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Forest Council Frames Draft Recommendations

Concord, NH - The Northern Forest Lands Council, a 17 member advisory group to the Congress and governors of Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont, announced today it has begun work on draft recommendations which it hopes to release in early January.

"Council members have reached agreement on a framework for their draft recommendations. They will work diligently over the next few weeks to add detailed language to this framework," commented Council Executive Director Charles Levesque. Levesque was referring to a Council work session held last week.

"The Council will meet in another work session in early December to approve the draft document. Pending this approval, the document will be released in early January for extensive public comment," added Levesque.

Over a two month period following the release of the draft recommendations, the Council will seek feedback through meetings,

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written comments and a series of listening sessions across the region. The timing for these activities will be announced in the coming month. Feedback gathered through these forums will be considered by the Council as it finalizes its recommendations, which will go to the Congress, governors and state legislative leaders sometime next summer.

In the interim, the Council will release two documents. The first is a Listening Log. It summarizes all the public comments considered by the Council as it began drafting its recommendations. It includes comments received during its recent public comment period on the *Findings and Options*. The second document is a Technical Appendix of all the Council's research documents. These documents are the basis for the Council's findings and recommendations. Both documents are available by calling the Council at (603) 224-6590 or writing the NFLC at 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301. There will be a nominal charge for the Technical Appendix to cover printing and mailing costs. Copies will also be available from libraries around the region.

The Council is a temporary, advisory body of 17 governor-appointed members representing landowner, environmental, local and state government interests for the states of Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont. It was authorized in 1990 by the Congress and Governors to develop recommendations which seek to conserve and enhance the public and private values of the 26 million acre northern forest stretching across the four states. The Council is guided by its mission to reinforce the traditional patterns of land ownership and use of these large forest areas, while sustaining the forest resources and communities of the region. The Council will disband by September 30, 1994.