



## Welcome to the “People’s Forest”

The “People’s Forest” is so big, it welcomes thousands of visitors every year. Outdoor enthusiasts come here to enjoy all that the forest has to offer.

The Moosalamoo National Recreation Area , located in Addison and Rutland Counties, covers nearly 20,000 acres of the Green Mountain National Forest. There’s something here for everyone.

I’ve skied on, hiked on, and worked on its 70 miles of trails for more than 40 years. Snowmobilers, mountain bikers, and others share with me an appreciation of being able to go out there for hours on end without ever crossing a road.

We know there’s more to our jewel in the rough than the cool mountain streams, the best wild blueberries in the world, and the great hunting opportunities. Fabulous scenic views framed in solitude and quiet are among the other qualities that attract people to our region.

Twenty-one years ago we formed the Moosalamoo Association, a non-profit organization, to assist the US Forest Service in maintaining the region’s numerous recreational assets and in enhancing the wildlife habitat. The whole thing started when a few of us realized we had no single, good map of the region. We got together with the hikers and the snowmobilers and the skiers and the others using the area, and with the help of what was then new technologies – GPS and GIS, created the first comprehensive trails map of the region. Central Vermont Public Service gave the Association a grant to have copies printed and distributed. An enduring partnership was born!

In 2004, National Geographic Traveler magazine named the Moosalamoo Region one of 12 finalists for the World Legacy Awards for destination stewardship. This honor helped the Moosalamoo Association’s efforts to get Congressional designation for the region as a National Recreation Area in 2006. Former Sen. Jim Jeffords and Sen. Patrick Leahy were instrumental in the passage of the bill.

Today the Association continues its dedication to bringing together specialists in recreation, economic development, tourism, and sustainable resource management. Our organization provides a framework for cooperative activities that conserve natural resources, inform and educate visitors, and enhance recreational experiences.

With trails for a variety of different uses, and lots of other fun things to do in all seasons including bird watching, picnicking, and camping - the positive benefits to our communities from the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area are limitless. Find out for yourself.

Put these dates on your calendar: National Trails Day is June 5 and National Get Outdoors Day is June 12. The Association has a full day of activities planned for June 5. Get details on our website, [www.moosalamoo.org](http://www.moosalamoo.org).

The mission of the Association is to: Collaborate with public entities to plan, manage, and provide stewardship for wildlife habitat conservation and quality public recreation opportunities and facilities, promote responsible recreation participation and environmental awareness through interpretation, education and resource monitoring, demonstrate the unique capabilities of public and private partners working together, and strengthen partnerships at the local level in cooperative projects such as trail construction and maintenance, wildlife habitat improvement, or visual enhancement of roadsides.

Moosalamoo NRA is a 20,000-acre region of public and private land nestled in the Green Mountain National Forest. Moosalamoo's diverse ecosystem is home to a large number of plants and animals. The region is also a marvelous recreation area for wildlife viewing, berry picking, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, picnicking, and camping. Visit [www.moosalamoo.org](http://www.moosalamoo.org) for more information.

*Tony Clark, who owns Blueberry Hill Inn and Ski Touring Center in Goshen, is president of the Moosalamoo Association.*