



## **VERMONT WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION**

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### **Vermont Woodlands Association Position Statement Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Adopted June 17, 2005**

**Issue:** Vermont Woodlands Association (VWA) endorses the position that the Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Planning process is and should be based upon sound scientific principles and professional guidance rather than litigation.

VWA supports the management of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) in ways that protect forest health, enhance wildlife habitat, produce high quality timber and other products that meet commercial needs and provide employment opportunities in local communities.

VWA supports the creation and maintenance of early-successional habitat on the GMNF which is in short supply on private lands in Vermont and which is critical to maintain healthy populations of birds and other wildlife dependant upon such areas.

VWA supports the use of harvest techniques on the GMNF that take advantage of local markets for fuel and pulpwood as a means to enhance the long-term production of high quality timber and reduce Vermont's dependence on expensive imported energy.

VWA supports management of the GMNF in ways that help meet increasing demand for dispersed recreational opportunities by the public.

VWA supports the creation and management of Wilderness Areas on the GMNF only through planning procedures established by law and which consider the opinions of local residents.

VWA supports management of the GMNF in ways that demonstrate science-based forest management applicable to private woodland owners.

Vermont Woodlands Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to encourage sound forest-use decisions, improve wildlife habitat, enhance clean air and water, provide recreational opportunities, promote timber management practices that maximize forest health and product values, communicate the benefits of working forests, recognize exemplary actions of woodland owners and managers, provide educational opportunities, and to represent membership before governmental bodies.