

the Monthly Update

a newsletter of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission

July 2001

Community Forestry Assistance

The National Community Forestry Center, Northern Forest Region is seeking communities to receive assistance in addressing forestry-related issues or opportunities. Center staff can offer assistance in clarifying problems and developing appropriate strategies, access to information and technical assistance and training in gathering information. Selected communities may receive funds to hire a local coordinator to provide administrative support.

Examples of eligible projects include having Center staff work with a citizens group to conduct an economic analysis of local and regional benefits derived from the forest and produce a workbook based on their experience for use by other communities, or working with a local planning commission to do the research needed to update their town plan with respect to forest resources.

To nominate a community, either visit www.ncfcnfr.net or call 1-800-727-5404. The deadline for nominations is September 30, 2001. The regional Advisory Council will select communities to receive assistance. Qualification for selection include a level of organization sufficient to develop and carry out a yearlong work plan, identification of an issue or opportunity common to other communities across the region, willingness to engage in participatory research in service of more informed decision-making and a willingness to share results of the research process.

Town Bridge and Culvert Inventories

The legislature has proposed changes to the Town Highway and Bridge program. This change revises the state-local match requirements. The state will pay a higher percentage of a match (90% state/10% local) if the town meets two prerequisites - **(1) adoption of applicable road and bridge standards and (2) completion of an inventory of all town culverts and bridges.**

The ACRPC can offer assistance to towns interested in adopting road and bridge standards or completing a bridge/culvert inventory. A standardized culvert inventory form is available, as well as a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system on a first-come, first-served basis to perform the inventory. For further information, call Garrett Dague or Kevin Behm at (802) 388-3141.

Meetings & Events

July

- 11 ACRPC Commission Meeting, Location TBA, 7:30PM ***Note the Housing Committee meeting for July has been cancelled.**
- 18 ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM
- 25 ACRPC Executive Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM

August

- 15 ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM
 - 29 ACRPC Executive Committee Meeting, ACRPC Office, Middlebury, 7PM
- *Note there is no August Full Commission Mtg.**

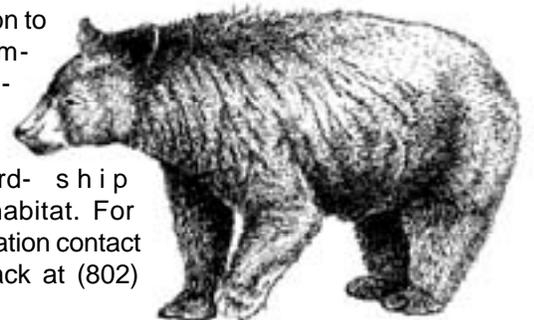
"Keeping Track" Workshops in Lincoln

Keeping Track, Inc. will be holding two workshops this summer in Lincoln. One is scheduled for Sunday, July 29 and the other for Sunday, August 12. David Brown and Susan Morse will be leading the group through a remote woodlot observing and discussing habitat improvement management practices.

The woodlot contains an area maintained in early successional growth, crop tree release, ruffed grouse patch cuts, apple tree release and more. A Keeping Track transect crosses the property and there is an excellent chance of seeing signs of moose, bear, turkey, deer and more.

The cost of the workshop is \$35 per person and there is a limit of 20 participants. Keeping Track is a non-profit organization

with a mission to inspire community participation in the long-term stewardship of wildlife habitat. For more information contact Keeping Track at (802) 434-7000.



Grant Opportunities

2002 Transportation Enhancements Program

The Transportation Enhancement (TE) program is a funding source for transportation-related activities in Vermont such as new sidewalks, bike paths, historic preservation, environmental mitigation and more. For 2002, VTTrans will spend approximately \$3.45 million for projects.

This is a reimbursement program requiring a 20 percent minimum match. Applicants must submit a pre-application letter by September 5 and attend an educational workshop this fall. Municipalities, state agencies, nonprofit organizations and federal agencies are eligible to apply. Final applications must be received by November 1. Applicants will be notified of awards by March 2002.

A direct evident and strong relationship to the transportation system is of paramount importance to the Vermont Agency of Transportation. There are two requirements derived from the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) guidance that all states must consider when deciding on eligible projects. The project must be related to surface transportation and the project must fit into one of the categories below.

1. Provision of Facilities for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

This includes activities that enhance the transportation system through the building and improvement of existing facilities to make them more usable and friendly for pedestrians and bicyclists.

2. Acquisition of Scenic Easements and Scenic or Historic Sites

This category may be applied to the purchase, donation, transfer or trade of lands which possess significant aesthetic, historic, natural, visual or open space values.

3. Scenic or Historic Highway Programs; Including Tourist and Welcome Centers

Funds are intended primarily for projects that will protect and enhance the scenic, historic, cultural, natural and archeological integrity and visitor appreciation of an existing designated scenic or historic highway and adjacent area or for planning, design and development of new state scenic byway programs.

4. Landscaping or other scenic beautification

This category includes landscape planning, design and construction projects that enhance the aesthetic or ecological resources along transportation corridors, points of access and lands qualifying for other categories of transportation enhancement activities.

5. Historic preservation

Projects in this category should preserve or enhance historic preservation activities as they relate to the transportation system.

6. Rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities

Historic transportation buildings or structures associated with the operation, passenger and freight use, construction or maintenance of any mode of transportation where such buildings are listed in or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or contributors to a National Register Historic District, or a local landmark or contributing resource within a local historic district designated by a certified local government.

7. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails)

This category includes the planning, acquisition, rehabilitation and development of corridors for public uses, including bicycle and pedestrian use. It permits the development and rehabilitation of privately owned rail corridors open to the general public.

8. Control and removal of outdoor advertising

Priority shall be given to the removal of outdoor advertising signs in conjunction with other transportation enhancement activities.

9. Archeological planning and research

This category includes, but is not limited to, research on sites eligible for transportation enhancement funds; experimental projects in archeological site preservation and interpretation; planning to improve identification, evaluation and treatment of archeological sites and using data from transportation-related archeological sites.

10. Environmental Mitigation to Address Water Pollution Due to Highway Runoff or Reduce Vehicle Caused Wildlife Mortality While Maintaining Wildlife Habitat Connectivity

This category is limited to projects that are in addition to current requirements and procedures for such mitigation. New to this activity is the provision for environmental mitigation to reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality.

11. Transportation Museums

This category provides for the planning, design and construction of transportation museums.

12. Safety and Education Activities for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

Non-construction costs to provide safety training, facilitator fees and classes. Related training materials such as brochures, videotapes, limited staff salaries and space rentals are eligible.