

# NH Envirothon Forest Roots & Resiliency Webinar

## Role-Play Identities

Government worker 1 – Federal  
Government worker 2 – State Representative  
Government worker 3 - Local/municipal town official  
Non-government organization (NGO) worker  
Industry Worker - Private Company  
Community member 1 – Environmentalist and hiker  
Community member 2 - Rural Not wanting change  
Community member 3 – Rural undecided town member

### Identity Details

#### Identity #1: Government Member 1 - Federal Forester

**Motive:** As the federal government representative, you set the precedent and many of the funding for opportunities across the country. You have a lot of power but must represent all states.

**Values:**

- Advocate for policies that promote forest resiliency in all good candidate states, including New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, California, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, New York, Georgia, etc.
- Equity is important to you. Environmental considerations are also important to you, but you must find the best environmental compromise for all states. This is hard because state climates, weather patterns, forest types, and forest stressors vary throughout the country.

**Who do you frequently work with / feel favorable about:**

- Anyone who understands forest threats, assets, and management practices, including the state government, foresters, community members, etc.

**Your own possible capabilities and forest information:**

- “New Hampshire boasts a total area of 9,304 square miles, which equates to 5,954,560 acres. Some of that space is covered by 1,300 lakes or ponds and more than three dozen rivers stretching out for 41,800 miles. **The U.S. federal government is the largest landowner in New Hampshire and owns 805,472 acres.**” [Source](#) and more information.
- 82% of NH is forested. [Source](#) and more information.
- Skills include- overseeing forest land, managing budgets, creating plans for forestry projects, and supervising forest and conservation technicians and workers.
- Federal foresters also ensure that forest crew activities comply with government regulations.
- [Federal Land Management Agency](#) partners with several agencies to manage federally owned lands across the U.S. Those agencies are: Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal Governments, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of

Defense, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- Federal incentive programs for NH

[Forest Stewardship Program](#)

[Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#)

[Forest Land Enhancement Program](#)

[Forest Legacy Program](#)

[Landowner Incentive Program](#)

[Wetlands Reserve Program](#)

[Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program](#)

## Identity #2: Government Member 2 – NH State Representative

**Motive:** As an elected state rep and citizen, you want to keep your constituents aware and happy. They know that you are concerned with the NH environment, citizen health, NH nature and beauty, tourism, and business.

**Values:**

- You must equally balance the many state government values including cost, business friendliness, equity, inclusion, and regulatory laws (like zoning and environmental protection laws)

**Who do you frequently work with / feel favorable about:**

- Frequently work with federal and local government and you must equally balance their values and motives along with your own.

**Other Notes:**

- NH is the [second most forested state](#) in the nation with just over 4.7 million acres of forestland.
- NH welcomes more than 14.3 million visitors who generate an average of \$7.3 billion in total spending from [tourism](#).
- State incentive programs

[Property tax](#)

[New Hampshire Fish & Game Small Grants Program](#)

[NH Forest Action Plan](#)

## Identity #3: Government Member 3 – Local/Town Government Officer

**Motive:** Help your town lower its costs, identify and guide long-term natural resource uses and management goals to promote good stewardship of the land, improve wildlife habitats, protect

water resources, maintain a healthy resilient forest, protect or enhance significant natural communities, and maintain recreational trails.

**Values:**

- Cost is one of your biggest considerations because as a small local government you have limited funds.

**Who do you frequently work with / feel favorable about:**

- You have a strong public commitment to significantly enhance town revenue, aesthetics, and recreation.
- You work with both urban and rural individuals in your community and you advocate for both their different needs, wants, and values.

**Your own possible forest needs:**

- Also procure and/or manage forested lands

**Other Notes:**

[Property tax](#)

[New Hampshire Fish & Game Small Grants Program](#)

[NH Forest Action Plan](#)

## Identity #4 - Non-government organization worker 1 - Environmental Conservation & Climate Change worker

**Motive:** Advocate for forest management practices where environmental conservation and climate health are the main priorities.

**Values:**

- You recognize policy creates change and advocate for strong environmental forest management policy.
- You value native species protection for plants, insects, and animals.
- To do your part to mitigate climate change, you advocate for non-living systems too, including clean water, soil health and overall ecosystem health.

**Who do you frequently work with / feel favorable about:**

- You frequently work with both urban and rural community members. You advocate for both their voices, and their different needs, wants and values.
- If a community member wants forest changes, part of your job is to educate them about different forest environmental considerations including the pros and cons.
- Another part of your job is to work with local government to serve their environmental needs.

**Other Notes:**

- Not in favor of forest companies who timber without the environment in mind.
- State Incentive programs

[New Hampshire Tree Farm Program](#)

[Forest trust: New England Forestry Foundation](#)

[Statewide forest trust: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests](#)  
[Monadnock Conservancy](#)  
[Land Protection Program / Supersanctuary](#), Harris Center

## Identity #5: Industry Worker – Private Forest Company

**Motive:** You are interested in growing your company – both in capital and name. You are fully licensed and insured and have been in business for 10 years.

**Values:**

- Making a good living and increasing recognition.
- Maintaining your standards.

**Who do you frequently work with / feel favorable about:**

- You have experience developing strategies on land management that include healthy tree growth while protecting water, wildlife, and access.
- You enjoy working with home and property owners and consider yourself a good communicator.

**Other Notes:**

- You want to be appreciated by local community members in both urban and rural areas.
- You appeal and market to their values, such as having a competitive (affordable) cost, being trustworthy, safe, etc.

## Identity #6 – Community Member 1 – Homeowner, Environmentalist, Hiker

**Motive:** Environmental protection and NH's recreation and beauty are priorities for you.

**Values:**

- Cares about local native species biodiversity and conservation
- Homeowner who is open to change and development if done responsibly, but who also loves the rural nature of the town and its town forested trails.

**Who do you frequently work with / feel favorable about:**

- As a homeowner who pays property taxes, you want to keep costs reasonable.
- In favor of keeping the town's forests and their hiking trails.
- You don't like the idea of cutting down trees.
- You are unsure of the state's goals and regulations.

## Identity #7: Community Member 2 - Rural Homeowner Wanting more access to town forests

**Motive:** You want to snowmobile on more trails in the town forest.

**Values:**

- As a lifelong resident in rural New Hampshire, you want to keep using the land like your relatives have always done.
- You pay taxes and want to see some use come out of them in your benefit.

***Who do you frequently work with / feel favorable about:***

- You would prefer to see increased access to the forest parcel so it is easier to use.
- You enjoy being outside and traveling a distance when you are out.

**Identity #8: Community Member 3 – Rural Homeowner - Undecided town member**

**Motive:** Uncertain – you are deciding whether the forested area should be heavily timbered so that your taxes lower or are managed so that enough timber is sold to fund regular upkeep without affecting taxes.

**Values:**

- As a lifelong resident in rural New Hampshire, you love the property that you took over from your parents 25 years ago, but it is difficult to keep it up and pay taxes.

***Who do you frequently work with / feel favorable about:***

- As both a homeowner and long-term townie, you have pride in the area
- Change can be difficult for you.