

Rutland Plan Revision Meeting June 22, 2004: Alternatives

Comments on Alternatives A-E

Alternative A

Amount of potential OHV opportunity is good. Also good for hunting opportunities.

Between Glastenbury and Somerset - should have more DFV - Red Mill Brook to where AT and Grout Pond intersect. Allow buffer for AT & Glastenbury Mn..

Creates wilderness/lands - buffers are backcountry motorized.

There is contiguous use for motorized but not for wilderness or remote uses.

Doesn't like Lamb Brook being DFV. Should be something that protects bear habitat. Would like to see Glastenbury be Wilderness.

From a "balance forest offering" standpoint, this is the strongest proposal only if combined with OHV option.

Alternative B

Somerset backcountry motorized should do diverse forest uses.

Modified to no additional wilderness and conform to Vermont House reduction.

Favor of Alternative B- good for all.

Unsuitable lands in Glastenbury should be considered for wilderness study area.

Flip-flop area around Lye Brook. Green to Brown & Brown to Green.

There is room in Alternative B for more wilderness, also diverse forest use.

Glastenbury should be wilderness and connect with Lye Brook.

Remote back country is not consistent in Glastenbury due to existing roads.

Area East of the escarpment (Moosalamoo) should be designated as a recreation special area, but allow the uses diverse forest use.

Adopt B without additional wilderness.

Blocks of wilderness in Alt. B. This is a "disgrace" for future generations.

There should be an increase in wilderness and a decrease in diverse Forest use.

Not enough wilderness. Concerned with split in Lamb Brook. It should be wilderness.

Lye Brook needs more transition areas to protect wilderness areas Aiken, etc.....

No larger blocks of wilderness, rather small diverse areas, with corridors.

Need more remote wildlife near Lye Brook to protect bear clawed beach.

Need to mimic natural disturbance regions.

Need continuous wildlife corridors.

Glastenbury Mtn. Should be wilderness

Could live with Alt. B. No new wilderness near town properties. Need to encourage roads for recreation/fire protection, structures.

Alt. B represents best Alt. For Vermont's people and wildlife.

Need an increase in wilderness designation, but need to manage for non-native.

Need an emphasis in older forests, longer rotations.

Designate Moosalamoo as Recreation Special Area.

Alt. B limits the GMNF staff too much. It will be too difficult with this plan to accommodate the failings (identified in the summary) of the '87 plan. Forest users include more than wilderness users.

Alternative C

Change Moosalamoo from S. Rec. Area to NRA.

Will snowmobile use still be allowed in WSA's until it is designated by Congress???????????

Don't preclude an E-W snowmobile trail through Middlebury Gap.

Look at wilderness buffer zones or connections between wilderness areas.

Need to deal with management of motorized use on the AT in area West of Aiken.

Support emphasis of older forest.

Too much wilderness.

Concern - Lamb Brook. Needs to be protected. Potential as wilderness.

Shouldn't have backcountry motorized butt up against Wilderness (Aiken, Lye Brook, etal).

Want more uneven stand management and longer cutting cycles.

Option 4 OHV environment impact and lack of enforcement.

Change backcountry management; add to Glastenbury remote backcountry.

Need to protect bear clawed beech East of Aiken, both sides of Rte. 8.

Best Alternative for people seeking recreation, but wilderness South of Stetson Brook should be eliminated.

Glastenbury WSA area, should be reduced.

Eliminate Glastenbury WSA heavily roaded. Should be diverse Forest use or backcountry managed

Too much concentrated management use near and between WSA's and wilderness negates corridor links.

WSA & Wilderness are too spread out.

Make Stetson use Diverse Forest use.

MA's specially diverse Forest use are unimplementable (all alternatives).

For all alternatives for spectrum modeling, are we coming up with acres lost to inherent resource management conflicts???

Don't like Glastenbury WSA.

Would like to see more linked wilderness

Allow for trail re-routes in wilderness.

Place all foot trails solely in Wilderness Areas, so other areas can be used by the rest of us.

Alternative D

Diverse Forest Use at south end of Glastenbury. Wilderness Special Area seems like a cherry stem.

Like escarpment on very southern end of Forest--it reduces the pressure of motorized use on the AT.

Want to see rest of forest VWA proposal included in 'D'. There should be an Alternative "W" - VWA proposal.

Change all the R.B.C. to Wilderness study.

Merging of C & D so that the Moosalamoo recreation area meets up with Monastory Gap Wilderness Study area.

Concern with 'D' not enough D.F.U.. Glastenbury has excellent timber and roads; should be Diverse Forest Use.

Concern with Wilderness Areas - want to see wilderness areas connected. Right now the wilderness areas are "islands" (separated).

Wants Lamb Brook to be remote or wilderness Wildlife Habitat. Bear-clawed beach at stands along Rt. 8.

Wants more of the VWA proposal calls for, for example at Romance Mtn..

Want corridors of wilderness between proposed wilderness areas.

More wilderness at Romance Mtn..

Not in favor of "D" due to increase in wilderness and decrease in DFU (Diverse Forest Use).

Best Alternative, but still does not have enough wilderness. (2 people said this).

Dunmore area, include in the wilderness, the East side of Lake Dunmore.

Lamb Brook area - want as wilderness.

Near Aiken Wilderness, should not be surrounded by Diverse Forest Use and backcountry motorized.

Moosalamoo should be a special recreation area in 'D'.

Support older forest emphasis. Needs more emphasis in 'D', for the benefits of more mature forest ecosystems.

Rare and uncommon ecosystems; glad to see this emphasized in 'D'

Wants more wilderness with ability to do more trail re-routes, and care of exotic, invasive species management, when necessary.

Wants more wilderness, and concerned that wilderness areas are surrounded by Diverse Forest Use and Backcountry Motorized. This would harm species needing remote habitats

Wants connected wilderness areas.

Remote Wildlife habitat areas should be added to The Wilderness Areas.

Best Alternative of the (5), but also want to see more of the VWA proposal implemented.
Backcountry motorized not compatible next to wilderness and proposed wilderness areas.
Suggest making the backcountry motorized areas near wilderness, remote backcountry.
Don't think Glastenbury should be Wilderness.
Alternative is too limiting for the development of meaningful recreation, which has been identified as lacking in the '87 plans offering. (ie. ATV Rec)!

Alternative E

Would like to see a large contiguous block of "Wilderness" from So. of Glastenbury to No. of Lye Brook.
Romance Mtn. Area "Wilderness" from Brandon Gap to Middlebury Gap.
How will potential ONRW will be protected?
More remote wildlife management around Lamb Brook area to protect Bear Clawed Beech stands.
More "Wilderness" at Glastenbury Mtn..
Remote backcountry between Lye Brook and Glastenbury (instead of backcountry motorized).
Experiment with longer rotations (up to 200 yrs.) to enhance wildlife values in alternatives that include remote wildlife habitat for all.
Would like more contiguous "wilderness" parcels, not islands bordered by backcountry motorized and the sights and sounds that come with ATVs/OHVs/Snowmobiles, to allow for habitat corridors.
Alternative E Moosalamoo to a Recreation Special Area that allows all uses allowed in Diverse Forest Use.
Opt for remote backcountry adjacent to "Wilderness" study areas, where ever possible.
Give Moosalamoo area special designation @ in C.
Good that Alpine Ski Areas stay @ 1%.
Need preference for older forests and emphasis for more mature stands.
All "Wilderness" designations to include flexibility for managing invasive exotics and trail re-routes.
No timber sales that subsidize private timber CO's with public funds.
Only alternative that even comes close to desire.
Concerned about BCM around G. Aiken should be non-motorized.
Wants an NRA east of Glastenbury wilderness area.
Range is not wide enough. Does not offer enough wilderness and/or remote areas. There is a lot of room between 100% W and 30%.
Everything from G. Aiken over to Harriman, should be wilderness.
Eliminate motorized use West of G. Aiken.
Eliminate all motorized use on Green Mtn..
Likes the escarpment area; particularly the area in Dorset.
Closest to what would like to see; a few changes: Have RBC next to G. Aiken as a buffer, also have RBC surrounding Glastenbury. Connect Glastenbury & Lye Brook somehow; even with Kelly Stand Road..
Would like to see wilderness in Lamb Brook - protect bear habitat
Area East of Somerset, change from Diverse Forest Use to Remote Backcountry.
More acres designated for Glastenbury & Lamb Brook.
Wilderness is big draw for tourists visiting according to Inn owner.
G. Aiken Wilderness should not be surrounded by backcountry motorized.
Consider Lamb Brook as Wilderness.
Change backcountry motorized name; find something better.
More gradual zoning changes from Wilderness & Remote areas.
Lamb Brook Special Use Permit Windmill is driving designations and visa-versa.

Comments on OHV Options 1-4

Option 1

Some OHV use should be allowed/monitored/evaluated.

Alternative A w/OHV option 1, retains the flexibility required to develop an integrated OHV plan in GMNF that is in accord with the managing VT - ANR state-wide recreation plan.

Agree with comment 3 above.

Don't just assign ATV area's and then see what the issues. Please do the analysis prior to assigning lands.

There are positive economic impacts to local/regional area through maintaining Wilderness Areas.

There is very high cost involved in repairing/maintaining/building trails.

Should not be encouraging machines that need fossil fuels. Machines should be improved to be more efficient and clean.

ATV/Snowmobilers advocate state law requiring a valid drivers license to operate.

OHV's should not be allowed on the Forest.

Forest Service does not have sufficient enforcement capabilities.

Fund the Forest Service to properly enforce.

Option 2

Need sufficiently harder trail. Form partnerships for "joint" enforcement. When illegal use occurs, there is severe damage.

While protecting unique and sensitive areas.

Option 3

Very restrictive. Need enforcement

Are the rules the same for the public and Forest Service personnel?

More enforcement - FR 266 needs gate.

It is not possible to enforce any option but 4! (even now)!

The National Forest is for everybody's use.

WMNF allows ATV's on all snowmobile trails.

Shouldn't be limited to any specific management area, (option)!

Option 4

There is no compatible use/place for ATV's

"Get out and walk".

Concerned with fire/rescue access.

Economic concerns with not allowing Motorized use boost local/regional economy.

There is no such thing as wilderness in "past 20th. Century Vermont".

Not all decisions should be economic based.

More protective of animal/bird habitat, ATV's are disruptive & Forest Service does not have sufficient dollars to enforce.

ATV's are not a public benefit/value and should only be used on private lands.

Forest Service needs more dollars for illegal ATV use; (irregardless of options).

Legal access will create more enforcement problems in the forest.

For any OHV use, designated special areas and monitor/enforce.

There should be exceptions for speeding events.

Since 1984 NRA designation, there has been repeated illegal use (bridge removed), etc.). Forest Service needs to make a more sound attempt at enforcement.

Opening up more area's will compound the problem.

Any other option sets a bad precedent on the forest for additional use.

With designated trails, users will leave the trail and create more enforcement issues.

ATV activity is not an appropriate use of public land. (This is consistent with State Lands).

Currently enforcement is a major issue.

Vermont is unique (pace setter on the environment); not allowing ATV should be continued.

There are every OHV (allowed) on private lands.