



# PLC OF THE NORTHEAST

FOUNDED IN 1995

# In 1995

A group of loggers  
created the PLC to provide  
**PROFESSIONAL  
LOGGERS**  
a voice in a rapidly  
changing industry.



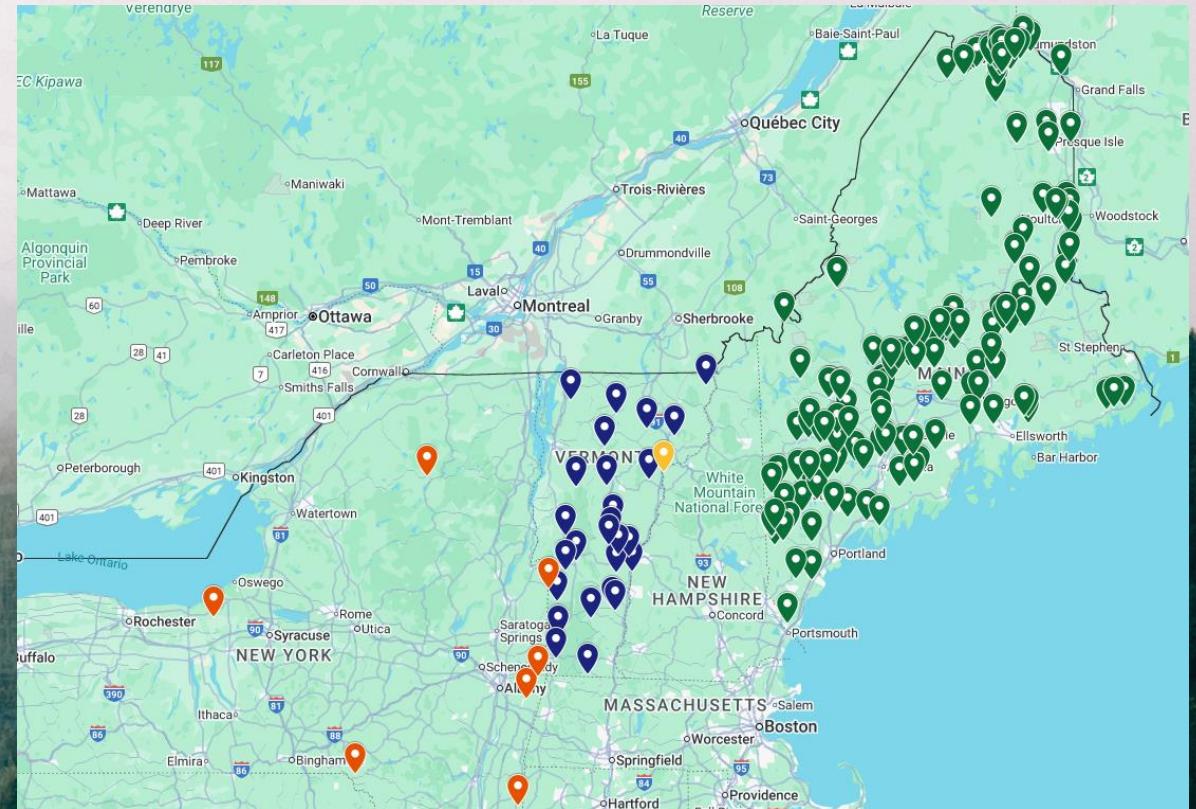


## PLC MISSION

Educate and promote logging as a profession to the public, advocate for logging professionals, cultivate responsible forest management, promote safe working practices and sustain a strong forest products industry. Innovative and creative, the PLC is always developing new ways to overcome obstacles.

# Who is the PLC?

- The **Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast (PLC)** is an educational non-profit giving independent logging contractors and forest truckers a strong, unified voice.
- The PLC is a true “loggers for loggers” organization, focused on **advocacy, safety, quality operations, and business innovation**.
- In October 2023, the PLC expanded beyond Maine to become the **Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast**, and today represents member companies in **Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York**.



# Act 181 Wood Products Manufacturers Report

## ***PLC – Sam Lincoln, Lincoln Farm Timber Harvesting***

- The report contains dense technical information which equates to complexity for applicants
- Act 250 permitting and permit conditions affect logging and forest trucking contractors primarily in three ways:
  - Facilities that loggers and forest truckers deliver forest products to in Vermont are subject to Act 250 permitting and permit conditions – no parity with Agriculture.
  - Logging and forest trucking businesses themselves may operate equipment maintenance shops or accessory activities, including firewood, mulch, wood fuel chips, or sawmill operations that allow for off-season diversification and synergy with their equipment investments and raw material access—activities that may trigger Act 250 permitting.
  - Forest management activities on parcels over 2,500' in elevation that loggers and forest truckers harvest timber on are subject to Act 250 permitting and permit conditions.
  - The draft report acknowledges certain procedural improvements to Act 250 but does not address incentives for investment or equity with agriculture.
- Recommendations focus on clarifying or streamlining but no regulatory reduction or statutory change.
- The report mentions the development of an “Enterprise” category of land use, but no mention is made of LURB drafting new Tier 3 triggers which could further limit development.

# Act 181 Wood Products Manufacturers Report

## ***PLC Recommendations***

*If VT is serious about revitalizing its forest economy, it must move beyond admin. refinements and embrace structural reforms.*

1. **\*Review and pursue update of Act 250 Rule 19 (Rec. #4)** – Current ANR permits can be streamlined and reduce duplicative review. Allow applicants to submit ancillary permits after Act 250 approval.
2. **Use of the Stonybrook precedent to limit permit jurisdiction (Rec. #1)** – Consistent application of the Stonybrook approach, which limits jurisdiction to the actual dvlp. footprint, for predictability.
3. **Support for ombudsperson or permit coordination role (Rec. #8)** - Having a knowledgeable point of contact would help with navigation and local permits.
4. **Proposed changes to Rule 34 (Rec. #5 & 6)** – Proposed amendments to Rule 34 to allow administrative amendments for minor project updates are a positive and necessary step to prevent a full permit amendment.
5. **\*Item J.** - Act 250 permits should not impact routine forestry practices on permitted parcels.
6. **\*No direct link between Act 250 reforms and Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap**
7. **\*Restore clarity and exemptions for log and pulp concentration years (Rec. #10)** - Revisit how Act 250 treats log concentration yards.
8. **\*Extend Act 250 exemptions for logging and forestry, parity with farming (Rec. #9)** - Logging and Forestry should have the parity with farming below 2,500 feet.



**SLoCAMP**  
SUPPORTING LOGGERS TO COMPLY WITH  
ACCEPTABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

# SLoCAMP Pilot Success Highlights



The Supporting Loggers to Comply with Acceptable Management Practices (SLoCAMP) Program is funded via a grant from the State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and is administered by Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast.



# PROJECT TEAM

- **PLC Role:** We are the primary manager of the program, handling marketing, promotion, application intake, and eligibility screening
- **Field Operations:** Our team is responsible for forester scheduling, site inspections, documentation, and all payment processing.
- **Strategic Collaboration:** We maintain weekly technical review meetings with FPR to ensure consistent application and technical assistance.

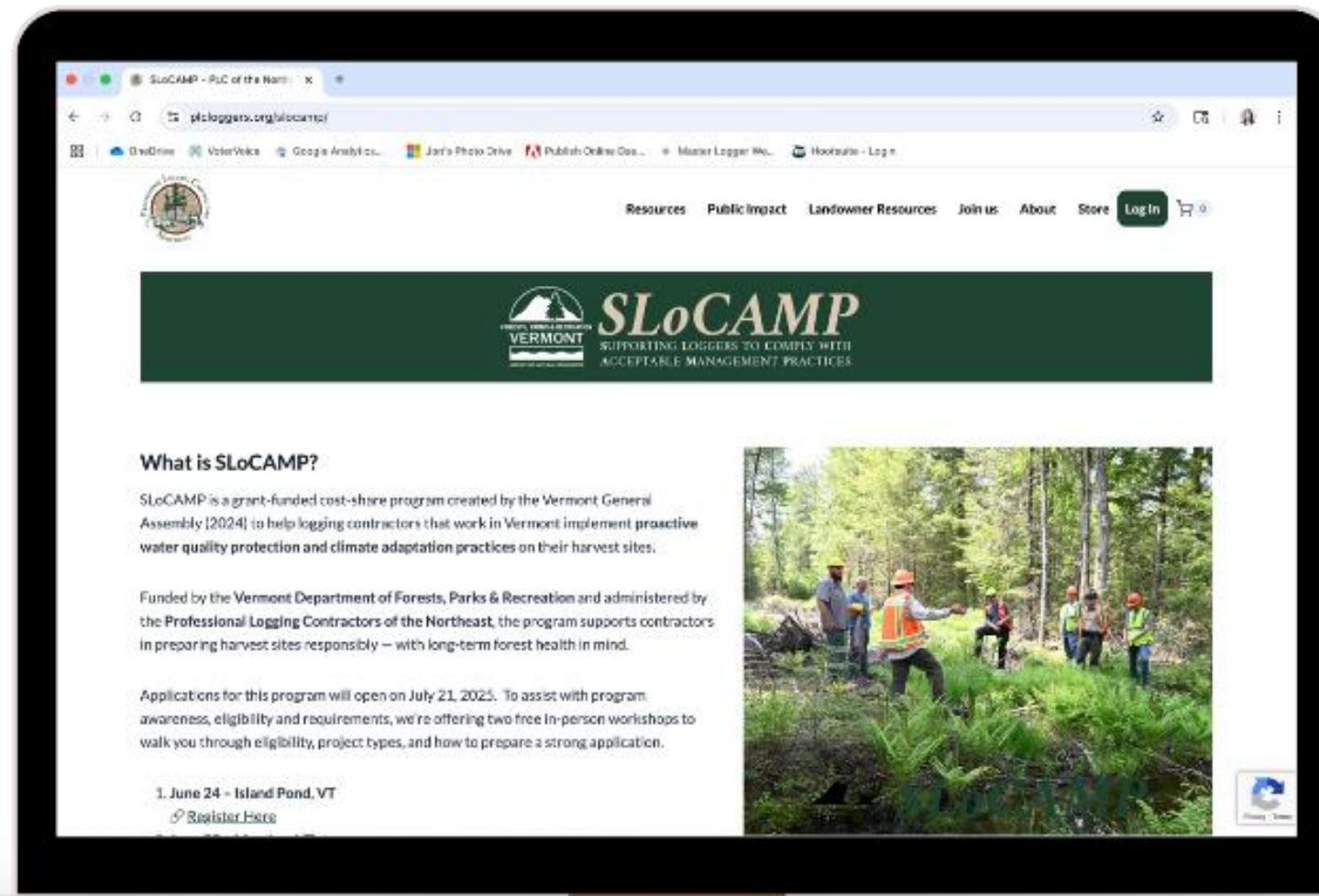


# STATEWIDE AWARENESS

- **Digital Engagement:** Social media generated nearly 70,000 views and 870 link clicks during the program launch.
- **Direct Outreach:** Maintained consistent communication with a dedicated list of approximately 500 contractors.
- **Centralized Resources:** The SLoCAMP landing page acts as a "one-stop hub" for applications and practice standards, drawing hundreds of visits.



# [www.plcloggers.org/slocamp](http://www.plcloggers.org/slocamp)



The image shows a laptop screen displaying the SLoCAMP website. The website has a dark green header with the text "SLoCAMP" in large white letters, "SUPPORTING LOGGERS TO COMPLY WITH ACCEPTABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES" in smaller white letters, and the Vermont state logo. The main content area has a white background. On the left, there is a section titled "What is SLoCAMP?" with text about the program's purpose and funding. On the right, there is a photograph of several people in a forest setting, likely loggers, standing and talking. At the bottom left, there is a call to action for a workshop registration.

What is SLoCAMP?

SLoCAMP is a grant-funded cost-share program created by the Vermont General Assembly (2024) to help logging contractors that work in Vermont implement proactive water quality protection and climate adaptation practices on their harvest sites.

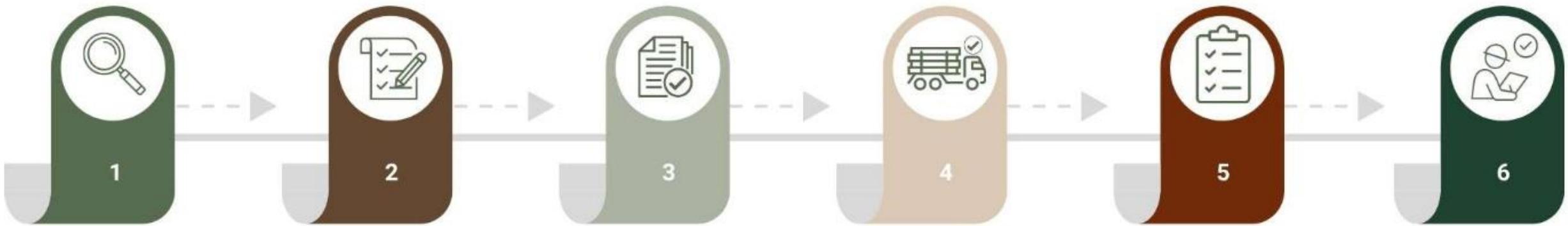
Funded by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation and administered by the Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast, the program supports contractors in preparing harvest sites responsibly – with long-term forest health in mind.

Applications for this program will open on July 21, 2025. To assist with program awareness, eligibility and requirements, we're offering two free in-person workshops to walk you through eligibility, project types, and how to prepare a strong application.

1. June 24 - Island Pond, VT  
[Register Here](#)



# APPLICATION PROCESS



## Explore & Prepare

Learn if this grant is right for you – and how to apply. Check your eligibility, see what's funded, and gather your application materials.

## Submit Application for Review & Approval

Send it online, by email, or mail. Once approved, 75% of the cost is paid before work begins. **Some projects will require a pre-award inspection prior to approval.** Check listing below.

## Sign Agreement

Review and sign the project agreement. The formal agreement outlines terms, conditions, and responsibilities for the approved project. See sample agreement for full details.

## Start your Project

Once agreement is signed, begin your project. Implement approved practices as outlined. Follow SLoCAMP and AMP requirements. **There may be projects that need pre-approval.**

## Finish your Project

All work must be completed by June 30, 2026. Follow guidelines and complete everything on time to receive full funding.

## Site Review & Final Payment

A field inspector will verify your completed work. Once your site passes inspection, you'll receive the remaining 25% of funds.



# STANDARDS BASED REIMBURSEMENT

- **Quality First:** We pay for **installed practices** that meet state standards rather than requiring contractors to track every individual receipt.
- **Rewards Performance:** This system rewards high-quality work in the woods rather than administrative capacity.
- **Environmental Alignment:** The reimbursement structure ensures the actual outcome in the forest matches water-quality goals.

# REAL OUTCOMES

- **Operational Resilience:** The program increases workable days by reducing "wet-weather" shutdowns.
- **Sediment Risk Mitigation:** We achieved tangible protection through hardened approaches, stabilized landings, and compliant stream crossings.
- **Long-Term Stability:** Building roads to higher standards ensures they last, which reduces repeated soil disturbance in the future.





# ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Accountability Win:** Holding 25% of funds until final verification is the primary reason closeout now happens consistently.
- **Forester Oversight:** Pre-award site visits by licensed foresters are required for permanent practices to avoid sensitive area conflicts.
- **Verified Results:** Final payments are only released after a forester confirms the work meets all technical standards.



# CONTRACTOR SATISFACTION

- **100% Satisfaction:** Every participant surveyed stated they would participate in the program again.
- **Financial Feasibility:** Contractors reported that without this funding, the work would not have happened, or would have been significantly reduced.
- **Staff Support:** The highest ratings in evaluations were given to PLC's responsiveness and the practical guidance provided by field foresters.

# Investing in Sustainable Logging: SLoCAMP Program Results

Summary of funding distribution and sustainable practices implemented by Vermont logging contractors.



## Program Results at a Glance



**113 Individual Practices Funded**

Contractors implemented a wide range of improvements to protect water quality.



## Funding Focuses on High-Impact Areas

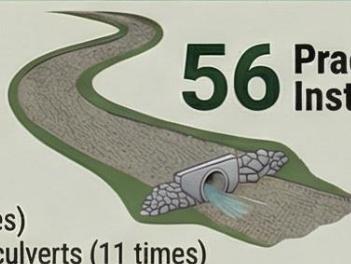
Contractors directed the majority of funds to improving truck road and landing stability.

## Breakdown by Practice Type

### Hardening Truck Roads & Landings (75% of Funds)

**75%**  
of Total Funds Spent

**56 Practices Installed**



Top investments:

- Adding gravel (18 times)
- Installing cross-drain culverts (11 times)

### Temporary Stream Crossings (8% of Funds)

**8%**  
of Total Funds Spent

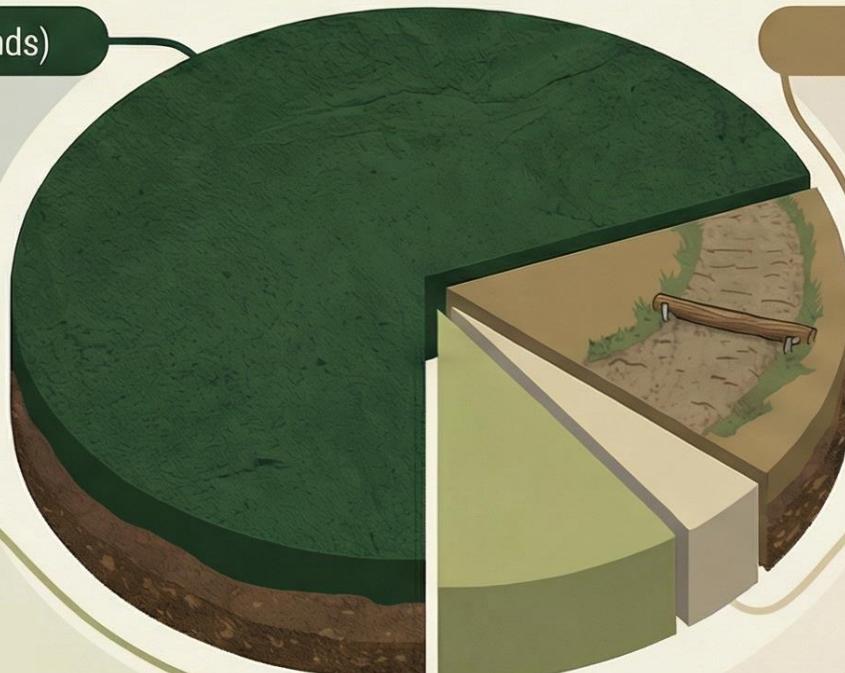
**24 Practices Installed**



Most frequent solutions:

- Temporary wooden skidder bridges (10 times)
- Poled crossings (5 times)

## Allocation of Funds & Practices



### Skid Trail Improvements (13% of Funds)

**13%**  
of Total Funds Spent

**29 Practices Installed**



Popular practices:

- Installing waterbars (14 times)
- Corduroy (6 times)

### Permanent Stream Crossings (4% of Funds)

**4 Practices Installed**  
of Total Funds Spent



Projects included:

- Permanent culverts (3 times)
- One laminated wooden bridge



# LESSONS LEARNED

- **Managing Variability:** Logging is highly sensitive to weather, market shifts, and landowner decisions—factors often outside a contractor's control.
- **Increased Flexibility:** Moving to a **two-year horizon** would allow contractors to line up projects in advance and adjust when conditions shift without losing funding.
- **Operational Sequence:** A multi-year window enables better sequencing of pre-harvest preparation, maintenance, and final closeout.

# LOOKING AHEAD

- **Sustainable Growth:** Pilot success warrants a transition to an ongoing program with stabilized annual funding.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Future phases should refine practice standards and expand forester capacity to meet strong contractor demand.
- **Proactive Resilience:** SLoCAMP helps loggers stay productive while meeting high environmental standards under increasing climate constraints.





# SLoCAMP

SUPPORTING LOGGERS TO COMPLY WITH  
ACCEPTABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

# QUESTIONS?



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# H. 85 An Act relating to the taxation of vehicles used for forestry operations

*On the wall in House Ways & Means - 2025*

- Contains a purchase and use/sales tax and use exemption for log trucks and trailers and associated repair parts.
- Purchase and use tax revenue is collected from all new vehicle/trailer purchases and goes to the Transportation Fund.
- Sales and use tax revenue is collected from the purchase of repair parts and goes to the General Fund.
- The Transportation Fund is significantly strained and likely there is no option for the purchase & use tax exemption in 2026.
- Alternate plan for consideration to assist the industry would be to divide the bill and advance the sales and use exemption which would only pertain to repair parts.
- This would put logging on par with agriculture and fiscal impact would be on the General Fund, not the Transportation Fund.



**STANDING STRONG  
FOR LOGGERS**