

## **Association Welcomes National Recreation Area Designation**

The Moosalamoo Association welcomes a new designation for the area that took effect when the President signed the New England Wilderness Act on December 1st. This legislation establishes the 15,857-acre Moosalamoo National Recreation Area (NRA), providing national recognition for this premier recreation destination that includes many hiking trails, mountain bike trails, world class cross country ski trails, snowmobile trails, the Robert Frost Wayside and camping at Silver Lake and Moosalamoo campgrounds.

Moosalamoo Association President, Tony Clark, said, "We are excited that Congress has passed this important legislation. The National Recreation Area designation highlights the values that the Association has been working toward for the past several years in partnership with the USDA Forest Service. Being designated as a NRA will bring national attention to the region and increase funding opportunities to improve the recreational and educational resources of Moosalamoo."

According to the *Green Mountain National Forest Management Plan*, the objectives of the new Moosalamoo NRA will be to "provide a showcase for multiple use management of the National Forest System, to provide for outstanding educational and interpretation opportunities in the areas of ecological processes and forest management, to provide for public enjoyment of the area for outdoor recreation and other benefits, and to manage for the other resource values present in the area in a manner that does not impair the public recreation values and other special attributes of the Area."

The Moosalamoo National Recreation Area is located in the heart of the 400,000-acre Green Mountain National Forest, stretching from the western slopes of the Green Mountains to Lake Dunmore, and from Scenic Route 125 to Route 73. The region is best known for its lakes and mountains, but gateway villages of Brandon, Middlebury, and Rochester offer museums, restaurants, artisan shops, and a wide variety of activities and accommodations. Area lodging options include country inns and B&Bs that offer a relaxing escape from the hectic routine so common today.

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