



**Northern
Forest
Center**

NEWS RELEASE

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Rob Riley joins Northern Forest Center

The Northern Forest Center is pleased to announce that Rob Riley has joined its staff as Director of Programs. In this new position, Riley will support the Center's ongoing program work and oversee the development of new programs that evolve from the recommendations of the Center's Sustainable Economy Initiative project.

Riley most recently served as director of MicroCredit-NH, a statewide community economic development program of the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, a New Hampshire non-profit corporation. At MicroCredit-NH he provided strategic development of statewide programs, designed new program initiatives and strategic partnerships, and secured and expanded financial support through public and private investment.

“Rob's many years of experience strengthening communities and developing entrepreneurship by encouraging organizations to work together for the greater good will have tremendous impact on our all of our programs, especially the Sustainable Economy Initiative,” said Stephen D. Blackmer, president of the Northern Forest Center. “We are thrilled to have him as part of our team as we work to build a more vibrant future for the Northern Forest region.”

The Sustainable Economy Initiative (SEI) is developing a strategic blueprint for sustainable economic development in the Northern Forest region based on balanced investment in business, community and environment. A project of the Northern Forest Center and New Hampshire's North Country Council, SEI is directed by a steering committee jointly appointed by governors from the four Northern Forest states—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York—and is supported by members of the congressional delegation

from across the region. The project is funded by a grant from the federal Economic Development Administration and private donors.

“I came to work at the Center because of its mission to foster a strong and diverse economy, robust communities and a healthy environment in the Northern Forest,” said Riley. “These issues have always been important to me and I feel a very strong connection to the region. I’m looking forward to working with our partners across the four states and beyond to create positive change.”

Riley’s other professional experience is wide ranging both in scope and geography. In New Hampshire, he founded and served as executive director Main Street Plymouth, Inc., which received New Hampshire’s “Main Street Program of the Year Award” in 2000. He has also developed youth programs at Sagebrush Arena in Hailey, Idaho, worked in the ski industry in Ketchum, Idaho, and farmed and logged in Andover, Vermont.

Riley received a Bachelor of Arts in American History from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. Deeply involved in volunteer work, he was named to the *New Hampshire Union Leader’s* “Forty Outstanding Leaders Under 40 in New Hampshire” list in 2003. When he’s not working and volunteering, Riley loves exploring the outdoors with his wife, Tabitha, and their children Alice and William.

The **Northern Forest Center** is a private, non-profit organization that mobilizes people to build healthy communities, economies, and ecosystems by working together across the Northern Forest region. Visit www.northernforest.org for more information.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: For a photo of Rob Riley, please contact Shelly Angers, Marketing & PR Coordinator, at 603-229-0679, ext. 109, sangers@northernforest.org. For more information about the Sustainable Economy Initiative, visit www.northernforest.org/economic-strategy.shtml.