



Vermont Forest Products Association



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

FALL, 2021

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The Mission of the VFPA is to promote and defend the interests of our members. VFPA represents all aspects of the forestry community and the member businesses and individuals that are located throughout the State of Vermont. VFPA meets its mission through:

- Information and continuing education to its members
- Public outreach and education
- Working with other organizations through partnering and coalition building
- Networking with others within the forest products industry
- Lobbying state and federal government officials and lawmakers

NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK OCTOBER 17 - 23, 2021

Julie Moore ~ The Path Ahead: Climate Action in Vermont



Climate change is all around us and yet, at times, can be hard to see clearly. The Earth's climate is a complex, noisy system and is influenced by many factors, including human activities. Because of this, changes in our climate can feel small, or far away, while other threats feel more imminent. But the simple fact of the matter is the earth's climate is changing, and Vermont's climate is changing. These changes are complicated further by the fact that they are slow-moving and at times, hard to directly observe. For example, do you remember the last two years when Lake Champlain completely froze over? Although the surface of Lake Champlain froze over nearly every year in the early 1900s, it is now freezing much less frequently. According to the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the lake currently freezes about once every four years. Modeling suggests that by 2050, the lake may freeze fully just once every decade. (And as far as the two most recent years, it was 2015 and 2018).

Climate change is also affecting the composition of our forests. Northern hardwood species such as maple, yellow birch, and American Beech are threatened by warmer and drier growing seasons, as well as pathogens, that can stunt growth and shift forest compositions toward warmer-climate species like oak and pine. Further impacts to our natural and working lands will be felt by changes in the water cycle, resulting in drought conditions in some areas while at the same time producing more frequent and intense rain events in other places. This summer, both conditions were found in different parts of Vermont. Windham County experienced the most significant flooding since Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, while the East Berkshire Fire District in Franklin County was hauling in bulk water after its well went dry.

These examples are the sorts of changes that can be hard to gain perspective on absent long-term datasets that demonstrate clear trends over time. But these trends are real. They are generally consistent with the predictions scientists have made about the changes we would expect as greenhouse gases trap in the earth's atmosphere, producing warmer seasons and increasingly extreme weather.

It is noteworthy that the impacts of climate change often fall disproportionately to the most vulnerable Vermonters— such as housing built on “less expensive” land because of its flood susceptibility. For example, during Tropical Storm Irene, 15 mobile parks and 561 mobile homes in Vermont were damaged or destroyed. Mobile homes make up a little more than 7 percent of all housing units in Vermont but were approximately 40 percent of homes affected by Irene.

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The path that lies ahead will be challenging. It will require us to make changes in our lifestyle that are hard, or at least inconvenient, and will cost money. It will require coordinated action at the federal, state and local level. Our individual emissions are the proverbial drop in a very large bucket– the global atmosphere. Yet, each of our inconsequential emissions become consequential when aggregated.

Last year, the Vermont Legislature passed the Global Warming Solutions Act. This Act codified requirements to reduce greenhouse gas pollution to 26 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, 40 percent below 1999 levels by 2030 and 80 percent below by 2050. The law also established the Vermont Climate Council, charged with the responsibility of drafting the Climate Action Plan.

While efforts to reduce greenhouse gas pollution will be an important component of the Climate Action Plan, cutting our emissions is only one part of the multi-pronged approach that is needed. In addition to required emissions reductions, the Act directs the Council to identify opportunities to make the Vermont landscape better able to withstand continued changes in climate. This is likely to include everything from strengthening roads and bridges to withstand heavier rains to conserving and enhancing the health of forested tracts and farmland so they can capture and store precipitation and carbon emissions in our agricultural soil and our trees. Cumulatively, each year, Vermont's 4.5 million acres of forestland sequester, or take in, about half of the state's annual CO2 emissions. Our strategies and actions will include ways to both conserve and enhance these benefits as a necessary component of comprehensive climate action.

This fall, the Vermont Climate Council is hosting a series of public events, both online and in person. At each event, the Climate Council will invite the public to share how climate change is affecting them personally and ask them to weigh in on proposed strategies for the Climate Action Plan. This feedback will help further shape and refine the Action Plan that the Council will adopt on December 1st. If you are interested in joining an upcoming event, or if you are not able to make an event but still want to share your feedback, visit www.climatechange.vermont.gov/getinvolved.

Successful climate action will require each of us– at the individual, local and state level– to do our part to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help prepare Vermont to respond to the impacts that a changing climate will have. The Climate Action Plan will help guide that work.

Julie Moore is the Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the state agency with primary responsibility for protecting and sustaining Vermont's environment, natural resources, wildlife and forests, and for maintaining Vermont's beloved state parks.

Celebrating Vermont's Forests

*~Honors the traditions of the
working forests of the past*

~Strengthens the Industry of today

~Helps shape the future of the forest

Products industry for generations to come



“The voice of the forest products industry in Vermont since 1977”

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**VFPA Legislative Report**

By:

**Ed Larson, Lobbyist for
Vermont Forest Products Association**

**Global Warming Solutions Act****Climate Council prepares a report due December 1**

Awareness of climate change has increased exponentially during the past few years. Concerns about climate mitigation and resiliency is front and center in all political bodies.

Within local, state and federal governments as well as most countries around the globe, policies are adopted to attempt to reduce emissions and find ways to mitigate climate impacts. Our forests are also gaining considerable attention as trees store and absorb (sequester) carbon through its role in the carbon cycle. So what does this mean to our industry? How will it change us and what is the cost? Just about every university that contains a forestry or environmental curriculum is pushing out studies that measure carbon storage and sequestration in forest and how management practices can adjust to maximize these activities.

The Climate Council was created a little over a year ago as a result of the passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act, Act 153 of 2020. There are five sub-committees in which much of the work is carried out. The committee we have been focused on and carefully monitoring is the Agriculture and Ecosystems Sub-committee. The group has addressed issues pertaining to land use including agriculture, forestry, and development. They also are looking at wetlands, rivers, lakes and ponds. As of this report, the committee has yet to prioritize their action items of a very long list. Items include:

- Adopt a no net loss of forests
- Develop tools to measure forest loss/conversion.
- Increase funding for permanent conservation easements to meet the 30% by 2030 (30x30) goal.
- Add a "Forever Wild" category in UVA (Current Use Program).
- Add a review of fragmentation in Act 250.
- Adopt new silvicultural guidelines to optimize carbon storage and sequestration
- Encourage bio diesel use on forestry jobs including trucking.
- Increase buffers around water bodies
- Create some sort of local carbon trading marketplace
- Address ecosystem service opportunities

- Conserve/Protect old forests
- Reduce deer population to stimulate more tree regeneration

The final plan is due December 1 of this year. There are many details that will require new legislation, new funding and rulemaking. To many, this wish list is huge and may result in many unintended consequences on our economic and social well-being if legislative and administrative changes are not carefully done. It is likely we will see more pressure on our industry during these already challenging times.

Green Mountain National Forest

During the past ten or so years, timber harvesting has gradually increased in the 400,000 + acre national forest in Vermont. Current volumes are exceeding 11 million board feet annually, close to double the volume of ten years ago. The 2006 adopted forest management plan for the GMNF has set a goal of up to 19 million board feet, so although we are experiencing increases, it still falls short of their plan. Now with an increased awareness of climate change and the role of forests in carbon cycling, we see a renewed interest in forest management activities on the GMNF. Some recall the debates of twenty years ago on wilderness designations on these lands and how bitter the debate became at times. We now see a new generation of people seeking more set asides for the purpose of storing carbon to save the planet. This time, the voices are louder, acting more desperate than we have experienced before. This is placing pressure on politicians and the leadership of the US Forest Service. There are a number of projects in various stages of implementation. Two major projects stand out and has attracted much attention from the public. The most recent project currently in its beginning scoping stage is a very large multi-phase project called "Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project" and another very large project in the southern portion of the GMNF called "The Early Successional Habitat Creation" Project.

Telephone Gap Integrated Resource project is a comprehensive multi-phase project covering thousands of acres in the northern and central portions of the GMNF

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It currently consists of approximately 32,252 acres of National Forest System (NFS) land, not including the acreage contained in the potential South Pond acquisition and 40,001 acres of nonNFS land for a total of 72,253 acres. These acreages and percentages may change throughout the course of the project due to pending land acquisitions by the GMNF. Much of these lands have had very little logging activity since the forest service purchased some of these lands as far back as the 1930s. Stands range from 40 years to 120 years or more old. Nothing in the treatment area has had activity since the current forest management plan which was adopted in 2006. Currently in its beginning scoping phase, the staff assigned to this project has been hosting a series of meetings and field trips to flush out issues, concerns and comments from the public. I have been able to attend most of them and found this project to be important and timely. I found the meetings and field trips were well planned and we saw excellent examples of the different types of forest treatments done in these lands over the past several years. I felt the Forest Service staff did an excellent job fielding questions from the variety of attendees and allowed everyone ample opportunities to make statements and ask questions. As I watched and listened to many of the anti-logging crowd ask questions that almost all lead to “why do we need to cut any trees?”, I was impressed how the staff patiently would speak to habitat needs, community and economic needs and all the other many benefits of a managed forest.

The Early Successional Habitat Creation Project (ESHC) Project is designed to increase the regenerating age class (0 to 9 years old) of forested stands on about 17,411 acres over a 15-year period to provide habitat for neotropical migrant passerine birds (or perching birds) and other wildlife species requiring early successional habitats. Proposed project activities, chiefly commercial timber harvests, would create temporary openings in lowland and upland habitats across a large portion of the Manchester Ranger District. This project has been in the hopper for a few years now, almost ready to begin implementing the various harvests. There is one final piece that needs to be addressed in this project that deals with the length of temporary roads.

Temporary roads are created to accommodate primarily timber harvests to get trucks as close to the sale as possible. During the planning process of the entire forest management plan, the staff will establish and include a maximum mileage of temporary roads allowed to be created during the life of the plan. The 2006 plan had a limit of seven miles. Because of the greatly increased volume of timber harvests occurring each year the plan needed to be amended and in 2018 increased it to 23.3 miles. Now the ESHC which entails a large number of clear cuts in several spread-out areas the staff predicts the need for just over 20 miles of temporary roads. Since this project alone eats up most of the limit, the staff is trying to find reductions in road building before they start its implementation. We expect to see their proposed change this fall and will be available for public comment. We expect that the number of acres to be treated will decrease to reduce the need for more temporary roads. This is one of those areas where an arbitrary number will force a change in a project that has no relationship to the ecological or silvicultural needs of the forest in this project area. Since there is a direct relationship with the amount of timber to be harvested and the length of roads, why don't they establish the maximum length based on the allowable sale quantity established in their forest management plan?

Thank you for the privilege of representing you in the Statehouse.

Happy hunting everyone!

Ed Larson

New SFI Standards Are Slated to Be Adopted January 2022

This was a comprehensive rewrite of the standards adding several new components including climate smart forestry and a more rigorous set of protocols to verify sustainability of managed forests. Moving from **“knowledge to practice”** is the general theme motivating these new more stringent standards. The last revision was 2014. Some changes are also made to logger training programs to recognize changing priorities on the landscape including rare and threatened species and invasive species. SFI certification is a powerful tool to ensure healthy forests that mitigate climate impacts, are resilient to fire threats, and support a diversity of communities.

Currently 375 million acres are certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard and tens of millions are certified to the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. This offers tremendous scale to make a difference in the forests of North America.

**SFI STANDARDS PROVIDE
LEADERSHIP
ON IMPORTANT
SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES**



Climate Change

Requirements for a new SFI Climate Smart Forestry Objective are one of the highlights of the new standards. Forests play a central role in the carbon cycle and with proper management, can be one of the most effective nature-based solutions to address climate changes. SFI-certified organizations will now be required to ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The standard influences forest practices with science-based approaches to achieve resilient carbon sequestration and healthy forests. This may include leaving more larger trees and snags for storage and longer rotation and cutting cycles for added sequestration.

Fire Resilience and Awareness

SFI is elevating its role in addressing fire by introducing a new SFI Fire Resilience and Awareness Objective. (continue on page 5)

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Forest fires have long played a role in the evolution and function of natural ecosystems, but we are now seeing an increase in catastrophic fires that have dire consequences for our forests, wildlife, and communities. SFI-certified organizations are now required to limit susceptibility of forests to undesirable impacts of wildfire and to raise community awareness of fire benefits, risks, and minimization measures. Certified organizations will have a year to adjust their management plans and practices to meet this new standard.

Logger Training

Loggers who are aware of their responsibility as professionals are better equipped to protect the environment, underscoring the importance of logger training as a core requirement in the SFI Forest Management Standard. By the end of 2019, 214,000 loggers and foresters had completed training programs approved by SFI Implementation Committees. Requirements for logger training is reorganized into two indicators. Indicator 1 details the core training requirements needed to attain qualified logging professional status. Indicator 2 has the continuing education requirements needed to maintain qualified logging professional status. These enhancements add more structure to the qualified logging professional training requirements and raise the overall quality and impact of logger training. The definition of “certified logging company” was updated to ensure the requirements for a certified logging company build on the already high level of training provided by qualified logging professional training programs. Specifically, key personnel are required to complete a SFI Implementation Committee approved qualified logging professional training program. Certified logging companies are required to hold independent, in-the-forest verification of conformance with a logger certification program.



PLT recently launched a new series of theme-based activity collections that focus on specific grade levels and relevant topics.

Nature of Fire is their latest release that features three PLT activities for educators of students in grades 6-8 that invite learners to investigate wildfire and ecosystem change.

Nature of Fire features three PLT activities for educators of students in grades 6-8. Designed to be flexible, the activities can be used as individual, stand-alone lessons, or all together as a cohesive unit of instruction using a storyline technique.

Nothing Succeeds Like Succession

Students read a story about forest succession and investigate the connections between plants, animals, and successional stages in a local ecosystem.

Living with Fire

Students learn about the three elements that a fire needs to burn and find out how this “fire triangle” can be used to prevent and manage wildland fires.

Burning Issues

Students graph changes in atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) over the course of several decades to explore the relationship between CO₂, the Earth’s climate, and wildfires — and suggest ways to reduce the negative effects of fire.

The activity collection is available for purchase from PLT’s Shop (shop/plt.org) as a downloadable PDF for \$5.99.

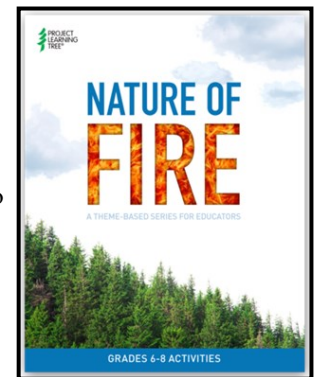
Other PLT Activity Collections include:

- ***Discover Your Urban Forest* for grades 6-8**
- ***Biodiversity Blitz* for grades 3-5**
- ***Trillions of Trees* for grades 3-5**
- ***Sensational Trees* for grades K-2**

Ed Larson SFI VT Coordinator

Bill Sayre, Chair SFI VT

<http://www.aivt.org/sfivt.html>



COVID, Culverts, Climate Change and Vermont's Future Forests:

How Okemo State Forest is using one-time COVID-19 relief money to improve public access and forest resilience.

By Christine McGowan, Forest Products Program Director at Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

There is just one road up the backside of Mt. Holly in [Okemo State Forest](#). Originally built in the 1980s for forest management, the road now also supports snow machines and skiers in the winter, hikers and mountain bikers in the warmer months, and the occasional horseback rider. For decades, recreation in the area was fairly light—mostly locals who knew the road was there. And then came COVID-19.

Tim Morton, state lands stewardship forester for Windsor and Windham counties, estimates the area saw a five-fold increase in recreational use during the pandemic, adding strain to an aging road that was already in various stages of disrepair. In addition to erosion from wear and tear, the original culverts were significantly undersized for the increased volume and flow of precipitation in recent years, causing washouts from increasingly frequent extreme weather events.



So when the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation received \$1.5 million in COVID-19 Relief funding to address increased use, Morton saw an opportunity to fix his road. And to expand recreational opportunities. And protect bear habitat. And improve truck access for a planned timber harvest. And address forest resilience in the face of climate change. And it all starts with upgrading a culvert. “Without road access, you can’t accomplish anything,” said Morton, standing by a culvert in Okemo State Forest. “So we have to do the work when the money is there. It’s a long game.” Morton’s long range management plan for Okemo State Forest—an 8,000-acre parcel that includes Okemo Mountain Resort, extensive snowmobile trails, and the 798-acre Terrible Mountain Natural Area—carefully balances a myriad of objectives in addition to recreation.

The road runs through early successional habitat for moose, deer, bear, pollinators, and other insects. “It’s very vibrant,” he said, “and an important area where wildlife are raising and rearing young.” Protecting black bear habitat is a priority, as the area’s vast beech population has been severely impacted by beech bark disease in the past two decades. Morton is introducing additional summer fruits as an alternative food source and looking at red oak to replace some of the lost beech.

He is also opening access to a section of the forest that has been inaccessible because the road was built for shorter log trucks that are no longer available. The planned harvest in this area will create canopy clearings to improve tree species diversity, and help defray the cost of additional road and trail maintenance through the state’s land and facilities trust fund.

But looming over all of the forest’s many assets—recreation, wildlife habitat and timber harvesting—is a much larger concern, and one that now informs Morton’s plans at Okemo: the impacts of climate change. With changes in weather patterns, temperature, and precipitation, Vermont’s forest industry is moving from monitoring and predicting the threat of climate change to mitigating its impact through active management.

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Flooding, erosion threaten Vermont forests.

While wildfires ravage other parts of the country, parts of Vermont are dealing with a different problem: too much water. According to the [NOAA National Center for Environmental Information](#), average precipitation in Vermont has risen 6.7 inches per century- or about .7 inches per decade- since 1895. “Our forest infrastructure has to account for these increases in precipitation,” said Alexandra Kosiba, Vermont’s climate forester. “We are not going to make a big dent in slowing global climate change through forest management here in Vermont, but we can impact the effect of climate change on our forests and communities.”

The flooding and erosion that result from increased rainfall and extreme weather events can have a detrimental effect on the ecology of the forest, displacing carbon-rich soil and causing damage to infrastructure, such as log roads, that allow access for management and recreation.

So back to that culvert. “The original culverts were undersized back in the eighties,” said Morton, “and they are nowhere near adequate to accommodate the increased volumes of water that come in short bursts during the summer months that we see today.” Tony D’Amato, a professor and director of UVM’s forestry program, agrees. “With increased rain and unexpected extreme events predicted for Vermont, if you want access to areas in forests, you have to invest in roads, bridge crossings, and culverts.”

Restoration for adaptation.

Compounding the changes in weather patterns is Vermont’s history of land use, which included clear cutting 80 percent of the state’s forested land in the late 1800s. Although the forest has returned to the Green Mountain State, many areas have not rebounded to their former levels of diversity. They contain trees that are all roughly the same age and size, creating vulnerability to pests, invasive species, and extreme weather events.

Okemo State Forest is one of a few sites in Vermont where scientists and researchers who are studying forest resilience can test their ideas. “We are localizing these 30,000-foot ideas at Okemo,” said D’Amato. “Diversity of species, complex forests, diversity of forest conditions— these are all ideas with theoretical and empirical backing, but those ideas need to be localized to the specific social, ecological, and economic context of a forest.” “Forests can’t just pick up and move,” said Kosiba. “They don’t react quickly to change, but

the conditions our forests live in are changing rapidly. Especially in the context of our past land practices, Vermont forests are vulnerable to climate change, but we can help set them up to succeed. In Okemo, part of that work is increasing diversity within the understory by creating canopy gaps and removing some of the existing trees to allow other species to establish.”

What D’Amato calls “restoration for adaptation” aims to restore ecosystem complexity over time in order to improve the forest’s resilience to the effects of climate change. In Okemo, that means looking at species that are present in the forest makeup but in low supply, such as northern red oak, and creating conditions for young trees to thrive. He is also looking at species that are not currently present in the forest, but that do well just south—maybe 10 or 20 miles—such as black birch, bitternut hickory and black cherry, and introducing them to the forest composition.

“We’re not trying to re-engineer the forest,” said D’Amato, “we’re just increasing the number of cards in the deck that are future climate adapted.”

From the desk to the forest.

“The key to all of this is the forest industry,” said D’Amato. “Without loggers to do the work, the plans will never leave the desk. We can get excited about ideas as scientists, but the real infrastructure and capacity to get that done is our logging workforce and mills in the region. As we work to improve forest resilience, it’s also going to be important to not only sustain but enhance the regional forest industry.”

In Okemo, Morton has contracted Jarvis & Sons Excavating out of Ascutney and PFJ Logging and Trucking in Rockingham. The first order of business is improving the road and upgrading the culverts. Morton expects the timber harvest to take place sometime next year. “We want our forests to be forests well into the future,” said Kosiba. “With thoughtful management we can help steward our forests through this crisis.”

About the Vermont Forest Industry Network

Vermont’s forest products industry generates an annual economic output of \$1.4 billion and supports 10,500 jobs in forestry, logging, processing, specialty wood-working, construction and wood heating. Forest-based recreation adds an additional \$1.9 billion and 10,000 jobs to Vermont’s economy. The Vermont Forest Industry Network creates the space for industry professionals from across the entire supply chain and trade association partners throughout the state to build stronger relationships and collaboration throughout the industry, including helping to promote new and existing markets for Vermont wood products, from high-quality furniture to construction material to thermal biomass products such as chips and pellets. Learn more or join at www.vsjf.org.

MODERN WOOD HEAT THE NORTHEASTERN ENGINE THAT COULD?

BY: CHARLES NIEBLING AND CHARLES LEVESQUE

Modern wood heat in commercial and industrial buildings with wood pellets and wood chips (green and semi-dry) has been around the northeastern U.S. for decades. Pulp and paper and sawmills have used it for building and process heat and some co-gen for a long time. But using green chips and, more recently, dry chips and wood pellets in non-forest products related businesses and homes is a more recent phenomenon dating to the 1990s. Are these more modern applications of wood heat a solution to the need for more low-grade timber markets? Maybe.

Dominated by heating oil often transported from distant countries, our region has made progress in recent decades in recognizing the role of wood in heating bigger buildings and in process heat for manufacturing. But this sector of low-grade timber fuel is still relatively small—currently amounting to about 360,000 tons of wood each year in New England and New York. Modern wood heat was growing modestly as fossil fuel prices remained high until 2014. Since then, prices have come down, and the economic incentive to switch building heat to modern wood heat has diminished.

Let's step back a bit and really understand where the wood heating sector sits today in the Northeast. The map and table shows most of the commercial and industrial users of wood chips and pellets in the region (not including those in the forest industry). This is pretty impressive since back in the 1980s this map would have been mostly empty outside of forest product manufacturers using their own wood residuals as fuel.

Commercial/Institutional Wood Chip/Pellet Users in New England and New York



Important note – this map does not contain the thousands of residential users of wood pellets nor the forest products industry users.

The other major difference compared to the early 1990s is that there were no wood pellet manufacturing plants. Today there are 13 plants in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York, and virtually all of the pellets produced in the region go toward heating buildings. While the expansion of wood pellet manufacturing has grown dramatically in the U.S. South, nearly all of those pellets are shipped to Europe as a substitute for coal in their electricity generation plants. Very few pellets from the northeastern plants go overseas—they mostly stay and replace fossil fuels to heat buildings.

Commercial/Institutional Modern Wood Heat Users in Northeast US			
State	Wood Chips	Wood Pellets	Wood Use (annual tons)
Maine	23	82	61,068
New Hampshire	28	82	70,105
New York	13	20	90,000
Massachusetts	37	28	24,000
Connecticut	5	4	20,000
Vermont	39	30	92,100
TOTAL	145	246	357,273

Note: This table does not include the thousands of homeowners using wood pellets in central heating systems or wood pellet stoves in the region, nor does it include industrial users within the forest products industry.

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Can modern wood heat's low-grade timber markets grow?

Despite the growth in modern wood heat in the Northeast since the 1990s, there is so much further to go because literally tens of thousands of commercial/institutional buildings are still heated with fossil fuels. And that's not including residential buildings, which are also a huge opportunity, especially for wood pellet central heating systems—boilers and furnaces—as well as wood pellet space heating with stoves. There are a few things that need to happen to spur growth in the modern wood heat sector and thereby open up more low-grade timber markets for the forest industry. Better low-grade markets are needed to support good silviculture work in the woods and produce quality sawlogs that generate the highest long-term return on timberland ownership and management. More low-grade markets are also essential for wood residues from manufacturing processes in sawmills and other wood using industries.

First, there is a need for real monetary incentives to offset the higher capital cost (compared to fossil fuel) of state-of-the-art clean wood chip and pellet boilers and furnaces. Some state governments offer modest grants that might cover 25-45% of the heating appliance cost. A few states (New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine) have a thermal component to their renewable portfolio laws that generates regular revenue for owners of modern wood heat systems that generate heat, such as biomass boilers. And now, as part of the COVID-19 stimulus package passed in the fall, there is a federal tax credit for clean modern wood heat stoves, boilers and furnaces that are installed in homes. We need the same investment tax credit for commercial/industrial buildings too. The solar and wind sectors have had them for years.

For modern wood heat to flourish, it has to be significantly less costly than conventional fossil heating fuels. If heating oil sees sustained increases over \$3.00 per gallon, commercial and institutional building owners will once again give serious consideration to alternatives such as modern wood heat.

Will the Biden administration get other policies through Congress on carbon that could benefit modern wood heat? Maybe. Congress is expected to make climate and energy policy a priority in 2021. We expect to know more by summer. If biomass is seen as part of the climate solution, modern wood heat could be on a sharp trajectory for growth. Should policies not favor biomass, then the near future is likely to see tepid growth for modern wood heat. We need a boost in this sector because there are few promising new low-grade markets on the horizon.

Charlie Niebling and Charlie Levesque are partners in the firm Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC and have been working to encourage modern wood heating in the Northeast for decades.

Personal Finance Workshop for Vermont Forest Economy Businesses

Do you own a Vermont forest products business and need to up your money management game?

The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund is offering a free Personal Finance Workshop Series with two virtual options available October 20th and 27th, and November 3rd and 10th.

Register now and please share this opportunity.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/personal-finance-for-small-woodworking-businesses-registration-169642897473>

Christine McGowen
Director, Forest Products Program
Vermont Sustainable Job Funds
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United States Department of Agriculture

Forests of Vermont, 2019



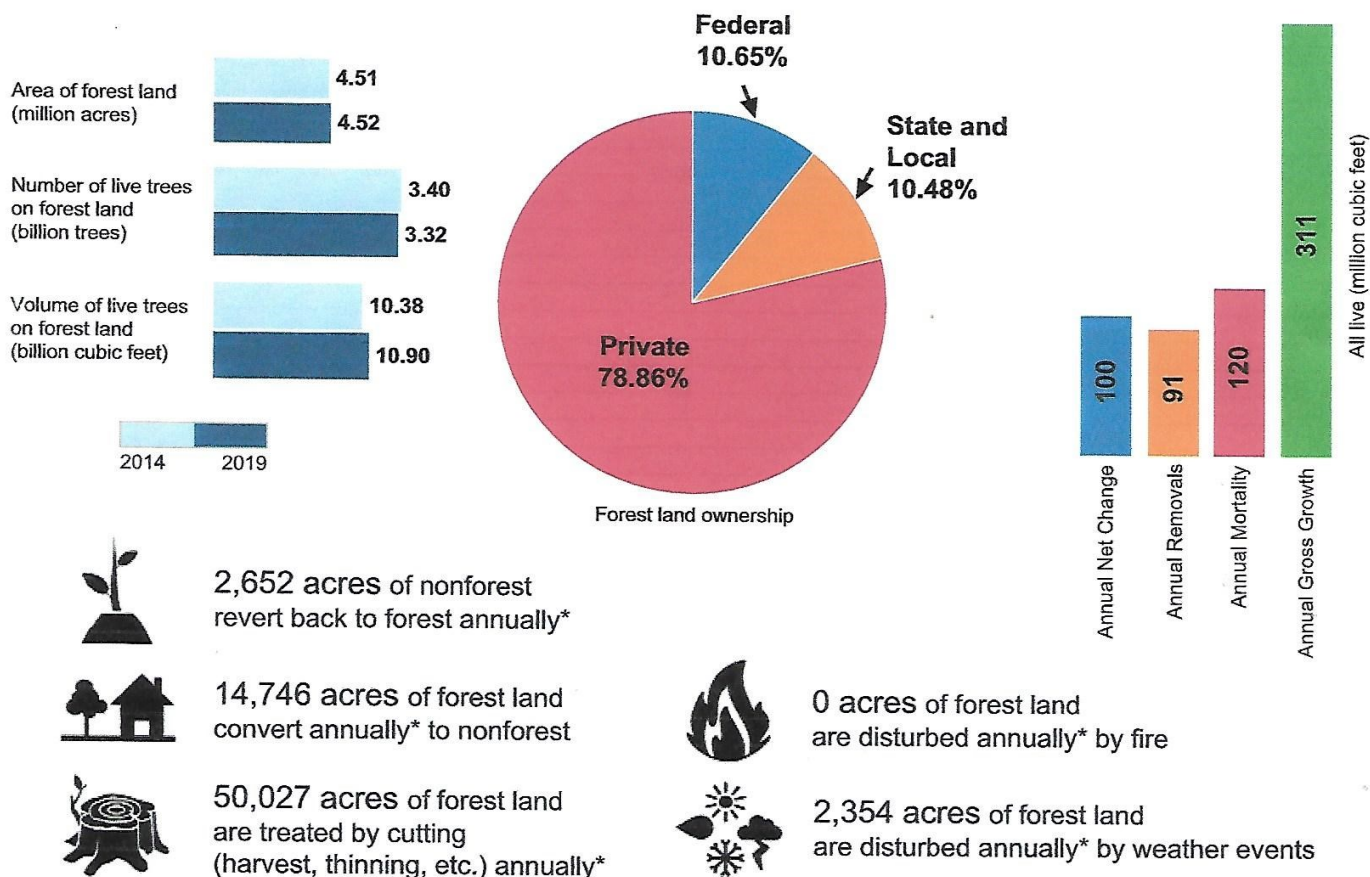
74% forested*

Vermont has an estimated **4,523,088** acres of forest land.

* Percent forest is forest area/total area. Percent forest with water removed from total area is 76%.

This resource update is a brief look at some of the basic metrics that describe the status of and changes to forest resources in Vermont. This information is based on field data collected using the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) annualized sample design, and it is updated yearly.

Vermont has 1,124 sample plots across the State, of which 923.0 are currently forested. Each year, about 10-20 percent of these plots are visited and measured by field crews. Data used in this update were accessed from the FIA database on 09/17/2020.



USDA Forest Service - Forest Inventory & Analysis



The estimates presented are based on data retrieved from the FIA database (09/17/2020) and may not reflect the most recent data available from the FIA program. Note -- this publication does not include estimates of uncertainty. The most current data and sampling error for the estimates above can be found by visiting <https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/>.

*Average annual estimates are based on data collected across 5-10 years and may not be indicative of the nominal year presented in the title by itself.

Forest Industries Reach Far Beyond the Mill

Eric Kingsley | FRA Northeast Region Coordinator



Forest industries are not just the mill – their impact reaches well into the woods, and they support the land and people that supply them with wood. We know this, but it enters the public's mind when a mill closes or otherwise stops taking wood. Recent examples of this include a **Boston Globe article on the impact of the digester explosion at the pulp and paper mill in Jay, Maine**, and an article about the **industry-wide impact of the mill closure in Wisconsin Rapids**. I am sure you can think of examples from your region.

While this is true when a mill closes, it is just as true when a mill opens, expands, or continues operations. Forest industries provide markets and incentives for landowners to grow timber sustainably; they provide employment for foresters, loggers, and truckers; and they provide finished products and residuals that are the raw material for allied industries. There are positive economic and environmental impacts from the woods to the final consumer – measured in jobs, clean water, carbon sequestration, renewable material, and more.

As an industry, we can do a better job of telling this story. It is obvious in mill towns that a mill is important, but it is just as important to landowners, loggers, truckers, and others over a hundred miles away. I have been in Northern Vermont and Central Massachusetts, watching wood get loaded onto a truck to head to Maine – two states away. The local loggers and landowners in those regions are a key part of the industry supply chain, but it is so far away – both geographically and politically – that it is easy to forget how connected these individuals are to the success of the mill.

I have seen some creative ways to share this information. At a Tree Farm I visited last year, the owner handed me a page showing where the wood went from his most recent harvest – a total of eleven sawmills, pulp mills, and biomass plants. I know a mill that publishes a map each year showing every zip code it purchased wood from in the last year – it is always interesting to see how far away the distant dots are.



One easy thing to do is access FRA's **new graphic** that shows the connectivity and complexity of the supply chain. Use this as a start of a discussion with suppliers, customers, policymakers, and town officials on where your activity is in the supply chain, and how far it reaches both up and down. Do town officials in Central Massachusetts know that the private forests in their town rely on paper mills in Maine, and do town officials in Maine know that their local mill relies on markets across the world?

As an industry, we have a great story to tell. We need to remember to tell it in the good times, as well as the bad.



Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

VERMONT FARM & FOREST VIABILITY PROGRAM

Coaching Available for Forest Products Businesses!

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program is a resource that provides forest products businesses with one-on-one advising and technical assistance to help achieve long-term success.

The Viability Program helps Vermont business owners work smarter, not harder.

If you are considering:

- *Expanding or diversifying your business;*
- *Improving financial record-keeping;*
- *Determining cost of production and increasing profitability;*
- *Preparing a business plan to access capital or apply for grants;*
- *Honing your marketing and sales strategy;*
- *Or other business developments*

We can connect you with a professional advisor to help you build business skills, meet your goals, and plan for the future. Whether times are tough or you need help managing growth, we're here to help!

The Viability Program is also offering coaching services to businesses navigating impacts of the pandemic. Our advisors can provide support with navigating relief programs, seeking new markets, financial planning, and more. Information on our COVID Business Coaching

Get Started:

Contact Calley Hastings: calley@vhcb.org or by calling 802-828-3370

visit our website at www.vhcb.org/viability

The Viability Program is a program of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board.



New Report Details Forest and Wood Product Contributions to Vermont's Economy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 15, 2021

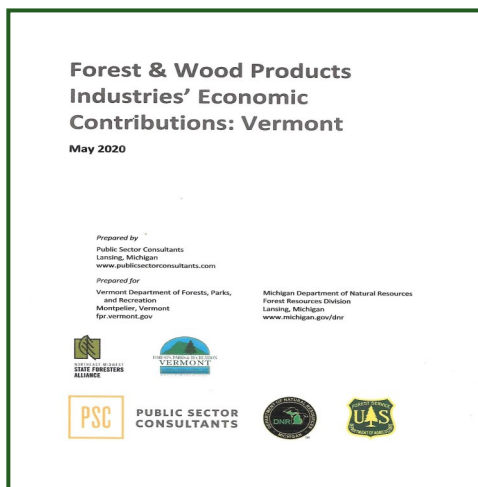
MONTPELIER – A new report finds that Vermont's vibrant forest economy directly employs over 9,100 people and has \$1.4 billion in sales. Total contributions from the sector support nearly 14,000 jobs, with labor income over \$500 million, and \$2.1 billion in sales. These are the findings of a 2020 report prepared by Public Sector Consultants of Lansing, Michigan, as part of an analysis of the economic contributions of the forest products businesses in the twenty states that make up the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance. The project was supported by a USDA Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration Grant and used 2017 data for 32 industry sectors summarized in seven industry groups.

"Vermonters instinctively understand the value of our forest economy – whether it's while eating at the kitchen table, investing in locally milled clapboards for a new home, or the wood we put in the stove. This report does the essential job of quantifying that value, and no surprise, the numbers are impressive," said FPR Commissioner and Vermont State Forester, Michael Snyder. Vermont is 76% forested with 4.5 million acres of forest land, most which can produce commercial timber.

The report also found Vermont's forest and wood products sector;

- Provided more direct labor income, value-added production, and output than agricultural production industries, (a sector with many similarities),
- Accounted for 12% of Vermont's direct manufacturing jobs and 5.7% of non-food manufacturing jobs,
- Contributed to a regional - Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine - forest economy which included 95,500 workers and accounted for almost \$27 billion in direct sales.

The details of each group's economic contributions and the methodology of the analysis are provided in the full report - [Forest & Wood Products Industries' Economic Contributions: Vermont](#). A snapshot of the results is available in [Vermont's fact sheet](#). Individual state reports and fact sheets for the 20-state region as a whole and each participating state are available on the Northeast-Midwest State Forester Alliance at: www.northeasternforests.org/content/fmuc_page.



Contact:

Paul Frederick | Forest Economy Program Manager

Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation | Agency of Natural Resources

802-828-1250, Paul.Frederick@vermont.gov

Foreword from the Forest & Wood Products Industries' Economic Contributions: Vermont

Vermonters depend on forests and their \$2.1 billion annual economic contribution to the state's economy. Our forests provide a full range of forest products, from sawtimber and veneer to firewood and pellets to maple syrup. And yet there are many forest products and services which are much harder to value - water quality protection; flood control and resilience; wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and connectivity; clean air; and carbon sequestration. Moreover, our forests provide the natural infrastructure for our increasingly diverse outdoor recreation economy. On a landscape scale, our forests, farms, and historic human settlement patterns provide the scenic backdrop for our world-class tourism economy. Thus, Vermont's forests are our unique competitive advantage; we cannot outsource the benefits and values they produce. We are utterly dependent on our forests!

As Vermonters, we understand that one of the best ways to keep forests as forests is to promote forest health through active, thoughtful forest management. But with roughly 80 percent of the state's forests privately owned, this simply cannot happen without a vital and robust forest economy where landowners can sell the products of their forest management in a thriving marketplace, which reduces the threat of conversion of forests to non-forest use.

The forest resource and forest and wood products economy data contained in this report represent a snapshot in time. It provides a detailed view of the state of the industry as it currently exists in Vermont, but when viewed in conjunction with the forest resource data presented, it also highlights opportunities for future growth. It is my hope that this document will help to stimulate a collaborative approach to growing the forest products economy in Vermont for the benefit of both our environment and our citizens.



Michael Snyder, Commissioner

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

VERMONT NELA WINNERS RECEIVE AWARDS AT THE NORTHEASTERN FOREST PRODUCTS EQUIPMENT EXPO IN BANGOR, MAINE ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

Sam Lincoln
*"Outstanding Service
to the Forest Industry"*
2020



P&R Lumber
"Outstanding Sawmill Operator"
2020



Sean Barrows
*"Outstanding Leadership
in the Industry"*
2020



NELA was founded in 1952 and has nearly 2,000 members in the region from Maine to Minnesota and Missouri to Maryland. They publish the highly respected monthly magazine The Northern Logger & Timber Processor. They also host the annual Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Exposition.





FPR Portable Bridge Rentals

Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester

david.wilcox@vermont.gov, 802-793-0265

Wood-over-steel skidder bridges: FPR has three, 25' long, two-section steel I-beam bridges with wooden decks for rent. These bridges have engineer ratings and will hold a 30,000 lb. skidder and a 40,000 lb. forwarder over a 21-foot span. These bridges have also been used for log trucks with additional support under the bridge. They are heavy and take larger equipment to move but work very well. The bridges are located in Barre, Springfield, and Rutland. These bridges were funded through a grant from the US Forest Service.



Steel truck bridges: FPR has two temporary truck bridges for rent (a 30' and a 40') that are designed for log trucks and are rated for 99,000 lbs. These are engineered bridges purchased from ADM Fabricating in Pennsylvania. They weigh between 25,000 and 30,000 lbs. and are one piece that folds during transport. These are substantial bridges and require at least one, and sometimes two medium to large excavators to load, unload, and set in place. They also require a solid abutment to be set on, so they don't twist. The monthly rental for these bridges is \$100 per month. When not in use, these bridges are located in Northfield. The purchase of these bridges was funded through an agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



The monthly rental for these bridges is \$100 per month.

Rental for the bridges is administered by

Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester (802) 793-0265

david.wilcox@vermont.gov

For more information, visit our website <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forests>

David L. Grayck, Esq.

Law Office of David L. Grayck, Esq.

57 College Street

Montpelier, Vermont 05602

(802) 223-0659

David@graycklaw.com

"A lawyer who knows a little silviculture"



Mariah Noth

Outreach & Communications Coordinator

T: 802.828.1098

mariah@vhcb.org

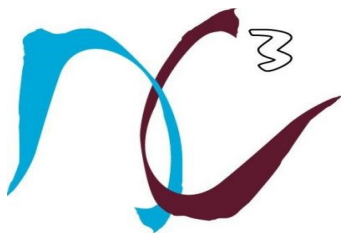
58 East State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

www.vhcb.org/viability



Vermont Housing &
Conservation Board
VERMONT FARM & FOREST
VIABILITY PROGRAM

TECH CENTER NEWS



Hello from North Country Career Center's Natural Resources Program. This September got us off to a great start. Students have been busy learning mapping, surveying and navigation skills, tree identification, equipment maintenance and operation, and a whole

lot more. Here are some pictures showing some of the fun we are having while making cider, learning arboriculture climbing techniques and caring for our orchard, volunteering at the Orleans County Maple Producers Association sugarhouse at the Barton Fair, and practicing wilderness recreation skills like canoeing and camp cooking. Next month (October) will be an intro to chainsaw use and maintenance as well as the start of our National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (for first year students). We will be doing Game of Logging (levels 1&2 for first year students and 3&4 for second year students) and we will write a logging contract and begin an off-site timber harvest. We will wrap up the month with an overnight canoe camping and fishing trip that will help prepare us for a week-long wilderness trip canoeing Maine's St. John River in early May. Wishing you all a safe and productive month,

Sam Nijensohn
North Country Career Center
Natural Resources
209 Veterans Ave., Newport VT, 05855
(802) 334-2556



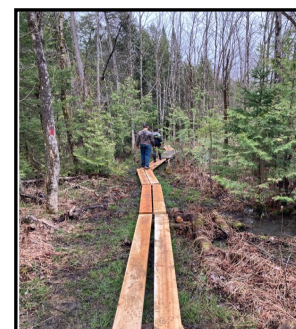
RICHFORD JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL MAKES CEDAR CHAIRS

My class just finished making a bunch of chairs and we have sold them all as a fund raiser...the cedar is fantastic to work with and the students learned a lot in the process. Here's a picture of the chairs that went out today, the class are very proud of what they have achieved!



Richford Junior Senior High School
1 Corliss Heights
Richford, VT 05476

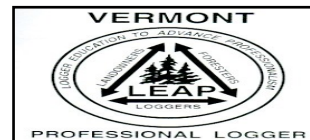
CHARLESTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVES NATURE WALK TRAIL WITH CEDAR BRIDGE



Vermont Forestry Foundation

The official education and outreach arm of

The Vermont Forest Products Association



The Mission of VFF is to educate the people within the forest products industry to improve efficiency, safety, professionalism, to increase profitability and build a positive image for the industry. In addition, VFF is engaged in outreach efforts to educate the general public about the importance of a vibrant working forest and forest products industry in Vermont.

VFF is a non-profit 501 © (3) organization that accepts grants and donations to meet its mission. Donations are tax exempt. VFF is run by a Board of Trustees that are elected for four year terms at the Annual Meeting of the Vermont Forest Products Association.

Current Officers:

President: Robbo Holleran, Chester, Consulting Forester (802) 875-3021

Vice President: Steve Hardy, Chesterfield, NH, Forester (603) 254-1644

Secretary: Bruce Shields, Eden, VT, Landowner, Sugarmaker (802) 888-5165

Treasurer: Brandy Inkel, Albany, VT, Sugarmaker (802) 755-9250

Current Trustees:

Dennis Allard, Springfield, VT, Logger ~ Bill Sayre, Bristol, Sawmill ~ Chris Fife, Fairfield, ME, Landowner ~ Sean Barrows, West Rutland, Sawmill ~ Bruce Shields, -Eden, VT, Landowner/Sugarmaker ~ David Grayck, Montpelier, VT, Attorney ~ Everett Thurston, N. Clarendon, VT, Logger

Please contact the VFF if there are specific courses, workshops or training that will help you in your business.

LEAP~Logger Education to Advance Professionalism Submitted by David Birdsall



How it works! Vermont LEAP New Requirements

For Mechanized Logging Operators

LEAP Certification Requirements – New to LEAP: Completing the following requirements within two years, meets minimum certification requirements for the VT LEAP Program and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). These are also the requirements for the employee training requirements for the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program. (Additional steps are required for full safety certification with your insurance carrier.)

- Professionalism (1 day – 8 credits)
- Managing and Using Forest Ecosystems (1 day – 8 credits)
- Introduction to Mechanized Logger Safety (1 day – 8 credits)
- Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR (1 day – 8 credits)

Already LEAP Certified

For Loggers who have previously completed the LEAP program, the following workshops need to be completed to meet the new Curriculum requirements:

- Introduction to Mechanized Logger Safety (1 day – 8 credits)
- Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR (1 day – 8 credits)

For Non-Mechanized Logging Operators

LEAP Certification Requirements – New to LEAP: Completing the following requirements within two years, meets minimum certification requirements for the VT LEAP Program and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). These are also the requirements for the employee training requirements for the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program. (Additional steps are required for full safety certification with your insurance carrier.)

- Professionalism (1 day – 8 credits)
- Managing and Using Forest Ecosystems (1 day – 8 credits)
- *Game of Logging (Levels 1 through 4 – 32 credits)
- Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR (1 day – 8 credits)

Already LEAP certified

For Loggers who have previously completed the LEAP program, the following workshops need to be completed to meet the new Curriculum requirements:

- *Game of Logging (Levels 1 through 4 – 32 credits)
- Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR (1 day – 8 credits)

**If completed GOL more than five years ago, must take Level 5 GOL (Refresher)*

Continuing Education Requirements

For both Mechanized and Non-Mechanized Logging Operators- Continuing education is required to maintain LEAP/SFI certification. Within every two years, except as otherwise noted, and after completing LEAP requirements, the following is required to maintain LEAP/SFI certification:

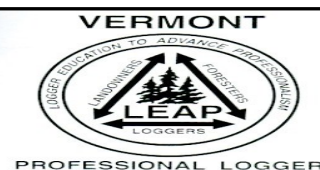
- Safety Workshop (8 hours annually – 8 credits)
- *LEAP elective (1 day – 8 credits)
- Maintain First Aid/CPR certification

Contact David Birdsall for more information:

logger@vtleap.com or visit Website: **www.vtleap.com**

LEAP 2021 FALL WORKSHOPS

PLEASE ~ MASKS ARE REQUIRED AT ALL WORKSHOPS



Both the Forest Ecosystems and Professionalism in Forestry workshops are required for anyone wanting to be LEAP certified. They will not be offered again this year.

Forest Ecosystems: October 26, Former Grange Hall, Essex Center: Dave Wilcox

An understanding of forest ecosystems and how they respond to the impacts of logging is essential knowledge for a timber harvester. In this workshop, loggers learn about the main elements of forest ecosystems including water and wildlife, how productivity is influenced by various harvesting practices, and how to conserve soil while building access roads that can withstand heavy equipment and the elements.

8 LEAP Credits

Pre-Registration is required. Contact David Birdsall if more information is needed logger@vtleap.com or Office phone: 802-235-2908.

Professionalism in Forestry: November 2, UVM Extension Classroom, Berlin: Sam Lincoln/ Dave Wilcox Understanding regulations that apply to logging, personal liability, ethics of forestry practice, and effective communication is the focus of this workshop. Participants will learn about the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and explore current issues that face the forest products industry.

8 LEAP Credits

Pre-Registration is required. Contact David Birdsall if more information is needed logger@vtleap.com or Office phone: 802-235-2908.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Forest Operations Supervisor; Supervising for Safety: November 9, 2021

The Vermont Logger Safety and Workers Compensation Insurance Program, developed to modernize safety on logging operations and reduce workers; compensation insurance costs, is entering its third year!

The Forest Operations Supervisor workshop is required for anyone wanting or needing to be involved in the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program. It can also be taken as an Elective for Continuing Education Credits.

For mechanized and non-mechanized logging contractors enrolling in the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program to be eligible for "safety certified" status with their insurance carrier (a 15% discount on workers' compensation insurance), at least one person actively engaged in day-to-day operations, from each logging contractor's organization, must take the "Forest Operations Supervisor" workshop. **This workshop is primarily intended for employers and supervisors of employees on logging operations.**

Date: November 9, 2021

Location: UVM Extension Classroom, Berlin

Presented by Sam Lincoln

Cost: \$25

Lunch Included

8 LEAP Credits

5.5 Forester CFE credits

Registration: [Eventbrite https://www.eventbrite.com/e/forest-operations-supervisor-supervising-for-safety-workshop-tickets-178909893307](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/forest-operations-supervisor-supervising-for-safety-workshop-tickets-178909893307)

If you cannot register online or would like more information on the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program, please contact Paul Frederick at (802) 777-5247 or paul.frederick@vermont.gov.

This is the only date this course is scheduled in 2021. Due to COVID-19 impacts to the forest economy, this workshop is being co-sponsored by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and the Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP) Program and is being **offered at reduced cost to participants through** funding from a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, Eastern Region, State and Private Forestry.

UVM Extension is hosting this training at their facility and their COVID-19 protocols MUST be adhered to:

- All participants will be required to wear masks inside.
- Unvaccinated individuals are asked to maintain a social distance of 6' from others.
- Sign-in will include contact information in the event contact tracing becomes necessary.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

VERMONT FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION 2021 CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The VFPA Annual Awards Program is our opportunity to recognize Excellence in our industry and our chance to celebrate some of the best people that represent the many good people of our industry. We need you to look around the industry and send us nominations of folks who make significant contributions to our industry.

We will use the Northeastern Loggers Association (NELA) award categories: Outstanding - Logging Operator, Sawmill Operator, Wood Manufacturer, Forest Products Trucking Operator, Management of Resources, Contribution to Forest Industry Education, Contribution to Safety, Industry Advocate, Use of Wood, Service to the Forest Industry and Leadership in Industry.

Send a brief description of why you think the nominee should be given the award in the appropriate category. Along with the description, send a short biographical sketch of the nominee and letters from two individuals who will verify and support the nomination.

We are calling for nominations to be submitted to Brandy at vfpa@hotmail.com by December 15, 2021

Awards will be presented at the January 29, 2022 VFPA Annual Meeting.

We will submit our VFPA winners to the NELA competition by January 31, 2022.

NELA Awards will be presented at the Annual Logger's Banquet to be held May 12, 2022 in Essex Junction, VT.

VFPA is asking for everyone's help in raising funds to pay for services for the 2022 Legislative Session.

The VFPA T-shirt campaign will start on **October 21st** and will end on **November 11, 2021**. This guarantees Christmas delivery!

Wear your shirt proudly to show your support and celebrate the people who work the Working Landscape and share in the important work of our industry organization. Thank you!

To order your own VFPA shirt, please go to the **Vermont Forest Products Association Facebook page** or use this link in your internet browser **<https://www.bonfire.com/vfpa-legislative-fund-campaign>**



WHY BE A VFPA MEMBER?

The forest products industry is crucial to Vermont's economy and identity. The last few years have been a struggle for many in the forest products industry. Many are asking, "What can I do to bring about positive change?"

One of the most important things we can do is to support the organizations that support our industry. Our success depends on the strength of our organization, both in number of members and also in its financial health.

The mission of the Vermont Forest Products Association is to promote and defend the interests of our members.

VFPA represents all aspects of the forestry community and the member businesses and individuals that are located throughout the State of Vermont.

Your membership in VFPA is important. As a member of VFPA we can collectively seek ways to improve opportunities for our industry. Your membership gives you a place to learn more about improving your business, voice your concerns and share with others in helping Vermont remain a rural state that is proud to include a vibrant forest products industry.

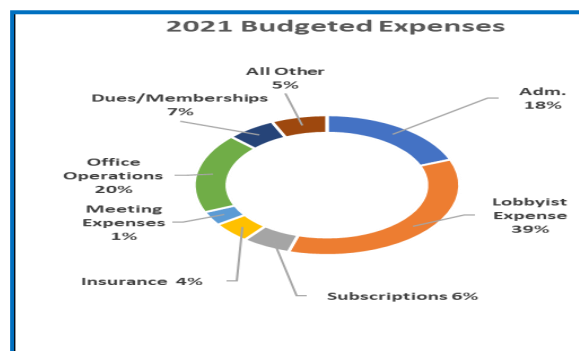
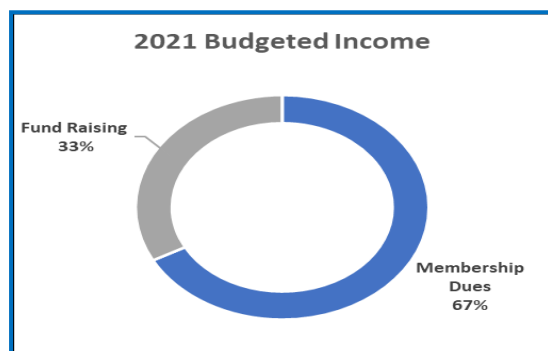
We would welcome your much needed support in the form of a membership to continue our commitment in promoting and defending our forest and wood industry.

For more information, or a membership application, please visit www.vtfpa.org or contact Brandy at vtfpa@hotmail.com



VFPA Operating Budget for 2021 is \$38,710.00

Please consider a contribution to the 2021 Annual Fund Drive or becoming a member of VFPA helping with operating costs and sharing in the important work of our industry organization.



Welcome to our New 2021 VFPA Members!



~John Barnes	~Doug Edwards
~Sean Barrows	~Thomas Garafano
~Denis Beloin	~Andy McGovern
~Jonathan Boozan	~Rodney Rainville
~Phil Brosseau	~Tyler Scelza
~Donn Downey	~Jonathan Wood
~Reg Riendeau	~Claude Riendeau

Thank you to all of you who have supported VFPA through memberships, monetary contributions and gifts of time and talents!

Vermont Forest Products Association
P.O. Box 110
Coventry, Vermont 05825
Phone: 802-461-5688
E-mail: vtfpa@hotmail.com
www.vtfpa.org



Dates and Events

November 18 - VFPA Directors Meeting, Location to be determined

December 16 - VFPA Directors Meeting, Location to be determined

January 29, 2022 - VFPA Annual Meeting, Location to be determined.

Directors' Meetings are open meetings and all forest industry folks are invited to attend.

** These meetings may be subject to change**

National Forest Products Week History

On September 13, 1960, the United Congress issued a joint proclamation designating the week beginning on the third Sunday in October as National Forest Products Week.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the proclamation on September 15, 1960. Since then, each sitting president has proclaimed the week.

