

TABLE OF CONTENTS

7.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS	1
7.1 COMMUNITY PROFILES OF AFFECTED TOWNS.....	1
7.2 MAJOR EMPLOYMENT SECTORS FOR THE FOUR COUNTIES.....	2
7.3 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WITH NATURAL RESOURCES.....	4
7.4 PARTNERSHIPS AND CONCESSIONAIRES.....	4

7.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

The Forest's relationships with communities and the socio-economic impacts of Forest activities have been documented in the previous sections. The purpose of this section is twofold: to provide sources of summary level information that will be useful in the ongoing socio-economic assessment activities of the Forest Service, and to summarize some of the major characteristics of the relationships within the Region.

7.1 COMMUNITY PROFILES OF AFFECTED TOWNS

As part of the ongoing assessment of relationships among communities and between the communities and the Forest, community profiles have been gathered for use in the assessment and to facilitate communication between the Forest and the Affected Towns. The Forest Service wrote directly to each of the appropriate town governments to inform them of the process, inviting them to provide information that would be relevant to the social and economic assessment. There was only a small response to this request, so it was necessary to use community information provided by state and other agencies. In the cases where information was available directly from towns it was used to supplement state and federal data sources.

The community profile information used in this assessment is mostly derived from online community profiles. The most thorough collection of community information is available through the New Hampshire Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau's (ELMB) community profile's website: (www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/communpro.htm). Hyperlinks have been provided to access each of the New Hampshire municipalities. A comparable, but less complete website is provided for Maine municipalities. Several of the unincorporated townships do not have formal community profiles. These have been excluded from Table 7-1.

Table 7-1: Websites to Community Profiles for the Affected Towns (Partial List)

OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE	
Bethel	http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=2029
Fryeburg	http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=2130
Gilead	http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=2136
Lovell	http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=2208
Stow	http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=2365
CARROLL COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE	
Albany	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/albany.pdf
Bartlett	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/bartlett.pdf
Chatham	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/chatham.pdf
Conway	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/conway.pdf
Hart's Location	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/hartslocation.pdf
Jackson	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/jackson.pdf
Madison	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/madison.pdf
Sandwich	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/sandwich.pdf
Tamworth	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/tamworth.pdf

Table 7-1 (continued)

COOS COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE	
Berlin	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/berlin.pdf
Carroll	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/carroll.pdf
Gorham	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/gorham.pdf
Jefferson	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/jefferson.pdf
Lancaster	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/lancaster.pdf
Milan	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/milan.pdf
Northumberland	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/northumberland.pdf
Randolph	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/randolph.pdf
Shelburne	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/shelburne.pdf
Stark	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/stark.pdf
Dummer	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/dummer.pdf
GRAFTON COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE	
Bath	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/bath.pdf
Benton	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/benton.pdf
Bethlehem	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/bethlehem.pdf
Campton	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/campton.pdf
Easton	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/easton.pdf
Ellsworth	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/ellsworth.pdf
Franconia	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/franconia.pdf
Landaff	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/landaff.pdf
Lincoln	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/lincoln.pdf
Piermont	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/piermont.pdf
Plymouth	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/plymouth.pdf
Rumney	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/rumney.pdf
Thornton	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/thornton.pdf
Warren	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/warren.pdf
Waterville Valley	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/watervillevalley.pdf
Wentworth	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/wentworth.pdf
Woodstock	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/woodstock.pdf
Haverhill	http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/haverhill.pdf

7.2 MAJOR EMPLOYMENT SECTORS FOR THE FOUR COUNTIES

Employment information for the Four Counties was gathered from the U.S. Census. The data in Table 7-2 show the number of people over 16 years old employed in different industry sectors. Two specific industries related to transportation and manufacturing appear, preceded by the term “Total”. Within these categories, relevant subcategories are included in italics. Much of the truck transportation in the Forest Region is related to forest products, thus it is relevant to see how much of the total transportation category is comprised of this type of employment. Similarly, manufacturing in Coos and

Oxford Counties have a high component of people employed in paper and other wood products. The numbers in these subcategories are components of the totals and not additional employment.

Table 7-2: Employment by Major Industry Sectors for the Four Counties

	Oxford	Carroll	Coos	Grafton
Total Employed Population (over 16 years old)	25,686	21,418	15,686	42,329
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	771	351	486	761
Construction	2,365	2,361	918	2,857
Wholesale trade	557	655	360	883
Retail trade	3,126	3,429	2,279	5,418
Information	410	366	204	1,035
Finance, insurance, real estate and rental and leasing	1,040	1,222	568	1,725
Professional, scientific, admin, and waste mgmt.	1,246	1,529	506	2,620
Educational, health, and social services	5,847	4,060	3,212	12,828
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	2,310	3,145	1,551	4,401
Other services (except public administration)	1,073	978	707	1,676
Public administration	855	766	785	1,229
Total Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	926	733	695	1,520
<i>Truck transportation</i>	<i>616</i>	<i>576</i>	<i>376</i>	<i>1,202</i>
Total Manufacturing	5,160	1,823	3,415	5,376
<i>Wood products</i>	<i>1,688</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>457</i>
<i>Paper</i>	<i>1,180</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>1,250</i>	<i>84</i>

Source: US Census

Employment information is often considered the Labor Market Area (LMA) level. County borders are irrelevant to these LMAs, which group towns based on employment centers and commercial activity. The following discusses employment as it is related to specific LMAs.

Much of Carroll County and the southeastern part of Coos County are supported by the economic centers of the Conway and Bartlett area (Conway LMA). These areas are more heavily driven by tourism dollars than the other LMAs. Major ski destinations in Conway, Bartlett and Jackson, coupled with the retail, dining, and lodging businesses employ a large percentage of the residents in these communities. However, many positions are seasonal, have lower average wages than other regions, and tend to lack benefits (Robertson, 1999).

In Coos County, the major economic centers are around Lancaster (Lancaster LMA), Berlin, and Gorham (Berlin LMA). These communities provide much of the services and employment for the region's residents. Other communities in Coos County, such as Northumberland host major forest products employers, and the town of Carroll is home to the Mount Washington Hotel and the Bretton Woods Ski Area, both major tourist destinations. Lancaster's top three employers are in healthcare and education.

The Affected Towns in Grafton County portray a more diverse economic picture. The city of Plymouth is the economic center for the southwestern edge of the Forest Region. Plymouth State University (formally Plymouth State College) is the largest employer in this area. Additionally, Spere Memorial Hospital is this area's largest medical center. Universities and healthcare providers tend to be more insulated from national economic swings than other sectors of the economy, and thus provide relatively stable local economic situations. This is similar to the Upper Connecticut River Valley, home to

Dartmouth College and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, which experiences far lower unemployment than many of the other parts of Northern New England. Further north in Grafton County are Lincoln and Waterville Valley. Both of these communities are large regional ski destinations, with their industries relying heavily on tourism. Services, education, and healthcare comprise much of the remaining employment in this region. Additionally, the town of Wentworth has two wood products businesses.

Oxford County in Maine is dominated by the economic center of Rumford. Rumford is not one of the Directly Affected Towns, but is home to Mead Paper, which processes over 445,000 tons of coated paper annually and employs over 1,200 people from the region. Additionally, communities such as Bethel and Fryeburg have several lumber processing mills specializing in furniture stock, dimensional lumber, and other specialty wood products. People living near the border of New Hampshire in Oxford County also are employed by businesses and organizations in the nearby New Hampshire economic centers, such as Conway, Gorham, and Berlin.

7.3 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WITH NATURAL RESOURCES

The communities in and around the Forest Region have historically relied heavily on natural resources for their livelihood. Only recently have broader economic patterns been changing the influence of this direct reliance. Farming and forestry were the primary sources of employment in the Forest Region and Northern New England as a whole through much of the 1800s. Indirectly, the forests, lakes, rivers, and mountains of the region provide highly valued recreation opportunities to the residents. Additionally, these same resources are the main attraction for the eight million people who visit the White Mountain Travel Region each year.

Many of the communities in the Forest Region are directly and heavily impacted by Forest activities and policies. The amount of forest products eligible for harvesting affects local logging, trucking and milling businesses. However, all of the communities are connected on a much more direct and immeasurable level. The “quality of life” of the region is generally what keeps people living there. They enjoy the natural scenic beauty, the healthy lifestyles, access to quiet places, and clean water. The natural resources of the region provide not only the economic base for these communities, but also the lifestyles they choose to live.

7.4 PARTNERSHIPS AND CONCESSIONAIRES

The Forest benefits from the numerous relationships it has developed with regional organizations. These organizations provide service for the Forest through governmental services, environmental education, research, community building, tourism services, press, and experienced guiding for recreational users. Conversely, these same organizations also benefit from the Forest’s vast expanse of land for recreation, educational opportunities, and protection of their natural resources, such as public water supplies and forest products.

The Forest has a set of criteria, which is used to determine partnerships. Partners include a number of different interests:

- Recreation equipment manufacturers
- Mail-order retailers of outdoor recreation products
- Relevant industry associations
- Travel and tourism providers

- The media, both general and outdoor-oriented
- Recreation and environmental NGOs
- All levels of government.

The list of partners and concessionaires of the Forest is constantly changing. Attempts to exhaustively list all of the organizations that are involved with the Forest is very difficult. However, there are several organizations and institutions that have a long and well established relationship with the Forest that are clear key stakeholders and interested parties. Several of them are described briefly below:

- The Appalachian Mountain Club has the largest presence on the Forest. They are heavily involved with education, conservation and many other activities on and off the Forest.
- The State of New Hampshire and its associated governmental agencies work closely with the Forest on issues relating to forest management, fisheries, transportation, planning, and recreation.
- Several educational institutions have close ties with the Forest through research and recreation. The University System of New Hampshire, the University of Vermont, the University of Maine, and Dartmouth College are among the most active institutions.
- Research oriented organizations like the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation collaborate extensively with the Forest to manage the research at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest.
- Non-governmental agencies such as the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the North Country Council, and the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association are involved in education, advocacy, and conservation in the Forest Region.