FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION
VERMONT
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# SLOCAMP PILOT PROGRAM

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VERMONT

WELCOME

# PURPOSE & LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

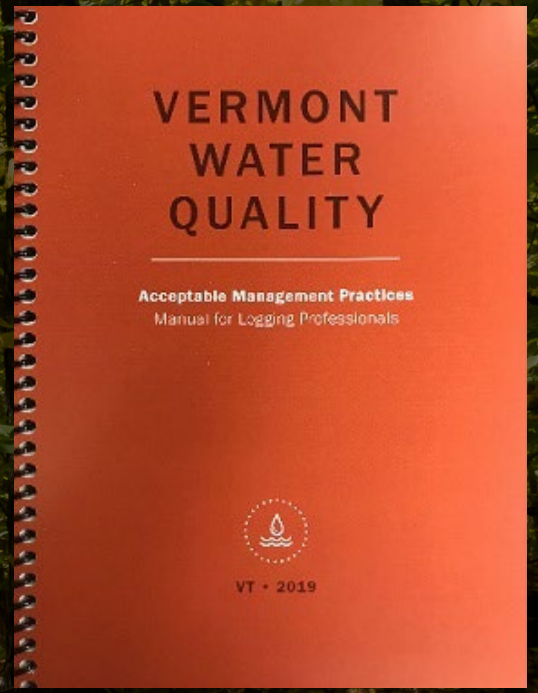
- Climate change-driven weather kept loggers out of woods in ’23, ‘24
- Loggers struggled with rising costs of AMP Compliance
- Legislature took action: Expansion of Water Quality Assistance Program (10 V.S.A. §2622 )
- $1 million provided in FY25 Big Bill for a Pilot Program
- SLoCAMP funds the implementation of proactive water quality protection and climate adaptation practices on harvest sites to ensure AMP compliance and enable forest management activities

# PROGRAM DESIGN & ACCOUNTABILITY

- SLoCAMP administered by FPR Watershed Forestry Team
- Work to stand up program began in summer 2024
- Statewide outreach to ensure awareness (social media, workshops, webinars, and email) and get input on program design

# PROGRAM DESIGN & ACCOUNTABILITY

- FPR structured SLoCAMP to provide funding for:
  - Labor associated with installing, maintaining, and removing practices; and
  - Materials or practices used for forest access roads, landings, stream crossings, culverts, and sediment control.
- FPR developed standardized practice sheets and inspection protocols
  - Based on the existing AMPs, with added components to ensure practices are durable and flood resilient



# PROGRAM DESIGN & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Practices designed to be installed before the job, maintained during job, and closed out properly
- Practices targeted to highest areas of need:
  - High erosion risk areas
  - Practices with significant benefits
  - Incentivize measures w/ high cost of implementation
- Most practices require a cost share of 10% (except permanent water crossings @ 50%)
- More complex practices will require pre-award site visits by a licensed forester

# PRACTICES SUPPORTED

- Truck road and landing hardening

# PRACTICES SUPPORTED

- Skid trail improvements

# PRACTICES SUPPORTED

- Temporary and permanent stream crossings

# SERVICE PROVIDER SELECTION

- FPR determined that the rapid startup and implementation of this pilot program exceeded existing staff capacity and that a qualified service provider was needed to lead program implementation under FPR oversight.
- FPR issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to competitively select a service provider in October 2024.
- FPR awarded the contract to the Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast at the end of January 2025

# SLOCAMP STARTUP

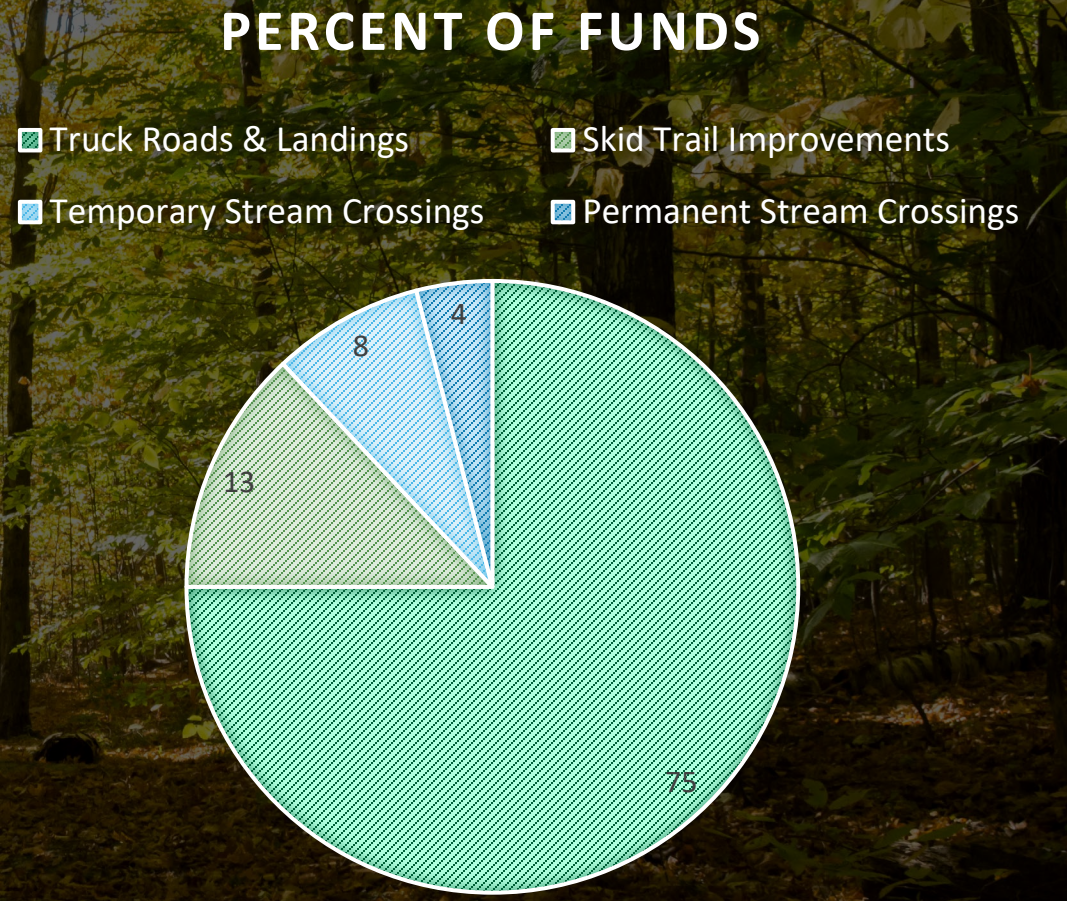
- Identification of Key Staff
- Submission of Critical Startup Deliverables
  - Application, Flow Chart, Review Criteria
  - Eligibility Criteria
- Funding Agreement and Application Review Criteria
- Marketing Plan
- Logger Training
- Program Launch in July 2025

# WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO DATE?

- 33 applications were submitted between July & December
- 29 projects were deemed eligible by review committee
- Eligible projects focus on stabilizing access roads, the areas with the greatest potential to reduce erosion, while also investing in targeted trail and stream-crossing improvements
- Funds prioritize access infrastructure and preventing sediment delivery and discharge during logging operations

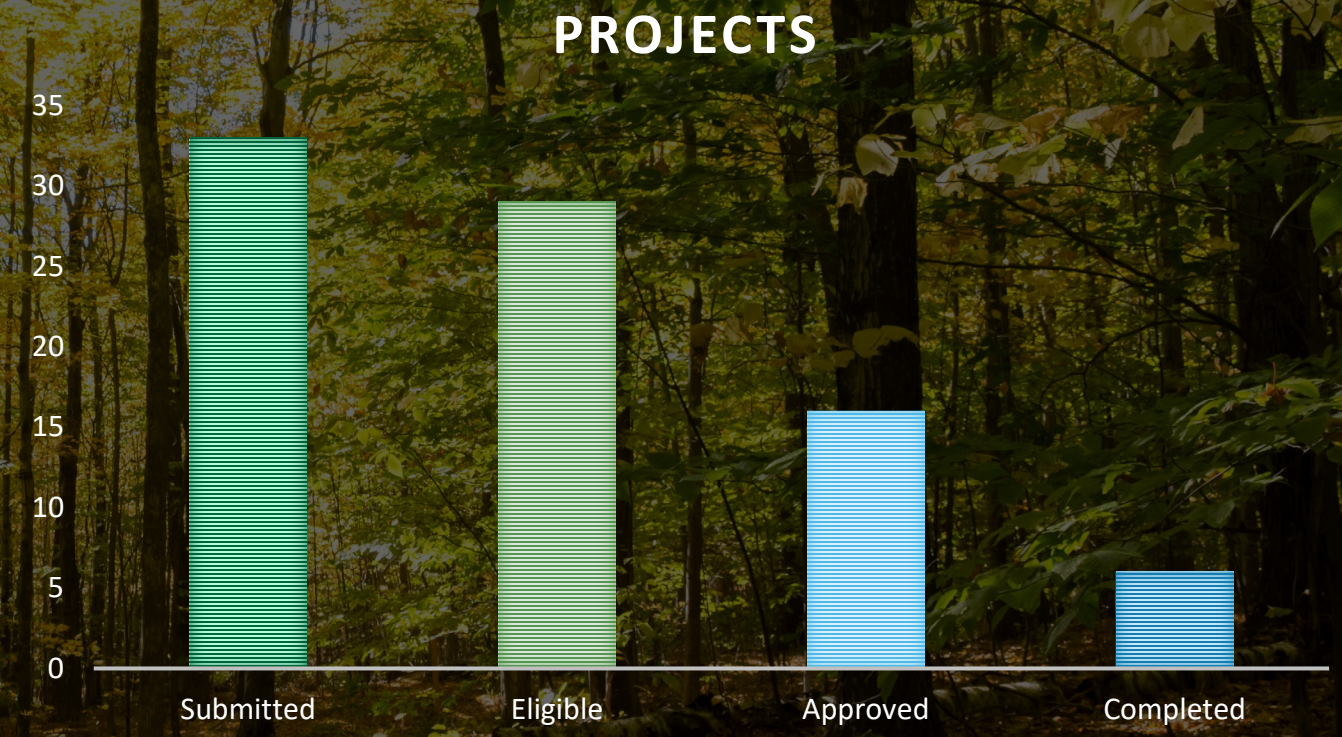
# FUNDING DISTRIBUTION BY PRACTICE

- Hardening Truck Roads and Landings (75% of funds, 56 components)
- Skid Trail Improvements (13% of funds, 29 components)
- Stream Crossings (12% of funds, 28 components, mostly temporary)



# PROGRAM UPTAKE & USE OF FUNDS

- $376,291 allocated of $700,000 available for logger payments
- Average Funding per Approved/Eligible Application: $12,976
- Across all approved projects, a total of 113 individual practices have been funded.



# NEXT STEPS

- FPR anticipates that remaining unallocated SLoCAMP funds will be awarded to logging contractors by the end of the calendar year
- No cost extension to grant award needed, likely to end of year
- ***Quality Assurance***: Practices will be inspected in accordance with requirements, including random sampling of at least 25% of projects by PLC staff to ensure state standards are being met
- Once all funding has been used, PLC will submit a final report summarizing funding use, practice implementation, water quality outcomes, successes, challenges, and logger feedback
- PLC and FPR will document recommendations for pilot program improvement

# PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Early participant evaluations of SLoCAMP indicate positive feedback

- *"Online application process was fast and simple, much easier than other cost-share programs."*
- *"Application was well laid out, and the requirements were easy to follow."*
- *"The site visit w/ the forester helped me understand what was expected."*

# PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Early participant evaluations of SLoCAMP indicate positive feedback

- *“Everything moved along quickly. I was kept up to date the whole time.”*
- *“SLoCAMP funding allowed us to do it right—not just the minimum.”*

# OBSERVED OUTCOMES

- Practices implemented to date have improved drainage, stabilized roads, and protected streams, demonstrating measurable water-quality and climate-resilience benefits
- Practices meet or exceed AMP requirements
- Logging contractors report that SLoCAMP enabled enhanced practices that meet or exceed AMP standards
- Prompted site visits and technical assistance with loggers who often would not have had interactions with FPR

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Measurable water quality benefits
- Supports climate resilience and industry stability
- Strong demand indicates unmet need for support w/ AMPs
- Loggers are committed to AMP compliance, but costs are significant
- Contractors recommend a longer planning horizon (two-years) for future phases to accommodate weather and market variability.
- Demand for SLoCAMP support was high even in a drought year
- FPR recommends consideration of continued or annual funding for SLoCAMP