



# 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.