

Act 250—What it Means For You

(cont. from page 2)

process, we strive to ensure that the abundant wildlife populations we all enjoy today will be here tomorrow by applying logical solutions to otherwise complex social/environmental conflicts. If you are searching for new places to enjoy your outdoor pursuits, it's a good bet that there is a property conserved by Act 250 in your neighborhood with just the habitat you're looking for.

ACT 250 FACTS AND FIGURES (Source)

- **Average number of Act 250 decisions per year – 620** (“Act 250 History and Permit Application Activity, 1985-2000” – VT Environmental Board)
- **Average number of Act 250 applications denied per year – 9** (“Act 250 History and Permit Application Activity – 1985-2000” – VT Environmental Board)
- **Act 250 covers only 40% of Vermont’s development** (VT Environmental Board)
- **Employment was the highest in New England at over 1% per year** (Stephen Meyer, MIT, VT Environmental Law Conference, 1995)
- **Land lost to development each year in Vermont – 6,500 acres** (VT Agency of Natural Resources, 2001)
- **Among the 50 states, Vermont ranked first in environmental “green” indicators and third in economic “gold” indicators** (“Gold and Green 2000” – Institute for Southern Studies, November 2000)
- **Habitat Impacted by Act 250 regulated development since 1995:**
 - Deer winter habitat – 2,741 acres
 - Black bear habitat – 1,580 acres
 - Wetlands – 498 acres
- **Habitat conserved or otherwise positively influenced through Department efforts via the Act 250 permitting process since 1995:**
 - Deer winter habitat – 24,775 acres
 - Black bear habitat – 20,256 acres
 - Wetlands – 3,506 acres

(VT Fish & Wildlife Department)

Agency of Natural Resources Riparian Buffer Guidance Document Public Information Meeting May 18, 2005

The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has adopted the *Riparian Buffer Guidance* and has issued associated Riparian Buffers and Corridors Technical Papers. These documents and other related information can be requested from the address provided below or found at <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/site/html/buff/anrbuffer2005.htm> The *Guidance* is for use by Agency staff in establishing Agency recommendations and testimony in the Act 250 process; and assisting applicants in designing Act 250-regulated projects that incorporate appropriate buffer zone widths for protecting riparian functions. More detailed technical information on the functions and values of riparian corridors is included in the series of Technical Papers. The *Guidance* supports and reflects current ANR staff actions and recommendations in Act 250 cases; it does not present a change in Agency approach in Act 250.

ANR has scheduled a public information meeting on the *Guidance* for May 18, 2005. The meeting will be held at the Best Western meeting facility in Waterbury Vermont beginning at 9:00 am. Agency staff will make a presentation on the *Riparian Buffer Guidance* document and respond to questions and concerns. In addition to this meeting, upon request, Agency staff will meet with smaller groups, organizations or agencies to discuss the document. Requests for such meetings may be made to Nancy Manley at the addresses provided below.

Secretary Torti has stressed that although the *Guidance* is in effect, the Agency is open to all comments and concerns about the *Guidance*. All comments, whether written or verbal, will be duly considered; a response summary to comments will be developed; and, if appropriate, the *Guidance* document will be revised. Written comments may be submitted to Nancy Manley by July 1, 2005.

For additional information please contact Nancy Manley at: nancy.manley@anr.state.vt.us

Agency of Natural Resources
Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Environmental Assistance Office
103 South Main St., Laundry Bldg.
Waterbury, VT 05671-0411
802-241-3838