

Public Town Forest Meeting

Helpful Resources, Articles, and Websites:

Ecosystems, Habitats, Wildlife:

- i. [A Vermonter's Guide for Protecting Biodiversity](#) by Eric Hagen for the Vermont Alliance for Half-Earth
- ii. Spies, T.A.; Franklin, J.F. 1996, "The diversity and maintenance of old-growth forests." In: Szaro, R.C.; Johnston, D. W., editors – [Biodiversity in managed landscapes](#). New York, NY, Oxford University Press, 296-314.

Climate Change and Carbon:

- i. [Can Vermont's forests help save the planet? | Vermont Business Magazine](#)
- ii. [Eastern Old-Growth Forests in an Era of Climate Change](#) by Bill Keeton for Northern Woodlands Magazine

Economic Considerations:

Resource Harvesting:

"Vermont's forest products industry generates an annual economic output of \$1.5 billion and supports 10,000 jobs in forestry, logging, processing, specialty woodworking, construction and wood heating. In addition, Vermont's forest recreation economy generates \$1.9 billion in economic output and supports 10,000 additional jobs."

While Vermont's forests supply high-quality saw logs used in construction or by specialty woodworkers, the majority of wood in our forests is considered "low grade," typically used for pulp to make paper or chipped for heat or electricity.

And due to a sharp decline in the region's pulp industry, combined with the low price of oil and a move away from expanding electric-only biomass in the region, the market for low-grade wood has substantially dried up. So, while markets for high quality wood are healthy, they cannot singularly sustain Vermont's forest products industry".

Christine McGowan, Valley News, 1/30/18:

For the period 2010-2019, timber sales from logging in the Fairlee Town Forest resulted in a net loss of \$1,339 (compiled from annual reports).

Carbon Offsets:

- i. Vermont Forest Carbon Sequestration Working Group Final Report, <https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/VFCSWG-Report-Final-Report-1.4.20.pdf>
According to projections in this report, it seems that the Fairlee Town Forest would qualify for offsets that could potentially net up to \$15,000 annually over 25 years for 1,000 qualifying acres @ ca. \$15/acre. Aggregation with adjacent forestland increases the viability and income from such a project. We recommend further investigation of this possibility with the Vermont Dept. of Forest Parks & Rec. and The Nature Conservancy.
- ii. Forest Carbon Cooperative - Vermont Forests Reduce Carbon Pollution <https://vlt.org/forestcarbon>
- iii. Forest Inventory and Analysis National Program - Forest Carbon <https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/forestcarbon>
- iv. The Climate Trust | FAQ: Forest Carbon Projects <https://climatetrust.org/forest-carbon-projects-faq/>
- v. Introduction to Forest Carbon for Vermont Landowners, <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiGze7NyNTzAhVYHc0KHxbVBaoQFnoECAQQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.northamforestcarbon.com%2Fs%2FNFFCBrochureFinal.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2v9OyCH5O-GTQikuzLeZDq>

Recreation:

- i. Direct spending at outdoor retailers and service providers (gear outlets, manufacturers, sales reps, guide services, marketing firms that specialize in outdoor recreation, etc.) as well as per trip expenditures (meals, gas, hotels etc.) add up to a whopping \$2.5 billion annually in consumer spending [Vermont]. Nationally, the \$646 billion outdoor recreation industry is now being measured as part of America's gross national product. *Jessica Savage, VOREC, jessica.savage@vermont.gov*
- ii. Economic Impact of Bicycling and Walking in Vermont. Resource Systems Group, Inc., Economic and Policy Resources, Inc., and Local Motion. 2012. Prepared for the Vermont Agency of Transportation.
 - Finding: Almost half of business-related spending is by non-residents.
- iii. The Economic Impact of Spending by Snowmobilers on New Hampshire's Economy. Okrant, M. and D. Lee. 2012. Institute for New Hampshire Studies, Plymouth State University
- iv. Potential Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation in the Barre Town Forest, Posner, S. and M. Ceroni. 2011. Vermont. Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, University of Vermont. Funded by The Trust for Public Land. Findings include:
 - 20 new jobs created in the region in 2015, with 13 of these jobs going to the restaurant and lodging sectors.
 - \$269,084 new income, which is 0.1 percent of Barre's current labor earnings

- \$629,624 in new visitor spending by 2015 (additional to total annual spending in 2011)
- \$42,414 in new state sales tax revenue in 2015
- v. Economic benefits of recreation & trail use: <https://www.uvm.edu/vtrc/recreation-and-trail-use>
- vi. Impacts of recreational use on wild habitats and species
<https://bioone.org/journals/Mountain-Research-and-Development/volume-30/issue-4/MRD-JOURNAL-D-09-00078.1/Assessment-and-Monitoring-of-Recreation-Impacts-and-Resource-Conditions-on/10.1659/MRD-JOURNAL-D-09-00078.1.short>

Vermont Town Forest Standards, Guides, and Regulations:

- **Vermont Town Forest Stewardship Guide:**
<https://vtcommunityforestry.org/sites/default/files/pictures/townforeststewardshipguide.pdf>
- **Acceptable Management Practices Manual for Logging Professionals**
https://fpr.vermont.gov/sites/fpr/files/Forest_and_Forestry/Forest_Management/Library/FullDocument-7.29.pdf Vermont Water Quality Guide
- **Effects of ATVs on Forested Lands and Grasslands**, see p. 83-85:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/34167>
- **Fairlee's 15-year Forest Management Plan:** https://www.fairleevt.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/FairleeTownForest2014_withmaps.pdf
- **Fairlee Town Plan:** <https://www.fairleevt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Fairlee-Town-Plan-adopted-2020.pdf>