

Northern Forest Partnership Program

2006 Grant Recipients

In 2006, the Northern Forest Partnership Program awarded \$259,000 to 19 projects that will strengthen local forest-based economies, communities and the environment in the Northern Forest. The grants leverage a total investment of \$1 million in the region. More than 100 organizations and businesses applied for grants in 2006. Grants ranging from \$2,475 to \$22,500 were awarded to the following:

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- **Northern Forest Canoe Trail** (*multiple counties*), to create a three-part project to generate community-level economic development in the Northern Forest region by increasing tourism dollars in the area;
- **New Hampshire Audubon** (*Grafton County*), to work with forestland owners and volunteers to protect critical breeding bird habitat through forest management and education;
- **Hubbard Brook Research Foundation** (*Grafton County*), to use “ecosystem thinking,” to bring together leaders of business, academia, government and public interest groups to explore vexing environmental, economic and land-use problems facing the Northern Forest;
- **Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire** (*Grafton County*), to create a “Guide to Visual Arts in Northern New Hampshire” based on the economic-development approach that connects culture with place-based tourism;

MAINE

- **Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments** (*Oxford County*), to perform a feasibility study to rehab vacant mills that dot the landscape, encouraging niche manufacturing activities and offering new beginnings to mill sites that have long been considered a burden to communities;
- **The Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands** (*Aroostook County*), to create additional market incentive for certified forest products by developing a credible chain-of-custody tracking system and to prepare harvesters for the demands of certified forest product purchasers and third-party programs;
- **Forest Guild** (*Penobscot County*), to use Guild Model Forests and professional members to train foresters and landowners in the latest ecologically-based silvicultural techniques and promote an ecological conscience with foresters, landowners and wood users;
- **Millinocket Area Growth & Investment Council** (*Penobscot County*), to support specific market research for one of the region’s best business clusters—the forest product industry in the Katahdin region;
- **FDC Ventures** (*Oxford County*), to develop a business plan and resource acquisition strategy to commercialize a bio-oil production system in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont that will displace oil and gas with forest materials while creating jobs;

- **Coastal Enterprises, Inc.** (*Penobscot County*), to develop and launch a \$10 million flexible investment fund for Maine's rim counties, the poorest and most rural in the state;

VERMONT

- **Vermont Natural Coatings, LLC** (*Caledonia County*), to conduct branding analysis for environmentally friendly wood finish, and to use those results to add value to Northern Forest wood products;
- **Northeastern Vermont Development Association** (*Caledonia County*), to develop a replicable and scalable non-profit housing manufacturing facility to produce needed low-cost panelized homes for low- to moderate-income individuals and families in Vermont and New Hampshire;
- **Center for Woodlands Education** (*Caledonia County*), to develop and publish a trade paperback that will serve as an essential reference manual for all owners of forestland in the Northeast, providing information on forest management, conservation, wildlife habitat, rural culture and the economy;
- **Brighton Community Forum** (*Essex County*), to bring together businesses and citizens of the Nulhegan region "gateway communities" to learn about various established marketing opportunities in the changing forest products industry;

NEW YORK

- **Traditional Arts in Upstate New York** (*St. Lawrence County*), to help 30 North Country woodworkers increase opportunities to market their products by providing individual portfolios, a website and a showcase in a regional art gallery;
- **Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks** (*Warren County*), to greater protect open space resources and to build sustainable economies as well as to strengthen community viability by building a local wood industry through Forest Stewardship Council;
- **New York Forest Owners Association** (*St. Lawrence County*), to develop and promote a website that connects private non-industrial forest owners in northern New York with businesses that seek access to a variety of primary forest products;
- **New York Folklore Society** (*Franklin County*), to provide assistance in forming a Mohawk Basketmakers' Alliance;
- **Brushton-Moira Future Farmers of America** (*Franklin County*), to turn the land behind the community's K-12 school into a sugarbush and build a sugar house and working museum with full student participation in every step of the project.