

# Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

## Economic Impact Study

Key Attribute #:

13

Need #:

3

Estimated Cost:

\$\$

Timing:

Short-Term

The Bradford Conservation Commission should conduct an economic impact study about the Wright's MT/Devil's Den Town Forest. The study will determine the economic benefit the forest provides to the community. Completing the study will make the forest more competitive for grants, broaden and strengthen community appreciation for the forest, and provide strategies to further enhance the forest's economic benefits.

Economic impact analyses explain the role local trail systems play in the regional economy by looking at how trails draw additional visitors and tourist revenues to the region. Even if forest visitors don't pay a fee to use the forest, they typically buy goods, gas, and food during their visit. This spending will be tracked in a forest economic impact analysis.

The study is not merely a fiscal study, but instead looks at revenues for the community and the benefits and revenues that local residents receive. The study will help people understand the forest's economic value, drawing people into the fold who may be less interested in the forest's natural and recreational values.

To start, the town should pursue the grants listed on the right for project funding.

### Responsibility:

Conservation Commission

### Partners Involved:

Town, Cohase Chamber of Commerce

### Planning Required:

Trail counting, economic impact assessment

### Funding

Opportunities:  
MPG, BCP

### Toolkit

### Resources

Trail Friendly Business Toolkit

