



Northern Forest Lands Council

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PRESS RELEASE

June 17, 1992

For immediate release

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Northern Forest Lands Council Meets in Presque Isle, ME

CONCORD, NH The Northern Forest Lands Council will meet

Wednesday, July 8 in Presque Isle, Maine. It is a regular bi-monthly meeting, rescheduled from mid-June. The Council will meet at Keddy's Motor Inn on Route 1, beginning at 9:00 am. The meeting will last most of the day.

"We consider the Northern Forest Lands program vital to the long-term viability of Maine's working forest and the traditional uses of those forests," stated C. Edwin Meadows, Council member and Maine's Department of Conservation Commissioner.

"The agenda focuses on subcommittee work and procedural questions, including the process recently used to amend the mission statement. There will also be updates on each state's citizen advisory committee. By July 8, all four citizen advisory committees will have met at least once", said Robert Bendick, Jr., Council chair and Deputy Commissioner of New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation.

Most Council work occurs through subcommittees evaluating Property Taxes, State/Federal Taxes, Land Conversion and Local Forest-Based

Economy. Reports will be presented for each topic, including proposals to contract new studies. Other subcommittees to report during the meeting are the Administrative, Ad-hoc Biological Resources and Public Involvement subcommittees.

There will be a special lunchtime presentation on GAP Analysis. Kenneth Williams of the US Fish and Wildlife Service will educate the Council and interested public about this method of inventorying and evaluating an area's biological resources.

At the request of the Northern Forest Alliance, the Council will consider the Alliance's "New Year's Resolution for the Northern Forest" which recommends nine specific tracts of land be protected through acquisition and conservation easement.

"Maine is pleased to host this meeting of the Council. As with all our meetings, there is an open period for public comment and we strongly encourage anyone interested in the Council's activities to attend and participate.", continued Meadows.

For more information, call Donald Mansius at Maine's Department of Conservation at (207) 289-4906 or the Council office at (603) 224-6590.

The Northern Forest Lands Council is a 17-member advisory, non-regulatory organization with four Governor appointed members from the states of Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont, and a seventeenth member from the US Forest Service. The Council follows the work of the Governors' Task Force on Northern Forest Lands and the Northern Forest Lands study. Its purpose is to (1) advise the states and federal government on forest land conservation and natural resource based economic development within the 26 million acre Northern Forest area and (2) seek out and recommend a comprehensive series of strategies to conserve the traditional uses and ownership patterns on these lands. The Council's anticipated lifespan is through September 1994.