

2024 Northern Forest Outdoor Recreation Symposium Attendee Book

Melissa Abramson

she/her

mabrams@rei.com

South Orange, NJ

National Manager - Brand Engagement, REI

Melissa Abramson is the National Manager for Brand Engagement at REI and the Founder/Chair of the New York Outdoor Recreation Coalition. Forming strong partnerships with non-profits, government agencies, and user groups has been the cornerstone of her work, in an effort to promote conservation and equitable access to public green spaces both in New York and the nation.

After receiving her Master Degree, she planted roots in New York City, focusing on creating direct pathway for urban dwellers to access nature and taking a vested interest in conservation.



Mark Adams

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Patten, ME

Manager, Elliotsville Foundation Inc

EFI donated the land that now is Katahdin Woods and Waters National monument . EFI is now finishing construction of a Visitor contact station in the Monument that will be gifted to the National Park Service . We are also building what will be a gear hub offering Mt. Biking , Hiking and XC ski trails in Patten that will offer biking hiking and skiing plus the gear to do it with.



Maura Adams

she/her

madams@northernforest.org

Deerfield, NH

Director of Community Investment, Northern Forest Center

Maura leads the Northern Forest Center's community investment team, helping build thriving communities across the region. She also supports the Center's Bike Borderlands initiative, which she helped launch in 2017, and the Ride With Gratitude campaign. Maura previously worked in campus environmental stewardship and green building consulting, and has a graduate degree from the Yale School of the Environment. She's an avid trail runner and mountain biker and loves to cook and bake - fueling all those outdoor adventures! Maura lives off-grid in Deerfield, NH with her husband and their awesome dog.



Raeann Adams

she/her

raeann.adams@srmt-nsn.gov

Akwesasne, NY

Assistant Director, Economic Development, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

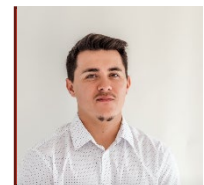
Storm Adams

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Hogansburg, NY NY

Placemaking Coordinator, Economic Development- St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Working within Economic Development on strategic planning, coordination and implementation of key activities derived from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Recreation Economies for Rural Communities action plan and the Akwesasne Tourism Basic infrastructure development plan. Placemaking maximizes the community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating and improving public spaces that promote the community's health, happiness, and well-being.



Susan Adams

she/her

recreation@elliotsvillefoundation.org

Patten, ME

Recreation Manager, Elliotsville Foundation Inc

Land manager, community engager , partner organization with NPS, Live and Work in the very northern corner of Penobscot County in the north portion of the Katahdin Region. I enjoy paddling the waters of Maine and mountain Biking, Camping and skiing both nordic and alpine. I am interested in bringing attention to the resources including the residents of this region and helping economic development and natural resource protection in any way I can. I am also on the boards of Maine Lakes, Katahdin Tourism Partnership and Washington Community College Advisory board as well as the Katahdin Afterschool program advisor board.



Jeff Alexander

he/him

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Tinmouth, VT

Director of Strategic Partnerships & Business Development, Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports

Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports is committed to empowering individuals with disabilities. We promote independence and further equality through access and instruction to sports and recreational activities. Vermont Adaptive provided 5336 Individual recreational outings in 2023 & offers New Englands largest variety of program opportunities and unique, specialized equipment.

Jeff has a BICP Adaptive Mountain Bike Instructor Certification and an AASI Adaptive Snowboard Instructor Certification specializing in Visually Impaired and Cognitive.

EveryBODY deserves the opportunity to recreate!



Jeff Allott

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Elizabethtown, NY

Town Board member, Elizabethtown

Kelly Ault

she/her

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Middlesex, VT

Executive Director, Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance

Kelly has served as the executive director for the Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance since 2019, after co-founding the organization with industry leaders. After receiving a Masters in Environmental Policy in 1995, she has worked as a non-profit executive on land conservation, sustainable forestry, and nature-based tourism projects with the Northern Forest Alliance (Appalachian Mountain Club) and on early childhood issues for the Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance. Kelly lives in Middlesex, Vermont and can often be found mountain biking, skiing or traveling to the world's wonderful places with her husband and adult sons.



Monika Bach

she/her
mbachsc@rei.com
Boston, MA

Manager, Local Marketing and Social Impact, REI Co-op

Monika is the Northeast Regional Manager of Local Marketing and Social Impact at REI, an outdoor retailer whose purpose is fueled by the belief that a life outside is a life well-lived. She develops integrated brand marketing strategies for lifestyle brands. And leads strategic partnerships through impact and community programs that build brand engagement and loyalty. With her family, she enjoys time and activities outside in all four seasons throughout the Northeast especially hiking, running, cycling, skiing, and stargazing.



Risteen Bahr

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Orrington, ME

Principal, RBahr Enterprises LLC

I am a consultant focusing on strategic planning for small non-profits especially those in the tourism, hospitality, and cultural heritage. With more than 30 years experience in tourism and transportation marketing and management, a degree in history, a professional certification in museum studies, and past leader for several organizations, I offer a broad perspective on business development and management.

I am a Maine native. My latest interest started during COVID when I took drawing and art lessons online from a local artist and teacher. Watercolor is my favorite medium. My husband is my staunchest supporter and biggest art critic.



Amy Bannon

Bethel, ME

Managing Director, Maine Adaptive Sport & Recreation

Growing up enamored by the beautiful White Mountains, Amy developed a deep love for exploring the trails, slopes, and cliffs of New England. Early on, Amy recognized the disparity in recreational accessibility, igniting her fervor for equitable sports and outdoor experiences. Starting as a Junior Adaptive Ski Instructor and then co-founding High Country Adaptive Sports, Amy has committed herself to leveling the playing field in the outdoor industry. Now, as Managing Director of Maine Adaptive Sports & Recreation, she passionately dismantles barriers to recreation for individuals with disabilities across the state, ensuring everyone has access to the transformative power of recreation.



Barbra Barrett

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Bethel, ME
Development Manager, Mahoosuc Land Trust

Michael Barrett

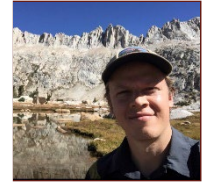
michael@adk.org
NY
Deputy Director, Adirondack Mountain Club

Alex Belenz

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VT

Associate Planner, SE Group

Alex joined SE Group in 2022. He spent the previous five years as a regional planner in northern New Hampshire focusing on transportation planning, housing, and recreation and also worked with public land managers across the country on issues of recreation, transportation, and visitor use management. At SE Group, Alex works with communities, regions, and land managers to promote equitable community and economic development, deliver excellent recreational experiences, and find a sustainable balance between the two. A recent focus of Alex's work is regional planning for outdoor recreation economies, with projects in Colorado, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and New York State.



Nick Bennette

he/him
nick@vmba.org
Waterbury, VT

Executive Director, The Vermont Mountain Bike Association

Nick has been the Executive Director of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association since March of 2021. Originally from Missouri, Nick obtained a PhD from Princeton University before spending nearly a decade working as a consultant to foundations, companies, and non-profit organizations with an emphasis on environmental sustainability. Unsurprisingly, Nick is an avid mountain biker and spent many years volunteering with the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance in Washington State before moving to Vermont to lead VMBA.



Steph Bertaina

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Washington, DC

Senior Policy Analyst, U.S. EPA Office of Community Revitalization

Steph Bertaina is a Senior Policy Analyst with the U.S. EPA Office of Community Revitalization in Washington DC, where she helps rural communities and small towns build economically vibrant, healthy, sustainable, and inclusive neighborhoods and downtowns. Steph manages the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities program, a federal interagency partnership that works with rural communities to help them leverage the power of outdoor recreation to diversify local economies and revitalize main streets. Steph has also worked on programs that support local food systems, broadband access, and healthcare as part of a holistic approach to building healthy and resilient rural communities.



Sam Blake

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Lake George, NY
Junior Planner, Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board

Marianne Borowski

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Glen, NH

President and Founder, Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail

The Cross NH Adventure Trail (xNHAT) is an 83 mile mostly off-road cross state bicycling route. The scenic Ammonoosuc and Presidential Rail Trails comprise over half of the route. The xNHAT connects communities, promotes safe bicycling and walking for locals and visitors and introduces cyclo-tourism as a business opportunity to the North Country. The goal is to provide an exciting new "Adventure" experience that will bring enjoyment, wellness and economic benefit to the region. The xNHAT is proud to work with the NH Bureau of Trails, local snowmobile and ATV clubs to extend and improve our beautiful rail trails!



Taylor Boucher

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Portland, ME

Maine's Outdoor Recreation Economy Roadmap, University of Maine

I do corporate engagement for the University of Maine. Specifically, I work for the Office of Strategic Partnerships, Innovation, Resources, and Engagement (SPIRE) at the University of Maine.

I am also filling in as the UMaine representative on Maine's 10-year Outdoor Recreation Economy Roadmap while my colleague is on maternity leave. I will be attending the conference with Maine Outdoor Brands and other roadmap associates.

Renee Bouplon

she/her

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Greenwich, NY

Executive Director, Agricultural Stewardship Association

Renee J. Bouplon is the Executive Director of the Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA), a nonprofit land trust based in Greenwich, NY that conserves working agricultural and forest lands. Prior to becoming Executive Director in 2021, Renee served as the organization's Associate Director overseeing the land conservation and stewardship programs. She is involved in economic revitalization efforts in her hometown, including a community forest project. She served on the Village of Cambridge (NY) Recreation Economy for Rural Communities steering committee.



Marina Bowie

she/her

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Concord, NH

Program Manager, Northern Border Regional Commission

I serve as the Program Manager for the Northern Border Regional Commission's Forest Economy and Timber for Transit Programs. Having lived in three of the Northern Border Region states and recreated in all four, it's my pleasure to get to serve communities within this region in my role at NBRC. My favorite outdoor activities include hiking, yoga, biking and polar plunging.



Jess Brodie

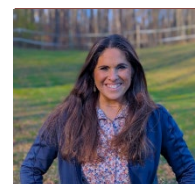
she/her

Jessica@vrpa.org

Brownsville, VT

Executive Director, Vermont Recreation & Parks Association

Jessica Brodie is the Executive Director of the Vermont Recreation & Parks Association. Prior to this role, Jessica served in the municipal parks & recreation sector as a Parks & Recreation department director in a few different departments in Massachusetts over the span of 10+ years. Jessica is a graduate of the NRPA Director's School and has a degree from the University of New Hampshire in Recreational Management & Policy. In her spare time, you can find Jess recreating outdoors with her three kids hiking, biking, skiing, horseback riding, running and other fun outdoor adventures.



Ericka Canales

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Lancaster, NH

Executive Director, Coos Economic Development Corporation

Ericka Canales has over 25 years in local, state, federal, non-profit and small business industries, including owning a small business and working for the Surfrider Foundation. While holding a Master's in Environmental Planning and Policy, her current work is focused on rural economic and community development as Executive Director of Coos Economic Development Corporation. She serves as a board member of Granite Outdoor Alliance and Chair of UNH Coos Extension Council. Located in Lancaster, you will need her Garmin tracker to see what remote gravel road she is riding, backcountry skiing, fishing, or bird hunting with her dogs.



Kristina Cannon

she/her

kristina@mainstreetskowhegan.org

Skowhegan, ME

President & CEO, Main Street Skowhegan

As president and CEO of Main Street Skowhegan (MSS), Kristina Cannon is the central coordinator of the organization's strategic projects. Under her leadership, MSS is spearheading a comprehensive approach to community transformation through outdoor recreation by weaving together infrastructure development, programming & gear, mentorship and third spaces for youth, and career pathways—all with an eye toward inclusion and equity. She spends much of her time managing and fundraising for the Skowhegan River Park—an initiative that will redevelop an industrial downtown river corridor into an accessible outdoor recreation asset with an expanded trail network and enhanced whitewater for paddling and surfing.



Annalise Carington

she/her

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VT

Lands Manager, Vermont Land Trust

I work with the Vermont Land Trust and help manage our portfolio of fee lands with public recreational access around the state.



Katherine (Kat) Carlson

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ME

Maine Mountain Timber Frames

Georgia Cassimatis

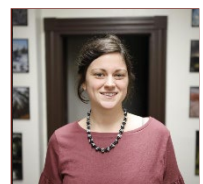
she/her

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GILSUM, NH

Program Specialist, NBRC

I have been with NBRC for 2.5 years and I am in love with everything we do! I couldn't be more honored to work for an organization that brings funding to a wide array of opportunities in the Northeast. I have lived in Southern NH for the past 15 years and in that time I received a master's E.S. from Antioch University, started an organization called Friends of Public Art and 17ROX artist studios in Keene, NH. I enjoy hiking, bee keeping, gardening, playing flute/guitar, rock climbing, snowboarding, art and raising my dog and cat.



Taylor Caswell

NH

Commissioner, Department of Business and Economic Affairs

Josh Clague

he/him

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Albany, New York NY

Chief, Bureau of Forest Preserve and Conservation Easements, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



Tim Clough

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NH

Board Member, Franconia Area NEMBA

Kathleen Coffman

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Ticondaroga, NY

Ticondaroga Revitalization Alliance

Hannah Collins

she/her

Hannah.Collins@maine.gov

Hallowell, ME

Deputy Director, Maine Office of Tourism

The Maine Office of Tourism is a state agency that leads, convenes, and advances the state's tourism economy by providing resources and education to strengthen the tourism industry, fostering a culture of stakeholder collaboration, and developing strategy and best practices to promote and enhance the Maine experience for all.



Elyse Crossman

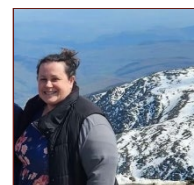
she/her

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Claremont, NH

Executive Director, Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce

I am currently the Executive Director of the Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce in NH had have been in this role since June 2015. I'm currently serving as chair of the Discover Sugar River Region Board of Directors, a member of the City of Claremont EPA Steering Committee, NHACCE Board of Directors Secretary, Vital Communities Board Member, Leadership Upper Valley Committee Member, and Stevens High School Alumni Association Board Member. I enjoy being outside with my husband and two young children (5 & almost 2) bike riding, kayaking, nature walks, camping, and visiting area parks.



Michelle Cruz

she/her

Michelle@VisitMWV.com

North Conway, NH

Executive Director, Mt Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce

Michelle joined the Mt. Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce in 2017 overseeing events and community relations. Her dedication and passion for her work and interest in supporting business and community members led her to becoming the Executive Director in July 2022. The MWV Chamber strategically markets the Mt. Washington Valley as a premier and vibrant New England vacation destination by enticing tourists with year-round attractions and natural resources. This fosters a business climate that promotes growth, collaboration, and benefits in member communities, while protecting the area's natural beauty.



Jackie Dagger

She / Her

jackie.dagger@vermont.gov

Montpelier, VT

Program Manager, Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative

Jackie leads the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC). In this role, she works to demonstrate and strengthen the connections between natural resources, outdoor recreation and economic vitality and develops critical relationships between state agencies and public / private stakeholders working within Vermont's outdoor recreation landscape. Her passion for this work is fueled by her love for playing outdoors and she can be found enjoying some of her favorite places on skis, by foot or paddle and climbing up rocks.



Rob Daley

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Ray Brook, NY

Regional Forester, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

I am a regional supervisor for Forester Preserve management in the Adirondack Park. Our staff manage recreational access on over 2 million acres of public land. This includes management of numerous facilities including trails, roads, campsites, lean-tos fire towers, parking areas, etc. We are fortunate to work with many outstanding partners to accomplish the never-ending task of maintaining our facilities.

A personal love of being, and recreating, outdoors inspired me to get into the field of conservation. I look forward to attending this symposium and learning from the presenters and participants.



Lee Dassler

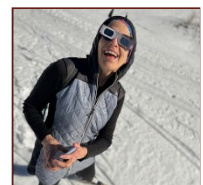
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Norway, ME

Development Director, Western Foothills Land Trust

Western Foothills Land Trust is dedicated to the conservation and protection of native ecosystems, farm and forestlands, watersheds, and scenic landscapes for the benefit of wild and human communities in western Maine.



Armanda Davis

adavis@fourdirectionsmaine.org

Orono, ME

Native Arts & Cultural Tourism Program Manager, Four Directions Development Corporation



I have 20+ years of experience in the Hospitality & Tourism industry in Maine, across multiple sectors including tour operation, restaurant & lodging management, and travel planning. I recently joined Four Directions Development Corporation (Orono, ME) as the Native Arts & Cultural Tourism Program Manager to oversee the Wabanaki Cultural Tourism Initiative (WCTI). The objective of the WCTI is to support the development of a robust Wabanaki cultural tourism industry by 2030.

Michael DeBonis

he/him

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Waterbury Center, VT

Executive Director, Green Mountain Club

Carrie Deegan

she/her

cdeegan@forestsociety.org

NH

Reservation Stewardship & Engagement Director, Society for the Protection of NH Forests



The Society for the Protection of NH Forests (Forest Society) is a non-profit land conservation & forestry organization that owns more than 200 properties across the State. All of our forests are open to the public, and many are popular recreation destinations. We are interested in engaging more deeply with visitors to our forests, and creating a sense of shared responsibility and pride in keeping them healthy and beautiful for present and future generations.

Alex DeLucia

he/him

adelucia@outdoors.org

Bath, NH

Director of Trails & Recreation Management, Appalachian Mountain Club



AMC's Trails Department offers a wide range of recreation management support for public land managers across the northeastern region. From the DC area to Northern Maine AMC hosts Professional Trail Crews, AmeriCorps Crews, Staff support for trail volunteers, trail skill trainings, overnight site management, human waste management in the backcountry, trail layout and design, mapping, trail assessment and more.

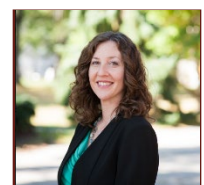
Laura DiBetta

she/her

laura.dibetta@dec.ny.gov

Albany, NY

Director of Outdoor Recreation, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Laura DiBetta is Director of Outdoor Recreation at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, overseeing the agency's Office of Outdoor Recreation and the Adventure NY initiative. Through Adventure NY, DEC is expanding access to healthy, active outdoor recreation; connecting people with nature and the outdoors; protecting NY's natural resources; and boosting local economies. Prior to joining DEC, Laura spent nearly 20 years working for state and national nonprofit organizations on environmental issues, program development, and communications.

Sean Doll

he/him

sean.doll@vermontstate.edu

Littleton, NH

Professor, Vermont State University - Lyndon

Dr. Sean Doll is a professor of Mountain Resort Management in the Outdoor Education, Leadership and Tourism Program at Vermont State University's Lyndon Campus, and is currently serving as the Chair of the department of Business Administration for all five campuses of VTSU. He has professional experience in multiple aspects of the outdoor industry including but not limited to retail, public sector community recreation and private sector resort management, tourism, and adventure recreation.



Tyler Durham

he/him

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Waterville Valley, NH

Parks & Adventure Program Manager, WVRD

The soundtrack of my childhood adventures includes the roaring & hissing of waves crashing & retreating across sand and rocks at Hampton Beach. Exploring barnacled tide-pools & muddy salt marshes rich with life, I learned to enjoy time spent actively outdoors. Digging in the sandy frontier separating North America from the rest of the world I wondered what magnificent places & people one might encounter upon reaching the other side of the ocean or this continent. Much of my life has been spent in pursuit of the answers to those questions. Now those explorations are parties with my wife and 3 young sons.



Rhiannon Edlind

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NY

Manager, Tourism Policy Programs, I LOVE NY - Empire State Development

I work for the Division of Tourism at Empire State Development, better known as I LOVE NY. I manage I LOVE NY's Accessible NY program and am assisting in the development of our outdoor recreation program. I am an animal and nature lover and am excited to begin hiking more frequently this summer.



Alec Ellsworth

he/him

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Montpelier, VT

Parks Director, City of Montpelier

Montpelier is looking build a great trail system that is seamlessly connected to our vibrant downtown. With public lands located right outside our downtown core and the State Capitol building, Montpelier can be a model for what a trail town looks like in our region. In the wake of last July's flooding, outdoor recreation is more important than ever as our City rebuilds and positions itself for a more sustainable future.



Sara Emmert

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NY

Senior Director, Tourism Policy & Operations, I LOVE NY

Ta Enos

she/her

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Russell, PA

Founder + CEO, PA Wilds Center

Ta Enos is a writer, mom, and founder and CEO of the PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship, a nonprofit that leads a regional movement to grow the outdoor recreation economy across 13 rural counties to help attract investment, diversify local economies, inspire stewardship and improve quality of life. The Center's work has been recognized as a sustainable model for asset-based development in many national studies. A fourth-generation native of Warren County, in the Pennsylvania Wilds, Ta has worked on the movement for close to two decades and loves what she does.



Chris Estes

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Washington, DC

Co-Executive Director, Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group

Mike Farmer

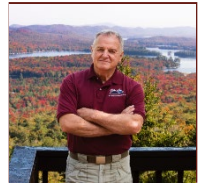
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3140 State Rt 28 Old Forge, NY

Tourism Director, Town of Webb, NY Tourism

A 25-year working adventure in tourism in Lake Placid, Aspen and Argentina led me back to my hometown of Old Forge in the Adirondacks. As tourism director, I've been privileged to serve our local communities by welcoming generations of returning families, as well as introducing thousands of new visitors to our area. I love to share magic of our area, which is our relationship to our natural resources. Careful and thoughtful stewardship of those resources is what makes our communities and our tourism sustainable, and it's the key to our continued popularity and success. It's our nature!



Eric Feldbaum

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Concord, NH

Community Recreation Bureau Administrator, NH DNCR-Division of Parks and Recreation

Eric Feldbaum, CPRP, is a passionate advocate for outdoor recreation in NH, serving as Bureau of Community Recreation Administrator for the Division of Parks and Recreation. He oversees the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), facilitating over \$20 million in allocations to local communities in his tenure. As President of National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO), Eric advocates for LWCF nationally. He spearheaded the NH 2024-2028 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, vital for LWCF funding and enhancing recreational opportunities. Eric is committed to empowering communities and believes in the transformative potential of outdoor recreation.



Danny Fitzko

she/her

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VT

Commissioner, VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Steve Fortier

he/him

steven.j.fortier@livefree.nh.gov

Alstead, NH

Administrator of Rural Economic Development, NH Dept of Business and Economic Affairs

Having lived in rural NH my entire life, I am grateful for the many opportunities to be physically active and socially connected in the great outdoors.



Holly Fowler

she/her

holly@northboundventures.com

Montpelier, VT

Co-founder & CEO, Northbound Ventures Consulting

Holly's consulting work sits at the nexus of outdoor recreation, food systems, population health and economic development. Originally from Maine and now based in Montpelier, Vermont, she has worked extensively throughout New England and across the U.S. on community-based projects with ambitious goals to improve health and economic outcomes for low-income, underserved populations and challenged areas (e.g., high housing vacancies, limited industry and jobs, historical and systemic racism, environmental injustice, generational poverty). Assignments include technical assistance provider and facilitator of the U.S. EPA Office of Community Revitalization's Recreation Economy for Rural Communities program. Outdoor loves: trekking/hiking, running, swimming and paddling.



Joe Fox

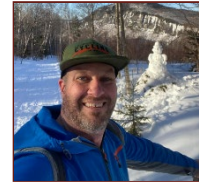
he/him

jfox@northernforest.org

Barnet, VT VT

Outdoor Recreation Manager, Northern Forest Center

After 16 years as the Recreation Director in St. Johnsbury, VT, I joined the Center in the summer of 2022 part-time as the Bike Borderlands Ambassador while also running a mountain bike guiding and instruction service with my wife Bryna. In January of 2023, I began full-time work with the Center, continuing to support the Borderlands program, the Ride With Gratitude campaign, while also assisting with community level and region-wide recreation strategy development and project support. I am a founding member and VP of the Caledonia Trail Collaborative (a VMBA chapter) and am on the board of NEK Gravel.



Allison Gaddy

she/her

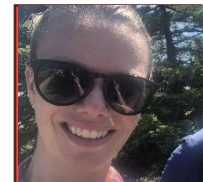
allison.gaddy@lclgrpb.org

Lake George, NY

Principal Planner, Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board

Allison is the principal planner at the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board. She leads the organization's water quality and community planning initiatives. In this role, Allison uses her experience as an AICP Certified Planner to help communities develop and achieve their vision through community building, goal setting, and planning.

In her free time, Allison enjoys spending time outside biking, hiking, and swimming. She is an Adirondack 46er and has two young daughters.



Peter Gagnon

pgagnon@gorhamnh.org

Gorham, NH

Town Manager, Town of Gorham

I am the Town Manager of Gorham and love living in this area with my Family. I came to this area from Boston 20 years ago and spent time in Education (WMCC, GMHS) before working with the Town.



Sarah Garlick

she/her

sarah.garlick@tnc.org

North Conway, NH

Director of Conservation in NH, The Nature Conservancy

Stewart Gates

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NH

Business Advisor, NH Small Business Development Center

Beth Gilles

she/her

beth.gilles@lclgrpb.org

Lake George, NY

Executive Director, Lake Champlain - Lake George Regional Planning Board

Beth began working for LCLGRPB in 2008 and was promoted to Director in 2018. In her tenure, she built a robust water quality program, branching out into new programs and funding streams for planning and implementation efforts within the Lake Champlain and Upper Hudson River Watersheds. As Director, Beth oversees the operations of the Regional Planning Board and its staff, and works with the Board of Directors to craft the direction of the RPB's programming. She works to secure federal funding for both planning and implementation projects throughout the region, as well as for the Regional Planning Board.



Rudy Glocker

he/him

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Lincoln, NH

Founder, Burgeon Outdoor

Rudy Glocker is the Founder of Burgeon Outdoor. Burgeon's mission is to create a better tomorrow for mountain communities. Burgeon makes its products locally, is an active member in the social fabric of the community, and donates 5% of its sales to its charitable and environmental efforts. Burgeon is located in Lincoln and Gorham, New Hampshire.

Rudy is a past President of the Granite Outdoor Alliance. He is a Trustee Emeriti of the Aloha Foundation. He holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and an MA and BA in Political Science from Penn State University, where he lettered in football.



Glenn Glover

glenn@betatrails.org

Keene Valley, NY

Executive Director, BETA Trails Alliance

Twenty years of professional experience in outdoor recreation for nonprofits and state government.



Julia Goren

Julia@adk.org

NY

Deputy Director, Adirondack Mountain Club

Rich Grogan

rgrogan@nbrc.gov

VT

Executive Director, NBRC

Rachel Hailey

she/they

rachel@deioutdoors.com

North Adams, MA

Founder & Transformationalist, DEI Outdoors

Rachel is the Founder of DEI Outdoors, an organization that fosters diversity, equity, and inclusion in outdoor organizations through tangible, action-oriented systems. Focusing on underserved and underrepresented communities, Rachel has inspired over 100 organizations in the outdoor and conservation industry. Rachel is committed to creating an industry where anyone can experience, thrive, and lead in the out of doors, regardless of their circumstances. When she is not working to bridge the nature gap, Rachel loves to spend time with her daughter and German Shepherd, searching for magical creatures in the woods.



Carina Hamel

she/her

carina@drinkbivo.com

Richmond, VT

Co-Founder, Bivo

Carina Hamel is a co-founder of Bivo. As a former NCAA nordic skier and endurance aficionado with a passion for product development, her worlds collided when she realized there wasn't a good solution for drinking water while riding. She made the first stainless steel bottle with a flow rate fit cyclists. Inspired by a year abroad at 16, Carina's curiosity in global cultures led her to footwear development and beyond. Her career spans international adventures, blending outdoor pursuits with business ventures. Carina enjoys running, skiing, biking, and all things outdoors with her children; five-year-old Svea and two-year-old Nolan.



Cayla Hammaker

she/her

chammaker@moveunitedsport.org

South Burlington, VT

Senior Education Manager, Move United

Cayla Hammaker is Move United's Senior Education Manager. She offers 10+ years' experience in the adaptive sports space, with 5+ years working on Move United's education team. Cayla oversees Move United's training and education initiatives, building resources to address training and education gaps in the adaptive sport industry. Before joining Move United, Cayla worked with New England adaptive sports programs that intersected largely with outdoor recreation professionals. In her free time, Cayla enjoys volunteering in the community, trail running, hiking with her dog, and seeking new adventures.



Rhiannon Hampson

anne.eugley@usda.gov

ME

Maine State Director, USDA Rural Development

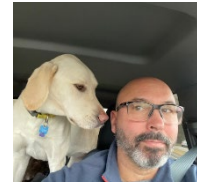
David Harkless

daveharkless@gmail.com

Littleton, NH

Vice President, PRKR Mtn Trails

I have spent over 30 years in the bike business and have been involved with cycling in our area for all those years. I am very involved in the PRKR Mtn Trails in Littleton, but also involved in many other cycling focused endeavors in our area.



Lori Harnois

lori.j.harnois@livefree.nh.gov

Concord, NH

Director, NH Division of Travel and Tourism

State tourism office promoting New Hampshire as a preferred travel destination both domestically and internationally.

Jim Hauptman

jim@blaze-partners.com

ME

Managing Partner, Business Development, Blaze Partners

Mark Hayes

mark@highlandmountain.com

Northfield, NH

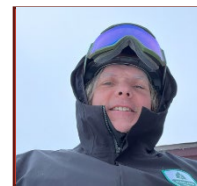
Owner / President, Highland Mountain Bike Park / Highland Trails

Passionate mountain biker committed to making the sport of mountain biking accessible to everyone.

Sold a high-tech business in 2000, bought a mountain and built the first lift-accessed bike park that is 100% dedicated to biking.

Successfully created a brand that is leading the mountain bike industry in the development of learn to ride programs, trail design, construction, and maintenance services.

Leader of a team that is transforming ski resorts to year-round operations through bike park design and construction.



Eliza Hill

eliza@blaze-partners.com

ME

VP, Business Growth & Strategy, Blaze Partners

Russell Hirschler

russell.hirschler@uvtrails.org

Lyme, NH

Executive Director, Upper Valley Trails Alliance

Russell has been the Executive Director of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance since 2008, where he is responsible for the day to day operations as well as the future vision of the organization. He was formerly the Director of Education at Save The Bay in Providence, RI. He also served as the Development Director at the Upper Valley Land Trust in Hanover, NH. Russell received his undergraduate degree in Natural Resource Management and Environmental Planning from Binghamton University and his Masters Degree in Organizational Management from Antioch University, New England.



Rob Holmes

he/him
rob@glpfilms.com
Kennebunk, ME

Founder and Chief Strategist, GLP Films

Rob is the Founder and Chief Strategist of GLP Films (GLP), an award-winning, full-service content marketing agency dedicated to sustainable tourism. As trusted partners with over 15 years of experience, GLP works with mission-based brands and destinations to strategically craft impactful storytelling and marketing campaigns that inspire travelers, engage trade and drive positive change. Recently voted the Regenerative Storyteller of the Year (2023) by Regenerative Travel, and the #1 Storytelling Agency by Newsweek Magazine, our team thrives on helping destinations succeed as sustainability leaders and pioneers in this exciting new travel era.



Sam Hooper

VT
Owner, Vermont Glove

Jon Hunt

he/him
jhunt@whaleback.com
Enfield, NH

Executive Director, Whaleback Mountain

Oversee the operations, programs, and strategic plan of the organization. I also focus on fundraising, communications, and community and corporate outreach.

Whaleback is committed to being a sustainable non-profit ski area that retains its unique character, is focused on skier development, and optimizes availability of existing terrain during the ski season. Family-friendly, affordable, top-notch skiing & riding does indeed remain a top priority, as do after-school programs, lessons, Thursday Night Race League, and hosting local alpine and freestyle clubs.

“Ski It To Believe It!”

Jason Hunter

he/him
jhsimplestructure@gmail.com
Gorham, NH

Founder/Trails manager, Coös Cycling Club

In 2004 I started what has become the Coös Cycling Club. Today we maintain about 30 miles of non-motorized multi use trails with a mountain bike focus. We also have a vibrant youth cycling program throughout the summer/fall season with a focus on eliminating barriers for local kids to ride bikes.



Kara Hunter

she/her
hubnorthnh@gmail.com
Gorham, NH
Owner, Hub North

I love where I live and enjoy doing my part to make it an energetic and thriving mountain town. I run a small hospitality business and strive to create a unique and interesting, outdoor-focused experience that I hope will bring people to the area again and again. Recreation is at the center of my worlds, both personal and professional and I spend a lot of time on the trails, and encourage my guests to do the same. I appreciate this invaluable resource in our region and the importance of managing it responsibly!



Derek Ibarguen

he/him

derek.ibarguen@usda.gov

Campton, NH

Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service - White Mountain National Forest

As the Forest Supervisor I oversee the 800,000-acre White Mountain National Forest. The Forest Service is a multiple use agency managing forest resources, watersheds, wildlife habitat, recreation and more.



Lilias Ide

she/her

Lil@kingdomtrails.org

Kirby, VT

Communication & Education Director, Kingdom Trail Association

I am honored and grateful to have been part of the the evolution of Kingdom Trails over the last 15 years as the operations, marketing, events manager and now Communication & Education Director. It has been a wild ride with so much opportunity to learn while living and working in a beautiful place with a close knit and supportive community- which is important to me. I love to stay active, challenge myself constantly, and enjoy nature, family, friends and reading a good book- preferably historical fiction.



Robin Irving

planning@lancasternh.org

Groveton, NH

Land Use, Town of Lancaster

Long term growth strategy for the Town of Lancaster with focus on interconnectivity among the region. Interests involve kayaking, snowshoeing, gardening, and being a sun lizard.

Kim Jackson

she/her

pr@vermontadaptive.org

Killington, VT

Director of Communications & Marketing, Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports

Vermont Adaptive is a national leading nonprofit that offers sports and recreation year-round throughout Vermont for people with disabilities. Participants enjoy skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, kayaking, canoeing, cycling, hiking, rock and ice climbing, veterans programs and more. More than 400 volunteer instructors support more than 5,300 outings a year.

I have 20+ years in not-for-profit and for-profit communications and public relations leadership combined with brand strategy, development and fundraising. Specialties include storytelling, relationship building, brand and content strategy, public relations, media relations, development & fundraising, project management, marketing. It is my pleasure to share the amazing stories from Vermont Adaptive.



Leslie Karasin

she/her

lkarasin@northernforest.org

Saranac Lake, NY

Adirondack Program Director, Northern Forest Center

Leslie is the Adirondack Program Director for the Northern Forest Center, which means that she gets to engage with fun community development and community-based recreation projects all around the Adirondacks. She facilitates the Adirondack Community Recreation Alliance, a grassroots collaborative that grew out of the last Northern Forest Recreation Symposium, with a steering committee of engaged recreation advocates and practitioners. Leslie lives in Saranac Lake, where she takes advantage of the many community-based recreation facilities available to her and her family.



Joe Kasprzak

jkasprzak@stjvt.com

VT

Assistant Town Manager, St Johnsbury, VT

Zak Klein

he/him

zak@quimbyfamilyfoundation.org

Cape Elizabeth, ME

Program Director, Quimby Family Foundation

I live with my partner Hannah, and our two pre-K sons, Benyo and Judah. I adore forests and our home sits amid a patch of mature eastern forest which I garden beside with the children. I'm involved in service to Maine GearShare, an outdoor gear library and repair shop. As an advisor, I'm in contact with Maine Trails Coalition and World Trails Network. I've also grown into a role as festival producer for the Trails Film aka the World Trails Film Festival. I'm so thankful to join this event and conversation.



Jenny Kordick

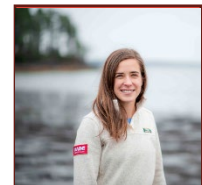
she/her

jenny@maineoutdoorbrands.com

ME

Executive Director, Maine Outdoor Brands

Jenny is Executive Director of Maine Outdoor Brands and has over a decade of experience working with outdoor-focused non-profit organizations in government and public relations, strategy and organizing. Her work as executive director allows her to lead a powerful and expanding network of businesses united around a clear objective: to create a thriving local outdoor recreation economy. She serves on the board of Maine GearShare and the Outdoor Industry Association's Recreation Advisory Council.



Emma Lamy

she/her

elamy@orda.org

Lake Placid, NY

Sustainability & Environmental Compliance Officer, New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA)

The NYS Olympic Authority (ORDA) manages the Lake Placid Olympic Sites and three NYS Ski Areas. Over the past decade, ORDA's Venues have been significantly modernized. Operating seasons have expanded to offer year-round recreation and training opportunities. These world-class Venues are located in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves, making environmental sensitivity crucial to the mission, and climate change resiliency is paramount to preserving the Olympic legacy. I manage ORDA's Division of Environmental Sustainability: overseeing facility and project environmental compliance, managing and growing ORDA's sustainability program, and ensuring continued environmental stewardship is at the heart of everything we do.



Darron Laughland

d_laughland@sau9.org

Silver Lake, NH

Outdoor Recreation Teacher, Kennett High School

Full time Special Education Teacher and part time Outdoor Recreation Teacher at Kennett HS in Conway, NH.

Seasonal whitewater kayak instructor and guide for Great Glen Trails in NH.

NY and Maine licensed whitewater raft guide.

Swiftwater Rescue instructor with Sawyer River Group LLC and NH Fire Academy.

Seasonal ski patrol at Cranmore Mountain North Conway.

President and founding member of the White Mountain Swiftwater Rescue Team, a volunteer SAR team in NH.

Adjunct Instructor, Plymouth State University, whitewater kayaking.

Enjoy hiking, birding, hunting, shooting sports, climbing, playing and coaching hockey, and time with my family.



Benita Law-Diao

she/her

cheinee@aol.com

Latham, NY

Board Member, Adirondack Park Agency

NYS Governor Hochul appointed Benita Law-Diao to the Board of the Adirondack Park Agency in May 2022. She is a retired NYS Licensed Public Health Nutritionist/Dietitian, who works tirelessly on nutrition, health, environmental and social justice issues. As the Outdoor Afro Leader for Albany and Upstate NY, Benita has introduced community members to nature through a wide range of outdoor activities, including community science and Black and Indigenous history. She serves on the Boards of John Brown Lives!, the Adirondack Experience, the Loon Conservation Ctr., Eagle Island Camp and is a Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener.



MJ Lawrence

maryjane@roostadk.com

Lake Placid, NY

COO, ROOST

MJ Lawrence, the Chief Operating Office for the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism (ROOST), a destination marketing and management organization. MJ is a Native of the Adirondacks and is committed to the health of the communities ROOST serves and the sustainability of the Adirondacks natural resources.

MJ, and the ROOST team is committed to supporting our regions with destination development and management strategies and a hands-on approach to fostering healthy and sustainable communities.

Our tourism-based economy is utilized to enhance the lives of those who live here. In addition to the tourism economy, we are focused on the issues our communities face, such as workforce housing, climate change, and increasing the population of full-time residents.

Carolyn Lawrence

she/her

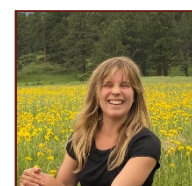
carolyn@stowetrails.org

Burlington, VT

Executive Director, Stowe Trails Partnership

Stowe Trails Partnership is a 501(c)3 that maintains and develops over 38 miles of multi-use trails in Stowe, VT. Through partnerships with landowners and organizations, we work to create a sustainable and fun experience for all outdoor enthusiasts. Stowe has been a destination for winter outdoor recreation for decades. We have a goal to draw locals and tourists alike year-round via quality designed and maintained trails, especially in the face of climate change.

Carolyn is STP's Executive Director. She loves mountain biking, trail running, skiing, camping, and basically any outdoor activity.



Janel Lawton

she/her

janel.m.lawton@livefree.nh.gov

Franconia, NH

Director, State of NH Outdoor Recreation Industry Development

Janel joined New Hampshire's Department of Business and Economic Affairs in 2021. Her professional background includes marketing, sales, and business development in the private sector, including Garnet Hill, Performance Inc., Loon Mountain, and Heavenly Ski Resort. In September 2022, Janel was named the state's outdoor recreation industry director and is excited to combine her economic development experience and passion for the outdoor recreation to support and grow the outdoor recreation industry and communities in New Hampshire. She is an avid bicyclist, snowboarder and Nordic skier and loves living in the White Mountains.



Rebecca Levy

rebecca.levy@unh.edu

NH

Extension Field Specialist, Community Development, Sullivan County, UNH Extension

Jada Lindblom

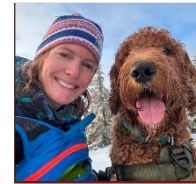
she/her

jada.lindblom@unh.edu

Laconia, NH

Community and Economic Development Field Specialist, UNH Extension

Jada Lindblom, Ph.D. is a Community and Economic Development Field Specialist with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, based in the Belknap County Field Office in Laconia. Her areas of specialization include tourism and outdoor recreation development, management, sustainability, and capacity building. She is an affiliated faculty member in UNH's Department of Recreation Management and Policy and currently serves as Board President of NETTRA, the Travel and Tourism Research Association's Northeast U.S. Chapter. In her free time she enjoys skiing, mountain biking, hiking with dogs, playing in lakes, and eating ice cream.



Abby Long

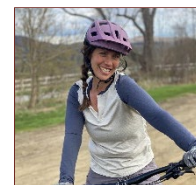
she/her

abby@kingdomtrails.org

East Burke, VT

Executive Director, Kingdom Trail Association

Abby serves as the Executive Director for the Kingdom Trail Association. KT is a nonprofit trail organization located in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom with trails extending throughout Caledonia and Essex Counties. KT's 100+ mile, multi-use, all-season, and all-ability network, hosting the #2 mountain bike trail in the world, is deeply intertwined with the local community, celebrating 30 years this year! KT recognizes our trails were founded and built upon lands first inhabited by the indigenous people of this region, the Abenaki, and KT is now grateful to the 105 private landowners who so generously allow our trails to cross their properties.



Maggie Lynn

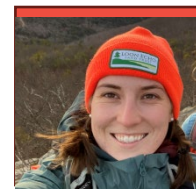
she/her

maggie@lelt.org

Bridgton, ME

Development and Outreach Manager, Loon Echo Land Trust

At LELT, Maggie is responsible for communications, organizing events, and cultivating partnerships with funders, communities and organizations. She is passionate about land use planning, public health, fostering community connections, and making the conservation movement more just and equitable. Maggie studied Geology at Yale University and is currently pursuing a Masters in Policy, Planning and Management at USM. Born and raised in northern Maine, Maggie lives in Bridgton, ME and enjoys playing ice hockey, gardening, and moving through the outdoors on skis and bikes, in boats and by foot.



Johanna Lyons

she/her

johanna.lyons@dncr.nh.gov

Concord, NH

State Park Planner, DNCR - Division of Parks and Recreation

I have worked for DPR for over 35 years starting as a field manager and I am now the State Park Planning and Development Specialist. One project I am involved in is the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Working Forest, a partnership between an industrial landowner and the State of NH to manage public access on 142,000 acres of land in Pittsburg NH. Other projects include park planning, project management and consultant management. I live in the Seacoast Region of NH.



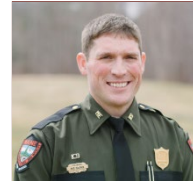
Kris MacCabe

kris.maccabe@maine.gov

Augusta, ME

Game Warden Corporal/Landowner Relations, Maine Warden Service/Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Started Warden Service career in 2007 and has served the people of Maine as a District Warden in Southern Franklin County. Attended the University of Maine where I received a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife ecology. Kris has worked K9 handler for 9 years with K9 Partner Morgan. Kris was selected as the Maine Game Warden of the Year and Shikar Safari International Warden of the Year in 2016. He was the recipient of two exemplary service awards and the K9 evidence detection award. Kris will be assigned to headquarters in Augusta with statewide program responsibilities.



Patrick Marcoux

5pmarcoux19@gmail.com

Brentwood, NH

Outdoor Recreation Policy Fellow, University of New Hampshire

I am currently a grad student at UNH working on a Masters in Public Policy. I am passionate about outdoor recreation and land use. I am a member of my towns conservation commission and am helping NH Fish and Game with the State Wildlife Action Plan for my programs Capstone Project.



Matt Markot

he/him

matt@lelt.org

Bridgton, ME

Executive Director, Loon Echo Land Trust

Matt leads Loon Echo Land Trust (LELT), a conservation land trust that serves communities in Maine's Lake Region, which spans Northern Cumberland and Southern Oxford Counties. LELT conserves over 9,000 acres and manages a 35 mile recreation trail system at iconic places like Pleasant Mountain. LELT's preserves host over 40,000 annual visitors. Prior to LELT, Matt worked for The Nature Conservancy in northern Maine.



Bob Maswick

he/him

bob.maswick@evusa.com

Lake Placid, NY

Board Member, Barkeater Trails Alliance

After almost 3 years, I still feel like a "newbie" as I realize I've still got a lot to learn. I constantly look at other trail systems through the lens of what we do, and squirrel away some of the better ideas.



Shanna Maziarz

she/her

shanna@lgamedia.com

Bethlehem, NH

Secretary, PRKR MTN Trails

I'm the Secretary of PRKR MTN Trails and a representative for our network with Bike Borderlands. We're a multi-use trail network in Littleton, NH and we collaborate locally as North Country Tricycle. We're a 100% volunteer run network that has greatly appreciated the Bike Borderlands partnership. I work for a small marketing agency, LGA Media Group, based in Lincoln that is focused on hospitality and destination marketing with a lot of overlap in outdoor recreation. I ski, hike, bike, paddle board and spend as much time as I can outdoors.



Jeff McCabe

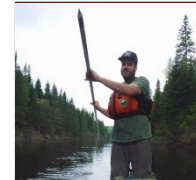
he/him

jeff.mccabe@maine.gov

Skowhegan, ME

Deputy Director, Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation

Jeff McCabe has been with the Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation since November 2023. He is a 20 plus year Maine Guide. He most recently worked as a lobbyist before that he worked for NFCT and was the past Director of Lake George Regional Park. His community involvement has included serving 8 years in the Maine House of Representatives and serving as a member of the Skowhegan Planning Board. McCabe is a graduate of Unity College. He resides in Skowhegan with his wife Sarah and their three children ranging in ages 2 to 18.



Zachary McCarthy

he/him

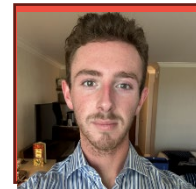
zach@inclusiveskitouring.com

Hanover, ME

Executive Director, Inclusive Ski Touring

I'm a dynamic individual on a mission to create more inclusive and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. With a degree in Economics from the University of Southern Maine, I am the Founder and Executive Director of Inclusive Ski Touring. In addition, I am one of the founding board members for the non-profit organization Uphill New England. His approach to partnership development and programming has made outdoor adventures more financially accessible, while boosting public relations and business revenues.

Outside of his professional endeavors, I embodies the spirit of adventure finding fulfillment, inspiration, and drive through backcountry skiing, trail running, biking, and photography.



Megan McConville

she/her

m.mcconville@epr-pc.com

Montpelier, VT

Senior Planner, EPR PC

Megan is a community planner with over 15 years of experience tackling tough issues in rural and urban places from within the federal government, in the nonprofit sector, and as a consultant. At EPR PC, she works hand in hand with cities, towns, and regions of all sizes to recognize their potential, build consensus around a plan, and identify the policy changes, partnerships, and implementation resources to achieve their goals. Megan lives in Montpelier with her husband and two kids, where she loves running, cross country skiing, and exploring central Vermont's beautiful trails, swimming holes, and downtowns.



Taki Miaymoto

taki@saltpumpclimbing.com

ME

Owner, Salt Pump Climbing Gym

Owen Milne

he/him
owen@communitysailingcenter.org
Burlington, VT
Executive Director, Community Sailing Center



Kathy Moser

she/her
kmoser@osiny.org
Albany, NY
Chief Conservation/Policy Officer, Open Space Institute



Kathy Moser is Chief Conservation & Policy Officer at the Open Space Institute (OSI), an East Coast land trust based in New York. Kathy directs OSI's Parks, Stewardship and Government Relations programs. Prior to OSI Ms. Moser was appointed Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources at the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in December 2011. Kathy directed DEC's portfolio in Lands and Forests, Fish and Wildlife, and Marine Resources. Kathy has also worked for WWF and TNC. She is based in Albany, NY.

Brian Murray

he/him
brian.murray@usda.gov
Syracuse, NY
NY State Director, USDA Rural Development



Brian has been with USDA RD since 2002, starting as a Loan Specialist in a local field office. He has also served as an Area Director, Administrative Officer, and acting State Director. For the past 20+ years, he has engaged with several rural communities across NY to assist them with community development and access to technical assistance so that they can grow and prosper.

Ann Nygard

ann.nygard@VermontState.edu
Lyndonville, VT
Director, Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Vermont State University



I am a dedicated native Vermonter committed to uplifting the standard of living in our rural and remote areas. My passion lies in leveraging our natural resources sustainably to fuel economic growth, with a keen focus on forest and outdoor recreation. Through innovative approaches, we form strategic partnerships to harness these assets in ways that preserve our environment and also create new opportunities for our community, ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future for all. Existing programs include the Do North Coworking, Forest Accelerator, and Sustainable Trail Building program which link to national partners like American Trails and PTBA.

Sean O'Brien

seanobrienadapt@gmail.com
Thornton, NH
CEO, Adolescent Drug & Alcohol Prevention Tools

I am the CEO of a non-profit that serves Central and northern, New Hampshire providing adventure based positive youth development programming through our cornerstone program (YLTA) Youth Leadership Through Adventure and (WYLD) Wilderness Youth Leadership Development. Also, with the assistance of an advisory board created an Outdoor Recreation Leadership CTE course at Plymouth Regional High School in Plymouth, NH.

Shaun O'Rourke

he/him

sorourke@quantifiedventures.com

Bolton, VT

Managing Director, Climate Finance, Quantified Ventures

Quantified Ventures works with pioneering organizations to design, capitalize, and scale investible solutions that improve the wellbeing of people and the planet. We catalyze impact for the greater good by pulling the levers of data, finance, innovation, partnerships, and policy to construct bold solutions that produce verified outcomes to address the most pressing environmental and social challenges facing communities. Quantified Ventures is a certified B Corporation and operates two complimentary practice areas: Climate Finance and Health and Human Services.



Carolann Ouellette

carolann.ouellette@maine.gov

Augusta, ME

Director, Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation

The Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation was created in September 2018 and became a permanent division within the Department of Economic & Community Development in July 2019. Maine was the 10th state to create an office, and is a member of the Confluence of States.

The office works to leverage Maine's assets and outdoor recreation heritage to grow the outdoor recreation economy; and to build Maine's outdoor recreation brand as part of a coordinated effort with partners from the public and private sectors. The Office serves as a central point of contact for the outdoor recreation industry in Maine.



Rich Overmoyer

he/him

rich.overmoyer@fourtheconomy.com

Scituate, RI

CEO, Fourth Economy

I lead a team of consultants who are focused on human-centered economic and community development. We believe that by creating inclusive quality places businesses and talent will invest in those communities. Our work in the outdoor economy and creative economies speaks to this form of community planning that is embracing non-traditional economic sectors. We are currently supporting the development of Maine's 10-year Outdoor Economy Strategy development.



Andrew Pacuk

andrew.r.pacuk@dncr.nh.gov

Allenstown, NH

Non Motorized Trail Coordinator, NH Trails Bureau

Emily Paskewicz

she/her

emily@greenway.org

Southport, ME

Northern New England Manager, East Coast Greenway Alliance

I am a licensed Landscape Architect who is currently working to advance the East Coast Greenway through advocacy and technical assistance in ME, NH, and MA. I recently relocated to Midcoast ME from PA and enjoy running, a wide variety of outdoor activities, cooking, and reading.



Bill Patterson

he/him

william.a.patterson@maine.gov

Brunswick, ME

Deputy Director, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands

At the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, I work with a small but dedicated team of ~35 staff including foresters, recreation rangers, biologists, and planners to manage ~630,000 acres of State land in Maine. Conservation, recreation and timber management are all priority uses of the land base which is entirely self-funded through timber revenue, some grants, and a few leases.



Heather Pelham

she/her

heather.pelham@vermont.gov

Montpelier, VT

Commissioner, Vermont Dept. of Tourism and Marketing

Marketing executive leading the state tourism department responsible for promoting Vermont as a global travel and relocation destination -- and one of the chief architects of the Think Vermont recruitment and retention initiative to encourage potential residents to relocate to Vermont. Previously served as the Chief Marketing Officer for the State of Vermont, providing strategic marketing expertise and direct creative services to agencies and departments across state government. Prior to joining the public sector, founder and managing partner of a central Vermont advertising and design firm.



Sarah Pelkey

she/her

poultneyeconomic@gmail.com

Poultney, VT

Community Development Director, Town of Poultney

Sarah Pelkey is the Community Development Director for the Town of Poultney, VT. Her background spans several decades in community development and revitalization, planning, marketing and business development, and project management. This diverse experience is supported by an underlying interest in creating healthy communities and a keen awareness of the built environments that support them.

Sarah strongly believes in building community by empowering citizens to engage with all levels of leadership and by promoting active participation in community initiatives. She attended the University of Vermont where she graduated with a B. A. in Psychology with a Minor in Sociology.



Gabe Perkins

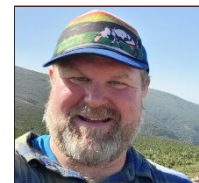
he/him

gabe@woodsandtrails.org

Bethel, ME

Executive Director, Inland Woods + Trails

Gabe was a founding board member of Inland Woods + Trails, and since 2014 has served as Executive Director. He holds a degree in Environmental Policy and Planning from the University of Maine at Farmington. He is a senior fellow in the Environment Leadership Program, and the Community Practitioners Network. He serves as co-coordinator of the Maine Trails Coalition and lives on Mason St. in Bethel with his wife, Jessie.



Sharon Plumb

she/her

sharon@vermonttgc.org

Montpelier, VT

Program Manager, Vermont Trail and Greenways Council

I live in East Montpelier with a network of walking trails and dozens of miles of dirt roads for cycling right outside my door. I get a kick out of developing programs that connect people to the outdoors and each other. The VTGC is a statewide organization that supports the trail managers who maintain Vermont's 7,000 public trails. Gardening and camping make me happy!



Meag Poirier

meag@wildrootsbranding.com

Gorham, NH

Owner, Wildroots Branding

Claire Polfus

she/her

claire.polfus@vermont.gov

Sheffield, VT

Recreation Program Manager, VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

I work for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation out of the Montpelier office. I focus on recreation planning, policy implementation and partnerships and also help administer our recreation grants, including LWCF, RTP and our state grant program, VOREC Community Grants.

I live on the edge of the big woods in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and enjoy exploring on foot, bike or by canoe whenever I can.



Noah Pollock

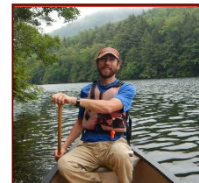
he/him

noah@northernforestcanoetrail.org

Oakland, ME

Stewardship Director, Northern Forest Canoe Trail

Noah Pollock currently hails from Oakland, Maine. He has degrees in Natural Resources from Cornell University and the University of Vermont. Noah serves as the Stewardship Director for the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, where he oversees a summer stewardship crew, coordinates volunteer workdays, and designs maps and guides. A He finds real satisfaction in collaborative conservation and recreational development projects that benefit communities, the natural world, and the waters that sustain us.



Mia Purcell

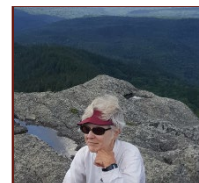
she/her

mpurcell@community-concepts.org

S. Paris, ME

VP of Economic Development, Community Concepts Finance Corporation

I work and live in Oxford County in western Maine. The focus of my work is facilitating economic development in Oxford County. Outdoor recreation is an important sector of the economy in the County.



Lukas Ray

he/him

lukas@kingdomtrails.org

East Burke, VT

Community Collaboration Director, Kingdom Trail Association

Lukas is the Community Collaboration Director at Kingdom Trails. At KT, Lukas manages their programming partnerships and partnership agreements and invests in community engagement. He leads their efforts in event management, volunteer engagement, and how KT gives back to the community. He assists in grant writing and stakeholder cultivation. He is passionate about the outdoors and preserving our natural landscape for future generations to enjoy. He loves hiking, backpacking, biking, and travel. He lives in Lyndonville with his partner, Mikayla, and their two dogs, Alaska and Jetty.



Tyler Ray

tyler@graniteoutdoor.org

NH

Founder & Director, Granite Outdoor Alliance

Charyl Reardon

she/her

charyl@visitwhitemountains.com

North Woodstock, NH

President, White Mountains Attractions Association

With 25 years of experience in destination marketing, Charyl and her team have been instrumental in promoting the White Mountains region as a top destination for international and domestic visitors. Under her leadership as President of the White Mountains Attractions Association, Charyl has spearheaded innovative marketing campaigns and formed strategic partnerships that have significantly increased visitor arrivals and boosted local economy. Her expertise in digital marketing and her commitment to sustainable tourism practices have made her a respected leader in the tourism industry. Deeply rooted in her community, Charyl treasures her time with family and friends, exploring and enjoying NH.



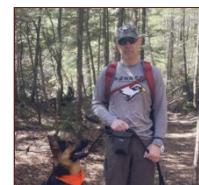
Joe Riddensdale

j_riddensdale@sau9.org

Fryeburg, ME

Educator, Mount Washington Valley Career & Technical Center

I currently teach drafting and aviation at the Mt Washington Valley Career & Technical Center. I also coordinate summer camps for MWV School to Career. We offer 12 different opportunities including two outdoor recreation camps.



Rob Riley

he/him

rriley@northernforest.org

Concord, NH

President, Northern Forest Center

For the past 15 years, I've worked with a great team to create bold possibilities that give rise to vibrant Northern Forest communities. I really enjoy getting to know the people and places that make these communities special. In my position I have the benefit of introducing innovative ideas to investors and donors and helping our team deliver tangible and meaningful projects. I thrive on working with good people, exploring the outdoors by myself or with my family.



Keith Rivers

keith.rivers@dec.ny.gov

Copenhagen, NY

Regional Forester, NYSDEC

I am the Regional Forester for NYSDEC Region 6. The Region covers five counties including the western Adirondack Park. We manage approximately 225,000 acres of State Forests, 600,000 acres of Forest Preserve and 470,000 acres of Conservation Easements.

Branden Roberts

BRoberts@vhb.com

South Burlington, VT

Project Manager, VHB

I am a Project Manager in VHB Vermont's office with expertise in various multi-modal transportation, stormwater control and treatment, and intersection and roadway corridor projects. Most recently I have played an integral role in the engineering design as well as project management for the completion of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, the development of numerous trailhead projects supporting the adjacent municipalities to the trail, resurfacing and extension of the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail, the extension of the Eastern Trail in Maine, and previous to all of that, the engineering of the Burlington Bike Path in Vermont.



Shannon Rogers

she/her

shannon.rogers@unh.edu

Durham, NH

State Specialist of Nature-based economic development/Associate Extension Professor, University of New Hampshire

Shannon Rogers, Ph.D., serves as the State Specialist of Nature Based Economic Development on the Community and Economic Development Team. She is also an Associate Extension Professor in the Natural Resources and the Environment Department at UNH where she teaches community and natural resources economics. Trained as an ecological economist, she focuses on how people use and value the environment and natural resources and then how those values support community decision making. She supports communities with decision making around natural assets, including outdoor recreation.



Isabella Ronson

ironson@northernforest.org

Manchester, NH

Program Coordinator, Northern Forest Center

Isabella joined the Center in 2021 to support the Center's community investment and outdoor recreation economy programming. Working with community-based staff, she connects a broad range of work including property development, the *Ride With Gratitude* campaign, community specific programming, Building the New Forest Future webinar series, and more.



Jordan Rowell

he/him

jordan@flintmountainworks.com

Bethel, ME

Owner, Headwaters Maine: Community, Trails, and Lodging

Headwaters Maine is a family-owned small business situated in the Foothills of the White Mountains in the Crooked River headwaters region of Western Maine. Founded in 2024, Headwaters will be a rural hub for outdoor recreation, conservation and community, with camping and cabins for visitors and a co-housing community for residents, all situated around a common house and a free and publicly accessible multi-use trail network. Headwaters is also the base for Flint Mountain Works, a company specializing in recreation trail planning, dry stone walling, and place-based media production.



Chris Saunders

he/him

fedcochair@nbrc.gov

Concord, NH

Federal Co-Chair, Northern Border Regional Commission

Chris Saunders currently serves as the Federal Co-Chair of the NBRC, a federal agency focused on rural economic development in the states of ME, NH, VT & NY. Prior to being nominated by President Biden for this role he served for nearly two decades on the staff of Senator Patrick Leahy.

At the Commission Chris has helped prioritize outdoor recreation, growing inclusive economies and a focus on community well-being in the agency's work and its grantmaking. An avid hiker, skier, and angler, Chris currently resides in Burlington, VT.



Jay Scarborough

jay.a.scarborough@dncr.nh.gov

Concord, NH

Recreational Trails Program Coordinator, NH Bureau of Trails

As the NH RTP Coordinator I am responsible for the administration of a federally funded grant program that provided funding to a wide variety of trail user groups throughout our state. In my free time I enjoy hiking, camping, and travelling with my son.

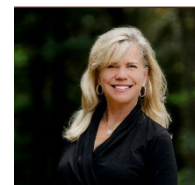
Virginia Schrader

v_schrader@sau9.org

North Conway, NH

Director/Principal, Mt. Washington Valley Career & Technical Center at Kennett High School

Virginia has served as the director/principal of the Mt. Washington Valley Career and Technical Center (MWVCTC) for the past nine years in North Conway, NH. MWVCTC offers Career & Technical Education (CTE) in fourteen programs, including Outdoor Recreation. Before transitioning to education, Virginia held various management roles in the hospitality industry. She later shifted gears to teaching, becoming a high school hospitality and tourism teacher before eventually assuming the role of director/principal at MWVCTC. Outside of work, Virginia's passion lies in exploring the great outdoors through biking, hiking, skiing, and camping, regardless of the season. Additionally, she is an avid reader.



Ezra Schwartzberg

he/him

ezra@adkres.org

Saranac Lake, NY

Director, Green Goat Maps / Adirondack Research

I own and operate two businesses; Green Goat Maps, which makes waterproof outdoor recreation maps, trailhead kiosk maps, dynamic web maps and provides other GIS mapping services and Adirondack Research, which conducts contract environmental research on invasive species in terrestrial and aquatic environments. Learn about Green Goat Maps at www.greengoatmaps.com and Adirondack Research at www.adkres.org



Amy Scott

she/her

ascott@northernforest.org

Greenwood, ME

Program Manager, Northern Forest Center

I have been with the Northern Forest Center for three and a half years. Based in Bethel, Maine, I manage a variety of programs across this region, most of which involve healthy outdoor activities in one way or another. I enjoy my role as a facilitator, connector, supporter, and networker, bringing organizations, businesses, towns, and individuals together to continually improve these wonderful places and communities.



Jayson Seaman

jayson.seaman@unh.edu

Durham, NH

Chair and Associate Professor, University of New Hampshire Recreation Management and Policy Department

I teach in the Outdoor Leadership and Management option in the RMP Department at UNH. I am a developmental researcher who focuses on how youth in rural communities make plans for the future, and the role of recreation and leisure activities in shaping those plans. I'm part of the NH Youth Retention Initiative (YRI) which has been studying how NH youth view their educational, occupational, and residential opportunities in the state after high school. The YRI is working to expand career pathways for NH youth including in outdoor recreation.



Kristen Sharpless

she/her

ksharpless@northernforest.org

Stowe, VT

Director of Development, Northern Forest Center

Kristen is a Vermont-based ecologist, fundraiser, and leader. She recently joined the Northern Forest Center team as Director of Development after serving as executive director of Stowe Land Trust where she led securing \$13 million through strategic partnerships for the protection of 3,100 vital acres of farm, forest, and recreation lands and advocating for innovative collaborations between housing and conservation groups. A graduate of the Vermont Leadership Institute, Kristen also holds a masters in Botany from UVM's Field Naturalist Program. Based in Vermont's Lamoille County, Kristen, alongside her family, enjoys hiking, skiing, and gardening.

Joe Short

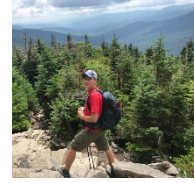
he/him

jshort@northernforest.org

Concord, NH

Vice President, Northern Forest Center

Joe is the Vice President of the Northern Forest Center, where his work focuses on the forest-based economy of the region and encouraging societal, political, and market support for forest stewardship and the use of regional wood products. Joe has worked at the Center for 20 years and lives in Concord NH with his family. Favorite family recreation destinations are the White Mountains and Acadia National Park.



Kelly Short

she/her

kshort@northernforest.org

Canterbury, NH

Communications Director, Northern Forest Center

I'm a life-long writer, photographer, and New Englander who enjoys fun outdoors - hiking, kayaking, biking, swimming, gardening. I've had great adventures skiing on glaciers and soaking in hot springs in Alaska, hiking in the Alps, and horseback riding and rappelling down a waterfall in Costa Rica. As a member of my town's Conservation Commission, I grapple with issues like trail maintenance and the carrying capacity of special places.



Drew Simmons

drew@palemorning.com

Waitsfield, VT

President, Pale Morning Media

Drew Simmons is the founder and president of Pale Morning Media, a strategic communications and public relations agency specializing in the support of outdoor sector companies and organizations. He is a founding steering committee member of both the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) and the Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance (VOBA). He also writes occasionally on outdoor advocacy topics at WickedOutdoorsy.com.



Misty Sinsigalli

misty.sinsigalli@usda.gov

VT

Area Director, USDA Rural Development VT/NH

Maddie Smith

she/her

madeleine.smith@unh.edu

ME

PhD Candidate, University of New Hampshire

I am a PhD Candidate in the Natural Resources and Earth Systems Science Doctoral program, pursuing a degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies and working in the Applied Recreation Research Collaborative Lab at the University of New Hampshire.



Hayden Smith

he/him

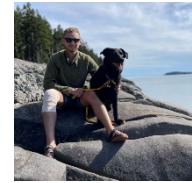
hayden.smith@tpl.org

Montpelier, VT

Project Associate II, Trust for Public Land

I'm a member of the land protection team in Trust for Public Land's Vermont office. Our work is centered around community, enhancing close-to-home access to the outdoors and the health benefits that nature provides. In Vermont our focus is on forestland conservation, expanding federal and state lands, and creating new municipal-owned community forests. Our projects often support regional and statewide trail systems, and at a local level we strive to activate community forests with new recreational opportunities.

In my spare time I enjoy biking, camping, and hiking in the outdoors with my wife and son.



Korah Soll

she/her

korah@ruralaspirations.org

Swanville, ME

Executive Director, Rural Aspirations Project

Korah grew up in central Maine, closely connected to her small town. She earned a BS in Environmental Ed from Unity College and started her career as an experiential/nature-based informal educator. In 1998 she turned her focus to public schools, working with rural youth to design alternative programs. In 2013, she founded Rural Aspirations, an organization focused on expanding educational opportunity in rural schools. Since then, she and her colleagues have worked with students, teachers, administrators and community leaders from 40+ districts to imagine and design curricula that empowers students to actively contribute to the vitality of their place.



Lucas St. Clair

he/him

Lucas@elliotsvillefoundation.org

Falmouth, ME

President, Elliotsville Foundation

I am the chair of the national board of the Trust for Public Land and serve on the board of the Northern Forest Center. Our foundation works at the intersection of land conservation, outdoor recreation, rural economic development, and environmental justice. We created two NGO's, The Portland Parks Conservancy and the Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters which supports KWWNM, a national monument that was created by our foundation.

Kelly Starr

kelly@adaptivesportspartners.org

NH

Executive Director, Adaptive Sports Partners

Mike Strait

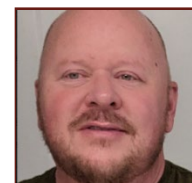
he/him

mike@brightonvt.gov

Island Pond, VT

Director of Recreation & Economic Development, Town of Brighton Vermont

My work involves combining outdoor recreation, events and the arts to improve the economic vitality of Island Pond and the surrounding area. Island Pond is surrounded by lakes, mountains and conserved lands which provide unbelievable opportunities as well as distinct challenges in how to use these opportunities to improve the local economy for those that call the area home.



Rusty Talbot

he/him

rusty@nhclimb.com

NH

Owner, North Country Climbing Center

Rusty is an accomplished outdoor professional and entrepreneur dedicated to building community around New Hampshire's White Mountains. In 2014, he established the North Country Climbing Center, the sole commercial indoor climbing gym in Northern New Hampshire, offering professional rock and ice guiding services. Rusty holds certifications as an AMGA Ice Instructor, Single Pitch Instructor, Assistant Rock Guide, and Apprentice Alpine Guide. Rusty also captains the Pemi Search and Rescue team and serves on the Sugar Hill Fire Department. He resides near Franconia Notch with his wife, two sons, and fluffy, beloved rescue dog.



Malana Tamer

she/her

mtamer@nbrc.gov

NY

Program Specialist, NBRC

Federal grant administration in support of economic development in economically depressed counties in the Northern Border region. In addition, I provide consulting services to my local public health department to administer the NYS DOH Creating Healthy Schools & Communities grant program to increase access to physical activity through complete streets planning and interventions. I am also a Town of Plattsburgh Planning Board member and volunteer with my local trail group, Saranac River Trail Greenway, which aims to develop a 27 mile braided network of trails along the Saranac river.



Casey Taylor

he/him

casey@civicscience.com

Pittsburgh, PA

Director of Research, CivicScience

Casey is a researcher at CivicScience, a pioneering data and research company in Pittsburgh, PA. His client list covers many industries, but his focus is on psychographic and sentiment trends within the American consumer population. His time outdoors is spent on a skateboard at the local park with his kids, or setting up a tent in the Allegheny Forest for a quiet night in nature.



Chris Thayer

he/him

cthayer@outdoors.org

Sugar Hill, NH

Senior Director, External Affairs & Contracting, Appalachian Mountain Club



As the Appalachian Mountain Club's Senior Director of External Affairs and Contracts, Chris manages productive partnerships that provide the foundation for delivering quality public services. A 35-year AMC staff member in roles involving operations, programming, and policy. AMC's representative with state and federal agencies, non-profit partners, regional economic development entities, elected officials, and other opinion leaders. Volunteer service includes school and planning boards, NH Charitable Foundation, Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, North Country Council, NH Outdoor Council, and Northern Forest Center. A 2013 graduate of Leadership NH, he and his family live in Sugar Hill, NH where they enjoy the outdoors.

Mary Thill

she/her

mary.thill@adirondacklandtrust.org

Keene, NY

Grants Manager, Adirondack Land Trust

I'm a member of the municipal Parks & Trails Advisory Board in my community, Saranac Lake, where I benefit from mountain biking, cross-country-ski and other trail networks. Professionally I work to support efforts to help more people enjoy wild places, with a current focus on a regional need for accessible trails.



Karrie Thomas

she/her

karrie@northernforestcanoetrail.org

Waitsfield, VT

Executive Director, Northern Forest Canoe Trail

The NFCT is a 740-mile paddling trail traversing historic travel routes from the Adirondacks to northern Maine. This unraveled network of paddling opportunities inspires experiences that entice people to fall in love with the region and contribute to the health of its communities, landscapes and waterways. We believe that access to wild places improves people's lives, strengthens our communities and increases our care for the natural world. We promote and steward our water trail and support communities, waterways and paddling across the Northern Forest.



Christine Thompson

she/her

c_thompson@sau9.org

Jackson, NH

ELO Coordinator, Kennett High School

Christine Thompson is an educator, a writer, a thespian and an outdoor enthusiast. She is currently the Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) Coordinator at Kennett High School and the Mount Washington Valley Career and Technical Center, where she also serves on the Outdoor Recreation program Advisory Board.

When she's not working, you can find her sipping coffee, hiking, running or acting at her second home, M & D Playhouse in North Conway, NH.



RJ Thompson

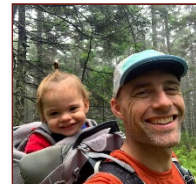
he/him

rj@vermonthuts.org

Stowe, VT

Executive Director, Vermont Huts Association

Our mission is to foster a deeper appreciation for the natural environment by creating enriching and immersive outdoor experiences for all.



Tim Tierney

tim.tierney@vermont.gov

St. Johnsbury, VT

Economic Development Director, State of Vermont

Tim is the Economic Development Director for the State of Vermont. He oversees the State Trade Expansion Program and the Canadian-Vermont Bilateral Trade Office. He served as the State Program Manager of the Northern Border Regional Commission and the designee to the Working Lands board. Prior, Tim was the Executive Director of Kingdom Trails for 15 years and served as the Burke Area Chamber of Commerce President. Previous roles include Trails Director - Adirondack Mountain Club; Field Supervisor - Green Mountain Club, Winter Caretaker - Randolph Mountain Club; Youth Hostel Manager; National Park Service - Oregon; Commercial Fisherman - Alaska. Tim attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison



Janet Topolsky

she/her

janet.topolsky@gmail.com

Washington, DC

For 40+ years, Janet has helped leaders, organizations and policymakers across the country create and spread innovative community and economic development strategies. From 1993-2021, she directed the Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group where she designed and facilitated peer-learning efforts that connect low-wealth rural and urban places and populations to regional economies and better family livelihoods. At CSG, she was lead consultant to the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund for its five annual Coös County Symposium gatherings, and to the Northern Forest Center for its 2015 & 2017 Northern Forest Symposia. Now (largely) retired, Janet still lives large – but takes naps.



Sam Trombley

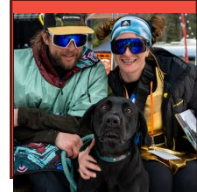
she/her

sam@graniteoutdoor.org

Gorham, NH

Marketing Manager, Backyard Concept

Sam Trombley is Backyard Concept's Marketing Manager. After graduating from Syracuse University in 2018, she spent four years in the PR agency world in Boston. Sam made the move up north in 2022 to live, work, and play in New Hampshire. She implements thoughtful marketing and communication strategies to tell the stories of Backyard Concept's clients, and helps create meaningful programming for the people, communities, and organizations they serve. Sam is passionate about finding innovative solutions to help make outdoor recreation more accessible while building healthy communities that sustainably leverage the outdoors for economic development.



Jeanne Twehous

j_twehous@sau9.org

North Conway, NH

Nurse, Kennett High School

Rick Ufford-Chase

rickuffordchasencdd@gmail.com

VT

Director, Newport City Downtown Development

David Upson

david.upson@hardwickvt.gov

VT

Town Manager, Town of Hardwick

Denise Vallee

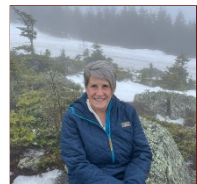
she/her

denisevallee15@outlook.com

Gorham, NH

Retired Town Manager / DMC Member, Town of Gorham DMC

After 28 years of employment with the Town of Gorham, the last four years as Town Manager, Denise retired and now has time to enjoy the many outdoor recreational activities that are right outside her door! For the past six years, Denise focused primarily on developing Gorham's outdoor recreation economy by establishing an OR Community Action Plan (RERC), obtaining and implementing OR grants, and participating in the NFC Rural Tourism Academy. She is currently a member of the Gorham Destination Management Committee and is on the Medallion Opera House Board. Denise enjoys walking, camping, biking, skiing, snowshoeing and her granddaughters.



Bob Varney

rvarney@normandeau.com

NH

President, Normandeau Associates Environmental Consultants

James Vogel

jim.vogel@maine.gov

Augusta, ME

Sr. Planner, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands

I am the planner for the ~700,000 acres of public lands managed by the Bureau. I have a background in forestry (BS, MS) and outdoor rec planning and management. I have been in my present position for about 11 years. Prior to that worked for 10 years in environmental consulting, and several years before that worked under contract with the US Army Corps of Engineers. I am interested to hear how others are approaching the challenges of managing the diverse recreation uses and interests in our great region.



Daniel Wallace

he/him

Daniel.Wallace@ceimaine.org

Brunswick, ME

Chief Investment Officer, Coastal Enterprises Inc.

Daniel Wallace is the Chief Investment Officer (CIO) at Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI), a Maine-based community development financial institution with a mission to build just, vibrant and climate-resilient futures for people and communities in Maine and rural regions by integrating finance, business expertise and policy solutions in ways that make the economy work more equitably. Daniel leads a team of 14 deploying capital to Maine's small business community and oversees the management of CEI's loan and investment portfolio. He is also a 2024 Fulcrum Fellow, with a focus on centering racial justice in climate resilience finance.



Russell Walters

Russell@northernoutdoors.com

ME

President, Northern Outdoors

Sarah Waring

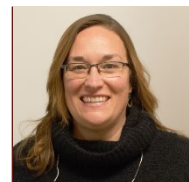
she/her

sarah.waring@usda.gov

VT

State Director, USDA Rural Development

USDA RD is an investor and funder for rural communities. Our programs cover a really wide range of community and economic development activities - from housing and rural business support to below-ground infrastructure and community facilities. I come to the work with a background in the local food system, community development and grassroots organizing.



Becca Washburn

she/her

becca.washburn@vermont.gov

Montpelier, VT

Director of Lands Administration and Recreation, VT Forests, Parks and Recreation

Becca leads the division of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation responsible for land conservation and easement stewardship, state land survey and property ownership issues, the administration of leases, licenses and special use permits, support of state land management planning and state land recreation and community recreation programming. She is also the Chair of the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC).



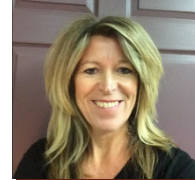
Louise Whipple

delabruerelouise@hotmail.com

Newport, VT

Board member, Memphremagog Trails

I am passionate about mountain biking and outdoor recreation! I have helped organize fundraising for trail expansion in the past. Memphremagog Trails is a beautiful place to ride and we have machine made trails with scenic vistas.



Chad Whitehead

cwhitehead@stjvt.com

VT

Town Manager, Town of St Johnsbury

Steve Whitman

he/him

steve@resilienceplanning.net

Plymouth, NH

Founder/Principal, Resilience Planning and Design

Steve is a professional planner and educator who has been working in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors in New England for over twenty-five years. His work includes facilitation, comprehensive planning projects in small towns and large cities, regional conservation - open space - and trail planning, and a wide variety of research-driven planning and education initiatives. Steve serves as a board member for the non-profit Mill City Park, and is a founding member of the Pemi-Baker Trails Committee.



Matt Williams

mwilliams@catamounttrail.org

VT

Executive Director, Catamount Trail Association

Mike Wilson

he/him

mwilson@northernforest.org

South Portland, ME

Senior Program Director, Northern Forest Center

Mike has served as Senior Program Director for the Center for the past 25 years and has extensive experience with rural economic, community, environmental and cultural issues across the Northern Forest. He currently provides overall leadership and coordination for the Center's statewide work in Maine with a focus on community investment, outdoor recreation, and property development in the focal communities of Greenville, Millinocket, and Bethel.



Brian Wilson

brian.j.wilson@dncr.nh.gov

NH

Director, NH Division of Parks & Recreation

Lead New Hampshire's largest employer of outdoor recreation professionals. The Division of Parks & Recreation is one of 5 divisions within the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Our mission is to provide New Hampshire's citizens and guests with outstanding recreational, educational, and inspirational experiences through the responsible management and cooperative stewardship of the state's natural, recreational, and cultural resources. The division is comprised of 6 bureaus which include State Park Operations, Bureau of Trails, Bureau of Historic Sites, Bureau of Community Recreation, Cannon Mountain Ski Area, & Office of the Director. I like parks.



Joe Pete Wilson

he/him

supervisor1@townofkeeeny.gov

Keene, NY

Supervisor, Town of Keene

I am the Supervisor of the Town of Keene. Outdoor recreation plays a major role in our economy. The town sits in the High Peaks of the Adirondacks and over 70% of the town is owned by New York State. As Supervisor, I work on recreation projects on town land as well as help manage access to State land.



Christopher Winstead

he/him

cwinstead@mccs.me.edu

Bangor, ME

Deputy Executive Director for Workforce Training, Maine Community College System

Christopher Winstead serves as the Deputy Executive Director for Workforce Training at the Maine Community College System (MCCS). Chris is dedicated to advancing economic, workforce, and community development engagement across the State of Maine. Chris previously served as the Executive Director at the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council, as Senior District Representative for Congressman Michael H. Michaud, and as a Senior Lender and Branch Manager with two local community banks. Chris and his partner, Jonathan, split their time between Bangor and Greenville. In his downtime, you can often find Chris skiing (alpine or XC), hiking, and biking.



Charlie Wise

charlie@mountaineer.com

NY

Owner, The Mountaineer

Charlie Woodworth

cwoodworth@greaterfranklin.org

Kingfield, ME

Executive Director, Greater Franklin Economic and Community Development

Through broad outreach and inclusion we identify our rural challenges, design plans, raise funds and then execute.

Current Initiatives:

- Broadband: Since 2017 working to connect our entire county to reliable, high-speed internet. To date, 96% of our addresses can connect to a FIBER network!
- Digital Skills: Through partnerships with our two Adult Education Districts, teaching our residents in all our libraries how to safely and efficiently utilize this tool of the 21st century.
- Childcare: Partnering to create 760 new childcare slots in Franklin County that will allow parents to reenter the workforce.
- Housing for workforce.



Aaron Woolf

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Elizabethtown, NY

Director & Producer, Mosaic Films

Donna Wotton

she/her

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Ticonderoga, NY

Executive Director, Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance

After a career in high-tech marketing, I "retired" to my home community to help revitalize the Ticonderoga Area. This area has so many wonderful assets -- it's natural beauty, fantastic community, and amazing history. But like many rural areas that have lost industry of the last century, its economic underpinnings have deteriorated over time. Ti-Alliance explores those foundational deficiencies and creates innovative ways to rebuild them. We bring the community together around projects, build teams with expertise, aggregate public and private funding, and apply creative approaches to getting sustainable results for our community.



Courtney Wynn

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ME

Fellow, Economic Recovery Corps