

## Arlington Local Planning Group Meeting Notes 1-21-03

### **Question #1: What kind of place should the forest be and is that different than what it is now?**

#### **Access Comments**

Dispersed use and accessible  
More accessible in winter  
Evenly accessible year-round for multiple uses

#### **Habitat Comments**

Take forest into consideration-look at biodiversity, take care of plant and animal life-diverse habitats  
Healthy, diverse habitat for wildlife  
Habitat is not as diverse as it should be or once was  
EVERYTHING is habitat  
Bear and wildlife corridors are necessary  
Without forest management-you aren't benefiting wildlife

#### **Ecological Environment Comments**

Take long-term look at resources  
Concerns over pollution, traffic, motorized use (car, ATV, snowmobile)  
Land over 2500 feet-no active management allowed, this is good

#### **Multiple Use Comments**

Multiple use-encompassing every user group-with overlap in use (doesn't hamper use of any group)...it will be different if wilderness folks get their way  
Look to things that private land can't/won't (ex. fish and wildlife habitat-don't destroy)  
Historical/archaeological sites need to be preserved  
Forest managed for multiple environmental concerns- animals, plants, etc. Not all timber management  
Keep the forest offering what it does now  
Forest should separate incompatible uses-find a way to do this  
Better rules on how to share  
Allocate resources to different uses  
GMNF should be managed for all people (hiking, fishing, hunting, timber)

#### **Education and Information Comments**

Better education, signage, maps,

Use of science: Research Natural Areas: controls to study wildlife populations/habitat: need some managed vs. non-managed to study comparisons/contrasts  
Need more research

#### **Land Use Comments**

Balance of preservation/land use: land can be used on a sustainable basis but preservation needs discussed  
Dialog needs continued: land use and preservation (not all uses can allow for restoration of the environment)  
Irreplaceable forest assets, need to be good stewards to protect...concerned Forest Service doesn't always have the ability

### **Wilderness Comments**

We should carefully choose wilderness now, choices will happen now-figure way to share  
Wilderness in area should be designated: Glastenbury, Lamb Brook, Woodford, Aiken

### **Recreation Comments**

Well maintained trails-not that way now  
Motorized uses where new technology not historically designated for so-now have to fit them in  
Prioritize recreation as it spreads more  
Motorized users do clean up  
Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) organized trails, should be a similar way to organize ATV's for use  
Quiet backcountry, peace, REAL recreation doesn't include motorized use and fumes, includes watershed protection

Everyone wants clean ,unpolluted land/air motorized vehicles can't go everywhere where hikers, snowshoe, cross country ski can... leave trails and roads  
Illegal ATV's are everywhere-different than snowmobile-don't see effects after snow melts vs. ATV causes erosion  
Roads could be allowed for ATV's just like other rigs on roads...safety issues?  
Noise pollution from snowmobiles/ATV's can destroy quiet experience  
Off trail/illegal motorized use  
National Conservation Area (NCA) area that is proposed would allow snowmobiles in Somerset...snowmobiles

### **Social/Economic Comments**

Town economies could organize around recreation...this area has largest land base for roadless in Vermont  
Economy needs help (Arlington south)-forest has large area to promote revenue-many recreation, uses, outdoor recreation uses  
Market bed and breakfast, tours-recreation  
Re-invent economy in this area  
Recognize we live within 70 million, population pressure will increase  
Forest should differ from urban areas-value non-human aspects (plants, natural landscape)-some areas in danger of too much future intrusion (littering, noise, too many roads and buildings)  
OK for humans to be there but not take over (ex. animal habitat)  
Forest should be unique-as is Vermont. Unique=hunting, trapping, logging, active land management (only 16% available for this now)  
Unique in culture and traditions like Vermont  
Take concerns of towns into consideration  
Free of political impacts  
Town-Forest Service relationships kept up  
Very close to HUGE population bases, need to consider this in management  
Community aspect of maintaining common values (values to all stakeholders, not 1 constituency)  
Two distinct cultures: Environ vs. Good Ol' Boy, so uses should be separated so can live in peace  
Forest use etiquette  
All users should create rules so they will own it together  
More quiet places  
Non-urban environment

### **Timber Comments**

Timber should continue selectively low return to piece of economy  
Information on timber projects and techniques  
3300 acres near Arlington, Glastenbury has healthy timber-area that should be managed for multiple use/timber harvesting (land acquired)

## **Question #2: What is unique, special, or important about the Green Mountain National Forest?**

### **Social/Economic Importance**

Public land is unique: only 6% of the state is in Green Mountain National Forest land and 6% is state-owned land

Green Mountain National Forest is in Vermont and contributes to the Vermont quality of life

Need a forest that the public feels is well cared for

More National Forest for our kids and grandkids (unique across United States!)

50% of public Vermont land is in Green Mountain National Forest-will be more important in future for wildlife habitat-will need active management that is long term (more important than private land)

Unique to east in affecting Vermont people in their daily lives and activities (visuals, background scenery in day-to-day life)

Spiritual quality (quiet, beauty) provided by forest

Beauty/Spirituality of forest is a public asset

Large roadless area near big population

Land/property values around forest go up

More private land posted closed-necessary to have open Forest Service lands

Scenic values, aesthetics

Spiritual

### **Multiple Use Importance**

The kind of place the Green Mountain National Forest should be is driven by the fact it is public land-accommodate a variety of uses

How we manage multiple uses is important

### **Land Acquisition Importance**

Growing forest: active 9.2 lands being acquired

### **Ecosystem Management Importance**

Forest is vulnerable to overuse and exploitation

Manage proactively-not reactively

Don't cater to extremes

Need better communication about management decisions

Changing nature of Green Mountain National Forest: farmland reverting to forest to allow for adaptive management direction-not just letting succession by default

High water quality, watershed protection

Oxygen manufacturing

### **Recreation Importance**

Well distributed north-south, allowing access for lots of Vermonters/recreation users and all users

### **Habitat Importance**

Necessary to have wildlife corridors (bears, etc.)

Corridors needed to connect habitat

Habitat for large mammals: bear, moose, bobcat

Important for hunting and fishing habitat

### **Education Importance**

Opportunity for a big scale outdoor education program due to big population

**Access Importance**

Area of forest without vehicle access

Need to resolve: public access versus private property concerns