

## **INFORMATION ON THE MONITORING COOPERATIVE APPLICATION**

THIS IS AN APPLICATION TO BE INVOLVED IN THE VERMONT MONITORING COOPERATIVE'S (VMC) MONITORING AND RESEARCH NETWORK AT MOUNT MANSFIELD. IN ADDITION, IT IS THE APPROVAL PROCESS NEEDED TO CONDUCT MONITORING OR RESEARCH ON STATE LANDS AT THIS SITE.

### GOALS OF THE VERMONT MONITORING COOPERATIVE

Improve our understanding of the conditions, trends and relationships in the physical, chemical and biological components of the forested ecosystems in Vermont.

Facilitate the efficient coordination of multi-disciplinary environmental monitoring and research activities among program participants.

### APPROVAL PROCESS

In providing a well coordinated and integrated monitoring and research program at the Mansfield site, we are requiring all participants **to apply to the VMC annually**, for project approval and location permission. Project approval is to ensure that the proposed project's goals and objectives are in keeping with those of the VMC, to prevent duplication of efforts, and to maintain good communications on all new and changing activities from year to year. Location approval allows each cooperator to function without the threat of interference from others, allows the VMC to ensure that land use is in keeping with VMC guidelines, and provides needed information on specific locations of projects to update our GIS information.

The requirements for VMC application approval are:

1. the project is in keeping with the goals and objectives stated above,
2. adequate project information is provided to understand the proposed project,
3. the cooperator agrees to provide data or results to VMC in a timely manner,
4. and the applicant agrees to provide an annual progress report or information for an annual VMC report.

In addition, we encourage VMC cooperators to facilitate the flow of information on forested ecosystems through cooperation with other members, and participation in any VMC information exchange meetings.

The application process is meant to be simple, quick, yet informative, and is as follows.

Complete the application, sign and date it, and return to the VMC Program Coordinator, Carl Waite (contact information below).

Your application (new projects) will be reviewed by the VMC Program Coordinator and may also be reviewed and commented on by the VMC Advisory Committee. If the project is approved, the Program Coordinator will sign your application and forward it to the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for location approval. This process can be completed at any time, preferably well ahead of the field season.

Location approval, which is granted by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, can be postponed until the field season to allow for on-site verification of a suitable location. If the applicant needs more information on potential sites for project implementation, list criteria needed on the application (number 4), and the Program Coordinator will assist you in locating an appropriate site.

In addition, the Program Coordinator will set up a site visit for new cooperators, to assist in locating appropriate study sites, and to familiarize the cooperator with other VMC activities. Allow 2-3 weeks for your application approval.

### OTHER PERMITS

This approval covers activities conducted on State owned lands at the site. Other landowners that you may need to contact are:

- \* Rick Paradis, Director of the University of Vermont Natural Area (660 feet on either side of the summit) (802-656-4055),
- \* Tim Perkins, Director of the Proctor Maple Research Center (802-899-9926),
- \* Manager of the Mt. Mansfield Company in charge of the east slope Toll Road access, and
- \* Private landowners at lower elevations on both sides of the mountain.

Collection or disruption of federally listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species requires a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Contact Laurie Eaton at 802-951-6313.

Collection or disruption of state listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species requires a permit from the Vermont Natural Heritage Information Program. Contact Steve Parren at 802-241-3717.

Collection of any vertebrate species requires a Scientific Collecting Permit from the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Any University of Vermont researcher conducting studies involving vertebrate animals must receive approval by the University of Vermont Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Contact Penni Cross (Penni.Cross@uvm.edu) at 802-656-5040.

Any environmental manipulations (constructions, major cutting of the forest, additions of fertilizer, etc.) especially above a 2300 foot elevation may require more extensive review and approvals, such as approval by local town authorities or Act 250 reviewers.

VMC Program Coordinator: Carl Waite  
University of Vermont  
George D. Aiken Forestry Sciences Laboratory  
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South Burlington, VT 05403  
(802)-656-0683  
carl.waite@uvm.edu

## GUIDE TO PLOT LOCATION AND MARKING

State Land on Mount Mansfield is managed for multiple uses. Establishment of plots or study areas must be sensitive to the fact that recreation and aesthetics are two major uses of this mountain.

Guidelines:

1. When establishing permanent plots or study areas off recreational trails, please locate your plots at least 100 feet from the trail. Periodically trails are relocated to avoid erosion, and this distance should prevent conflict between trails and plots. Plus, any markers you use on your plots will not be as visible to recreation users from this distance.
2. Avoid the overuse of flagging. While it is important to mark your study area for relocating and to avoid others using the same spot, too much flagging in the woods can become a problem. Try to be sensitive to this.
3. Permanent markers can consist of a PVC pipe at plot center, aluminum tags on tree butts, or other non-corrosive items. Please clearly label all markers, and where abbreviations are used, send a list of these to the VMC Program Coordinator for permanent documentation.
4. If you frequently visit your study area and are creating "research trails" that hikers may see and wander onto, please place brush or other natural obstructions at the start of your trail to avoid any unwanted entry. This is for your protection and to prevent hikers from being confused about which trail they should be on.
5. On the west slope of the mountain, the Brown's River watershed (which includes the land above the Underhill State Park) has been designated as an undisturbed area (no cutting will occur other than hazardous trees). The Stevensville Brook watershed (surrounds the Butler Lodge Trail) will undergo silvicultural treatments periodically. On the east slope of the mountain, in the Ranch Brook watershed, the south portion of the watershed is designated as an undisturbed area, and the north portion will periodically undergo silvicultural treatments for research purposes (request a map if you would like to know the boundaries). Keep this in mind when choosing which watershed to locate in.



4. Has a specific study area location(s) been identified, and if so, please indicate location(s) on an attached map (this also applies to existing projects). If study area location is not known at this time, what criteria will you use to select plots?

5. List ways in which this project fits goals and objectives of the VMC.

6. When will your project data be available to VMC cooperators and others, and in what format will data be submitted to VMC?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Terms of approval (if any):

Project approval:

Location approval:

\_\_\_\_\_  
VMC Official signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
FPR Official signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date