

NPS Helps Woodstock, Vermont Fire Department Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Vermont National Fire Plan – Firefighting

In August, the Woodstock Fire Department and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park announced the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) for wildland firefighters in the department. Firefighters will use the equipment when responding to wildland fires in Woodstock, the park and adjacent towns. The purchase was possible through U.S. Department of the Interior Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) funding. In prior years the Woodstock Fire Department received equipment worth \$24,753 through RFA. This included a slip-on pump for the wildland firefighting truck, an off-road utility vehicle for carrying personnel to remote fires, portable pumps and hoses, hand tools and fire resistant clothing.

The primary purpose of RFA is to increase wildland firefighter safety and wildland fire protection capabilities of rural fire departments. These departments protect communities of less than 10,000 people and play a cooperative role in protecting federal lands, such as Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

In 2005, the Woodstock Fire Department responded to two wildland fires. To date in 2006, the Department responded to four wildland fires, including one that crossed over into the 555-acre national historical park.

Through an agreement between the National Park Service and the town, the Woodstock Fire Department provides fire protection services to the national park, which interprets the history and evolution of conservation stewardship in America. Park Superintendent Rolf Diamant commented, “Butch Sutherland and the Woodstock Fire Department are great people to work with and we are pleased we can help the Department and the community with this acquisition.”

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*Two views of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller
National Historical Park.*