management is guided by the mission of ANR and its departments. The overarching mission of the agency is to protect, sustain and enhance Vermont's natural resources, for the benefit of this and future generations by

- promoting the sustainable use of Vermont's natural resources;
- protecting and improving the health of Vermont's people and ecosystems
- promoting sustainable outdoor recreation
- operating efficiently and effectively to fulfill that mission

Individual departments within the agency have different areas of focus under that broader guidance:

The ***Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation*** strives to practice and encourage high quality stewardship of Vermont's environment by

- monitoring and maintaining the health, integrity, and diversity of important species, natural communities, and ecological processes
- managing forests for sustainable use, providing and promoting opportunities for compatible outdoor recreation
- providing related information, education and services.

The ***Fish and Wildlife Department's*** mission is to protect and conserve our fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont. The Department's Wildlife Management Areas help conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat, while providing people with opportunities for fish and wildlife-based recreation.

The ***Department of Environmental Conservation*** strives to

- preserve, enhance, restore and conserve Vermont's natural resources

Other public state lands include State Historic Sites, administered by the VT Department of Historic Preservation, and lands of the VT State Colleges System.

C. VT's Federal Lands

There are multiple types of federally managed lands in Vermont: a national forest, national wildlife refuges, a national park, a national scenic trail, flood-control and recreation areas and some military facilities. Each has its own purpose and management strategy and allows specific uses.

Green Mountain National Forest

The Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) encompasses more than 400,000 acres and is the largest contiguous public land area in the state. The GMNF signifies a multiple-use ethic through its role in providing ecological and science-based forest stewardship, clean water, diverse vegetation, high-quality forest products, and many forms of recreation, including camping, hiking, fishing as well as alpine, groomed nordic and back-country skiing.

The GMNF consists of two sections, commonly known as the south half, which is managed by the Manchester Ranger District, and the north half, which is managed by the Middlebury/Rochester Ranger District. District staff consists of wildlife and fisheries biologists, foresters and recreation staff. At the Supervisor's Office in Rutland, staff oversee program areas and contain forest wide specialists, such as an archeologist. When a new project is proposed for any type of management, such as a timber harvest, new trail or clearing an area for wildlife habitat, experts on the district as well as the supervisor's office consult and coordinate and public involvement is sought.

The Forest Plan, also known as the Land and Resource Management Plan, guides all natural resource management activities for the GMNF. Under the Forest Plan, the GMNF is divided into management areas, with specific goals and objectives for managing them.

The management areas consist of the following:

Diverse Forest Use: This management area comprises approximately 118,000 acres or 30% of the GMNF. The emphasis is on a variety of forest uses, including the production of high quality saw timber and other wood products, management to create and maintain a mix of wildlife habitats, and a full range of recreation opportunities ranging from camping to motorized and non-motorized trail use.

Diverse Backcountry: Comprising approximately 60,000 acres or 15% of the GMNF, this management area emphasizes a mix of back country recreational experiences, from low use foot trails to motorized use trails. Longer rotations for timber harvesting, 150 years or more, provide for a mature looking forest. The area is also managed for a variety of wildlife habitats.

Wilderness: Comprising approximately 60,000 acres or 15% of the GMNF, this management area emphasizes the management and protection of congressionally designated Wilderness areas - there are seven on the GMNF. The goal is to conserve

these areas in their natural state, with little human intervention, and to provide opportunities for solitude and low impact or “primitive” recreation. The use of motorized and mechanized vehicles, installations of structures and road development is prohibited except where provided by law.

The remaining 40% of the GMNF is divided into small management areas: Remote Wildlife Habitat, Escarpment, Remote Backcountry, Wilderness Areas, National Recreation Areas, Appalachian Trail, Long Trail, Recreation Special Areas, Moosalamoo Recreation and Education Area, Alpine Ski Areas, Alpine Ski Area Expansion, Research and Candidate Research Natural Areas, Ecological Special Areas, Alpine/Subalpine Special Area, Eligible Wild, Scenic or Recreational Rivers.

National Wildlife Refuges

There are two federal wildlife refuges in Vermont. One, the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, is 6700 acres mostly of natural and managed wetlands in the northwestern part of the state where the Missisquoi River flows into Lake Champlain. The other is the Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge which includes 36,000 acres of the CT River Watershed in the four states of the river’s watershed. There are two sections of the Conte Refuge in Vermont – the Nulhegan Basin Division includes 26,600 acres in the Northeast Kingdom and the Putney Mountain Unit, 285 acres in Putney-Brookline. Both the Conte and Missisquoi Refuges are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and are managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, a division of the US Department of the Interior. These lands and waters are managed to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. Missisquoi allows limited on-trail, non-motorized recreation as well as limited boating, hunting and fishing in portions of the refuge. The Conte’s Nulhegan Basin has trails and dirt roads and is open for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, winter recreation and environmental education. The Putney Mountain Unit is mostly forested with some beaver ponds. It’s home to the federally endangered Northeastern bulrush which is why the land was acquired by the Refuge. This area has no formal trails and is open for hunting, dispersed recreation, wildlife viewing and environmental education.

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park (MBR) is in Woodstock (and is where the Envirothon Training Day takes place.) These 555 acres were private until 1992 when the owners gave it to the federal government and in 1998 it opened to the public as a national park. Like all US National Parks, MBR is managed by the National Park Service, a division of US Department of the Interior. George Perkins Marsh was an early environmentalist who was born on the property; Frederick Billings, a later owner was committed to the careful management of his forest and farm lands; the Rockefellers who owned it last and donated it for a national park were also dedicated conservationists. As a result, MBR focuses on the history of conservation and land stewardship in the US. In addition to the historic buildings, the park includes 550 acres of carefully managed forestland with 20 miles of walking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding.

The Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian Trail (AT) is a long-distance hiking trail and a National Scenic Trail. 150 miles of its nearly 2200 miles (Maine to Georgia) runs through Vermont. The AT coincides with Vermont's Long Trail from the MA border to north of Rte. 4. There the trails split; the Long Trail continues north but the AT runs east to NH, crossing the CT River near Norwich. Management of the AT is under a partnership of the National Park Service, US Forest Service, other agencies and numerous non-profit organizations in the various states it crosses.

Military Facilities

There are several Department of Defense military facilities in VT. The largest, the 11,000-acre Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho is not open to the public and is used by the National Guard for training. It also provides an area for biathlon training. The Firing Range has an active forest management plan. Furthermore, as a large block of mostly undeveloped land in Chittenden County, it is important wildlife habitat both by itself and as a connection between other habitat blocks. Another Chittenden County site, Camp Johnson in Colchester, contains an important site for sand plain forest and is actively managed by the Camp to protect this natural community.

Army Corps of Engineers lands

The Army Corps of Engineers, part of the Dept. of Defense, manages five dams and reservoirs in VT. Although their main purpose is flood control, the areas provide many water and land-based recreation opportunities and are managed to promote them. These sites are in Thetford, Hartland, Springfield, Jamaica and Townshend.

D. Uses and User Groups

People want to use our public lands in many ways. Many of these activities need to be properly sited and managed. Most of the uses in the list below are active uses; the preservation of an area for environmental or historical reasons isn't active but is just as valid. This isn't a complete list.

Environmental Values/Ecological Services

- Maintaining wildlife habitat
- Protecting air quality
- Preventing erosion and protecting water quality
- Preserving scenic beauty
- Preserving biodiversity
- Conserving open space
- Mitigating the effects of climate change
- Maintaining a place of solitude free from noise and light pollution

General Activities/Uses

- Timber management
- Research plots

- Vegetation removal (i.e. to maintain views) or restoration (i.e. to preserve water quality)
- Invasive species management
- Trail construction and layout
- Wildlife watching or photography
- Hunting and trapping
- Camping
- Using drones for video and photos, or other purposes
- Group events and races
- Walking dogs (On or off-leash. Consider waste management, too.)
- “Permanent” infrastructure siting: disc golf courses, geocaching, rock climbing and bouldering, hang gliding, etc.
- Promoting (or not) historic sites
- Parking for a variety of uses

Trail-based activities

- Hiking/walking
- Running
- Bicycling/Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Winter-use trails: skiing, dogsledding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing
- Motorized use: motorcycles, ORVs/ATVs, trucks, jeeps etc.

Water-based activities

- Whitewater boating
- Canoe/kayak access
- Fishing (fly fishing and bait)
- Beaches and swimming
- Waterfowl viewing and hunting
- Management or research activities, such as fish counts or water quality testing (and possible closures due to water quality)
- Aquatic invasive species management.

Sometimes, uses conflict with one another but in some cases a creative approach can alleviate the problem. In the words of one recreation planner, “These uses are only competing when not co-managed properly.” Although occasionally conflicts can’t be resolved, good land managers work hard to allow multiple uses of the land, satisfying people’s interests and values in a way that is also sustainable for the land. However, the purpose for making the land public generally prevails over other uses. For example, Wildlife Management Areas generally *don’t* accommodate trail building for mountain bikes, because there’s an inherent conflict between the use and the purpose.

Possible Resources – these are only a few ideas to start your explorations.

VT Agency of Natural Resources' land management webpage

<http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=73163&pageId=8243858>

Biofinder: A mapping tool to help you look at a piece of land once you've identified it <http://biofinder.vermont.gov/> For help using this resource or finding municipal land in your community, please contact monica.przyperhart@vermont.gov

VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Long Range Planning

- [What is a LRMP?](#)
- [Why do we plan?](#)
- [Planning Principles](#)
- [Find Planning Documents](#)
- [How can your input be heard?](#)

http://fpr.vermont.gov/state_lands

http://fpr.vermont.gov/sites/fpr/files/State_Lands_Administration/Lands_Management_Planning/Library/RoleofthePublic_2015.pdf

VT Dept. of Forest, Parks and Recreation's Stewardship Foresters – Essex (jason.nerenberg@vermont.gov); Barre (diana.frederick@vermont.gov); St. Johnsbury (lou.bushey@vermont.gov); Springfield (tim.morton@vermont.gov); Rutland (lisa.thornton@vermont.gov)

VT Dept of Historic Preservation, State Historic Sites <http://historicsites.vermont.gov>

USDA Forest Service –Green Mountain National Forest

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) http://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_home.php A Power Point presentation about NEPA will be sent to the teams separately.

Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) And Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Silvio_O_Conte/what_we_do/finalccp.html

Army Corps of Engineers Dams

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Vermont/>
