



2014 Vermont Monitoring Cooperative and Mt. Mansfield Science & Stewardship Conference

Science to Policy: Benefitting from Actionable Science

Davis Center, University of Vermont Thursday, December 11, 2014

Agenda

8:15 – 9:00 Registration

Refreshments and poster setup.

9:00 – 9:10 Welcome, Introductory Remarks

Jen Pontius, Principal Investigator, Vermont Monitoring Cooperative
Rick Paradis, Director, University of Vermont Natural Areas

9:10 – 12:00 Plenary Session

Invited speakers include:

9:10 – Deb Markowitz, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

9:40 – Tom Berry, Policy Advisor on Agriculture, Conservation, Energy and Natural Resources to Senator Patrick Leahy

10:10 – Rebecca Ellis, Vermont State Representative and Vice Chair of the House Natural Resources & Energy Committee

10:40 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – Jamey Fidel, General Counsel & Forest and Wildlife Program Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council

11:30 – ♦ Dan Lambert, Conservation Project Leader, High Branch Conservation Services

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

Provided by the Vermont Monitoring Cooperative and UVM Natural Areas Program

1:00 - 2:30 **Contributed Presentations: Forest ecosystem science and monitoring, conservation, resource management, and public policy.**

Learn about new and ongoing research, monitoring, conservation and outreach initiatives through several concurrent sessions of presentations.

2:30 – 2:40 **Coffee Break**

2:40 - 4:00 **Concurrent Working Sessions**

Proposed, organized and run by meeting participants, this time allows for more structured networking and communication among current and potential collaborators. Participation may be primarily by invitation only, at the discretion of the group organizers, with 5-10 individuals in each session. VMC may also specifically invite some cooperators or cooperator groups to meet. A simultaneous database and web interface workshop will be offered for any and all meeting participants.

Confirmed working sessions include:

1) Vermont Water Monitoring Council (Open to All)

This session will focus on further improving coordination among the VMC and other Vermont organizations that undertake water monitoring activities. Partner organizations will be offered the opportunity to deliver "SLAM" style presentations, which will set the stage for topically-focused and facilitated discussion regarding the water monitoring topics raised. The goal of this session is to strengthen the identity of the Vermont Water Monitoring Council, and to capitalize on the opportunity presented by VMC's organizational structure as one possible unifying entity for the larger Water Monitoring Council community.

Organizer: Neil Kamman, VT Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Management Division

2) Integrated Forest Ecosystem Assessment to Support Sustainable Management Decisions in a Changing Climate (Invitation-only)

The McIntire Stennis Forest Health and Climate Research Group plans to convene stakeholders in the forest management community to present the concept for a novel spatial decision support tool, and solicit feedback on management objectives, alternatives and outcomes on which to base decisions.

Organizer: Jennifer Pontius, UVM, USFS, VMC

3) ♦ Mount Mansfield Science and Stewardship Center: Strategic Planning Workshop (Open to All)

A group of VMC cooperators has formed to establish a hub of mountain science and stewardship in the Summit Station, located at the top of the Mount Mansfield Auto Road. This workshop will engage participants in the development of a strategic plan for the proposed Mansfield Center.

Organizer: Dan Lambert, High Branch Conservation Services

4) Strengthening the Role of Science at the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) (Open to All)

Vermont Agency of Natural Resource's science is employed for education and to resolve disputes. It informs and influences policy choices and supports implementation of policies through application to specific cases and new rules. As science is multidisciplinary in nature, it requires coordination and partner collaboration. For ANR to continue to be a trusted natural resource and environmental science advisor and decision maker, in cooperation with others, a number of topic areas need to be addressed. This workshop seeks a discussion with external partners to reflect on topics that are under consideration for targeted focus to strengthen science at ANR. ANR is currently working with its scientists/data collectors and those that employ science to inform public policy. A committee will meet to develop, for targeted areas, recommendations to the Secretary of Natural Resources by June 30, 2015. The science, monitoring and data functions in ANR and through our partners work to provide defensible science with sound outputs regularly used. Science underpins what we do and is an endeavor that requires both vision and practical skills integrated to develop critical natural resource and environmental thinking and doing to meet protection goals. There is room to strengthen the system by which monitoring; data; scientific studies and analyses are delivered to address the relevant questions.

Organizer: Larry Becker, Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Geological Survey

5) Lye Brook Working Group (Open to All)

Discuss possible projects to pursue in Lye Brook Wilderness.

Organizer: Jennifer Wright, Green Mountain National Forest

6) Getting the Most Out of the New Vermont Monitoring Cooperative Website and Database (Open to All)

Participants will take a guided tour of the new VMC website and database, learn about some of the new and exciting features now available, and identify ways to expand and cross-link VMC data with other data catalogs and repositories.

Organizer: Jim Duncan, Data and Web Coordinator, Vermont Monitoring Cooperative

4:00 – 5:00 Posters & Social Hour

Enjoy conversation, posters and a cash bar at the end of the day.

Contributed Presentations Schedule

Time	Session A	Session B	Session C	Session D	♦ MMSSC Session
1:00 to 1:15	Long-term Monitoring Plots on the Green Mountain National Forest <i>Diane Burbank</i>	Incorporating the Next Generation of Water Monitoring in Vermont <i>Keith Robinson</i>	Effects of landscape development on bobcat carrying capacity in Vermont <i>James D. Murdoch</i>	Mapping Vermont From Above: Turning Data Into Information <i>Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne</i>	♦ When One Tugs on Mount Mansfield, You Find it Attached to the Rest of the World: Discoveries in Songbird Population Connectivity. <i>Kent McFarland and Chris Rimmer</i>
1:15 to 1:30	A long-term examination of changing species assemblages in a northern hardwood forest <i>Jennifer Pontius</i>	Wilderness Streams in the GMNF: creating a chemical baseline <i>Heather Pembroke</i>	The Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, Highlights from the 2014 Season <i>Jim Andrews</i>	Subdivision and Land Use Change at the Municipal Level: An Analysis of Trends and Strategies for Maintaining Intact Forests in Vermont. <i>Jamey Fidel</i>	♦ Photo-Monitoring in Mt. Mansfield's Alpine Zone <i>Elisabeth Fenn</i>
1:30 to 1:45	What are forest health indicators telling about future forests? <i>Sandy Wilmot</i>	Paired Watershed Monitoring <i>Jamie Shanley</i>	Modeling the Impacts of Climate Change on Water Quality in Lake Champlain: Design of an Integrated Assessment Model using Pegasus Scientific Workflow <i>Ahmed Abdeen Hamed</i>	Monitoring Forest Recreation in Vermont <i>William Valliere</i>	♦ Integrating Science and Stewardship for Healthy Mountain Ecosystems: A Framework for Mansfield Center Programs <i>Dan Lambert</i>
1:45 to 2:00	Optimizing climate datasets for use in forest health research <i>Evan M. Oswald</i>	Nutrient Dynamics in Streams of Four Land Use Types in the Missisquoi Watershed <i>Allison Jerram</i>	Stream macroinvertebrate responses to landscape variables; an evaluation of rapid bioassessment techniques using a statistical modeling approach. <i>Declan McCabe</i>	Putting Tree Inventories and Canopy Assessments to Work: Translating data into actionable plans <i>Danielle Fitzko and Elise Schadler</i>	
2:00 to 2:15	The tree-ring perspective: how dendrochronological techniques enhance study of environmental change in New England <i>Shelly A. Rayback</i>	Twelfth-year Update on a 200-yr Soil Monitoring Study <i>Don Ross</i>	Amyntas Ante-Portas: Invasive Asiatic Earthworms in New England and Reasons to Monitor Vigilantly <i>Josef Gorres</i>	Experimental gaps and biodiversity responses in the Vermont Forest Ecosystem Management Demonstration Project <i>William S. Keeton</i>	♦ Identifying and Strengthening Tools for Mountain Stewardship <i>Susan Hindinger</i>
2:15 to 2:30	Using dendroecological techniques to interpret the response of trees to environmental change at VMC's Mount Mansfield study site <i>Alexandra Kosiba</i>	Geology and Ecology: Building Studies from the Base Map <i>Laurence Becker and Marjorie Gale</i>		Exploring how silvicultural management and genetics influence the performance of American chestnut in Vermont <i>Paul Schaberg</i>	