

## VII. Appendices and Further Information

### Authorization to Plan and Manage

#### Statutory Authority

The Vermont General Assembly has authorized the Agency of Natural Resources and its Departments to acquire lands, hold interests in lands, and conduct land management activities. Authority is vested in several statutes that collectively empower the Agency, upon approval of the Governor or General Assembly, to acquire lands, accept donations of lands or interests in lands, exchange or sell lands or interests in lands for public benefit, and to manage those lands for a variety of public purposes.

Specific authorizing statutes are:

- **Title 3, Chapter 51, Section 2825:** The primary duties of the secretary are to coordinate the activities of the various departments and divisions of the agency for the proper development, management and preservation of Vermont's natural resources, to develop policies for the proper and beneficial development, management, and preservation of resources in harmony with the state comprehensive planning program and to promote the effective application of these policies by the departments and divisions affected.
- **Title 10, Chapter 83, Section 2601:** Establishes the general purposes and policies to acquire and manage state lands and authorizes the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation to undertake such activities.
- **Title 10, Chapter 83, Section 2603:** Establishes the general powers and duties of the commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation to manage state lands.
- **Title 10, Chapter 103, Section 4144:** Authorizes the Department of Fish & Wildlife to acquire state lands.
- **Title 10, Chapter 103, Section 4147:** Authorizes the Department of Fish & Wildlife to exchange, sell, or lease lands.
- **Title 10, Chapter 37, Section 905b:** Authorizes the Department of Environmental Conservation to acquire and manage lands and the rights to protect the state's water resources.
- **Title 10, Chapter 155, Section 6301-5:** Authorizes acquisition of rights less than fee of real property.

## **Resource Assessments and Management Guidelines Used in the Groton Management Unit Long-Range Management Plan Development**

Resource Assessments may be viewed at the district offices and contacts listed at the end of this section.

- Groton Management Unit Planning Update
- Marsh bird survey
- Forest Inventory conducted using Northeast Decision Model (NED ) system
- Lakes and Pond Survey
- Historical, Cultural, Archaeological Report- The Cultural Landscape of the Groton Management Unit by Scharoun, Bartone, and Cowie, Archaeology Research Center, Department of Social Sciences and Business, University of Maine at Farmington, April, 2005.
- Natural Community Assessment
- Fish Resources Assessment
- Recreation Resources Assessment
- Road Inventory Data
- Deer Wintering Maps
- GPS boundary data from Lyndon State College
- Public Involvement Meeting Notes
- Property Tax Implication Reports by Town- A report by Deb Brighton, Consultant, Salisbury, VT for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), Waterbury, VT Funded by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Montpelier, VT
- Critical Mast Areas
- Vernal Pool Identification
- Recreation Surveys (Camp Owners, Campground users, Trail Intercept)
- Special and Legal Constraints
- Acquisition History
- Trails Inventory and Mapping

## **Policies, Guidelines, and Publications Used in the Management of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Lands**

There are many policies and guidelines used in managing Vermont Agency of Natural Resources lands. Those policies, guidelines and publications specifically used in the development of the GMU long-range plan are listed below. In general, these were in effect at the start of this long-range management plan. If more information is needed, refer to current policies and guidelines which can be made available upon request. The information is grouped into some general categories to make this document easier to use.

### **Acquisition of Land**

*Lands Conservation Plan: A Land Acquisition Strategy for the Agency of Natural Resources*, October, 1999 - Standards and procedures for the Agency of Natural Resources to acquire lands.

### **Agriculture**

Vermont Agriculture Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Program Law and Regulations, Title 6, CH. 215, 1995 and 1996 – Standards for managing agricultural lands.

### **Cultural and Archaeological Resources**

State of Vermont laws applicable to archeological resources - Standards and operating procedures for state owned lands.

*Stonewalls & Cellarholes: A Guide for Landowners on Historic Features and Landscapes in Vermont's Forests*, Robert Sanford, 1994.

*Historical, Cultural, Archaeological Report- The Cultural Landscape of the Groton Management Unit* by Scharoun, Bartone, and Cowie, Archaeology Research Center, Department of Social Sciences and Business, University of Maine at Farmington, April, 2005.

*Groton State Forest History Guide*, State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Revised 2003-VGA-1000

### **Fish and Wildlife**

Vermont hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations.

Wildlife Management Areas Operational Procedures Manual, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife - Standards for management of wildlife management areas.

*Management Guide for Deer Wintering Areas in Vermont*, Fish and Wildlife, 1990 - Standards for managing for deer.

*Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Habitat Management*, Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife, 1995 - Standards for managing for a variety of wildlife species on state and private land.

*Native Vegetation for Lakeshores, Streamsides and Wetland Buffers*, Environmental Conservation, 1994, Standards for buffer strips along lakes, streams and wetlands in Vermont.

Rare and Endangered Species - Listing of species protected under state regulations.

*Landowner's Guide to Woodcock Management in the Northeast*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, Miscellaneous Report 253, Greg F. Sepik, Ray B. Owen, Jr., Malcolm W. Coulter, 1994

*List of Species of Special Concern*

### **Gravel Pits**

Forests, Parks and Recreation Policy #3, 1991 - Standards for use of gravel pits on Forests, Parks and Recreation lands.

## **Land Use and Development**

Act 250 - Law governing plans for land use and development in Vermont.

## **Mountain Top Communications Facilities**

*Siting, Use and Management of Electronic Communication Facilities on Properties Owned by the State of Vermont*, Agency of Administration, 1998.

## **Natural Area Designation**

Natural Areas Law and Forests, Parks and Recreation Policy #7 - Standards and guidelines for designation of Natural Areas on state forest and parks lands.

## **Pesticides Use**

Forests, Parks and Recreation Policy #9 - Regulations on the use of pesticides on state forest and parks lands.

## **Prescribed Fire**

Prescribed Burn Directive, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, 1989 - Procedures for planning and execution of prescribed burns.

## **Recreation**

Uses of State Lands, Agency of Natural Resources Policy, 1999 - Criteria for appropriate uses and when permits and licenses are and are not required.

Forests, Parks and Recreation Policies and Procedures Manual, 1990-1999 - Procedures and standards for administering recreational activities on state forests and parks lands.

State Park Ranger's Manual, Forests, Parks and Recreation, 1999 - Operating procedures, rules, regulations, and standards for recreational activity on state forests and parks land.

*"Vermont Guide to Primitive Camping on State Lands."*

## **Scientific Research**

Forests, Parks and Recreation policy # 8 - Standards and guidelines for research on state lands.

## **Silviculture**

Silvicultural References Manual, Forests, Parks and Recreation, 1997 - Guidelines for the Intent to Heavy Cut notification process.

Acceptable Management Practices (AMP) Guidelines, 1987 - Practices for maintaining water quality on logging jobs.

Wetlands Rules & Regulations, 1990 - Regulations that outline practices for logging around wetlands in Vermont.

*Native Vegetation for Lakeshores, Streamsides and Wetland Buffers*, Environmental Conservation, 1994 - Standards for buffer strips along lakes, streams and wetlands in Vermont.

*Vermont Handbook for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control on Construction Sites*, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, revised September, 1983.

*Vermont Streambank Conservation Manual*, Agency of Natural Resources, 1982 - Guidelines for construction around streams.

*Stonewalls & Cellarholes: A Guide for Landowners on Historic Features and Landscapes in Vermont's Forests*, Robert Sanford, 1994.

## **Ski Areas**

Guidelines for the Design and Construction of Ski Lifts and Trails in Class A Watersheds in Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation, 2000

## **Water Resources**

Acceptable Management Practices (AMP) Guidelines, 1987 - Practices for maintaining water quality on logging jobs in Vermont.

Long Trail Construction and Maintenance Standards, Green Mountain Club, 1995 -  
Trail construction standards for public and private land.

*Native Vegetation for Lakeshores, Streamsides and Wetland Buffers*, Environmental  
Conservation, 1994 - Standards for buffer strips along lakes, streams and wetlands

*Vermont Streambank Conservation Manual*, Agency of Natural Resources, 1982 -  
Guidelines for construction around streams.

*Vermont Water Quality Standards*, Vermont Water Resources Board, 7/2/00.

*Vermont Wetland Rules*, Vermont Water Resources Board, 1/1/02

## **Further Information on Management Activities**

For management purposes, the management unit is divided into smaller units called blocks, usually determined by natural features. GMU consists of six blocks and two wildlife management areas. Management responsibilities are divided between District V in St. Johnsbury and District IV in Barre. The Butterfield Block and LR Jones are managed by District IV, the other four blocks and the St. Hilaire and Levi Pond WMAs are managed by the St. Johnsbury. Each block will be re-inventoried on a 10- to 20-year schedule.

The long-range management plan sets goals, objectives and guidelines for specific management activities outlines in a general way how the GMU will be managed for the foreseeable future. Details about specific management activities and practices that will be implemented on the forest are available throughout the year at the St. Johnsbury and Barre District offices. Specific management activities to be undertaken in a particular year are outlined in the annual stewardship plan prepared by each of the St Johnsbury and Barre District Stewardship Teams. These are available in June of each year for public review. They cover activities in the fiscal year beginning in July and continuing through the following June.

The cutting schedule for timber harvests for the next five (5) years will be available at the district offices. A detailed sale prescription will be prepared for each project at the time it appears in the Annual Stewardship Plan. Recognized US Forest Service silvicultural guides will be used when developing stand prescriptions for timber harvests. This timber sale schedule covers all treatments in the General and Special Management Areas. Management of wetlands, vernal pools, riparian areas, den and snag trees, bear corridors, and mast stands are implemented in each sale based on Agency of Natural Resource guidelines. This timber sale schedule is subject to change, depending on the results of more current inventories, improved silvicultural or habitat guidelines, insect and disease outbreaks, floods, wind and ice storms, exceptionally wet or snowy years, access problems, district workloads, markets, and the identification of new sensitive sites. The district stewardship team will adjust the cutting schedule as needed. Forest management is a long-term proposition so shifting harvesting operations a couple years one way or the other has little effect on the final outcome.

Other management activities are of an ongoing nature, such as maintenance projects. The implementation of such projects often depends upon the availability of funding, which varies from year to year.

Future management activities may also include upgrades to existing facilities, new facilities, additions to the forest, and new demands for uses, which are unknown at this time. As these arise, they will undergo resource analysis and public review, and the plan will be amended as necessary. They will then be placed in the appropriate land use classification category and managed accordingly.