

Comments

Public Meeting, Londonderry
September 26, 2001

COMMENTS ON ISSUES

1. Wanted better maintenance of the roads/trails than we already have.
2. Invasive plants
3. Q on minerals, wanted to know what that meant. Gravel is an issue for some communities. Access to gravel.
4. Law enforcement should be separated out by itself. Shouldn't be part of information/education.
5. Mountain bikes—how can you classify a bicycle with ATV's and other motorized vehicles. Don't dump it in with motorized.
6. Impact on terrain is the reason they are lumped together.
7. Roads should be open to a wider variety of vehicles -more roads for jeeps and 4-wheel drive trucks. Wants to find out how to address where you can go and who is going to determine this.
8. How are decisions going to be made – who gets to decide?
9. Baby boomers – access, handicapped. Mobility cart—this is motorized vehicle. Will this fall under the bans on motorized.
10. Wildlife management/timber manager should be connected. Plants and animals go hand in hand. Don't have the diversity as when you have logging going on.
11. Trails created on skids rows – used for logging and recreation – vegetation management and trail management issue is connected.
12. Another person wanted to get into trails? When are we going to get into that. Said clearcuts had so many animals in them but they are growing over and noticed a big difference in number of animals – less now that openings are growing up. Wanted to take children to see and was disappointed that there weren't hardly any animals to show them.
13. Discussion on edges with Diane. What mix you want to see.
14. Areas around Londonderry and Peru. How are projects – specific to this area going to happen?
15. No more new roads.
16. One person pushed the word “we” and felt it excluded the public.
17. Big question about people being shut out of the scoping process. Wanted to know where do citizens get to put it in black and white and have the Forest Service put it into // and not have the lobbyists show up with their money and change it.
18. Are you going to use our suggestions after you go back to your office.
19. Question about the cost of revising the plan. Melissa told him \$600,000.
20. Roads came up again.

NEW ISSUES

21. Watershed Planning
22. Invasive Plants and Animals – May be in another issues
23. Interconnection between timber harvesting, wildlife and recreation
24. Interaction between FS and State Department of Tourism. How much tourism do we want. He wanted tourism to be a separate issue.
25. Coordination with other public land management agencies. How much sharing of resources between FS and State and COE? Can cross a political boundary where the rules are different.

COMMENTS ON EDUCATIONAL FORUMS

- Wildlife management and habitat
- Water – watershed planning

- ❑ Prehistoric ecology
- ❑ Botany, Native Species, invasive species
- ❑ Understand impact of the FS on communities - PILT—comparison to private forests.
- ❑ Role and value of the CCC – Vermont CC, YCC
- ❑ Cohabitation forum – wildlife why it's important to cut trees so they have habitat, why roads need to go in, then humans can use the roads for trails.
- ❑ Are the meetings going to be spread out. Can they be done central? Suggestion that they all be in Rutland
- ❑ Logistics of attending meetings—even half of them—can we work with interactive television or some other way for people to attend.
- ❑ Recreational issue is huge – may need 2 forums.
- ❑ Are we going to have individual forums or are all of them going to be lumped into one forum.
- ❑ Forums – are they going to be interconnected?
- ❑ How do people hear about these things.
- ❑ Internet question.

COMMENTS ON PLANNING PROCESS

26. Concerns over public involvement – the public is being shut out
27. How are comments incorporated into the record? How does the public know their concerns are being captured and heard.
28. Difference between formal and informal process of public involvement – NEPA/bureaucratic vs. local planning groups/meetings
29. Question about how to get involved.
30. Local Planning Groups are on the right track – how do people get involved – mailing lists be developed – make sure people with out email can get info.
31. WEB based planning group consider a bulletin board where people share and respond to comments.
32. Find a way to get the varied interests to see that we share the forest and figure out together how to share it – enable the FS to do their work.
33. Nice compliment about being under loved. Sign...
34. Balance between how you weigh the public input, the talents of the staff, the outside influences, and everything that needs to be considered.
35. How much is contingent upon Congressional funding. Is it what L/J/S decides?
36. Other questions: Committee meetings? Where are they going to be – same general location as these start up meetings..
37. Where is the website? Diane wrote it up.