

# INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION FOR FOREST LANDOWNERS

## FOLDER CONTENTS LIST

	<b>page</b>
1. Introductory letter	2
2. Welcome to Vermont Family Forests	3
3. Taking Part in Vermont Family Forests: Introductory Information for Forest Landowners	4
4. Vermont Family Forests Mission & Principles	5
5. How to Enroll your Forest in Vermont Family Forests' Non-Certified Forest Program	6
6. Forest Conservation Agreement for Non-Certified Forests	7
7. Step-by-Step Guide to Certifying your Forest	8
8. Memorandum of Agreement for Certified Forests	9
9. Checklist for Additions to VFF Certified Pool of Well-Managed Forests	12
10. VFF Forest Management Checklist	13
11. VFF Ecological Forestry Tools	16

## Introduction to VFF

Dear Friend of the Forest,

You're receiving this information packet because you have expressed interest in what VFF is up to, and might be interested in taking part in VFF's programs in some way. This packet will familiarize you with VFF's mission and philosophy, and will show you how you can take part. If, upon reading these materials, you think that you would like to enroll your forestlands with VFF, in either our FSC-certified forests program or our non-certified forests program, we ask that you do two things. First, please fill out the *Forest Management Objectives* sheet included in this packet. Secondly, please contact us. We will set up a one-on-one meeting with you to walk through your forest, review your ownership objectives, and answer any of your questions regarding enrollment in VFF's pool of well-managed forests.

Please review the enclosed documents and contact VFF if you have any questions. May the Forest be With You!

Sincerely,

The Vermont Family Forests staff



## WELCOME TO VERMONT FAMILY FORESTS— We've been waiting for you!

One need not be away long nor travel far to fully appreciate how exceptionally beautiful Vermont is. From her tidy farms to her clapboarded villages and from her sparkling lakes to her rich green forests, Vermont is a blessed place. We are blessed to live here.

Wendell Berry once wrote, *"To use gifts less than well is to dishonor them."* Vermont Family Forests exists to help land stewards understand and use one of these gifts—our forests—as best we can.

Using our forests well requires that we understand the functions and values by which local forests maintain themselves as healthy ecosystems. To use our forests well, we must inform our actions. In some cases, this means we learn to recognize the importance of fragile and unique areas such as spring seeps, wetlands, and rare natural communities and then gladly stay well away from them.

In other cases, we learn the importance of such actions as protecting ecological legacies like snag and den trees and large rotting logs, more closely mimicking natural processes, avoiding the use of synthetic pesticides, and using non-petroleum lubricants when harvesting forest products.

To use our forests well requires even more than deep appreciation and knowledge. Forest stewards—be they landowners or the loggers and the foresters who help them—must be able to obtain favorable economic returns from ecologically sound forest stewardship. To accomplish this, forest stewards must be substantially more successful in the forest product marketplace.

Vermont Family Forests exists to address the educational needs and economic constraints of family forest stewards. This is a huge task that will require the efforts of many people who are committed to understanding and, when appropriate, using our forest gifts well over an extended period of time.

Our journey has just begun and it is taking many paths. We hope you will join us in the exploration. The forest is patient and pleased to let you set your own course and pace. And so is Vermont Family Forests.



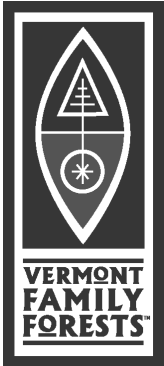
## TAKING PART IN VERMONT FAMILY FORESTS: INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION FOR FOREST LANDOWNERS

*Vermont Family Forests' mission is to conserve the health of the forest community, and when appropriate, to promote the careful cultivation of local family forests for community benefits. VFF believes that the three great conservers of family forests are well-informed stewards, sound economic returns from ecological forestry, and a community-shared land ethic.*

There are two key factors that prevent landowners from managing their forests in an ecologically sustainable manner—lack of information on how to do so and financial constraints. Simply put, the money landowners receive for selling their trees into the conventional forestry market seldom covers the costs of ecological management. VFF exists to counter those limitations and provide landowners with the information and market opportunities to help them practice ecological forest management and receive attractive financial returns for doing so.

As a landowner, you can take part in VFF in two ways, depending on your management objectives for your land.

1. Some landowners simply wish to manage their land in an ecologically sustainable manner and to be part of a network of private landowners similarly managing their forestlands. These landowners sign the Forest Conservation Agreement for Non-Certified Forests, in which they agree to manage their lands in accordance with VFF's 36-point forest management checklist to the maximum practical extent. They receive VFF's newsletters and reports and have access to workshops, landowner gatherings, ecological forestry products, and one-on-one guidance in achieving their forest management objectives.
2. Some landowners additionally wish to market their forest products in a way that promotes and capitalizes on their ecological forest management. VFF offers these landowners the opportunity to green-certify their lands through a third-party, independent certifier (the Forest Stewardship Council) and helps these landowners access markets for their wood products. To certify their forestlands, landowners need to perform some basic steps, including developing a forest management plan and natural communities map in accordance with VFF's templates, marking property boundaries, and bringing their access road network into compliance with Vermont's Acceptable Management Practices. VFF is available to provide guidance at every stage in this process. These landowners sign the Memorandum of Agreement for Certified Forests, which details the responsibilities of both parties.



# VERMONT FAMILY FORESTS

*Conserving Our Forests and Our Community*

## **OUR MISSION:**

To conserve the health of the forest community, and when appropriate, to promote the careful cultivation of local family forests for community benefits.

## **OUR PRINCIPLES:**

**ALL MEMBERS** of the forest community have inherent value.

**AS MEMBERS** of the forest community, people have legitimate needs for the economic, ecological, and social values of forests.

**THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE**—like those of all other earthly beings—should not exceed ecological carrying capacities.

**RECYCLING, SUBSTITUTION, AND DURABLE USES** of forest products should be promoted.

**WORKING LANDSCAPES** should include interconnected forest reserves and sustainably-managed forests.

**ECOLOGICAL FORESTRY** practices should conserve biodiversity, water quality, site productivity and scenic beauty; use only biological pest control; and mimic natural processes.

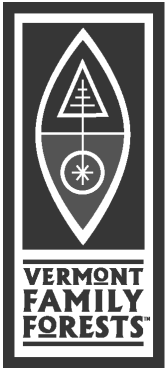
**ECONOMICALLY-SECURE, WELL-INFORMED** forest stewards—including landowners and the loggers and foresters who assist them—are most capable of practicing ecologically sustainable forestry and of making continuous improvement.

**LOCAL FOREST PRODUCTS**—from ecologically sustainable forestry operations—should be promoted over non-native products.

**PUBLIC** forests and small privately owned forests should complement the functions and values of one another.

**LOCAL VALUE-ADDING NETWORKS**—including empowered forest friends and stewards, wood using businesses, and loyal forest product customers—are essential to the well-being of the forest community and should be encouraged.

**GREEN CERTIFICATION**—of local, small private forests and the value-adding networks in which they participate—serves as a foundation on which even higher, local standards should be built.



## How to Enroll your Forest in Vermont Family Forests' Non-Certified Forest Program

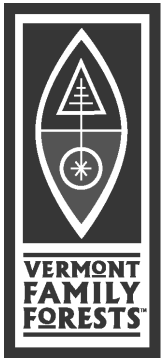
### **Non-certified enrollment is for you if:**

1. You wish to manage your land in an ecologically sustainable manner, but prefer not to FSC-certify your forestlands through VFF.
2. You wish to be part of a network of private landowners similarly managing their forestlands. With your non-certified enrollment, you'll receive VFF's newsletters, reports, and bumper sticker, and you'll have access to workshops, landowner gatherings, ecological forestry products, and VFF's forestry lending library.

### **To complete non-certified enrollment:**

1. Contact VFF. We'll send you a forest conservation agreement which you and VFF sign. By signing the agreement, you agree to manage your lands in accordance with VFF's 36-point forest management checklist to the maximum practical extent.
2. Return one copy of the signed agreement to VFF with a \$25 annual fee. This fee helps support VFF's programming.

If you wish to have VFF's forester walk your land with you to offer insights and recommendations, please let us know. We charge a \$50/hour consulting fee for this service, plus travel.



# Forest Conservation Agreement FOR NON-CERTIFIED FORESTS

Modified December 19, 2002

## Overview:

The Vermont Family Forests Foundation's mission is to conserve the health of the forest community, and when appropriate, to promote the careful cultivation of local family forests for community benefits. VFF believes that the three great conservers of family forests are well-informed stewards, sound economic returns from ecological forestry, and a community-shared land ethic. By signing this forest conservation agreement, VFF and the family forest owner make the following commitments:

## VFF agrees:

- To add to the VFF pool only those parcels for which the landowners are in agreement with the VFF mission and principles and are committed to ecologically sustainable forestry as outlined in the VFF forest management practices.

## The family forest owner participating in VFF agrees:

- With the spirit and intent of VFF's Mission and Principles.
- To manage their enrolled forestlands according to the VFF Forest Management checklist to the maximum practical extent.

This agreement pertains to forestlands identified as VFF Parcel # \_\_\_\_\_.

The family forest owner may terminate this agreement at any time by notifying VFF in writing.

## Landowner(s)

## Vermont Family Forests Foundation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

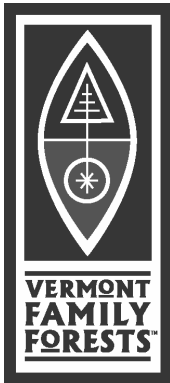
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Welcome to the VFF community—we're delighted to have you aboard!



## Step-by-Step Guide to Certifying your Forest

1. Read VFF's *Introductory Information for Forest Landowners* packet and *A Landowner's Guide to VFF Forest Certification* packet.
2. Contact VFF for a site visit. VFF's forester will walk your land with you and assess the steps you need to take in the forest to prepare for certification. (Some landowners need to do little—others need to upgrade access roads to comply with Vermont Acceptable Management Practices standards or paint boundaries.) We will also review your management plan (if one exists) and assess what additional information is needed to meet FSC and VFF requirements. We charge \$50/hour for this consultation, plus travel.
3. Assemble necessary components for certification. You'll need a management plan and map that meet FSC/VFF requirements, marked property boundaries, and access roads that meet Vermont Acceptable Management Practices standards. (You'll find a full description of certification requirements on the sheet, *What VFF Forest Certification Requires*.) Vermont Family Forests can prepare all necessary maps and plans for you at \$50/hour, or you can hire your own resource manager.

Should you opt to oversee the process yourself, VFF will provide you with the necessary templates and information to guide the process.

4. Sign VFF's *Memorandum of Agreement for Certified Forests* and pay a \$200 initial enrollment fee. As part of this enrollment fee, you will receive VFF's metal "Forest Steward" sign for your property. Thereafter, you will pay an annual certification fee, to cover the costs of our annual audit. The current annual fee is \$40.



## Memorandum of Agreement FOR CERTIFIED FORESTS

Modified November 20, 2006

The Vermont Family Forests Foundation (VFF), a non-profit corporation, exists to conserve the health of the forest community, and when appropriate, to promote the careful cultivation of local family forests for community benefits. VFF believes that the three great conservers of family forests are well-informed stewards, sound economic returns from ecological forestry, and a community-shared land ethic.

The VFF Certification Project provides family forest owners, who carefully manage their lands, with affordable access to independent evaluation and certification of their forestry practices. Once certified, they may use the SmartWood label for public marketing and advertising and have access to VFF's full range of benefits and services.

This memorandum of agreement serves as a constitution for the VFF "Green" Certification Project and establishes the responsibilities of VFF and participating landowners.

### **VFF hereby agrees:**

To develop and maintain a system for accurately identifying sustainable levels of timber harvests on a periodic basis.

To systematically review commercial timber harvesting plans in advance.

To provide the service of monitoring timber harvests to ensure adherence to the VFF Forest Management Checklist.

To maintain copies of the annual conformance reports, forest management plan, memorandum of agreement, and map for each property in the certified pool.

To provide a list of parcels participating in the VFF certified pool to SmartWood every year in conjunction with the annual audit.

To review and approve the forest management plans, maps, and practices of all family forest lands to be added to the VFF certified pool.

To only add parcels to the VFF certified pool when said parcels meet or exceed the following:

- a VFF-approved forest management plan and map
- a completed summary form for any upcoming, commercial timber sales
- a signed copy of the VFF "Memorandum of Agreement"
- acceptable management practices installed in substantial compliance with the Vermont AMPs
- clearly marked boundaries (i.e. paint spots on trees, corner monuments, and fence posts that are "intervisual" under full leaf conditions) by 2004 for current enrollees and within two years of enrollment for new enrollees

- a clear title
- a list of synthetic pesticides used with the past three years
- landowners who are committed to ecologically sustainable forestry as outlined in the VFF voluntary timber management practices.

To view each property in the certified pool as part of the larger ecosystem and to promote the protection of site productivity, water quality, and biological diversity on a regional basis by:

- developing a comprehensive template for forest management planning
- maintaining a list of recommended timber management practices
- establishing priorities for conservation or restoration and compiling a list of unusual or exemplary examples of plant communities occurring on VFF.
- establishing some regional coordination of its activities (such as GIS mapping) and attempting to incorporate information on the uses and condition of intervening land located between the forests in the certified pool.

To establish both a method of organizing the forest inventory and a monitoring program which serve as a data bank of the individual properties in the VFF certified pool along with a system to centralize and hold this information collectively for analysis, future planning, and marketing.

To assure that all forest management plans on all new and existing properties in the VFF certified land base contain the information listed in the VFF Management Plan Template. This will be completed when properties are enrolled, when plans are revised and updated, or prior to certified commercial timber harvesting.

To notify in writing any owners with forests in the certified pool when VFF determines there is non-compliance and the steps necessary to re-establish compliance.

To have a system for marking logs on the landing and of tracking the wood through the manufacturing process for all certified forest products within the VFF network.

**The family forest owner participating in the VFF “Green” Certification Project agrees:**

With the spirit and intent of VFF’s Mission and Principles.

To notify VFF in writing when:

- no longer interested in participating in the certified pool, or
- when long-term objectives are no longer in alignment with VFF’s Mission, Principles, and Forest Management Checklist, or
- prior to implementation of activities which will deviate significantly from their approved forest management plan.

To submit a simple harvesting plan prior to any certified harvest that identifies marking guidelines, estimated volumes to be removed, and any special features or considerations.

To comply with the VFF Forest Management checklist to the maximum practical extent.

To submit an annual conformance report listing completed activities -- including commercial harvests -- by February 1 of each year to VFF for each parcel in the VFF certified pool.

To grant VFF access to the forestland in the certified pool to review compliance with the forest management plan.

To verify that the forest land in the VFF certified pool is clear and legally secure, that boundaries are properly identified on the ground, and that timber harvesting is legally permitted.

To periodically (i.e. every 5 to 10 years) update the forest management plan to reflect changes in ownership objectives and forest conditions and to submit that plan to VFF for review and approval.

To only use pesticides - including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides - in the certified forest as a last resort, under limited situations, and with careful application; to only use those pesticides accepted by the Northeast Organic Farming Association; and to avoid use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

**It is mutually agreed by VFF and the family forest owner that:**

This agreement pertains to VFF Parcel Number \_\_\_\_\_, further identified as follows:  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Vermont.

The family forest owner may terminate this agreement at any time by notifying VFF in writing.

Monitoring is necessary to ensure: the integrity of VFF’s FSC certification and the Family Forests® brand; protection of water quality; conservation of site productivity; and maintenance of native biological diversity.

All commercial timber harvests will be monitored for compliance with the VFF forest management checklist and their approved forest management plan. 20% of the VFF certified forest land base will be monitored annually and all parcels will be monitored at least once every 5 years.

Failure by VFF or by the family forest owner(s) to abide by the provisions of this memorandum of agreement shall, upon written notification by either party, be grounds for notification that this agreement will be terminated unless otherwise appealed.

Family forest owners may appeal any decision by the VFF staff to the VFF Executive Committee. These appeals should be in writing and should be sent to: VFF Executive Committee, PO Box 254, Bristol, VT 05443. The Executive Committee will meet with the landowner and VFF staff as quickly as possible and will make every effort to resolve the problem. VFF will notify the landowner of its findings in writing within 15 days of hearing the appeal.

Landowner(s)

Vermont Family Forests Foundation, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Welcome to VFF—we’re delighted to have you aboard!



# CHECKLIST FOR ADDITIONS TO VFF'S CERTIFIED FOREST POOL

VFF Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Parcel Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Natural Resources Manager \_\_\_\_\_

## Management Plan

OK Needs Work Unknown

- The forest management plan follows the VFF template and protocol.  
Date plan received: \_\_\_\_\_

comments: \_\_\_\_\_

- The VFF Forest Management Checklist is included as part of the forest management plan.

## Map

OK Needs Work Unknown

- The map for the property complies (at a minimum) with the Vermont Use Value Assessment standards.

Date map received: \_\_\_\_\_

- Natural Communities aerial photo interpretation** completed  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

- Preliminary Natural Communities Map** completed  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

- Ground Truthing** completed  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

- Final GIS Natural Communities map** completed  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## AMPs

OK Needs Work Unknown

- The access network — including roads, trails, and log landings — is in substantial compliance with the Vermont Acceptable Management Practices.

comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## Boundaries

OK Needs Work Unknown

- Property boundaries are well marked.

comments: \_\_\_\_\_

- There is a completed **Memorandum of Agreement**.

Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

- Entry **certification fee** is paid. Landowner has received VFF metal Forest Steward sign.

\_\_\_\_\_  
VFF Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# FOREST MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

Practices to conserve healthy forests by protecting water quality, site productivity, and native biological diversity in forests managed for timber.

Updated 3/7/06

## *Introduction*

Vermont Family Forests, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that works to conserve the health of the forest community and, when appropriate, promotes the careful cultivation of local family forests for community benefits. Vermont Family Forests (VFF) has adopted a set of principles to guide forest management activities. One of these principles states that “**ECOLOGICAL FORESTRY** should conserve native biodiversity, water quality, site productivity and scenic beauty; use only biological pest control; and mimic natural processes.”

The following forestry practices have been designed for forest friends and stewards who are interested in practicing ecological forestry. They are most applicable to the following natural community types: Northern Hardwood Forest; Rich Northern Hardwood Forest; Mesic Red Oak-Northern Hardwood Forest; Red Spruce – Northern Hardwood Forest; Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest; Mesic Maple-Ash-Hickory-Oak Forest; and the Valley Clayplain Forest.

## *Accessing the Family Forest*

### *Skid Trails, Truck Roads, and Log Landings*

- ✓ Avoid spring harvests and/or rutting that extends beyond the A soil horizon.
- ✓ It is strongly recommended that all skid trails, truck roads, and log landings be flagged or otherwise marked prior to the inception of harvesting
- ✓ Properly buffer and protect special habitats such as cliffs, caves, talus slopes, beaver meadows, vernal pools, spring seeps, and remnant patches of old growth forest.
- ✓ Use logging equipment that minimizes residual stand damage and soil compaction.
- ✓ The timber harvesting access network -- including truck roads, skid trails and log landings -- should be carefully designed and constructed and should not expose mineral soil on more than 10% of the treated area.
- ✓ Truck roads should be built at grades from 3% to 10% and skid trails should be built at grades from 3% to 15%.
- ✓ Winter harvesting is preferred to protect breeding birds. Delay summer harvests until after August 1st.
- ✓ Skid trails, truck roads, and log landings -- located on easily compacted soils -- should only be used when adequately dry or frozen.
- ✓ Minimize the width, number and extent of truck roads and skid trails -- particularly in or near sensitive areas such as stream crossings, protective strips, and steep slopes.

- ✓ Road and trail networks should be planned to avoid fragmenting forest blocks and to avoid creating linear openings in the forest. These can serve as vectors for predators or contribute to desiccation of leaf litter on the forest floor.
- ✓ Truck roads and skid trails should be properly drained during and after use according to Table 1 in the Vermont Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs). The drainage structures should remain fully functional with post-harvest use.
- ✓ Log landings should: be located on nearly-level, stable ground; be kept away from protective strips; have water diversions installed; and be graded to prevent erosion and sedimentation.

### *Protective Strips and Buffer Strips*

- ✓ Protective strips -- characterized by minimal soil disturbance, nearly-complete canopy closure, and many large, mature trees -- should be maintained between the access network and surface waters according to Table 4 in the Vermont AMPs at a minimum.
- ✓ Areas of exposed soil that occur within the protective strip should be seeded using native species and sources to the maximum extent possible and mulched according to Table 3 in the AMPs.
- ✓ Stream buffer strips should: be kept free of logging vehicles; have only little or no tree cutting; and be at least 25 feet in width.

### *Stream Crossings*

- ✓ Stream crossings should be restored and non-permanent structures should be removed as soon as possible.
- ✓ Streams should be crossed with bridges or culverts which are properly sized according to Table 2 in the Vermont AMPs and installed at right angles.
- ✓ Sediment should be prevented from reaching streams by using turn-ups or broad-based dips on truck roads and skid trails prior to all stream crossings.
- ✓ Drainage ditches should not feed directly into streams or other surface waters.

### *Closeout*

- ✓ Post-harvest use of the access network should be restricted in order to prevent erosion, compaction, and site disruption.

## ***Vegetation Management in the Family Forest***

- ✓ The single tree and small group (canopy openings of 0.25 acres or less preferred but up to 1.25 acres accepted) selection methods should be used for communities with gap-phase replacement (e.g. northern hardwoods) and the irregular shelterwood method should be used for communities with stand-replacing disturbance regimes (e.g. spruce-fir). Clear-cutting should be avoided.
- ✓ Promote an uneven canopy in the forest by creating small canopy gaps through natural processes or by cutting.
- ✓ Create gradual or soft edges between habitats. Allow shrubs, saplings, and some overstory trees to remain along the harvest boundary. Edges may also be “feathered” by retaining more trees closer to the uncut forest and gradually fewer trees closer to the harvested area.
- ✓ Retain at least of 6 cavity, snag, and/or decadent, living trees per acre on average, with one exceeding 18 inches diameter breast height (DBH) and 3 exceeding 16 inches DBH.<sup>1</sup> Leave trees that have cavities of varying sizes and are located in

---

<sup>1</sup> To address safety issues, this may be accomplished by clustering cavity and snag trees in areas such as riparian zones and wetlands and away from access roads and trails.

the upper trunk of the tree. Also, give priority to hardwood trees with cavities, rather than softwood, as they remain intact longer.

- ✓ Retain at least 2 down trees or logs per acre exceeding 14 inches in diameter on average.
- ✓ Grow the largest trees and use the longest rotations possible within site and log quality limitations. Use uneven-aged management by area regulation whenever possible. Timber harvesting should generally raise the average (mean) diameter of the residual dominant and co-dominant trees of the forest.
- ✓ Any forest management in natural communities that are ranked as “very rare”(S1) and “rare” (S2) or in natural communities ranked as “uncommon” (S3), “common” (S4), and “very common”(S5) but with little or no evidence of past human disturbance should be reviewed and approved by the VT F&W Natural Heritage Biologists.
- ✓ When planting, use only local sources of native species, plant three or more species, and include deciduous species.
- ✓ When thinning or regenerating stands, favor native species over non-native species and trees and shrubs that produce seeds and fruits.
- ✓ Use natural regeneration to the maximum practical extent.
- ✓ Biological legacies of the forest community -- including coarse dead wood, logs, and snags; trees that are large, living, and old; buried seeds; soil organic matter; invertebrates; sprouting plants; and mycorrhizal fungi -- should be protected to aid in post-harvest recovery and to keep the forest from becoming "oversimplified".
- ✓ Promote the seed bearing capacities of poorly represented members of the forest.
- ✓ Tree felling should be avoided on slopes exceeding 60%.
- ✓ Leave all materials that are less than 3 inches in diameter on the site. Create brush piles to provide cover.
- ✓ Promote a vertical stand structure that includes over-story, mid-story, shrub, and herbaceous vegetation layers.
- ✓ The use of pesticides -- including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides -- should be extremely limited and only those pesticides accepted by the Northeast Organic Farming Association should be used.
- ✓ The use of non-petroleum bar and chain oil and hydraulic fluid is strongly encouraged.
- ✓ The use of genetically modified organisms or “GMOs” should be avoided.
- ✓ Residual stand damage -- including basal wounds, broken and/or scraped tops, and exposed roots -- should be confined to 10% or fewer of the dominant or co-dominant trees.
- ✓ It is recommended that all trees to be removed be marked prior to the inception of harvest.
- ✓ Average annual harvest volumes should not exceed 70% of the average annual growth.
- ✓ Avoid grazing by domestic animals.

### ***Sensitive and Special Habitat Areas***

Areas including wetlands, raptor nests, upturned tree roots, seeps, vernal pools, hard/soft mast species, and other unique or fragile, natural or cultural sites including areas of historical or community significance sites require identification and protection.

Harvesting and road building in wetlands, including the construction of new roads or expansion of the width of existing roads by more than 20%, will require a permit or review by the Wetlands Office of the Water Quality Division (802) 241-3770. The UVM publication "Wetlands Rules and Regulations: What they mean to your logging operation in Vermont" should be referred to when building or upgrading access and managing vegetation around wetlands



## VFF Ecological Forestry Tools

### **VFF Biltmore Stick**

Made for us by Maple Landmark of Middlebury, this Biltmore stick (for measuring the diameter, volume, and scale of trees) features all the information available on conventional Biltmore sticks, plus VFF's log and tree scaling tables and the beautifully engraved VFF logo. \$15.00.

### **GreenBar Bar and Chain Oil**

Water is Vermont Family Forests' premier forest product. Only healthy forests produce high-quality water. One way to help assure high-quality water is by using plant-based bar and chain oil. Canola oil-based GreenBar Chain Saw-Bar Oil is biodegradable and user safe (unlike petroleum oils, which OSHA requires to carry cancer warning labels). It is more slippery than petroleum oil, contains rust and oxidation suppression additives, and operates at a lower temperature than petroleum-based oil, extending bar and chain life., \$17/gallon, and \$65/5-gallon pail.

### **Water-based Boundary Marking Paint**

Most boundary paints are petroleum oil-based. Chemicals used in the production of oil-based paint can threaten human health and the health of the natural environment if handled or disposed of improperly. VFF stocks red, water-based boundary marking paint. This paint has a weathering durability of 9 years and has an added solvent that allows cold-weather application. We sell the paint at cost, for \$25/gallon. Painting one mile of boundary line requires roughly one gallon of paint.

### **VFF t-shirt**

Spread the good news! VFF's 100% cotton, heavy-duty, sand-colored t-shirt sports the VFF logo on the front and "May the Forest Be With You" on the back. Color: Sand, with forest green text. Adult sizes S,M, L, XL, \$12. Child size L, \$10.

### **VFF wooden pen**

Made of hardwood from VFF's certified forest pool, these beautiful, finely crafted pens are made by Bristol woodworker Louise Brynn. Available in various hardwoods, \$20.00.

### **Vermont Family Forests Mug**

Our 11-ounce mug is printed in dark green and is available for \$10. We can box and ship it for you for an additional \$4.25.

Contact Vermont Family Forests at (802) 453-7728 or fax us at (802) 453-7729 to place an order.