

## **BioFinder Staff Perspectives:**

- "As someone on the steering committee, helping to coordinate the project, my role was often more of a group facilitator and timing sequencer than a subject-matter expert. I sought to help a working group and the steering committee find common ground and consensus among differing opinions. In this way, BioFinder was much more of a human experience than I would have guessed starting out."

- *Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist, Vermont Fish & Wildlife*

- "I served as the GIS mapping expert on the BioFinder steering committee. My specific role was to create the products that went into the mapping components as specified by the steering committee, perform the spatial analysis, and develop the interactive spatial vision for the steering committee and partners to digest. It was then my responsibility to take the vision and present the datasets into an accessible and intuitive interactive mapping site."

- *Erik Engstrom, GIS Project Supervisor*

- "I am so impressed by the integration of information provided on the new BioFinder. It is a significant step forward in the public display of Vermont's most significant natural areas that contribute to biodiversity and resiliency. My staff use the BioFinder regularly in their planning efforts, and our program plans to provide complementary online watershed quality information in the coming year."

- *Neil Kamman, Program Manager, Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Program, VT DEC*

- BioFinder was the first department-wide initiative that I experienced, and the communications and branding sub teams were remarkable for their collaborative spirit and creative dexterity. BioFinder sets the bar very high for teamwork and quality results."

- *Susan Warner, Director of Public Relations, Vermont Fish & Wildlife*

- "As a representative to the steering committee from the ANR Central Office, it was a great pleasure to work directly with technical staff from all three departments and with scientist and conservation professionals from outside the Agency. A particular focus of my involvement with BioFinder was helping to establish how and if the weighted tiers would inform the land use regulatory process and how developers, conservationists and communities might use BioFinder as a planning tool."

- *Billy Coster, Planner, ANR Office of Planning and Legal Affairs*

- "It was a useful process for us to examine how lakes and ponds fit into the Vermont landscape strictly from the aspect of biological diversity. Additionally, it was a valuable experience to collaborate with other sections of the Agency around a common goal and an important project."

- *Jeremy Deeds, Lakes and Ponds Program, Vermont DEC*

- "I was happy to serve on the steering committee with a great mix of ANR and outside partners. Capitalizing on such a strong partnership and balancing the best available data, BioFinder really highlights the significance of Vermont's forests for maintaining ecological integrity."

- *Michael Snyder, Commissioner of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation*