

State of Vermont

Office of the Secretary

103 South Main Street, Center Building [phone] 802-241-3600
Waterbury, VT 05671-0301 [fax] 802-244-1102

Agency of Natural Resources

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2009

Contact:

Jason Gibbs, Commissioner
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
802-241-3670

Mike Fraysier
State Lands Director
802-241-3682

State approves new sugaring licenses on state land

WATERBURY – The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has approved three new applications for maple sugaring licenses on state lands. The sugaring sites are located in the Town of Groton on Groton State Forest, in the Town of Stowe on Mt. Mansfield State Forest, and in the Town of Mt. Holly on Okemo State Forest.

In May of this year, the department announced that eight new sugaring sites were being made available on state forest and state park land to interested sugar makers. The department received a total of six applications for three of the eight sites by the July 10th deadline.

A Maple Advisory Board has been established to advise the commissioner on this new program. The board is composed of department representatives, independent sugar makers, and representatives from UVM Extension, and the Vermont Forests Products Association. The board reviewed all applications received and forwarded its recommendations to department commissioner Jason Gibbs for approval.

Approved applicants include Glenn Goodrich of Cabot, Lewis Coty of Stowe, and Mark Turco of Mt. Holly. “I was really impressed with the qualifications and experience of these sugar makers and look forward to working with them on this new program”, said Commissioner Gibbs.

Over the coming weeks, department staff will work with these sugar makers to delineate the sugarbush and agree on how it will be accessed and managed. “We hope to get much of this work completed in the next couple of weeks so sugar makers will have ample time this fall to get the sugarbush ready for the 2010 sugaring season”, said state lands director Mike Fraysier.

License agreements will be developed for each of the approved applicants outlining site-specific conditions and requirements and approved tapping guidelines. License terms will be for a five-year period with the option to renew for two additional five-year periods.

License fees will include a standard \$50 one-time administrative fee plus an annual fee based on the number of taps in the sugarbush. The per-tap fee will be 25 percent of the average of the previous year's price per bulk pound of Vermont fancy grade syrup and Vermont commercial grade syrup.

To preserve, enhance, restore, and conserve Vermont's natural resources, and protect human health, for the benefit of this and future generations.