



Visit our Web site at:  
[www.elrc.org](http://www.elrc.org)

#### 2004-2006 Officers

*President: Bob O'Connor*  
*Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs*  
(617) 626-1170; fax (617) 626-1181  
E-mail: [robert.oconnor@state.ma.us](mailto:robert.oconnor@state.ma.us)

*1st Vice President: Dan Wisniewski*  
*Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands*  
(608) 266-8369; fax (608) 266-2787  
E-mail: [dan.wisniewski@bcpl.state.wi.us](mailto:dan.wisniewski@bcpl.state.wi.us)

*2nd Vice President: David Dowling*  
*Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation*  
(804) 786-2291; fax (804) 786-6141  
E-mail: [ddowling@der.state.va.us](mailto:ddowling@der.state.va.us)

*3rd Vice President: Greg Lein*  
*Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources*  
(334) 242-3484; fax (334) 242-0999  
E-mail: [glein@DCNR.state.al.us](mailto:glein@DCNR.state.al.us)

*Secretary: Mike Fraysier*  
*Vermont Agency of Natural Resources*  
(802) 241-3682; fax (802) 244-1481  
E-mail: [mike.fraysier@anr.state.vt.us](mailto:mike.fraysier@anr.state.vt.us)

*Treasurer: Bill Brice*  
*Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*  
(651) 296-4807; fax (651) 296-5939  
E-mail: [william.brice@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:william.brice@dnr.state.mn.us)

*Member at Large: Ed Meadows*  
*Michigan Department of Natural Resources*  
(517) 373-8243; fax (517) 335-3264  
E-mail: [meadowse@michigan.gov](mailto:meadowse@michigan.gov)

*Past President: Ralph Knoll*  
*Maine Department of Conservation*  
(207) 287-4911; fax (207) 287-3823  
E-mail: [ralph.knoll@maine.gov](mailto:ralph.knoll@maine.gov)

# JOURNAL

## Serving the Needs of Land Professionals August 2004

*This newsletter is produced through a partnership between the Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States and the Eastern Lands and Resources Council.*

*The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources invites you to the Eastern Lands and Resources Council's (ELRC) Fall 2004 Conference in Biwabik, Minnesota, October 3-7, 2004. Registration details inside....*

### Minnesota To Host Fall 2004 ELRC Conference



**A spectacular fall landscape near Biwabik in northern Minnesota.**

This year, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will host the Fall 2004 ELRC Conference to be held at the Giants Ridge Golf and Ski Resort in Biwabik, Minnesota, from October 3-7, 2004. Biwabik is located 55 miles outside of Duluth in Minnesota's great North Woods.

Today, off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation is a popular sport, and Public Land Managers are faced with growing challenges of managing OHV activities while protecting natural resources, minimizing conflicts and promoting responsible use. These issues are the focus of this year's conference with the theme, "Off-highway Recreation: Planning for Tomorrow, Today."

All ELRC and Western States Land Commissioners Association members are welcome to participate and to encourage officials in their Federal and State counterpart agencies to attend. The agenda is designed to benefit both policymakers and program managers. Representatives from nonmember States, Federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and guests are also welcome.

We hope that you will join us to learn more about the OHV recreation area development process; partnerships and management issues of OHV use on public lands; perspectives of OHV user groups and the manufacturing industry, including how they are dealing with environmental concerns; land management for OHVs; how the public

*Continued on page 2*



# Message from the ELRC President...

Dear Friends,

Hope everyone is having a great summer. It is an honor to take on the challenge of helping to support ELRC's goals for the next couple of years. ELRC has such a great history of raising important natural resources and land conservation issues and improving the level of natural resources management in the Eastern States. An important goal over the next 2 years is to continue to expand our membership and involvement. The more states that are active the more benefits there are to all involved. Thanks to the Executive Committee for their continuing work to get the word out about ELRC to new states. Thanks also to Peggy Riek of the Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States (BLM-ES) for putting together this newsletter and to BLM-ES' State Director Michael Nedd, and staff, for the great BLM support of ELRC activities.

Regarding current management issues, I hope to seek ways for us to share information and ideas on the issue of biomass energy from the natural resource side and financing innovations from the land side. Biomass has great potential to

help us increase our sustainable energy and improve forest management. Emerging technologies are making this energy source even more promising. Innovations in the way we finance the conservation of land is also a topic that has great potential for ELRC to be an important vehicle to helping states find ways to do more with less. The recent phone/web seminar hosted by The Nature Conservancy and ELRC on this topic included interesting presentations and discussion and was a good way to introduce ELRC to many new states. If you were involved in this forum, I'd appreciate your feedback as I'm hoping to plan a similar forum focusing on biomass energy between the fall and spring conferences.

The fall and spring conferences offer unique opportunities to discuss important natural resource issues, learn from other states and meet influential federal agency officials. Please consider attending both of these conferences. The fall conference in Minnesota will focus on the issue of Off Highway Vehicles—an issue that is always a very difficult one to deal with on state lands. I think you will agree the team from Minnesota has put together a very informative agenda. Please also see the article highlighting the agenda for next spring's conference by Elinor Schwartz. The technical issues dealt with in this forum make it very worthwhile—the chance to discuss issues with upper level Federal officials makes it a must.

## The ELRC

**...fostering responsible public land management policies for tomorrow**

The ELRC is an organization comprised of highly trained public land professionals in the eastern United States which provides a collaborative and unique forum for enhancing land stewardship and conservation.

The ELRC fosters communication, strengthens professional development, and promotes sound policies and practices among those involved in the management and administration of public lands, records, and natural resources.

For more information, write:  
Bob O'Connor, Director of Land and Forest Policy,  
Massachusetts Office of Environmental  
Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114  
Email: robert.oconnor@state.ma.us or call  
Bob at (617) 626-1170

Bob O'Connor, ELRC President

### ***ELRC fall conference...continued from page 1***

agencies and large landowners are managing OHV usage; public land issues in Minnesota; Minnesota's Supreme Court Decision on the rails-to-trails issue; and the Economic Profile System used by BLM.

If you have questions, please contact  
Jeanne Mittelstadt at 651-297-4953, or  
Dennis Martin at 651-297-1125.

Front cover photo by Paul Stafford, MN, Office of Tourism

# Joint Spring 2004 ELRC/WSLCA Conference



From March 28-31, 2004, Federal and State land and resource managers from across the Nation met in Washington, D.C., for the Joint Spring 2004 Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC) and Western States Land Commissioners Association Conference. Conferees heard land and resource managers from Federal, State, and local agencies, military agencies as well as private and nonprofit organizations speak on the conference theme, "Meeting Economic Challenges for Public Land Managers."

Speakers included Interior Secretary Gale Norton, and other Interior leaders, including Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management & Budget P. Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary for Land & Minerals Management Rebecca Watson, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Management & Budget Scott Cameron; BLM's Director Kathleen Clarke; BLM-Eastern States Director Mike Nedd; USDA Forest Service Associate Chief Sally Collins; Senior Policy Advisor for The Nature Conservancy Bob Barnes; White House Task Force on Energy Project Streamlining Helen Golde, as well as, officials from the Minerals Management Service and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Some conference highlights included discussions on cost-cutting and income generating initiatives, conservation-banks and landowner

incentives to protect endangered species, public and private initiatives for conserving large timber tracts, cost-effective best practices for real estate issues, the Department of the Interior's approaches to land sales and exchanges, successful partnerships, Federal grants, endangered species habitat conservation banks, special acquisition or easement options such as conservation buffers for military bases, LNG proposals, fee structures for natural gas storage, and oil and natural gas valuation.



Photo by Peggy Riek

ELRC/WSLCA members enjoyed a tour and hike of BLM-Eastern States Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, a unique 800-acre tract on the Mason Neck Peninsula in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Contacts: Terry Lewis, External Affairs Chief,  
E-mail: Terry\_Lewis@es.blm.gov and Peggy Riek,  
Writer-Editor, BLM-Eastern States, at (703) 440-1713

---

Save these dates: April 17-20, 2005  
**Joint Spring 2005 Conference on Public Lands:  
Cost-effective Technologies for Public Land Managers**  
Sponsored by the ELRC/WSLCA  
at the Raddison Barcelo Hotel in Washington, D.C.

This will be an opportunity for State and Federal officials, along with land trust managers, to continue to work together on key real estate issues. The conference will deal with **split estates**, as well as **mineral appraisals** and **military base buffers**. We have invited the Acting Chief Appraiser from the Department of the Interior to discuss a further **reorganization** of his appraisal operation. We have a speaker on the application of **land records management** software to brownfields and military base cleanups. We anticipate a debate between an Interior official and an expert from the Georgetown Law Center about the impact of a recent Supreme Court decision on Federal land use plans.

This conference will explore cutting-edge technologies with direct application to land managers. It will focus on geographic information systems (**GIS**) and **Geographic Positioning Systems**. Participants will have an opportunity to explore oil field production technologies, such as **cross-well electromagnetic and seismic imaging**. Environmental management sessions will deal with **remote sensing and monitoring** applications that apply to **invasives, endangered species habitat, and wildfires**.

Contact: To request information or offer ideas for speakers and cases, please contact Elinor Schwartz, Joint Spring Conference Coordinator, (703) 920-5389, (703) 920-5402 (fax); E-mail: es@elinorschwartz.com

# What's Happening in YOUR State?

## Survey of State Revenue from Natural Resources

In September 2004, states in the Eastern United States will be asked to participate in compiling information about how your state manages revenue from natural resource activities, such as timber and minerals. In these times of budget challenges, all states can benefit by sharing good ideas that states have about cost saving and revenue sources.

The purpose of this survey is to compile information on:

- ◆ which agencies in each state are responsible for administration of land and mineral matters;
- ◆ how revenues from state lands and state-owned minerals can be used; and
- ◆ key sources of funds for land acquisition.

The specific goal is to help the states understand how these programs operate in other states. This may provide useful ideas to states as they face budget challenges and are looking for new ways to manage revenues and expenses.

State government is organized very differently in the states. Land, minerals and natural resource management functions are combined in some states and dispersed in others. Agencies and departments are similar in some, with very different structures in others. Therefore, when you see the announcement, please help us direct this survey to the correct person for your state.

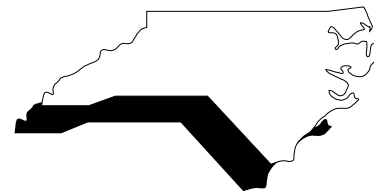
The survey is a collaboration between the ELRC and the Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States office. Results of the survey will be shared with the states and posted on ELRC's Web site at [www.elrc.org](http://www.elrc.org).



*Contacts: Ann Aldrich, BLM-Eastern States Associate State Director, (703) 440-1711, E-mail: [ann\\_b\\_aldrich@es.blm.gov](mailto:ann_b_aldrich@es.blm.gov), Ed Meadows, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, (517) 373-8243, E-mail: [meadowse@michigan.gov](mailto:meadowse@michigan.gov), or Bob O'Connor, Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs, (617) 626-1170, E-mail: [robert.oconnor@state.ma.us](mailto:robert.oconnor@state.ma.us).*

## Innovative North Carolina Initiative Preserves Open Space

The North Carolina (N.C.) Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) has worked with public and private partners to preserve high-quality open space across North Carolina since its founding in July 2003, bringing a solid record of achievement and innovative practices to its mission.



In its first year, EEP's preservation partnerships (including the state's Clean Water Management, Natural Heritage and Parks & Recreation trust funds, along with private sources) helped to protect nearly 19,000 acres across North Carolina, about 70 miles of streams and more than 600 acres of wetlands. Another 4,600 acres of wetlands were under option or awaiting final acquisition as of July 2004, with an additional 38 miles of streams.

The program's alliance with local and regional land trusts across the state, believed to be unprecedented in the nation on this scale, harnesses the expertise, innovation and local knowledge of 23 separate trusts. The partnership's aim is to provide fair economic return to landowners while achieving open-space protection for the state.

Sites acquired included the Needmore tract, a 4,500-acre site in the Little Tennessee River

*Continued on page 5*

basin that provides habitat for three federally listed endangered aquatic species and links the Great Smoky Mountain National Park with U.S. Forest Service lands, providing an extensive wildlife corridor; and the 5,600-acre Mingo tract in the north central North Carolina foothills, where waterfalls and rugged cliffs along the headwaters of Buffalo Creek are home to many species of plants and animals, including black bear.

The EEP's preservation activities employ existing funds allocated to the state for offsetting unavoidable environmental impacts from transportation-infrastructure improvements and other economic-development activities. The N.C. Board of Transportation authorizes the funding. The EEP, a program under the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, also leverages other funding sources for the initiative.

The EEP also carries forward existing initiatives in North Carolina to restore and enhance the state's wetlands and waterways. For more information on EEP, visit the initiative's website at [www.nceep.net](http://www.nceep.net).

*Contact: Tad Boggs, North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program, Director of Communications, (919) 715-2227; E-mail: [tad.boggs@ncmail.net](mailto:tad.boggs@ncmail.net)*

## **Minnesota to Participate in National ATV Study**

Minnesota will be one of six states to participate in a national study designed to identify potential environmental impacts of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on public trails and forestlands. Researchers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Technology and Development Center in San Dimas, California, will lead the effort, working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Superior National Forest on the Minnesota portion of the study.

Two field studies will be conducted in Minnesota. One is at the Big Aspen ATV trail system in the Superior National Forest and the other is on the adjacent state forestlands.

Researchers will be testing various types of ATVs, tire treads, and equipment components to see how they affect the environment and look for possible design changes that can eliminate or reduce impacts that may be caused by the machines. Information gathered will also be used to predict the level and frequency of maintenance needed on ATV trails based upon soil type and number of users.

Minnesota was asked to be included as one of the study sites because of the large public land base and the increasing popularity of OHV use in Minnesota. Tests will also be conducted in designated OHV open areas in the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana, Land Between the Lakes OHV area in Kentucky, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in Montana, Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri, and the Wenatchee National Forest in Washington. Additional test sites will be conducted on Bureau of Land Management lands in Arizona, California, Idaho, or Utah. Identical tests will be conducted at each site on undisturbed terrain and existing trails. Testing began on a site-by-site basis in April and will conclude by November 2004.

The research in Minnesota started with a site assessment in late May, with actual riding taking place the week of June 14. Two additional trips have been made back to Minnesota to complete the rainfall simulation testing.

Fieldwork was completed at the beginning August, and the final report on all sites will be completed by August 2005. Results from the study will provide valuable information to land managers as they provide for this type of activity. It will help them understand the potential impacts of ATV use on public lands, improve trail design, and predict maintenance costs. ATV riders also will benefit from the study by learning

*Continued on page 6*

*Minnesota ATV study...continued from page 5*

how to ride more responsibly and enjoying improved sustainability of trail design based upon soil type and climate.

Land management for ATVs and other off-highway vehicles will be the focus of this year's fall conference, October 3-7, 2004, in Biwabik, Minnesota. With the popularity of off-highway recreation increasing nationwide, the conference is an opportunity to learn how public agencies and industry are addressing this issue.

*Contact: Susan Balgie, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Information and Education, (651) 282-6861; E-mail: susan.balgie@dnr.state.mn.us*

## Wisconsin News

The Executive Secretary of the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, Dan Wisniewski, announced in June, that he would be retiring effective September 3.

On July 23, the Commissioners appointed Tia Nelson as the new Executive Secretary. She will begin her appointment October 4. Tia is a senior policy advisor for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Arlington, Virginia, and is currently the director of TNC's Climate Change Initiative. She has worked for TNC since 1987. Previously, Tia had worked for Wisconsin Governor Tony Earl. She is the daughter of former U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson.

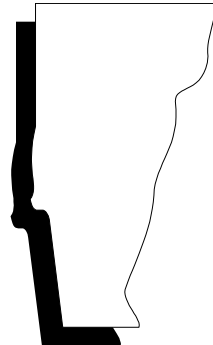
*Contact: Dan Wisniewski, Secretary, Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (and ELRC 1st Vice President, (608) 266-8369; E-mail: dan.wisniewski@bcpl.state.wi.us*

**ELRC Members: Share your success stories. Let us hear about innovative activities or programs going on in your State. Send, fax, or E-mail your articles to Bob O'Connor, ELRC President.**

## Draft Wind Energy Policy for State Lands in Vermont

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has recently released a draft policy on "Wind Energy and Other Renewable Energy Development on ANR Lands." Under the proposed policy, small scale renewable energy applications in appropriate locations on state-owned lands would be encouraged, but large scale commercial wind energy development would not be allowed.

It is clear that the topics of wind energy and use of state-owned lands are issues of great interest to many Vermonters. Vermonters cherish their state lands and are passionate in their opinions on how these lands should be used. At the same time, they are very concerned about Vermont's energy situation and largely support an increased focus on developing new renewable energy sources.



The draft policy supports an increased focus on the development of new renewable energy sources as a part of a comprehensive effort to reduce the environmental impacts of energy production. Under the draft policy ANR lands would have an important but limited role to play in this regard. Development of small scale, net metered wind and other renewable energy applications at appropriate state-owned sites would be encouraged. Large scale commercial renewable energy projects such as wind farms, however, would not be permitted on any ANR lands.

As a part of developing the draft policy, the Agency conducted a series of public meetings across the state earlier this spring. The public involvement process generated hundreds of comments on the subject of wind energy and its potential role on state-owned lands. This input was carefully considered by the Agency in developing the draft policy. The

*Continued on page 7*

Agency will be considering public comments it received on the draft policy this summer as it works to finalize and adopt the policy.

The draft policy along with a summary of the public input received and other related information is posted on the Vermont's Web site at [www.vermontwindpolicy.org](http://www.vermontwindpolicy.org).

Questions or comments on the draft policy should be directed to State Lands Director Mike Fraysier, VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671.

*Contact: Mike Fraysier, Vermont State Lands Director, Department of Forestry & Parks & Recreation (and ELRC Secretary), (802) 241-3682  
E-mail: [mike.fraysier@anr.state.vt.us](mailto:mike.fraysier@anr.state.vt.us)*

---

## Land Management Planning— Expanding the Process to an Expanding Landbase

Since the mid 1980's, the Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands has been statutorily directed to prepare and maintain comprehensive management plans for the state's publicly-owned forestlands. These plans, through time, have demonstrated the Bureau's commitment towards meeting another statutory requirement: to manage the landbase in a way that



enhances the natural and historic, wildlife, recreation, and timber resources; the so-called "multiple use mandate." While the Bureau's statutory requirements have changed little over the past 20 years, its landbase has, expanding more than 25 percent to over 565,000 acres in fee ownership and 50,000 acres in conservation easements over that time, with the likelihood of considerably more in the near future. Where timber resource management once constituted the larger piece of the planning "pie" for these lands, that effort has now given way to the need to balance a growing number of competing interests. Moreover, the Bureau's

recent commitments to Forest Certification and the recently-established Ecological Reserve system have added a new level of resource management responsibility beyond its historic statutory requirements.

While the Bureau managed for a time to keep up with its planning requirements, at least until 1997, it has since lagged in its ability to provide for timely revision of those plans, or to develop new plans for its more recent acquisitions. During the past year, the Bureau has been looking closely at the underlying factors - the addition of new lands, the myriad of competing interests, and new responsibilities. The result was a commitment to restructure the planning process, and perhaps look to a new strategy for managing the state's land interests in the near future.

Until last spring, the Bureau had taken a local approach to management planning, developing a number of separate processes to deal with its ownership, one property at a time. The restructured process now directs planners and managers to look at the ownership on a region-wide, or "landscape" basis. This process is already underway in the Downeast area of the state, whereby 12 separate parcels, ranging in size from 300 to 15,000 acres area being considered together. One of the obvious advantages to broadened context, is fewer processes to develop and manage towards accomplishing the planning backlog. Another advantage to this approach is its inherent ability

*Continued on page 8*

to look at the publicly-owned resources in broader view of other available resources, both public and private, within the context area. In one sense, there is a "supply and demand" view that is applied to resource planning, but one that looks for the uniqueness or similarities of those resources within the larger system. This approach has already impacted certain management directions that might otherwise have been overlooked. For example, the Bureau has been looking closely at the availability (or lack thereof) of all-terrain-vehicle opportunities on public lands in the Downeast area, where an extensive trail system already exists on an abutting industrial landowner. Trail commitments on the public lands will in large part be influenced by the current availability of trails on these nearby private lands.

Like most State and Federal land management agencies, the Bureau provides a number of opportunities for public input, and utilizes numerous resource professionals outside the agency to accomplish its resource planning goals. Many of these individuals and organizations have welcomed the opportunity to work with the Bureau on this new regional approach, citing reasons similar to those previously stated. In addition, a renewed interest in local stewardship from both individuals and organizations has become an outgrowth of this new planning effort, lending impetus to the idea that grassroots solutions to local and region-wide problems will become the norm in future planning development efforts.

*Contact: John Titus, Planning and Research Associate, Bureau of Parks and Lands, Maine Department of Conservation, (207) 287-4916; E-mail: John.Titus@maine.gov*

## **Database Created for Conducting State Land Reviews**

Michigan DNR recently updated designated boundaries of state forests, parks, recreation and wildlife areas with the goals of land consolidation and enhanced resource management. The original boundaries were established decades ago, chiefly

based on lands which tax reverted to the state. In the ensuing decades, subdivision of private land inside the boundaries has limited the potential of certain areas for resource management.

In-depth analysis will be now done of all state lands which fall outside the new boundaries, to identify properties not contributing sufficiently to department's mission to warrant continued state ownership, with recommendations for alternatives on disposal.



A key component of this review is development of a database, linked to ownership records and maps, to enable efficient collection of comments based on the multi-disciplinary review. This is essential due to the large volume of parcels. The first 10 counties (of 83) have over 1,900 parcels to be reviewed.

The database will provide an efficient means to compile relevant information on each parcel in one location, and a way to track the parcels which need to be acted upon. All parcels will be categorized as: 1) retain; 2) transfer to alternative conservation owner; and 3) dispose by sale or exchange. Public comment will be invited on the recommendations.

The review process includes identifying conservation-oriented organizations who might serve as alternative owners to maintain the conservation potential of certain parcels. Strategies may include transfer to local government or public entities, land exchanges, conveyance with conservation easements and other land protection techniques. Proceeds from sale of any land will be used for purchase of replacement parcels.

*Contact: Ed Meadows, Manager, Acquisitions and Exchanges, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (and ELRC Member-at-Large), (517) 373-8343 E-mail: meadowse@michigan.gov*



**Eastern Lands and Resources Council**  
**Fall 2004 Conference**  
**Giants Ridge Golf and Ski Resort – Biwabik, Minnesota**  
**October 3-7, 2004**

**OFF-HIGHWAY RECREATION: PLANNING FOR TOMORROW, TODAY**

**Sunday, October 3, 2004**

Registration                    5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 Evening Reception        7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
 The Lodge at Giants Ridge, Biwabik, Minnesota

**Monday, October 4, 2004**

Meeting at The Lodge at Giants Ridge, Wynne Room  
 Breakfast Buffet            6:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.

***Welcome & Introduction to the Program. 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.***

**Gene Merriam**, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) Commissioner [15 minutes]  
**Michael D. Nedd**, State Director, Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States [25 minutes]  
**Jim Hughes**, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, Programs and Policy

**Panel I. 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use on Public Lands: Partnerships and Management Issues; Moderator: **Michael Nedd** [30 minutes per speaker]. **This session will cover issues of OHV use on public lands. Federal, State, and county managers will describe how they are dealing with a wide range of issues. A State enforcement officer will also discuss regulating OHV use on public lands.** U.S. Forest Service — Speaker TBA Minnesota DNR — **Ron Potter**, MN DNR Trails and Waterways.

**10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Break**

Lake County, MN - Speaker TBA; MN DNR – **Dave Rodahl**, OHV Enforcement Issues in Minnesota; MN DNR - **Brian McCann**, Trails and Waterways Division; The OHV Planning Process for the Gilbert, MN, OHV Site

**Afternoon Session. 12:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Board bus and travel to Gilbert OHV Park. Lunch @ Gilbert OHV site with a welcome from the city of Gilbert. Box lunches provided.

**1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.** ATV Training **Ron Potter & Bob Chance** [Required for ride.]  
**2:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Ride ATVs in the Gilbert Park. Vehicles supplied by Arctic Cat and Polaris.  
**4:45 p.m.** Board Bus and return to The Lodge at Giants Ridge  
 Dinner on your own.

**Tuesday, October 5, 2004**

Breakfast 6:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. at the Lodge at Giants Ridge

**Panel II. 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.** The Perspectives of OHV User Groups & the Manufacturing Industry, Including How They are Dealing with Environmental Concerns; Moderator **Ron Potter**. **The popularity of off-highway recreation has increased dramatically in recent years and by all indications will continue to grow. How can public officials meet the demands of riders who want to use public lands for their sport and, at the same time, balance the needs of motorized and non-motorized recreationists? Representatives from Minnesota’s two off-highway vehicle manufacturers, Arctic Cat and Polaris, will also discuss the challenges they face and how they are working to design better machines to meet current noise and safety standards. Finally, we will talk about environmental impacts and how these concerns are being addressed.** User groups: Representatives from Organizations for ATVs, Dirt Bikes, & Large Trucks, including Minnesota 4-Wheel Drive Association, Amateur Riders Motorcycles Association, and All-Terrain Vehical Association of Minnesota. Manufacturing industry representatives from Arctic Cat and Polaris will also be present.

**10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Break**



**Eastern Lands and Resources Council**  
**Fall 2004 Conference**  
**Giants Ridge Golf and Ski Resort – Biwabik, Minnesota**  
**October 3-7, 2004**

**OFF-HIGHWAY RECREATION: PLANNING FOR TOMORROW, TODAY**

**Panel III. 10:30 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.** Land Management for OHVs: How Are Public Agencies and Large Landowners Managing OHV Usage. Moderator: **Les Ollila** [20 minutes/speaker]. **Both public and private landowners are involved in determining where and how off-highway vehicles can be used on their land. The Minnesota legislature has passed bills on use and regulation and the state Department of Natural Resources is working on a designation process and on identifying public trails. We will also hear from a large corporate landowner and learn about its perspective on this issue.** OHV Designation, **Tim Browning**, MN DNR Division of Trails and Waterways Regional Manager; MN Legislation for OHV, **Laurie Martinson**, MN DNR Director of Trails and Waterways Division; a BLM Perspective, **Anna Atkinson**, BLM Washington Office Outdoor Recreation Planner, National Recreation Group; and a Corporation’s Perspective, **Tom Murn**, Potlatch Corporation’s Regional Resource Manager.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch at The Lodge at Giants Ridge Restaurant

**1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Overview of State Bike Trail System - **Laurie Young**, MN DNR, Trails Planning Supervisor

**1:30 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.** Overview of The Mesabi Trail – **Bob Manzoline**, Director of Regional Trail Authority

**2:00 p.m.** Board the Bus and ride to Mountain Iron to begin Bike Ride.

**2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Bike Ride on The Mesabi Trail from Mountain Iron to Gilbert, stopping at a Taconite Mine Overlook

**4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.** Bus Ride back to Giants Ridge

**6:30 p.m. ELRC Banquet.** Dinner at the restaurant, The Lodge, at Giants Ridge

**Wednesday, October 6, 2004**

Breakfast at the restaurant, The Lodge, at Giants Ridge

Alternate morning activities: Visit the Wolf Center in Ely or shop in Ely on your own.

**Panel IV. 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** This session will cover current public land management. Moderator: **Bill Brice**. **Topics will include public land issues in Minnesota, tools to retain land in a natural state, conservation easements on large private land holdings, discussion of a recent Minnesota Supreme Court ownership decision pertaining to rails-to-trails, and economic activity values model for public land.** Washington News Update, **Elinor Schwartz**, ELRC/WSLCA Washington D.C. Representative [20 minutes]; MN Land: How we got it and what we use it for. - **Bill Brice**, Director Division of Lands and Minerals, [45 minutes]; Tools to Retain Land in its Natural State in MN – **Brad Moore**, MN DNR Assistant Commissioner for Operations [30 minutes]; Large Landowners Conservation Easements – **Tom Duffus**, The Nature Conservancy [30 minutes]

**10:05 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. Break**

Minnesota Supreme Court Decision on Rails to Trails Issue – **Dulcie Brand**, Assistant Attorney General, State of Minnesota [40 minutes]; MN Legislation Related to OHVs – **Laurie Martinson**, Director Division of Trails and Waterways, MN DNR [30 minutes]; Using the Economic Profile System (EPS) to Encourage Collaborative Public Lands Management – **Robert Winthrop**, Senior Social Scientist, Planning, Assessment, and Community Support Group, BLM Washington Office, and **Ray Rasker**, Director, SocioEconomics Program, Sonoran Institute [50 minutes]. **There will be a discussion on using the EPS, which is a computer-based system for easily retrieving local economic and demographic information, available free of charge at [www.sonoran.org/eps](http://www.sonoran.org/eps).**

**Afternoon Session 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Board the bus and ride to the Tower Civic Center for lunch.

**1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Box lunch provided is a traditional Cornish miners pasty. Includes pasty, cole slaw, cookie, and beverage.

**2:00 p.m.** Board the bus and ride across town to Soudan State Park.

**2:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Underground Mine Tour by both State Park & University of Minnesota’s Physics Lab. Above-ground tour included. Travel ½-mile underground into a historic iron mine.

**5:00 p.m.** Board the bus and ride to Bay View Lodge for dinner. Sunset over Lake Vermilion is at 6:45 p.m.

**7:30 p.m.** Board the bus and ride from Bay View Lodge to Giants Ridge Lodge.

**Thursday, October 7, 2004**

**8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** ELRC Officer’s Business Meeting.

# Eastern Lands and Resources Council Fall 2004 Conference

October 3-7, 2004

Giants Ridge – Biwabik, Minnesota

Off-Highway Recreation: Planning for Tomorrow, Today

## Conference Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

(please include area code)

E-Mail Address (required to receive confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any special needs: Access \_\_\_\_\_ Dietary \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please fax your completed registration form to: Jeanne Mittelstadt, 651-296-5939, or call her at 651-297-4953

Conference Fees: Entire Conference \$325 Guest \$125 One Day \$150 \_\_\_\_\_

(please indicate day you will attend)

**Method of Payment:** If paying by check, please make the check payable to: **ELRC**

Mail check & registration form to:

**ELRC Fall Conference**

**Attention: Jeanne Mittelstadt**

**DNR Lands and Minerals**

**500 Lafayette Road – Box 45**

**St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4045**

Please check & complete credit card information: MasterCard \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Hotel Information

A block of suites has been reserved for conference participants at Giants Ridge Golf and Ski Resort in Biwabik, Minnesota. The resort offers spectacular views of Minnesota's famous woods and waters as well as a wide range of amenities including two championship golf courses, game room, disc golf, indoor pool, spa, hiking trails, biking trails, lake access, on-site dining and more. For your convenience, you may make your lodging reservations by calling the toll-free number below.

Giants Ridge: 1-877-442-6877

Daily Group Rate \$79 plus tax (October 3-7)

Fax: 218-865-7135

Weekend Rate \$99 plus tax (October 8-9)

Website: [www.giantsridge.com](http://www.giantsridge.com)

Reservation Deadline: **September 17, 2004**. The lodge will not guarantee room availability after **September 17**.

### Airline Information

Northwest Airlink 1-800-225-2525

### Airport Information

Chisholm/Hibbing Airport 218-262-3451

Duluth International Airport 218-727-2968

Eveleth/Virginia Airport 218-744-1428

### Automobile Rental — Duluth International Airport

Alamo [www.alamo.com](http://www.alamo.com)

Hertz 1-800-654-3131

Avis 1-888-897-8448; 218-727-7233

National 218-727-7426

Budget 218-727-7685

# Massachusetts Expands Forest Stewardship Program

Over the past 18 months, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) together with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has funded 390 Forest Stewardship Plans, covering 27,000 acres in heavily forested areas of the state.

The Forest Stewardship Program is a U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Program that assists landowners in implementing good forest management practices in exchange for a 10-year commitment to implement a forest plan prepared by a professional forester. While USFS funds were available for partial funding of plans in the past, recent budget reductions have ended this funding.

The initiative involved direct mailing Forest Stewardship information and a new Massachusetts Woodlot Owners Guide to over 12,000 persons owning 400,000 acres of forestland. The mailing included an offer to fully fund a Forest Stewardship Plan via a licensed, private professional forester. Landowners had to sign a pledge to implement the plan over the next 10 years. The response to the initial mailing was a positive response of approximately 5 percent. Follow-up mailings still got a 2.3-percent positive response. DCR staff, working with the Berkshire-Pioneer Resource and Conservation District, a local non-profit organization, held 8 workshops to further educate landowners and link

landowners with private foresters. Once completed, the Forest Stewardship Plans are reviewed and approved by DCR Foresters. Surveys show that 86 percent of new Stewardship members begin to implement their plans soon after they are produced spending an average of \$1,822 per plan for implementation. At this rate, EOEA's investment will generate an additional expenditure of \$700,000 to local economies (in addition to the \$400,000 paid to local private foresters).

In addition to joining the Forest Stewardship Program, the plan qualifies landowners for the state's "Forest Tax Law" program. This program gives landowners a 95-percent reduction in their property taxes in exchange for a commitment to implement the forest plan and keep their land in forest over the ten year period. Failure to comply with these requirements results in the requirement to pay the tax savings plus a penalty back to the town. About 63 percent of the landowners completing Forest Stewardship Plans also joined the "Forest Tax Law" program.

The cost of this outreach and planning initiative was about \$16 per acre added to the Program or \$6.20 for each landowner contact.

*Contact: Bob O'Connor, Director of Land and Forest Policy, Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs (and ELRC President), (617) 626-1170; fax (617) 626-1181; E-mail: robert.oconnor@state.ma.us*

**Bob O'Connor, President  
Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC)  
Massachusetts Executive Office of  
Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114**

[www.elrc.org](http://www.elrc.org)