

# State Specific Training Module for Vermont

## Purpose of this Module

This module will provide some general information that TSPs need to conduct conservation planning in Vermont. This information is general in nature so the TSP may need to follow up with additional reading or training to make sure they have the knowledge, skills, licenses, and/or certifications to conduct conservation planning in Vermont.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Akin, TSP Coordinator at the NRCS State Office in Colchester: 802-951-6796 X240 or [Thomas.Akin@usda.gov](mailto:Thomas.Akin@usda.gov)

## Review of State Laws that Affect Agriculture

All TSPs should be familiar with the State of Vermont's Agency of Agriculture's "[Required Agricultural Practices](#)".

Vermont's Agency of Agriculture requires that "Large Farm Operations", "Medium Farm Operations", and "Certified Small Farm Operations" must have [nutrient management plans](#) completed by a certified nutrient management planner or the permittee.

## Review of State Laws that Affect Forestry

All Forestry TSPs must be licensed with the [State of Vermont](#).

All Forestry TSPs should be familiar with: [Timber Harvesting in Vermont – Summary of Laws and Regulations](#)

All Forestry TSPs should be familiar with: [Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont \(AMP's\)](#)

All Forestry TSPs should be familiar with the State of Vermont's "[Use Value Appraisal](#)" (UVA) or "current use" program which has helped conserve Vermont's working lands – lands taxed on forestry value, not development value

## Review of Important Resource Issues

VT's Agency of Natural Resources maintains a list of "[Threatened and Endangered Species](#)".

VT's [Agency of Agriculture](#) regulates water resources.

## Review of Major Land Uses

Vermont is roughly 70-75% forestland (~4.6 million acres) and 10% cropland (~1.9 million acres). About 20% of the cropland acres are managed for hay.

[Water quality is a major resource concern in VT.](#)

Vermont has placed much emphasis on improving water quality in the Lake Champlain, Connecticut River, [Lake Memphremagog](#) watersheds.

## Lake Champlain—The 6<sup>th</sup> “Great Lake”

- Lake is over 120 miles long
- Within Vermont, New York, and the Province of Quebec
- 6th largest freshwater lake in U.S.
- Total basin area = 8,234 sq. miles,
- 56% of the Basin lies in Vermont,
- 2,951,065 Acres in Vermont
- 48% of VT Acres are in the ‘Basin’



## Connecticut River Watershed

- Connecticut River is the longest river in New England (400 miles long).
- Forms the border between VT and NH.
- 11,260 square mile watershed encompasses parts of five states and the Province of Quebec.
- The river is fed by 148 tributaries including 38 major rivers along its path.
- Home to over 2.4 million people.
- VT has invested over \$60 million since 2016 in water quality related work.





## Review of Major Land Ownership

Vermont's population is approximately 645,000 (2021).  
Approximately 70-75% of Vermont's land cover is forest.  
Approximately 80% of VT's forests are privately owned.  
VT is the largest producer of maple syrup in the US (~2.5 million gallons).  
Dairy farming and forestry are still important economic drivers.

## Expected TSP Workflow

- The State Resource Conservationist (SRC) will be responsible for reviewing TSP conservation planning for the National Planner Designation.
- Subsequent conservation plans will be reviewed by the District Conservationist (DC) at the local USDA Service Center.
- The SRC will conduct plan reviews for TSP planner designation renewals.
- TSPs will work with the local District Conservationist to make sure the proper environmental evaluations (NRCS.CPA.52) are completed.

## Additional References or Training

- [Vermont NRCS Electronic Field Office Technical Guide](#)
- UVM's [Nutrient Recommendations for Field Crops in VT](#)
- Vermont's Secretary of State's [Professional Engineer](#) license requirements.

## Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

## Certificate of Completion

After viewing the State Specific Training module, please print and sign the completion certificate on the following slide.

The certificate is your acknowledgement that based on the information provided in this module, you have the proper knowledge, skills and ability to conduct planning in this State.

Within your NRCS Registry profile, enter the training and upload the signed certificate to verify completion.

## STATE SPECIFIC TRAINING MODULE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby verify I have viewed and understand the content of Vermont’s State  
*TSP Name*  
Specific Training Module and affirm I have the knowledge, skills, and ability to conduct conservation planning  
services in this state.

\_\_\_\_\_  
TSP Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date