



Friends of Green River Reservoir Inc.

P. O. Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655

Board of Directors: Milford Cushman, President (888-3362), Sally Laughlin, Vice President (644-5651), Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365), Dave Hallquist (888-6877), and Chuck Mitchell, (888-5441).

Spring 2004 Newsletter

Time for Membership Renewal

Each year, hundreds of people visit the Green River Reservoir State Park to experience wilderness, solitude and silence. The Friends of Green River Reservoir are there to help ensure that these attributes are protected and that the wilderness character of the Park continues to thrive. Last year a record number of over 80 families and individuals joined the Friends and helped by contributing time and money. However, much remains to be done. As indicated on the enclosed membership renewal form, June is the start of our 2004 Membership Year. Your continued support will help the Friends ensure that the wilderness character of the Park is not compromised, and that the membership is kept informed of the planning and implementation of new park policy. Please join us and help the Park to remain an oasis of tranquility and solitude for the next 25 years and beyond.

GRRSP Long Range Management Plan Update

The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (DFPR) expects to issue a draft Long Range Management Plan (LRMP) for the Green River Reservoir State Park (GRRSP) by the end of May 2004. The first to review this draft will be the advisory group, including the FGRR, who worked with the DFPR in an advisory capacity over a two-year period that ended nearly three years ago. Since then the DFPR and other elements of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, has been working on a variety of related, often technical aspects related to the development of a science-based long range management plan (LRMP). Susan Bulmer, the District Parks Manager responsible for the Green River Reservoir State Park, is managing the development and writing of this critical plan.

While no specific schedule for the review and adoption of the LRMP has been announced, based on past discussions with the DFPR we expect that public notice of the LRMP will be provided in late June or July and that public hearing(s) on the draft LRMP will be held in the Morrisville area in August or September. After evaluating public comment, the Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources will adopt the final LRMP by the end of 2004.

We will keep our members advised as to the status of this process and how you can weigh in on this important step in ensuring the proper long-term management of Green River Reservoir State Park. The FGRR contact person on the LRMP is Bill Bartlett who can be reached at 802-888-5591 or at pairfarmbb@aol.com.

Town of Hyde Park Planning Update

The Town of Hyde Park has recently amended its Zoning by-laws to include a Conservation District which includes not only the state owned lands within GRRSP but also some privately owned lands adjacent to the Park. However, in the final zoning by-laws the minimum lot size for the Conservation District was reduced from 27 to 10 acres (previously the zoning ordinance only required a 5 acre lot size). Additionally the Hyde Park Planning Commission has just begun looking at creating an "Overlay District" within the Conservation District to address the visual impacts of ridgeline development. We will monitor this process and keep you informed.

GRRSP Operations 2004

At a meeting with Susan Bulmer, the Parks Regional Manager, and three of the summer ranger staff at the GRRSP on Wednesday, May 12th the following topics were discussed:

1. For 2004, reservations for the GRRSP will be available only through the GRRSP office in Morrisville (802-888-1349) from now until the end of the season in October.
2. The DFPR is planning on installing a land phone line providing direct phone and data service to the Park. From the Dam Road where the line is overhead, the proposed phone line would be buried to a pedestal located in the vicinity of a temporary contact station. This service would greatly improve reservation and general communications at GRRSP.
3. A temporary contact station will be installed on the east side of the access road opposite the southerly (uphill) access to the middle parking lot. The 6' x 8' wooden contact station will be used as a place for Rangers to greet visitors, collect camping fees and issue camping permits, dispense Leave No Trace and other Park use information. A level gravel bed will be installed prior to the contact station being moved to the site.
4. The ranger trailer will be parked at the same location it was for the 2003 season, just below the middle parking lot on the west side of the access road.
5. As in 2003, there will be four Park staff working at GRRSP in the 2004 season including Jason Kelly who has been the Park Ranger for the last two seasons.
6. It is anticipated that the three 2 way radios the FGRR purchased for the GRRSP in 2002 will continue to be of great assistance this season, facilitating communication within the park.
7. Staff rangers will continue to install pit toilets until all campsites are served.
8. Staff rangers will be cleaning up the hazardous trees that have been felled by foresters hired by the DFPR for this specific task. The wood will be left at individual campsites for use at no charge by campers.
9. The DFPR would like to remind Park visitors that Hyde Park town ordinances require that

all dogs be on a lease and be in control by its owner. The staff is also expecting dog owners to scoop poop for human health and aesthetic reasons. Please check with Park Staff for disposal options.

ADA Trail and Campsites

As reported in the Spring 2004 Newsletter, a decision was made to wait until the Long Range Management Plan for the GRRSP has been completed and approved before proceeding with the construction of the ADA trail from the lower parking area to the shoreline. With the construction of the ADA access trail and two accessible campsites now scheduled for the 2005 operating season, it is the plan of the FGRR to assist the DFPR with final planning and permitting phases. We also are planning to work with Professor John Wrazen from Johnson State College on interpretative information about the flora and fauna along the length of the ADA trail.

Prevent the spread of milfoil - no more free rides

Eurasian Water milfoil is a feathery submerged aquatic plant that is a highly invasive exotic nuisance that has already spread to many Vermont lakes. The Green River Reservoir was surveyed during the summer of 2003 with state water quality experts and a few Friends volunteers. No Eurasian Water milfoil was found, which is the good news. The bad news is that Eurasian Water milfoil is currently in many lakes in the region including Lake Eligo in Hardwick and Lake Elmore.

Two advantages we have at Green River to halt the establishment of Eurasian Water milfoil is that we only have one access point for boats to enter the lake giving us a better chance at educating the public about prevention techniques and the fact that only electrically powered motor boats are allowed. Thus no trailers enter the water nor do we have motor propellers both of which are a common source of invasive exotic introductions. The Friends will be constructing a larger sign at the lower gate to instruct boaters on precautionary techniques. We have also included in this newsletter a handy "quick reference" card for your use.

New Breeding Bird Research Project at GRRSP

In the rough, ravine-cut forest in the area of the Park above Schofield Pond, the Friends assisted in laying out a Vermont Forest Bird Monitoring study site, thanks to an agreement between Vermont Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation, the Friends, and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. The area will be surveyed for the first time this summer, and we are looking for volunteers to assist with the survey.

The Forest Bird Monitoring Program (FBMP) is a research program initiated by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science in 1989, as an effort to track long term changes in the population of interior forest songbirds, following the protocol originally established in Ontario. Now VINS has 29 sites in "low elevation" forest (below 2500 feet). Each site consists of a series of five sampling points spaced 200 to 300 meters apart. During the height of the breeding season in June, the route is surveyed twice, at dates a week to ten days apart, by an experienced birder who counts all the birds seen and heard at each site. This is a long-term project that ideally will

continue over many years, tracking the health of the forest and the songbirds that inhabit it. Our Neotropical migrants are particularly sensitive to forest fragmentation, and threatened by habitat loss in their Central and South American wintering grounds. The GRR survey site will add valuable baseline data to this study. If you are willing to help with the survey, contact Sally Laughlin at 644-5651 or laughlin@sover.net.

GRRSP Map Project

The FGRR, in cooperation with DFPR, is publishing a beautiful edition of a map of the reservoir and the surrounding land. An artist has been commissioned to paint an illustration of the reservoir upon which data layers of information including campsite and day use locations, the local trail networks, and text describing basic history of the reservoir, rules and regulations and how to enjoy the GRRSP will be superimposed on the 11" x 17" two sided map. The maps will be for sale at the Park contact station and the Park office in Morrisville for \$1.00 each with the proceeds remaining at the GRRSP to enhance the DFPR's management of the Park. A copy of the 2004 FGRR brochure will be included with each map distributed to help us grow our membership. **A copy of the map along with a FGRR decal will be sent free to those renewing their FGRR memberships by July 1, 2004.**

Water Quality at Green River Reservoir

Green River Reservoir has been a participant in the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Lay Monitoring program since 1997 when FGRR volunteers did the monitoring. In recent years, the staff at GRRSP has taken over this duty with Jason Kelly and Victor Veve during this important work in 2003.

Under the lay monitoring program three measurements of water quality are taken at designated sampling stations 8 or 9 times during the summer recreational season. These measurements include: (1) the transparency of the water, (2) the total phosphorus concentration and (3) the chlorophyll-a concentration.

The transparency of the water is measured by means of observations made using a Secchi disk. Some Vermont lakes, including Green River Reservoir, have a naturally "tea" colored water due to the presence of dissolved organic acids. Total phosphorus is a measure of the key nutrient for plant and algal growth. Phosphorus entering the Reservoir comes from both natural causes and as a result of human activity within the Reservoir's drainage basin. Chlorophyll-a is the photosynthetic green pigment contained in all types of algae and other green plants. The amount of chlorophyll-a present in a water sample is directly proportional to the amount of algae living in the water. Lay Monitoring samples taken in 2003, as they have since begun in 1997, indicates that compared to other Vermont lakes and reservoirs, Green River Reservoir has the following characteristics:

- Water clarity – moderate
- Algal population density – low
- Nutrient enrichment – moderate

Friends of Green River Reservoir Annual Meeting – You’re invited

The FGRR annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 14th at the David and Pat Hallquist residence on the East side of the reservoir (802-888-6877) beginning at 6:30 PM.

Agenda

1. Report of the Board of Directors
2. Treasurer’s report
3. Election of Board members
4. Other business

Directions:

If coming from the Hyde Park Area (Trombley Hill Road) continue going straight instead of making a left up the Green River Reservoir Access Road. If coming from the Wolcott/Morrisville area (Garfield Road), make a right and do not go up the Green River Access Road. From the Access Road, continue 2.5 miles (you will pass the access road to Zach Woods Pond) and you will see a pond on your right (Clear Pond), immediately after the pond (.1 mile), take a left turn into a driveway with “Private”, “Keep Out” signs (Stevens Lane). Stay to your left behind the garage/shop. Follow this driveway to the end (.7miles). Stay straight when you see the woodshed, and stay straight when you see the “Singer” sign. Hallquist residence is at the very end. Call 888-6877 if lost. If your planning on attending, and we hope you do, please call 888-6877 so that we have enough seats, food and beverages.

“Could your town benefit from a Conservation Commission?”

There is a meeting on June 3, 2004 at the Tegu Building in downtown Morrisville at the Lamoille County Planning Commission office starting at 7:00 PM to discuss this topic. The meeting is open to all and is sponsored by the Vermont Alliance of Conservation Commissions. For more information contact the Lamoille County Planning Commission at 888-4548.



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Winter 2004 Newsletter

FGRR Board Vacancy (*Milford Cushman*)

The Board of the Friends of Green River Reservoir is recruiting applications from interested members to fill a vacancy. We are a hard working board with an ambitious GRR view-shed protection project in the works and the mission "to serve as a source of information and as a voice for those who value the Green River reservoir and would like to protect its important wildlife habitat, its wilderness-like character..." We meet monthly throughout the year at Board members homes for dinner and a 2 – 2.5 hour meeting. Additional time varies with the season and projects that the FGRR commit to. Please contact Milford Cushman, President (888-3362) for additional information and for the schedule of upcoming Board meetings.

GRRSP Operations 2003 with Notes for Operations 2004 (*Milford Cushman*)

Susan Bulmer, the Parks Regional Manager, attended the January 14th FGRR board meeting where we primarily reviewed the 2003 operational season with and discussed the upcoming 2004 operational season. The following is a summary of the topics discussed:

1. The new reservation system for 2003 had problems with inconsistent reservation data for the GRRSP resulting in some campsites being double booked. This affected visitor experience and added to Park Staff duties. For 2004, reservations for the GRRSP will be available only through the GRRSP office in Morrisville beginning in April and running through the end of the season in October. The Park office phone number is 802-888-1349.
2. Camping attendance (4947 people) was down 27% from 2002 (6810 people). It was easier for the Park staff to manage the Park's day use, camping and parking limits.
3. Many visitors commented positively on the change of the trailer color and position, both of which were designed to reduce visual impact.
4. There were four Park staff who worked the 2003 season. With the Park budget remaining uncut for the 2004 season, there will again be 4 staff. The DFPR has requested that the FGRR consider sponsoring an Intern Ranger as we did in 2000 and 2001 to allow greater flexibility in Ranger scheduling and coverage at the Park.
5. The three 2 way radios the FGRR purchased for the GRRSP in 2002 continued to be of great assistance this past season, aiding in communication within the park and between the park office and the park at the reservoir.

6. The DFPR is investigating the possibility of installing a land phone line providing direct phone and data service to the Park. From the Dam Road where the line is overhead, the proposed phone line would be buried to a pedestal located in the vicinity of the ranger trailer. This service would improve reservation and emergency communications. The FGRR will assist in the planning phase of this proposal.
7. Please see article by Jason Kelly the 2003 Park Ranger (immediately below) for additional information.

The 2003 Operational Season Update (*Jason Kelly – Park Ranger 2003*)

The 2003 operating season at Green River Reservoir State Park was another busy and fun filled time. The use of the park was up a little from last year during the week, and down a little on the weekends. After speaking with many of the regulars, they say that they no longer visit the park on the weekends. Instead they will come during the week when use is lower. This seemed to be a trend for a lot of people. The use from local rental companies was down this season also.

Generally, there were not as many projects to be completed in 2003 as in previous seasons because the park is now starting to become established. One project that many of the regular visitors noticed this past season was that the trailer was painted to a less obvious color. The transformation was from an ugly white to a more natural green color. Many folks wondered if it was a different trailer because of the color change. The goal of the reducing the visual impact of the ranger station was achieved.

Additional projects completed during the season are as follows: two tent platforms on site #25 were constructed as a trial to consolidate camper impact, additional sapling trees were planted around the parking lot built in 2002 (middle parking area), the compost at the pit toilets was stirred to aerate and encourage biological decay, the gate on the eastern shore access was repaired, and a forester was employed to mark hazardous trees at tent sites so staff could subsequently cut the trees down. The firewood will remain at these campsites for use by visitors. Finally, an aquatic plant survey was completed by the State.

In looking towards the 2004 operational season, the following is a brief list of projects on the to do list: clean-up all the hazardous trees cut in the fall of 2003, complete the installation of pit toilets at all sites, monitor the status of nuisance aquatic plants, continue with the water quality monitoring program, increase the educational component of the ranger/visitor relationship, monitor the rehabilitation of the closed camping sites and identify 2 campsites to be configured for compliance with ADA accessibility.

The staff at Green River Reservoir State Park is excited about the up coming season and we look forward to greeting you when you visit the park. Have a good winter!

Update on the status of the Green River Reservoir State Park Long Range Management Plan (*Bill Bartlett*)

The adoption of a Long Range Management Plan for Green River Reservoir has been a key

objective of the FGRR. The public advisory process, in which several members of the FGRR were active participants, ended over two years ago. Since then the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has been working on a variety of related, often technical aspects related to the development of a science-based long range management plan (LRMP). Susan Bulmer, the District Parks Manager responsible for the Green River Reservoir State Park, is managing the development and writing of this critical plan.

When Susan met recently with the FGRR Board on January 14, 2004, she reported that all field work related to the LRMP has been completed, there is a mostly complete first draft of the Plan and that most of the related maps are complete. Susan brought copies of several of these maps to the FGRR Board meeting. At that meeting Susan indicated that she expects to have a complete first draft the LRMP completed by April 2004 when she needs to focus her attention on tasks related to the 2004 recreational season. The tentative schedule for the review and adoption of the GRRSP LRMP is as follows:

- (1) Completion of the first draft of the proposed LRMP - March/ April 2004
- (2) Preview proposed LRMP with GRRSP Planning Advisory Group - May 2004;
- (3) Public notice of proposed LRMP - June/ July 2004;
- (4) Public hearing(s) on proposed LRMP - August/ September 2004;
- (5) DFPR evaluates public comment on proposed LRMP - October/ November 2004;
- (6) LRMP reviewed by District and State Stewardship Teams, Commissioner of DFPR - November/ December 2004;
- (7) Final GRRSP LRMP adopted by Secretary ANR by 12/25/04.

The key word here is “tentative”. Susan Bulmer has been very clear that while this is not a guaranteed schedule, she and the DFPR are committed to completing the LRMP in 2004. The FGRR have offered all possible assistance.

Once the LRMP is available for public review and comment and once there is a definite schedule to public review and comment on this Plan, we will provide details to all FGRR members. Stay tuned.

Mergansers of Green River Reservoir (*Sally Laughlin*)

The Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) is another signature bird of GRR, next only to the loon as the symbol of the place. This merganser is also a species of the northern evergreen forest, and cold, deep, clear lakes. One of the great delights of summer canoeing is to come on a mother merganser leading her brood, as they swim in a long, snakelike line along the shores. Females usually have 8 to 12 young, but they are quite willing to baby-sit for each other, and I have seen lines of over 30 young swimming behind one female. When the ducklings are small, the inlet between the island and the mainland, across the reservoir from the access point (which to me is “Merganser Inlet”) is their usual haunt. The water is relatively shallow there, and safe for the youngsters, with quiet water for learning to swim and for making it easy for mother to spot potential predators (large fish and snapping turtles). The Inlet is also a good place for fishing lessons. One

morning right after dawn we watched a group of half grown young under the guidance of the senior female form a semicircle, and drive a school of fish towards shore, with much diving and flapping as the teenagers learned the skill of chasing fish down underwater.

A fish-eating diving duck, the Common Merganser is distinctive and easy to identify, and the largest of the three merganser species that occur in Vermont. The male has a long, serrated (the better to hold on to those fish), red beak, a white body, black back, and green head. Although his head usually looks sleek and rounded, he does have feathers he can raise into a crest, on the rare occasions that he chooses to. The female is a grayish brown, white-breasted duck with a crested, reddish head. Both have a slight salmon-colored tint on their breasts. Mergs can sink slowly into the water like submarines, or do a distinctive curving-forward plunge dive, as they set off in underwater pursuit of minnows or somewhat larger fish (they also eat frogs, salamanders, and insects). The female usually nests in a hollow tree or nest box, leaving the newly hatched young with a formidable challenge shortly after they hatch, when they must leap down and follow mother to the water and their first meal of minnows. Sometimes, with a cavity not available, a female will nest on the ground under tangles of evergreen boughs, where the nest is in far greater danger of predation. They so much prefer cavities that they will attempt to nest in chimneys!

In the winters, Common Mergs will stay as far north as open water in rivers permit, and are often to be seen resting on the ice of the Lamoille, beside open water. They move south, preferring fresh water but also occurring along the coast. If someone asks you how to tell a merganser from a loon, point out that loons are much larger, very vocal, and the male and female look alike. Both species can carry young on their backs, but loons have only one or two young, with both mother and father in attendance. The female mergansers alone care for their broods, which usually number from eight on up.

In these cold days, both humans and mergansers are doubtless looking forward to the warm summer days on and in the waters of Green River!

Blueberry Island Restoration (*Chuck Mitchell*)

This is a brief summary at the end of the second years efforts by the Friends to restore back to natural conditions this highly impacted past boating destination located just a ten-minute paddle from the launch. After initial assessments it was decided to take a passive jump-start approach and let nature do most of the hard work. Three strategies were adopted and have been completed.

1. Post the site with signs and close off its use as a landing location.
2. Use native grass seed and plugs (small plant with roots) to get vegetation started.
3. Supplement existing woody vegetation with additional bare root plantings.

The plantings from the first year were a mixed success. The direct seeding faired poorly while the plugs survived very well. Two hundred additional plugs were planted this past season with assistance from students at Sterling College. This site has the soil texture of your kids sand box with a few boulders thrown in. Success is measured in small increments on fragile habitats such as this.

In the following years we will take more of a monitoring role as to the recovering health of Blueberry Island.

ADA Trail and Campsites (*Milford Cushman*)

At a meeting held at the Department of Forest Parks and Recreation conference room in Waterbury, Vermont on Friday, January 9, 2004 the decision was made to wait until the Long Range Management Plan for the GRRSP has been completed and approved before proceeding with the construction of the ADA trail to the shoreline. Representing the FGRR were Bill Bartlett and Milford Cushman and for the State of Vermont were Jonathan Wood (Commissioner), Susan Bulmer (Parks Regional Manager), John Roman (Facilities Engineer), John Guilmette (Facilities Engineer), Meghan Purvey (Attorney), and Dave Segi (Department of Aging and Disabilities). With the construction of the ADA access trail and two accessible campsites now scheduled for the 2005 operating season, it is the plan of the FGRR to assist the DFPR with final planning and permitting phases.

Green River Reservoir Plant Survey (*Bill Bartlett*)

At the request of the Friends of Green River Reservoir, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation conducted the first ever-comprehensive survey of the plant communities present at Green River Reservoir in July 2003. Ann Bove, McKalyn Garrity and Amy Rheault did this survey. Ann, who compiled the report, is an aquatic biologist working for the Lakes and Ponds Section of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

The purpose of the survey was to create baseline data both to guide future management decisions and insure that there are currently no aquatic nuisance species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, present in Green River Reservoir. No Eurasian watermilfoil or any other aquatic nuisance species were found in Green River Reservoir as a result of this survey.

The aquatic vegetation survey identified the following plant species in Green River Reservoir and on its immediate shoreline: *Brasenia schreberi*, *Callitriche* (sp.), *Chara* (sp.), *Dulichium arundinaceum*, *Eleocharis acicularis*, *Iris* (sp.), *Isoetes* (sp.), *Najas flexilis*, *Nitella* (sp.), *Nuphar variegata*, *Polygonum amphibium*, *Potamogeton amplifolius*, *Potamogeton ephihydrus*, *Potamogeton natans*, *Potamogeton pusillus*, *Potamogeton spirillus*, *Potamogeton* (sp.), *Sagittaria latifolia*, *Sparganium* (sp.) and *Typha* (sp.).

Order Form for Friends of Green River Reservoir T-shirts and hats *(Terri Gregory)*

We have an ample supply of our hats and t-shirts for sale again this year. The two-tone baseball cap (one size fits most) is 100% cotton with "Friends of the Green River Reservoir" embroidered on the front of the cap. The t-shirt (SM, MED, LG, XLG, XXLG) has our special logo silk-screened on the front, is 100% cotton and offered in a medium green color with the logo in black. Here is the order form:

Name _____

Address _____

Number of T-shirts (\$20. each + \$5. shipping) _____

Sizes _____

Number of Hats (\$20. each + \$3. shipping) _____

Amount enclosed for T-shirts and/or Hats _____

Please mail this order form, with your payment to:

Friends of Green River Reservoir
P. O. Box 359
Hyde Park, VT 05655



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fgrr@earthlink.net

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Update: Long Range Management Plan for the Green River Reservoir State Park

In this issue we have two updates on the Long Range Management Plan (LRMP) – one on the plan and its process and another on the Board's evaluation of the provisions of the plan.

LRMP: The Plan and its Process

The Long Range Management Plan will be the guiding document for how the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (DFPR) will manage the Green River Reservoir State Park (GRRSP) for the foreseeable future. This Plan, once completed and formally proposed, will be subject to public review and comment (more on this later) prior to being formally adopted by the Commissioner of the DFPR and finally the Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

The LRMP once adopted will inform the Department's "Annual Stewardship Plan" for GRRSP. The idea is that management decisions made annually by the Department will be guided by a long-term vision of what they are seeking to accomplish, in this case at GRRSP. Thus a well-written LRMP is very important to the long-term management of GRRSP and is one of the FGRR Board's highest priorities.

The development of the LRMP began in 1999 with the formation of a GRRSP "Planning Advisory Group," consisting of 20 or so people representing all known users of GRRSP from recreational users, sports persons, local residents and the wood products industry. The GRRSP Planning Advisory Group, on which

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Email Distribution of the FGRR Newsletter

With this issue, we will start sending this newsletter to members via email. We hope that you will prefer to receive the newsletter through your email vs. receiving a printed copy. This would allow us to both reduce our use of natural resources, but also allow us to use the FGRR funds directly on serving the mission of the FGRR. We will continue to offer paper copies to all FGRR members who prefer them. If you did not also receive this newsletter by email it means we don't have your current email address (update us at fgrr@earthlink.net).

If prefer to receive only the email version of the newsletter, please send us an email requesting the newsletter by "email only" at fgrr@earthlink.net

Call to Action: ATV Collaborative Draft

There is a new threat to the GRRSP's peace and quiet. On October 27th, FGRR board member Dave Hallenquist attended the Governor's ATV Hearing on a government sponsored study on granting access to state lands for use by All Terrain Vehicles (ATV). The ATV Collaborative draft proposal, dated 9/30/04 is seeking the public's comment on its recommendations to allow ATV use on state lands including but not limited to State Parks and State Forestlands. This group is accepting public comment until 11/10/04.

Modeled after VAST, this group intends to create a series of connected trails for year round use by ATV's. While the GRRSP has some easements and restrictions against ATV's, the group is hoping to get around the restrictions by claiming they get in the way of the public corridor goals and the public's use of public lands.

Action Alert: Before Nov. 10, 2004 Make your voice heard on this proposal!

Comments can be sent to:

Micheal Bernhardt, c/o Comm. of Motor Vehicles,
120 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05603.

Send comments by email to: bette.bailey@state.vt.us

Please make your voice heard. Meanwhile, the Board will monitor this proposal.

(continued from page 1: LRMP: The Plan and its Process)

the FGRR was represented, met more or less monthly until 2001. Also starting in 1999 various departments within the Agency of Natural Resources, of which DFRP is one, began conducting inventories and field studies to evaluate the 5000+ acres within the GRRSP. The studies and evaluations included wildlife habitat, wetlands, timber production capabilities, an inventory of trails and logging roads and much more. The commitment was to develop a LRMP that, to the greatest extent possible, reconciles the recommendations for the Planning Advisory Group with the natural resource values of the GRRSP.

In August of this year the DFPR, after several years of effort, produced a first draft, a rough draft if you will, of the LRMP. This draft plan is over 70 pages long and includes numerous maps. In addition, there is a several hundred page long set of Appendices dealing with: Legal and Policy Constraints, Ecological Assessment, Recreational Assessment, Visual Assessment and Timber Assessment.

As promised in 2001 the rough draft of the LRMP was made available for informal review and comment by the original Planning Advisory Group at a meeting in Morrisville in September of 2004. The FGRR were well represented at this meeting and we offered extensive and detailed written comments on the rough draft LRMP. In general, our comments seem to have been well received.

At this point, the next step is for the DFPR to evaluate all the comments it got from the GRRSP Planning Advisory Group and prepare a proposed LRMP for formal public review and comment. Currently we anticipate that the proposed LRMP will be available for public review and comment in late fall or early winter and there will be a public hearing, probably in the Morrisville area, as early as December of 2004 but perhaps as late as February of 2005. At the request of the FGRR the Department has agreed to post the proposed LRMP when it's available on its website. We'll let you know when this happens.

If you would like e-mail notice of when the LRMP is available for public comment please send a request to fgrr@earthlink.net. Otherwise members will be notified by regular mail as soon as the LRMP is available.

The FGRR Board intends to continue to be actively involved in this process and encourages all members to do the same. See the article below on our take on the rough draft LRMP reviewed this past September.

Evaluation of the rough draft Long Range Management Plan by the FGRR Board

In general we feel that, to date, the DFPR has done a very good job with the LRMP. The Department has been responsive to the recommendations of the Planning Advisory Group and open to suggested clarifications and refinements. They and other departments in the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources have done an impressive job of inventorying the natural and cultural resources at GRRSP.

The detailed comments offered by the FGRR on the rough draft LRMP are mostly focused on making the Plan more explicit, internally consistent and detailed. In general we feel the DFPR has the right approach and the right goal for the management of this unique property. Included is a copy of the cover letter we sent to the Department along with our detailed comments.

September 30, 2004

*Susan Bulmer
Regional Parks Manager
5 Perry St., Suite 20
Barre, VT 05641*

Re: FGRR Preliminary Comments on draft LRMP for GRRSP

Dear Susan,

First of all on behalf of the Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc., I'd like to again express our sincere appreciation for the hard work that you and many others in the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the Agency of Natural Resources have done in developing the draft Long Range Management Plan for the Green River Reservoir State Park. We believe that the draft plan is generally consistent with the discussions and advisory recommendations made by the Public Planning Advisory Group.

(continued next page)

(cover letter continued)

We strongly encourage the Department to proceed with the formal public review and adoption of this plan by the end of the 2004 calendar year. In that regard we request notice as soon as possible when the Department has a date for a public hearing and when the proposed Long range Management Plan will be on the Department's website and the URL address.

While we are generally pleased with the tenor and content of the draft Long Range Management Plan, we respectfully suggest a number of clarifications and changes which are attached. Please let me know if there are any questions regarding our comments or if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

*Milford Cushman
President
Friends of the Green River Reservoir*

While we would be happy to make a copy of those detailed comments available upon request, they may be difficult to fully understand without a copy of the draft LRMP to which the comments are referenced. Nevertheless, anyone with an interest in having more information on this topic is encouraged to contact Bill Bartlett at 802-888-5591 or pairfarmbb@aol.com.

Update: Barry Singer

After a long delay, the Washington Superior Court in August of 2004 ruled that Barry Singer owed the State of Vermont a total of \$62,500 in punitive damages for cutting trees several years ago on State owned land located between his property and Green River Reservoir. Mr. Singer has appealed that ruling to the Vermont Supreme Court and the State of Vermont has cross-appealed. The key remaining issue is whether the punitive damages to be paid by Mr. Singer should be increased (the State's position) or decreased (Mr. Singer's position). A final decision on this matter is anticipated by the spring of 2005. We'll keep you posted on this one!

**Have a comment about the FGRR newsletter?
Email us at fgrr@earthlink.com**

Update: Viewshed Protection Overlay

The Hyde Park Planning Commission is working on a "Green River Reservoir Viewshed Protection Overlay District". Discussions started in September with the interim plan to be forwarded to the Selectboard shortly. The Selectboard will hopefully take it up at their December meeting.

According to the Planning Commission, the purpose of the Overlay district is to protect the wilderness-like character of the Green River State Park. In order to accomplish this goal the Overlay district will try to minimize the visual effects of development on the hillsides overlooking the reservoir.

As currently drafted, the only permitted uses in the district will be agriculture and forestry. Conditional uses, meaning they will have to be approved on a case by case basis, include single family residences, seasonal camps, and outdoor recreation.

Impact on the viewshed of the reservoir would be minimized by requirements such as shielding of buildings with trees, minimizing clearing of wooded areas, requiring exterior lights to be shielded, and the picking of exterior colors which help buildings blend into the background.

This zoning Overlay district, if adopted, could make a significant difference in the future enjoyment of the reservoir by keeping the views from the water looking as they do today.

Value of Experience

History: Arlo Sterner



The construction of the GRR damn was completed in October 1947. In this series of articles we hope to give our readers a better understanding of the creation and

evolution of the GRR through the eyes of those who were part of it. For this newsletter, we spoke with Arlo Sterner.

One of the most magical things about the GRRSP is that when you're paddling around the 653 acres of water, you're surrounded by more than 5,000 acres of native forestland. It's

through the management of that forest that Arlo Sterner began his long relationship with the land of the GRRSP. Born in 1926, Arlo worked as a forester for the State of Vermont before he became the Lamoille County Forester in 1952, a position he held for 36 years.

In the early 1900s, the village of Garfield was alive and bustling with its own school, a post office, general store and five sawmills, all surrounded by working farms. We asked Arlo how it was that Morrisville Water & Light (MW&L) had been able to amass so many acres and build a reservoir without opposition. Arlo pointed out that by 1936, when MW&L commenced acquiring land to create its hydro power project, Garfield's fortunes had already declined. The last few remaining farms, which were only marginally productive, were alas happy to sell their land. Thus it was that an area containing a few farm structures and a couple of small lakes that vanished, little by little over a period of two years as the reservoir filled with water.

Arlo's real connection with this land began with his role as forester. Forestry was always integral to the management of the reservoir: to manage the reservoir, MW&L had to control the surrounding watershed which meant owning a lot of forest land, from which they in turn sought to earn revenues by logging timber. Arlo's memory is that the initially logging operations on the land were not as successful as they might have been – many different loggers were involved, they didn't always take the "right" trees and they often left a bit of a mess. In the course of his efforts to introduce more responsible forestry management to the area, Arlo got himself appointed to the Board of MW&L in the late 1960s. In that capacity, he brought some order to things by ensuring first of all that only designated trees were cut. Eventually, he arranged for the area to be logged by a single crew of loggers to better manage the quality of the work.

Because of his connection to the land, in 1970 the Board of MW&L asked Arlo to take on the task of surveying the land it had acquired, some 5000 acres. Arlo agreed. As his days were fully occupied by his forestry job, however, Arlo did the survey work during his spare time – after hours and on weekends. Using just simple tools – a 100-foot steel tape

and a hand-held compass – Arlo set out with his son to survey the 19.1-mile boundary line. He started in June, finished in November, and was paid \$500. This was the first comprehensive survey of what is now the GRRSP.

Not only did Arlo work on the land, he played there, too. He recalls that when he canoed on the reservoir in the early 1970s his was almost always the only boat. It wasn't until the early 1980s that he started to see more signs of human activity – other boats, used campsites and discarded plastic cups. At the same time, the radical change in the habitat of the area (essentially the creation of a huge wetland) led to a large increase in wildlife. For example, according to Arlo, there were few moose in the area prior to the existence of the reservoir. And thanks to Arlo's fellow-forester friend, Warren Drown, who first brought loon rafts to the Reservoir in the early 1980s to encourage nesting, loons are now well established at the reservoir.

At 78, Arlo continues to support the GRR, not least by sharing his encyclopedic knowledge and experience with those now managing the land. Perhaps he did not know when he started that he would have such an important impact on the land here, but he surely has. When we reflect on the myriad circumstances and actions that led to the creation of this magical place, it becomes clear how crucial are the efforts of individuals like Arlo, sustained over many decades – indeed a lifetime. Many thanks.

Report: State Park Usage in 2004



The ranger this past season at Green River Reservoir State Park was Jason Kelley. He has had an extensive amount of experience in the state park system, as he worked at Elmore, Burton Island, and Little River. After this season he will have worked for the state parks for nine years.

The park season of 2004 went very well, and possibly better than years past, due to no vandalism. Some staff from past years felt that the amount of people was higher this year than in past years. The amount of day use this season was down. We speculate that this was due to a lot of rain. The newest parking lot that

we did receive in 2002 did reduce the time that the park was full. The amount of parking that is at the reservoir now is the carrying capacity of the park.

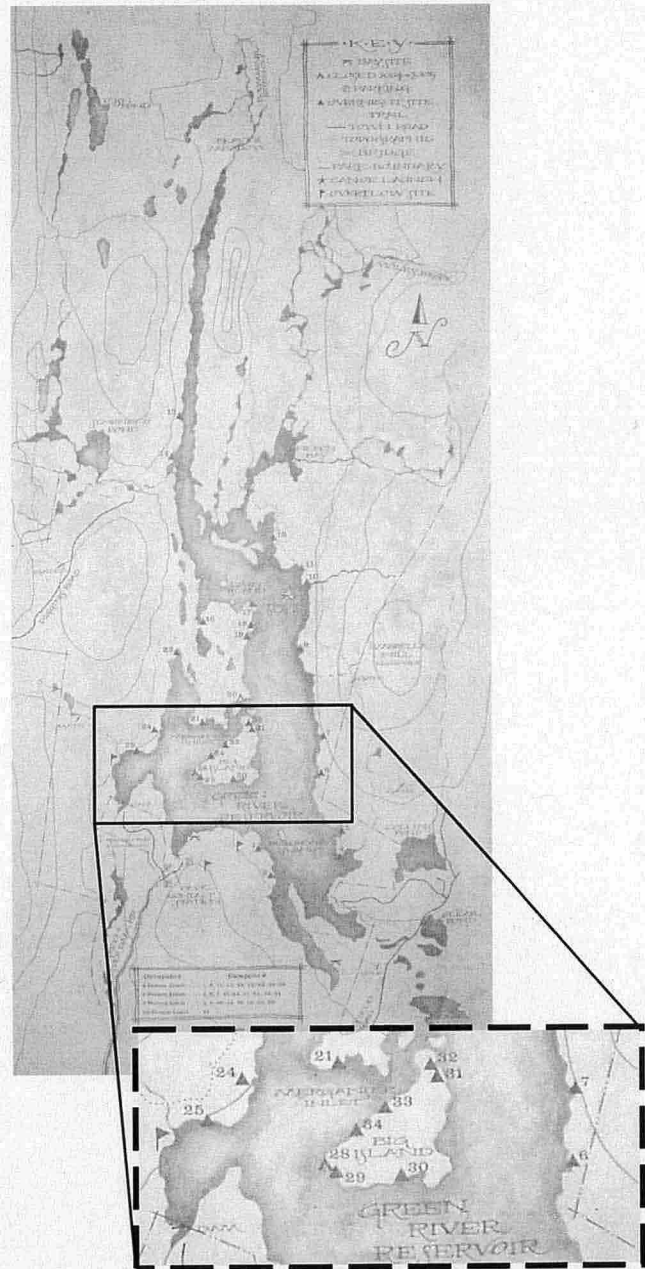
This season the staff worked very hard on digging holes for the new pit toilets. There are now toilets at all most all of the sites. We ended up digging 20 holes. This was all done by hand, with a shovel and rock bar. Most of the holes took us about two hours to dig. We are all very happy to see that we have no other holes to dig for a long time to come. We also received some new natural enzymes to place in each toilet. This has to be done once a week in every toilet. The enzymes are all natural and they work at decomposing the material about 1,000 times faster, than the natural enzymes that are in the toilet.

Also, at the end of last season, we did the very first hazardous tree removal of all the tent sites. We ended up with about 120 trees. The staff of 2, worked on removing theses at the very end of the season. We ended up having the State foresters come out this spring and aide in bucking up all the trees. This allowed for the project to be completed in one day.

A new addition to our park was the map produced by the Friends of Green River Reservoir. This map allowed for the customer to receive a higher quality map, along with many rules and regulations included on it. The map was handed out to park visitors for a donation, which would go directly to the park, for use on goods that may be needed.

Year	VT residents	Out of State	Total
2002	3607	1114	4721
2003	3358	1574	4932
2004	4294	1548	5842

Above is a chart showing the number of campers for the past three years. It shows that there is a large spike of in state campers. It also shows a greater number of campers for this season. *(Jason Kelley)*



This map published by" FGRR in cooperation with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. It is available for purchase through the FGRR (see page 6)

Friends of the Green River Reservoir: Our Mission

To serve as a source of information and as a voice for those who value the Green River Reservoir and would like to protect its important wildlife habitat, its wilderness-like character and the variety of its historical recreational uses as an important part of Lamoille County and Vermont's heritage for current and future generations.

Friends of the Green River Reservoir Merchandise

We have an ample supply of our hats and t-shirts again this year.

The two-tone baseball cap (one size fits most) is 100% cotton with "Friends of the Green River Reservoir" embroidered on the front of the cap.

The t-shirt has our special logo silk-screened on the front, is 100% cotton and offered in a medium green color with the logo in black (sizes available: SM, MED, LG, XLG, XXLG).

Also we have waterproof maps of GRRSP, like the one shown on page 5 of this newsletter.

Name _____

Address _____

Number of waterproof maps (\$4 each + \$1 shipping) _____

Number of T-shirts (\$20. each + \$5. shipping) _____

T-Shirt Sizes (SM, MED, LG, XLG, XXLG) _____

Number of Hats (\$20. each + \$3. shipping) _____

Amount enclosed for T-shirts and/or Hats _____

(Please make checks out to: Friends of the Green Reservoir, Inc.)

Mail the above order form to:

Friends of Green River Reservoir Inc.
P. O. Box 359
Hyde Park, VT
05655



Friends of Green River Reservoir Inc.

P. O. Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655

fgr@earthlink.net

Board of Directors: Milford Cushman, President (888-3362), Sally Laughlin, Vice President (644-5651), Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365), Dave Hallquist (888-6877), Chuck Mitchell (888-5441), Paul Moody (888-4908)

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Update: GRR Long Range Management Plan

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has done an excellent job in producing the final draft of the LRMP which protects the wilderness-like character of Green River Reservoir State Park.

Susan Bulmer, Parks Regional Manager, managed an excellent and open process, utilizing a Public Planning Advisory Group (PPAG) which held 16 meetings between October 1999 and October 2004, and had representation from a wide range of users. The Friends of Green River Reservoir were active in that process, both as individuals and as a group. Surprisingly, considering the inclusiveness of the process, the final meeting for public comment on March 10, 2005 brought out some people opposed to maintaining the wild character of the reservoir, and in favor of opening the park up with no restrictions. We assume that the overwhelming support for the plan voiced that evening and the comments sent prior to the April 28 deadline adequately express the widespread support for the plan..

Thanks to our members who took time to write, here are some wonderful quotes we received:

The use of any natural resource will always depend on finding a balance between those who want the freedom to use the resource freely and those who want to protect the resource from overuse. I and my family support the Long Range Management Plan to preserve the wilderness-like character of the Green River Reservoir as the best way to strike that balance.

(continues on page 3)

Annual Membership Renewal Time

Thank you for your generous support last year.

FGRR Memberships run from July 1 to June 30

Please renew now. We need your support.

Your 2005 renewal form is included on page 6

Update: ATV Collaborative Draft Final Report

The All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) collaborative has issued its final report. The ATV collaborative was convened on December 22, 2004 by Governor Jim Douglas at the request of a number of sporting groups, with the most visible being VASA (Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association – vtvasa.org).

VASA believes that they have a right to use public lands and there are not enough places for ATV riders in Vermont and are looking to open up a state-wide trail system, similar to the VAST trails. VASA's arguments in support of this trail system include; A legal trail system would help control illegal ATV use; ATV riders will be able to effectively police each other each other through the registration,

(continues on page 3)

Update: Viewshed Protection Overlay

Since December 2004 the FGRR have been working with the Hyde Park Planning Commission (HPPC) and with interested GRR viewshed landowners to find common ground regarding the protection of the viewshed at the GRR.

On February 16, 2004, Paul Moody and Milford Cushman presented pictorial images of the west ridge line of the GRR to the HPPC and community members showing several potential development scenarios. These scenarios show the west ridge of the GRR as it is now, the same view with 10 new homes placed in clear cut building sites and the same view with 10 new homes placed in building sites where sufficient existing trees had been left to break up the façade of the buildings.

(continues on page 2)

(continued from page 1: Viewshed Protection Overlay)

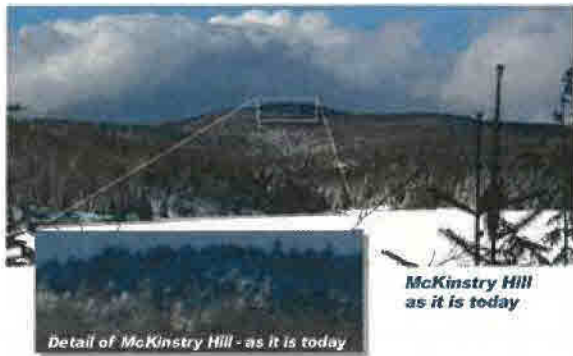
We believe that this presentation changed the nature and direction of the discussions regarding viewshed protection because most folks agreed that the protected development scenario was by far the most acceptable.

At this February 16, 2005 meeting, the HPPC authorized Bud LaClair (representing GRR landowners) and Bill Bartlett (representing the FGRR) to meet and draft an outline of common viewshed protection goals. This accomplished, the working group of GRR landowners and FGRR has been expanded and there have been regular meetings every several weeks to advance the discussions.

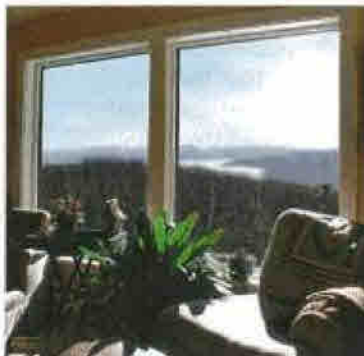
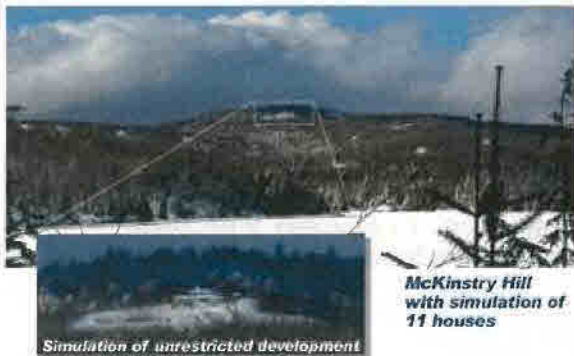
Our fourth meeting was held to discuss possible Viewshed regulations on April 18th. At that meeting Mike Miller of the Lamoille County Regional Planning Commission, who is serving as a technical advisor to the Hyde Park Planning Commission, attended to help everyone better understand the meaning and intent of the possible viewshed regulatory and guidance language that has been drafted to date.

On April 18th we reviewed both a draft prepared by Mike Miller based on an outline of guiding principals for any such regulations that had been developed jointly by participating

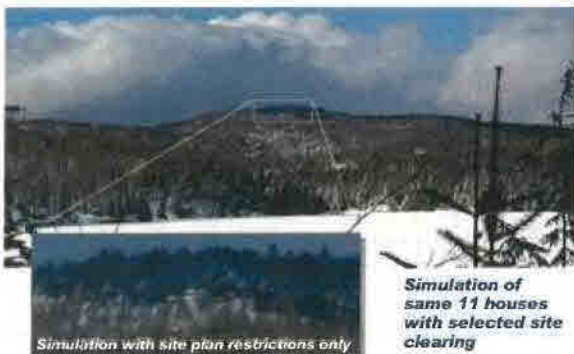
(continues on page 3)



Shown here smaller than was presented to landowners and HPPC, are the 3 photo-illustrations of McKinstry Hill as seen from shore near the boat launch with a simulated interior view.



The middle illustration, using pictures of houses taken from Trombley Hill that were super-imposed, and scaled to proper size, shows the impact of 11 houses on several parcels with no development restrictions



The bottom illustration shows how selective site clearing (leaving stands of trees to obscure houses – but still provide views of the reservoir) can make most of the houses disappear from the causal viewer.

(continued from page 2: Viewshed Protection Overlay)

landowners and the Friends in March as well as a draft of some ideas prepared by some landowners.

The discussion on April 18th was cordial and we think helpful to all concerned in terms of both understanding our respective positions and concerns as well as developing a better understanding of process by which such regulations, if adopted, would be administered. We did not reach full agreement and nobody has committed to anything other than taking the following steps:

1. *To have Mike merge portions of both drafts and our discussion on April 18th into a new draft(#3) for further discussion by landowners and the FGRR in May.*
2. *To have Mike draft the administrative provisions associated with any Viewshed Regulations so that in May we are looking at a more complete draft.*
3. *To schedule a meeting (with ample notice to landowners and others) on a weekend to enable as many landowners as possible to participate in order to better understand what being discussed and to offer their feedback and comments.*
4. *To schedule the May meeting as a joint meeting of the landowners and Friends to promote constructive dialog.*

Mike Miller will continue to work with a small working group of landowners (Joe Alfieri and Nick Manosh) and the Friends (Milford Cushman and Bill Bartlett) to be sure the next discussion draft #3 was prepared by April 27th and mailed to all landowners by May 1st. This draft #3 will be reviewed at a meeting on Sunday, May 15th from 1 to 4 PM at the Hyde Park Town offices. The results of that meeting will be reported to the Hyde Park Planning Commission at their meeting on May 18th.

For more information on this issue, call Bill (888-5591) or Milford (888-3362).



(continued from page 1: ATV Collaborative Final Report)

licensing and formal reporting; trail planning will ensure protections of sensitive areas; and Vermont can benefit from the increase in tourism that will result from the trail system..

The hearings throughout the state were widely attended and dominated by ATV enthusiasts. 95% of those who spoke out were in favor of opening up a state-wide trail system. From the beginning, VASA did a good job of lobbying the governor and rallying supporters. The original goals and plans that were written by VASA were unchanged as a result of the public process and ended up in the final report (which can be found on the DMV website at www.aot.state.vt.us/dmv).

The report includes 24 recommendations to “develop a long-term sustainable trail system based on statewide recreational objectives that enhances recreation opportunities for Vermonters.” The state believes that opening up this trail system is in the interest of most Vermont residents, and, through good planning and enforcement, the environmental damage can be minimized. Page 8 of the final report captures the essence of the views of the collaborative and the administration; “Trails allow people access to open-air recreation within a reasonable distance of their home, whether it is pedestrian animal, mechanical, or motorized.”

Although the reservoir is protected by a conservation easement that specifically ban the use of ATV’s, the Friends are concerned about illegal ATV’s and know that there is some local pressure to develop a link through the park to connect Hyde Park to Eden . The final report includes a section (on page 13) that asks conservation easement holders to develop a process and criteria for evaluating and deciding what, if any, conserved land will be considered for a trail link for ATV use. The Friends believe the conservation easement is strict enough to prevent this from happening, however will continue to closely monitor any local or state-wide initiatives.

**Have a comment about the FGRR newsletter?
Email us at fgrr@earthlink.com**

(continued from page 1: LRMP: The Plan and its Process)

More quotes in support of the plan...

Since naming the reservoir a state park, there has been a tremendous amount of progress made in improving access to the reservoir and implementing practices for responsible use of the land.

It sounds like the VDFPR has done a very thorough job collecting input from the public over the past 2 years. The draft plan is representative of the best thinking of the VDFPR and the citizens of Vermont who have taken the time to participate in this process.

I believe that preserving the wilderness like character of the GRRSP is in the best interest of all Vermonters. I hope you move forward with the LRMP and do not consider any changes that would weaken the State's commitment to maintaining this little gem for the enjoyment of our generation and for generations to come.

We will keep our members informed as the plan progresses to implementation!

The draft plan is available on-line at:

<http://www.vtfpr.org/lands/greenriver>



The Common Loon's Remarkable Comeback

The Common Loon has made a spectacular comeback in the last 30 years here in Vermont, and has increased in population enough to come off the Vermont Endangered and Threatened Species list! Throughout the years when loons were rare or nonexistent on other Vermont lakes, Green River Reservoir provided a haven for the species. Loons have been located here over all 30 years of the survey. The North American Common Loon population currently appears to be stable or increasing throughout its range in North America with a few exceptions (Eastern Upper Peninsula in Michigan, Lake Umbagog and Lake Winnepausaukee in New Hampshire).

However, the great comeback in Vermont is largely because of the intensive human help, with Vermont Fish and Wildlife working with VINS to providing artificial nesting islands, post and protect nesting sites, and carefully monitor the species.

(continues on the next column)

(continued from previous column: Loon Comeback)

Vermont Fish and Wildlife is developing a post delisting management plan which will provide the loon with a high degree of protection and management. Volunteer groups such as ours may be called on to help with monitoring and posting in the future.

Board of Director Profile: Sally Laughlin

To help our members know more about those working to protect the Green River Reservoir, we offer a profile of one of the FGRR Board of Directors – someone who has been instrumental in promoting natural sciences and protecting its endangered inhabitants.

Sally Laughlin lives in Cambridge, Vermont, on the land her husband Peter Krusch has owned since 1959, which stretches from the Lamoille River to the edge of the ancient Cambridge Pines. Canoeing and camping on Green River is a favorite activity of theirs, along with travel to such places as Vietnam and Bolivia. Sally has known the reservoir since she did the first Vermont Loon Survey in the early 70s.

Sally is Vice Chair of the Vermont Endangered Species Committee, and Chair of the ESC's Scientific Advisory Group on Birds. She directed the first Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas, edited the book *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Vermont* (University Press of New England, 1985), and is currently volunteer coordinator for the Lamoille County Breeding Bird Atlas, as part of VINS second atlas survey. Sally Planned and hosted a monthly Vermont Public Radio Program "Naturally Speaking" for 10 years (1981 to 1991) and was a guest frequently on television and lectures.

Sally received the Franklin Fairbanks Award "to honor contributions to the advancement of the sciences and humanities on behalf of Vermont and its people," in January 1993. She received the Governor's Award: citation for "tireless efforts to sustain the integrity of Vermont's natural world and enrich the lives of Vermonters, young and old," in July 1988

Sally directed the Vermont Institute of Natural Science for 20 years, before marrying Peter and moving north in 1992. She has directed development and alumni relations for Johnson State College since 1994.




Report: State Park Operation in 2005



At the March 17, 2005 FGRR Board meeting Susan Bulmer, the Parks Regional Manager, and Jason Kelly discussed the following operation 2005 topics:

- For 2005, reservations for the GRRSP will be available only through the GRRSP office in Morrisville beginning May 2nd and running through the end of the season in October. The Park office phone number is 802-888-1349.
- The DFPR is planning on installing a land phone line providing direct phone and data service to the Park. From the Dam Road where the line is overhead, the proposed phone line would be buried to a pedestal located in the vicinity of a temporary contact station. This service would greatly improve reservation and general communications to and from the State Park. Park rangers will have a laptop computer to manage reservations from either the Park location or the Morrisville office.
- A temporary contact station is installed on the east side of the access road opposite the southerly (uphill) access to the middle parking lot. The 6' x 8' wooden contact station will be used as a place for Rangers to greet visitors, collect camping fees and issue camping permits, dispense Leave No Trace and other Park use information. A level gravel bed was installed prior to the contact station being moved to the site late last season. Jason Kelly and Milford will be meeting soon to evaluate the structural and aesthetic qualities of the building and proposing a modest work plan for the FGRR to consider assisting with.
- The ranger trailer will be parked at the same location it was for the 2004 season, just below the middle parking lot on the west side of the access road.
- There will be 4 Park staff who will work the 2005 season including Jason Kelly who has been the Park Ranger for the last three seasons.
- It is anticipated that the three 2 way radios the FGRR purchased for the GRRSP in 2002 will continue to be of great assistance, facilitating communication within the park.
- The installation of pit toilets was completed at all but 2 or 3 remote campsites.
- Staff rangers will be cleaning up the hazardous trees that have been felled by foresters hired by the DFPR for this specific task. The wood will be

left at individual campsites for use at no charge by visitors.

- The DFPR would like to remind Park visitors that Hyde Park town ordinances require that all dogs be on a lease and be in control by its owner. The staff is also expecting dog owners to scoop poop for health and aesthetic reasons. Please check with Park Staff for disposal options.
- The construction of the ADA trail and the two ADA campsites is on hold until final adoption of the Lon Range Management Plan.
- Park staff will be planting coniferous trees along the reservoir sides of the middle parking lot to screen the view of cars from the reservoir. This is an ongoing project that will be phased over the next several years. 

Annual Meeting

The FGRR annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 21st at the Campsite #21 (the group campsite) beginning at 6:30 PM. Please call for directions and to inform us if you plan on attending so that we have enough boats, food and beverages. Some of the Board members are planning on camping for the evening and since there is a camping limit of 12 people at the group campsite (#21), please let us know if you'd like to join us for the evening.



Green River Reservoir State Park Map Project

The FGRR in cooperation with DFPR has published a beautiful edition of a map of the reservoir and the surrounding land. An artist was commissioned to paint an illustration of the reservoir upon which data layers of information including campsite and day use locations, the local trail networks, and text describing basic history of the reservoir, rules and regulations and how to enjoy the GRRSP was superimposed on the 11" x 17" two sided map. The maps are for sale at the Park contact station and the Park office in Morrisville for \$1.00 each with the proceeds remaining at the GRRSP to enhance the DFPR's management of the Park. A copy of the 2005 FGRR brochure will be included with each map distributed to help us grow our membership and to promote our mission.



2005 Membership Renewal Form



Thank you for your membership support last year. Your support allowed the FGRR to accomplish all the things described in the newsletters, our brochure, and in the updates we send to you during the year. Memberships Run from July 1 through June 30 each year. Your membership renewal is due at this time. We appreciate your support.

All members will get a copy of the newly published map of Green River Reservoir.

Yes, I will renew at:

↑	Noble Loon	\$1000
↑	Patron	\$500
↑	Associate	\$100
↑	Sustaining	\$50
↑	Supporting	\$25
↑	Basic Membership	\$15
↑	Other	\$_____

I also include a contribution of \$_____

Contributions to the FGRR are tax deductible. FGRR is a 501 (c) (3) organization.

Name _____

Address _____

Friends of Green River Reservoir Merchandise

We have an ample supply of our hats and t-shirts again this year.

- The two-tone baseball cap (one size fits most) is 100% cotton with "Friends of the Green River Reservoir" embroidered on the front of the cap.
- The t-shirt has our special logo silk-screened on the front, is 100% cotton and offered in a medium green color with the logo in black (sizes available: SM, MED, LG, XLG, XXLG).

Number of waterproof maps (\$4 each + \$1 shipping) _____

Number of T-shirts (\$20 each + \$5 shipping) _____

T-Shirt Sizes (SM, MED, LG, XLG, XXLG) _____

Number of Hats (\$20 each + \$3 shipping) _____

Amount enclosed for T-shirts, Hats and/or Maps _____

Please mail your membership renewal, your FGRR merchandise order form, and a check made to: Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc. to:

**Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.
P. O. Box 359
Hyde Park, VT
05655**



Friends of Green River Reservoir Inc.

P. O. Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655

fgrr@earthlink.net

Board of Directors: Milford Cushman, President (888-3362), Sally Laughlin, Vice President (644-5651), Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365), Dave Hallquist (888-6877), Chuck Mitchell (888-5441), Paul Moody (888-4908)

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Viewshed Regulations Adopted!

On November 3, 2005 the Hyde Park Selectboard, after three public hearings, voted to adopt town-zoning regulations creating the Green River Reservoir Viewshed Overlay District. The Viewshed District includes essentially all lands within the GRRSP boundary as well as privately owned lands within the "Viewshed" of the surface or shoreline of Green River Reservoir.

The final version of the Viewshed Regulations are based on work done with participating landowners over the past winter and spring by the FGRR. The draft of Viewshed regulations that emerged from that process was then refined by the Hyde Park Planning Commission and finally adopted by the Selectboard. The adopted Viewshed regulations are designed to be landowner friendly as well as effective in terms of protecting both the Viewshed of Green River Reservoir AND the views and thus property values of private landowners within the Viewshed.

Within the Viewshed District all new development will be required to meet six performance standards designed to minimize visual impact during the period between May 15 and October 31. These standards address: the screening of structures; minimizing the visibility of roads, driveways and utility corridors; and design features to harmonize new development with the landscape. For a copy of the adopted Viewshed Overlay District regulations or more information, contact FGRR at FGRR@earthlink.net

(continues on page 2)

ATV Collaborative Issues Final Report

The Vermont ATV Collaborative has issued its final report: (<http://www.aot.state.vt.us/dmv/documents>), and a number of groups on both sides of the issue are taking action. The report's recommendations allow the state to develop public corridors across state land to allow connection to private trails. The state of Vermont will follow those report recommendations.

At the November FGRR board meeting, Forest and Park commissioner Jonathan Wood mentioned that only one trail is being considered in the state (a short spur to connect trails in Berlin, Vermont), and that there just are not a lot of places where private trails exist on each side of state land.

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Long Range Management Plan nears Adoption

The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (DFP&R) within the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has nearly completed its internal review of the draft Long Range Management Plan for GRRSP. The draft plan was reviewed at a public hearing last March with written comments accepted until the end of April. At that time the FGRR offered comments strongly supporting the proposed Plan in concept, while also suggesting a number of clarifying and editorial changes.

Since last spring the DFP&R and ANR have been evaluating public comments, the vast

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**Have a comment about the FGRR newsletter?
Email us at fgrr@earthlink.net**

(continued from page 1: Viewshed Regulations Adopted!)

While the adoption of the Viewshed Regulations was unanimous this was not an easy decision for the Town of Hyde Park. Many affected landowners provided critical public support for these regulations. However, many landowners remain skeptical of the Viewshed regulations and concerned about how their future development plans may be affected.

Importantly, the motion to adopt the Viewshed Regulations also stipulated that the Hyde Park Select board will meet in September 2006 with the Planning Commission, the Development Review Board (the local body that along with the Zoning Administrator must implement the Viewshed Regulations) and affected landowners to review how these regulations are working after the first building season of implementation. The FGRR support having a review next September.

The FGRR have helped prepare non-regulatory, educational materials that illustrate how the Viewshed Regulations can be complied with to assist permit applicants and will assist Hyde Park in making these materials available at no cost to local taxpayers.

While the FGRR are pleased to see the Town of Hyde Park take a leadership position on protecting the special values of the Green River Reservoir Viewshed, we also recognize that we still have a great deal of work to do to help ensure that these regulations are both effective and user friendly to landowners. 

Recent letter to Hyde Park Select Board (a similar letter was sent to all land owners in the Viewshed District):

November 6, 2005

Hyde Park Select Board
P. O. Box 98
Hyde Park, VT 05655

Dear Hyde Park Select board,

On behalf of the Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc., I am writing in appreciation of your unanimous vote in favor of establishing the Green River Reservoir Viewshed Overlay Protection District.

The Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc. are committed for a period of at least two years to assisting landowners seeking technical or consulting advice on how they might best develop their property and meet the standards of the viewshed overlay district by-laws.

We are also committed for the same time period to working with the Town of Hyde Park by providing color copies of the visual guide (at no cost to taxpayers), by meeting with the Zoning Administrator to assist in answering questions that may arise and by providing an informational workshop with the Hyde Park DRB and to answer questions they may have.

We look forward to meeting with the Town of Hyde Park and Green River Reservoir landowners during the month of September 2006 to review the application and permitting process to date.

Sincerely,

Milford Cushman
President, Friends of the Green River Reservoir, Inc.

Kusserow Property Receives DRB Approval, Adopts Viewshed Regulations

The Kusserow family property at the top of McKinstry Hill is currently under development with permits issued before the recently adopted Viewshed regulations. Highly visible from the reservoir, the FGRR have worked with the Kusserow family to ensure development on their land is consistent with the Viewshed regulations.

At their August 2, 2005 meeting the Hyde Park Development Review Board (DRB) accepted viewshed protection language as conditions of approval for the subdivision the Kusserow Family is planning. The viewshed protection language consists of the same six standards that have been recently approved by the Hyde Park Select Board as bylaws for the Green River Reservoir Viewshed Overlay District (GRRVOD).

The FGRR have worked closely with Sue Kusserow and Darrow Mansfield, their land planner to achieve the viewshed protection interest from all the family members. We are sincerely appreciative of the Kusserow family's commitment towards protection of the viewshed from the Green River Reservoir. The FGRR stands ready to continue assisting the Kusserow family with their development plans to be consistent with the conditions of approval and to provide high property value qualities.

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Companies have been formed to exploit Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use in Vermont as a tourism opportunity. As a result, FGRR and other protection groups are concerned about the extent of illegal usage. We know that ORV's occasionally access the reservoir illegally, and want to let the riders know that his practice will be dealt with effectively. However, due to poor telephone cell signals, and difficulty accessing the area, it is hard to catch the illegal riders.

Two websites have set up ways to track illegal usage. One is Peaceful Roads and Trails in Vermont (www.prtvt.org), and the other is ForestWatch (www.forestwatch.org). We urge our membership to report violators seen using trails around the Green River Reservoir, as well as to document the event on these two sites.


Meanwhile, across the state, ORV enthusiasts have been petitioning towns to allow riders to use public roads. The good news, at this point, is that the towns have been rejecting the requests. Public safety advocates, motorists, and protectors of the environment in the towns are on the same side of the issue.

FGRR will continue to monitor this issue and keep our membership updated on any developments. Meanwhile, we urge you to stay diligent, as well. 



FGRR board at work: *The FGRR Board discussing Viewshed regulation drafts at the monthly meeting held in September 2005. The board holds monthly meetings to discuss and plan FGRR activities.*

(continued from page 1: Long Range Management Plan...)

majority of which was highly favorable to the initially proposed Plan. The Department is now making final revisions but does not expect to make any major changes in their initially proposed management of GRRSP. Based on our discussions with those involved in this review, we expect the Long Range Management Plan to be adopted perhaps by the end of 2005 or in early 2006. More on this when the Plan is actually adopted. 

2005 State Park Ranger Report



The FGRR board worked with Susan Bulmer, the Parks Regional Manager, and Jason Kelly on this report on the 2005 park season:

The 2005 season went well. It was possibly the busiest season since the State purchased the reservoir in 1999. Midweek day use was steady and busier than in years past and we attribute this to great summer weather. In addition to active day use, the park's campsites were full every weekend from the fourth of July to the first of October.

Many of the camp sites where new toilets were installed last year, received new trails and directional signs. The Park staff also finished cutting up the hazard trees and stacked them for camper use. Our observations suggest that the Park's customers enjoyed and appreciated these improvements.


A couple of great improvements can be seen at the boat launch. One is the new split rail fence placed along the edge of the grass on the path near the boat launch. The second is a rock stair case built by staff of the VYCC. The purpose of the VYCC project was to reduce erosion where the trail to the swimming point intersects the boat launch area.

Last year, a used contact station was dropped off at the Park. A slab was poured and preparations were made for improvements to the small structure. This season both the exterior and interior were repainted. Additionally, a plywood floor was installed along with a counter top and shelves to help organize the

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(continued from page 3: 2005 Ranger Report)

interior of the contact station. The costs for materials needed for the renovation were paid for by the FGRR. Finally, a phone line was installed as the plans for the 2006 operating season are to extend the reservation hours making it easier for customers to make reservations.

Jason Kelley returned and completed his fourth season as Park Ranger for Green River Reservoir State Park. Jason had an extensive amount of experience in the state park system starting nine years ago at Elmore, and working at Burton Island, and Little River State Parks before coming to the Green River Reservoir. 

A Brief History of the Green River Reservoir Project

Many visitors to the Green River Reservoir are unaware of the 41 year long effort that was required to create the area we all love so much. This article is based heavily on a 1951 account by Willard Sanders of Morrisville Power and Light (MP&L), and is reusing with permission photos owned and archived by MP&L.

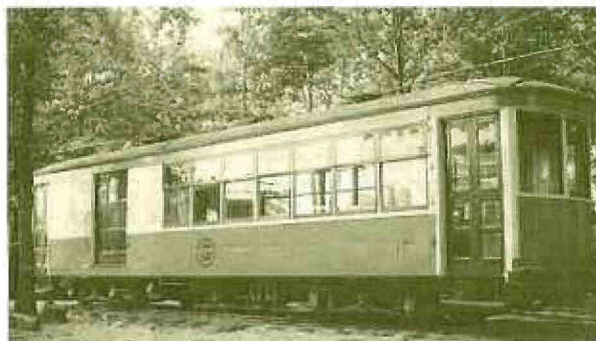


Farnham's Field with Hay Rake. Warran and Sylvia Farnham were born on a farm that is now underwater between the boat landing and the big island. They attended school 2 miles south in Garfield Corner.

The area that is the Green River Reservoir today was largely undeveloped and was lightly populated by a few farms, 5 lumber mills and a number of small ponds. In 1906, there was 'buzz' around creating an electric railway connecting Stowe and Newport, and the Green River was seen as a way to provide electric power for the railway.

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Electric Railway Buzz. Speculation in 1906 around an electric railway between Stowe and Newport started people thinking about using the Green River for electric power generation. The railway was never developed, but the potential for power generation was identified and began a 41 year process to build the reservoir.

Green River, Vermont, later known as Garfield since there was another Green River in southern Vermont, was a thriving small community. You pass this area today just before you turn onto the dam road that leads to the park's boat launch. Garfield had a 2 or 3 story mill with a covered walkway over the then Diggin's road, a post office, church, school, and a blacksmith.



The corner pin from which all GRR measurements were made.

The survey pin was set in 1915 by the Curtis Brothers and is located in a rock near the intersection the Dam and Garfield roads.

The fact that the Garfield mill was owned by "Morrisville Lumber and Power Company" indicates that the area was already seeing the

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passing of lumbering as the use of the natural waterpower in the area, and that soon, electric generation would be a growing part of the business. When the Garfield mill burned around 1910, the company offered to sell all their land and power rights to the Village of Morrisville for \$5000. At that time, this was seen as a waste since a 250 Kilowatt generator had just been installed in Cadys Falls, and no one at that time could imagine the growth of electric power needs.

In 1915, the Curtis brothers from New Jersey wanted to invest in electric power and bought the property and power rights. The Curtis brothers then acquired an additional 175 acres including the gorge that is the current dam site and dam road. This offered a possible dam height 165 feet and could flood the entire Curtis holdings. They also acquired rights to divert water from the green river (the north end of today's reservoir) all the way to the Lamoille River which provided a total vertical drop of 500 feet.



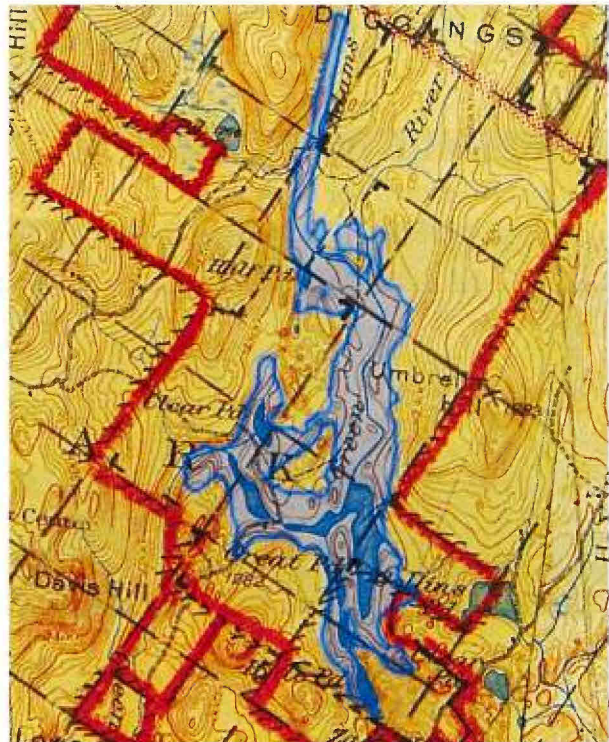
Digging the Dam. One of the first construction tasks was to build a road from Lower Diggin's Road to the dam site, and was started in 1946. The current boat landing and entrance drive to the park were once part of Lower Diggin's road, which is now cut in two by the reservoir.

The records do not indicate why the Curtis brothers didn't continue to pursue the project, and it appears nothing happened until 1926 when they commissioned an Albany, NY


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engineer to begin designing a power project with a total budget for construction at \$200,000. However, in 1928 the Curtis brothers sold all their land to what became the Green Mountain Power Corporation.



Flooded! This overlay map shows where the current reservoir water level floods. As you can see, a number of ponds and part of the Diggins road are submerged.

In 1936 Morrisville wished it had taken A.G. Small up on his land offer as it was now clear that the area could use all the electric power it could find. Morrisville began plans to purchase the land from Green Mountain Power in 1942 for \$125,000. Real work on the reservoir began in 1944 with the topography surveys, followed by dam site clearing. The major clearing and dam construction were started in May of 1946 were completed in November 1947. The reservoir's dam is 360 feet long, 110 feet tall and tapers from 40 feet thick at the base to 8 feet at the top of the spillway. After 41 years of study and conjecture, the Green River Reservoir was completed and at a final cost of \$1.58 million. 



Friends of Green River Reservoir Merchandise

Show your support for the Green River Reservoir with FGRR gear...



- The two-tone baseball cap (one size fits most) is 100% cotton with "Friends of Green River Reservoir" embroidered on the front of the cap.
- The t-shirt has our special logo silk-screened on the front, is 100% cotton and offered in a medium green color with the logo in black. Sizes available: SM, MED, LG, XLG, XXLG.

Order Form:

Waterproof maps (\$4 each + \$1 shipping)	Qty _____ Subtotal for maps _____
T-shirts (\$20 each + \$5 shipping) Sizes: SM, MED, LG, XLG, XXLG	Qty _____ Subtotal for shirts _____ Size(s) _____
Number of Hats (\$20 each + \$3 shipping)	Qty _____ Subtotal for hats _____
Amount enclosed for T-shirts, Hats and/or Maps	Total _____

Address to ship to: _____

Please mail a check made to: **Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.** and mail to:
Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.
 P. O. Box 359
 Hyde Park, VT
 05655