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**Site Selection for the VMC Long-term Soil Monitoring Project Plots  
at Lye Brook Wilderness**

**Thom Villars, Soil Resource Specialist, NRCS**

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**Introduction**

Initial planning for the Vermont Monitoring Cooperative Long-Term Soil Monitoring Project was begun in 1998 with several meetings of a committee comprised of personnel from the USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Vermont, and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

Project activities, including initial site selection activities, continued in 1999. A committee meeting on June 15th and a subsequent Research Plan outlined project goals and general site/study plot requirements. On July 8<sup>th</sup>, Thom Villars, NRCS, met with Nancy

greatly hinder sampling efforts.

**Vegetation** - The goal in Lye Brook was to locate plots on two forest types: 1. A "stable" northern hardwood site with few softwoods in any layer, and 2. A "transition" forest of hardwoods and softwoods. Scott Bailey and Nancy Burt assisted with vegetation analysis. In general, sites with older stands were desired, with no openings, and no recent logging activity. Stands dominated by softwoods were avoided. Silvex data was studied and used to eliminate sites that had favorable site topography but recent logging activity.

**Site** - access was considered, with locations less than 30 minutes (walking time) from any trailhead desired; one site near the boundary of the Wilderness was preferred, to co-locate the SCAN site in the vicinity, just outside the Wilderness boundary; as mentioned under Soils, slope less than 8 percent was preferred; the slope, soil type and forest stand had to be uniform over at least a 50 x 50 meter area, with larger areas preferred to accommodate possible complementary studies outside the plot

