

# GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

WELCOME



# GOALS FOR THE EVENING

- Review what has happened since last May
- Review highlights of comments on the Notice of Intent
- Improve understanding of the planning process
- Begin to develop a common vision for the future & desired future conditions for the Forest

# WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?



## ASSESSMENTS

- Species Viability Evaluation – almost completed
- Water Resources – almost completed
- Vegetation Inventory on Newly acquired lands – about 60% complete – complete summer 2003

# WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?

## ASSESSMENTS

- Road Analysis Process – draft now available
- Soils Assessment – contract has been awarded
- Roadless Inventory and Wilderness Evaluation – contract about to be awarded
- Wild and Scenic Rivers – eligibility study in process
- Biodiversity Assessment – cooperative agreement in process

# WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?



## SITUATION ASSESSMENT

- Key Issues
- Themes from Interviews
- Challenges & Recommendations

# Notice of Intent Comments

## Purpose

- Gather additional issues that the public felt had been left out of the Notice Of Intent; or
- Confirm that the planning team had addressed all the issues currently facing the GMNF.

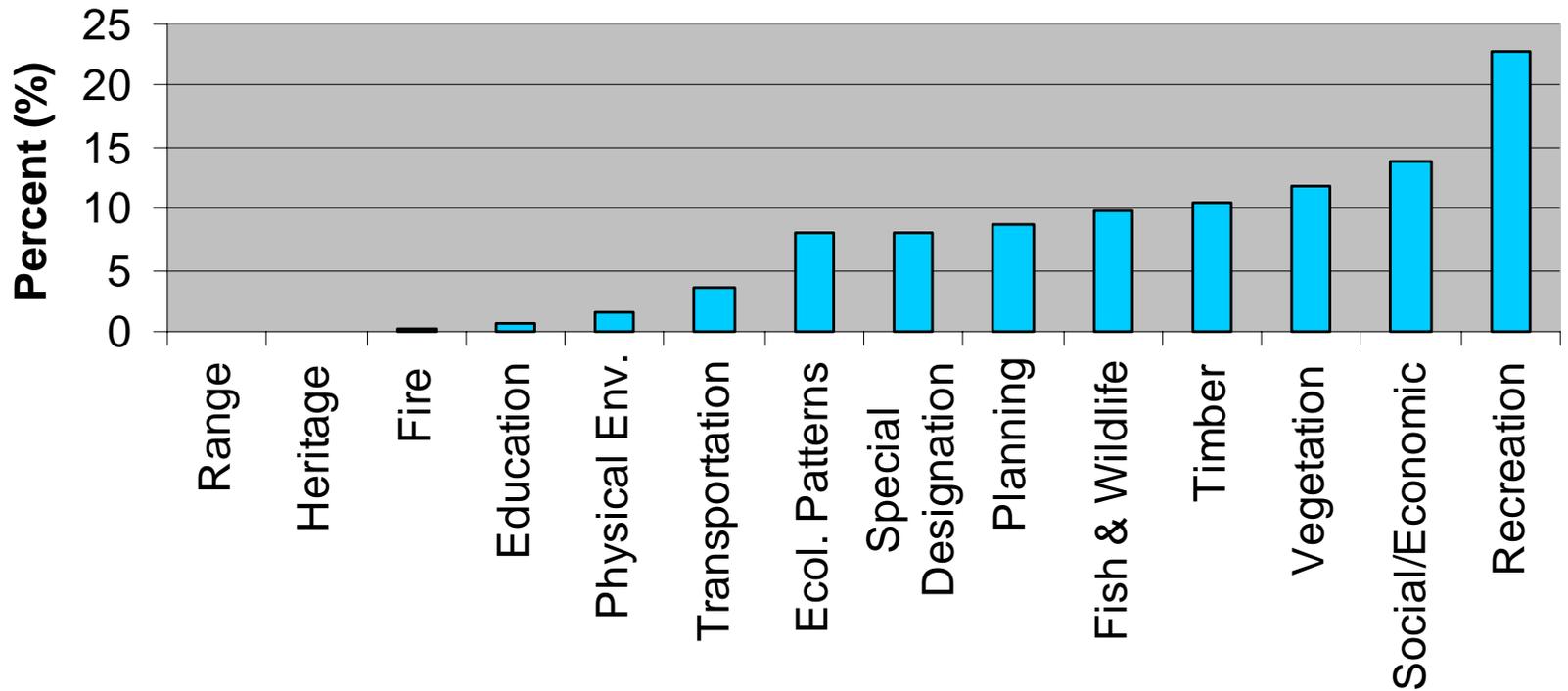
# Notice of Intent Comments Process

- Each public response was reviewed by at least two members of the Forest Planning Team;
- Comments were analyzed to determine issues of public concern, they were not tallied as votes.

# Notice of Intent Comments Summary

- Review of the public comments confirmed that the plan revision process will be covering the concerns of the public.
- The majority of the comments received dealt with public interest in recreation (22.9%), social/economic issues (13.9%), and vegetation (11.8%).

# Percent of Responses by Category



## Number of Responses by State

State	Number of Responses	Percent of Total Responses
Vermont	643	85
New York	23	3
New Hampshire	23	3
Massachusetts	17	2
California	7	<1
New Jersey	5	<1
Pennsylvania	5	<1
Michigan	4	<1
Oregon	4	<1
Washington	4	<1
Illinois	3	<1
Maine	3	<1
West Virginia	3	<1
Connecticut	2	<1
Colorado	1	<1
Indiana	1	<1
Minnesota	1	<1
Ohio	1	<1
Rhode Island	1	<1

# Total Responses Received

<b>Total Responses Received</b>	<b>755</b>
Count of Unique Letters	93 (12%)
Count of Form Letters	662 (88%)

## Top 10 Comment-Receiving Subjects

Category	Subject	# of Comments	% of Comments
Social/Economic	Social/Economic: General	797	6
Wildlife and Fish	Wildlife Habitat	774	6
Recreation	ATV Use	605	5
Recreation	Snowmobile Use	559	4
Special Designation Areas	Wilderness Recommendations	549	4
Recreation	Trail Density	537	4
Timber	Timber: General	500	4
Ecological Patterns & Processes	Ecosystem Health	441	4
Recreation	Motorized Recreational Use	435	3
Transportation	Road Density	401	3

# Notice of Intent Comments

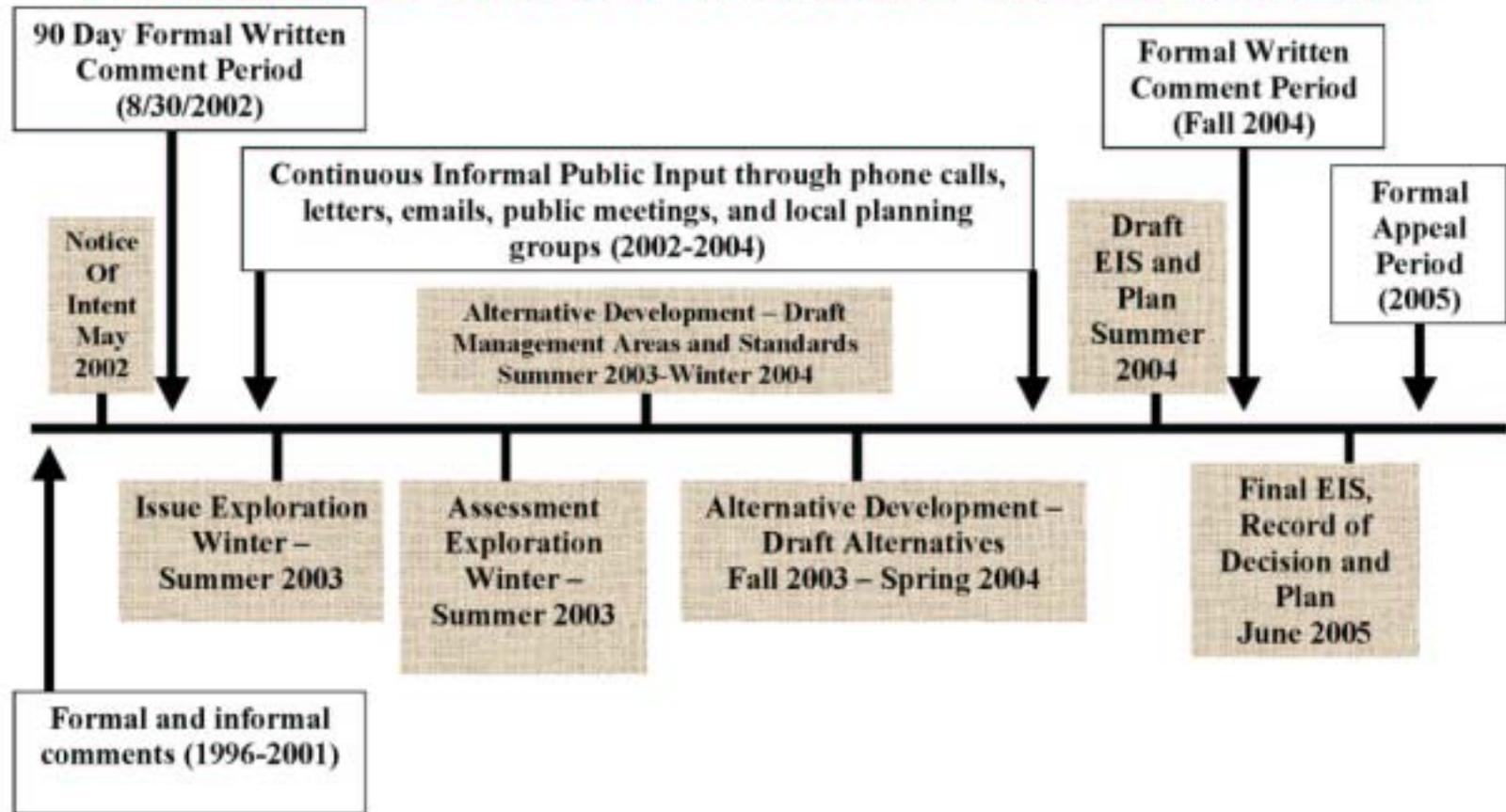
● How are your comments being used?

- Identify issues
- Explore alternatives
- Identify environmental concerns and effects

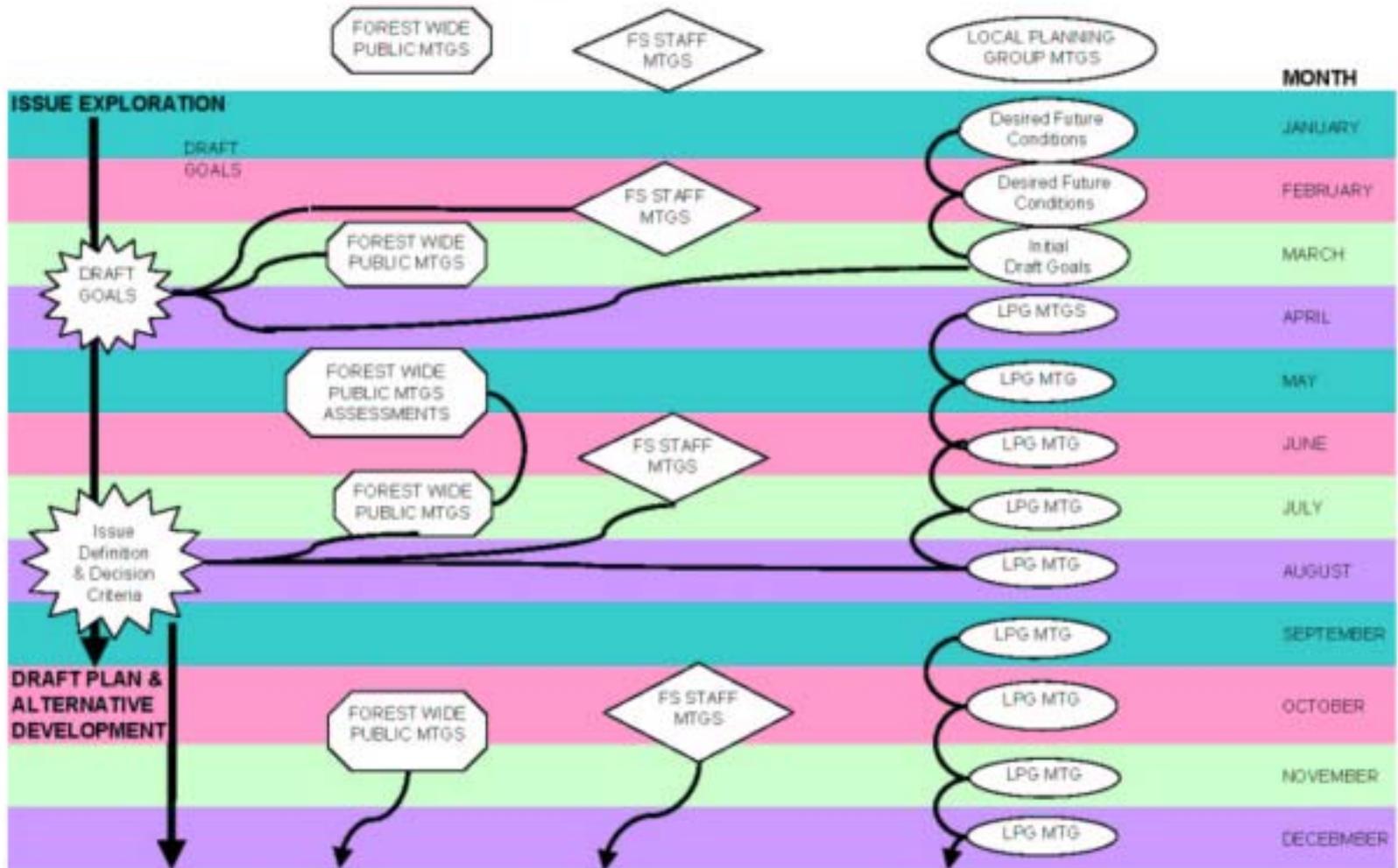
# PLANNING PROCESS

- PUBLIC INPUT TIMELINE & OPPORTUNITIES
- ROAD MAP

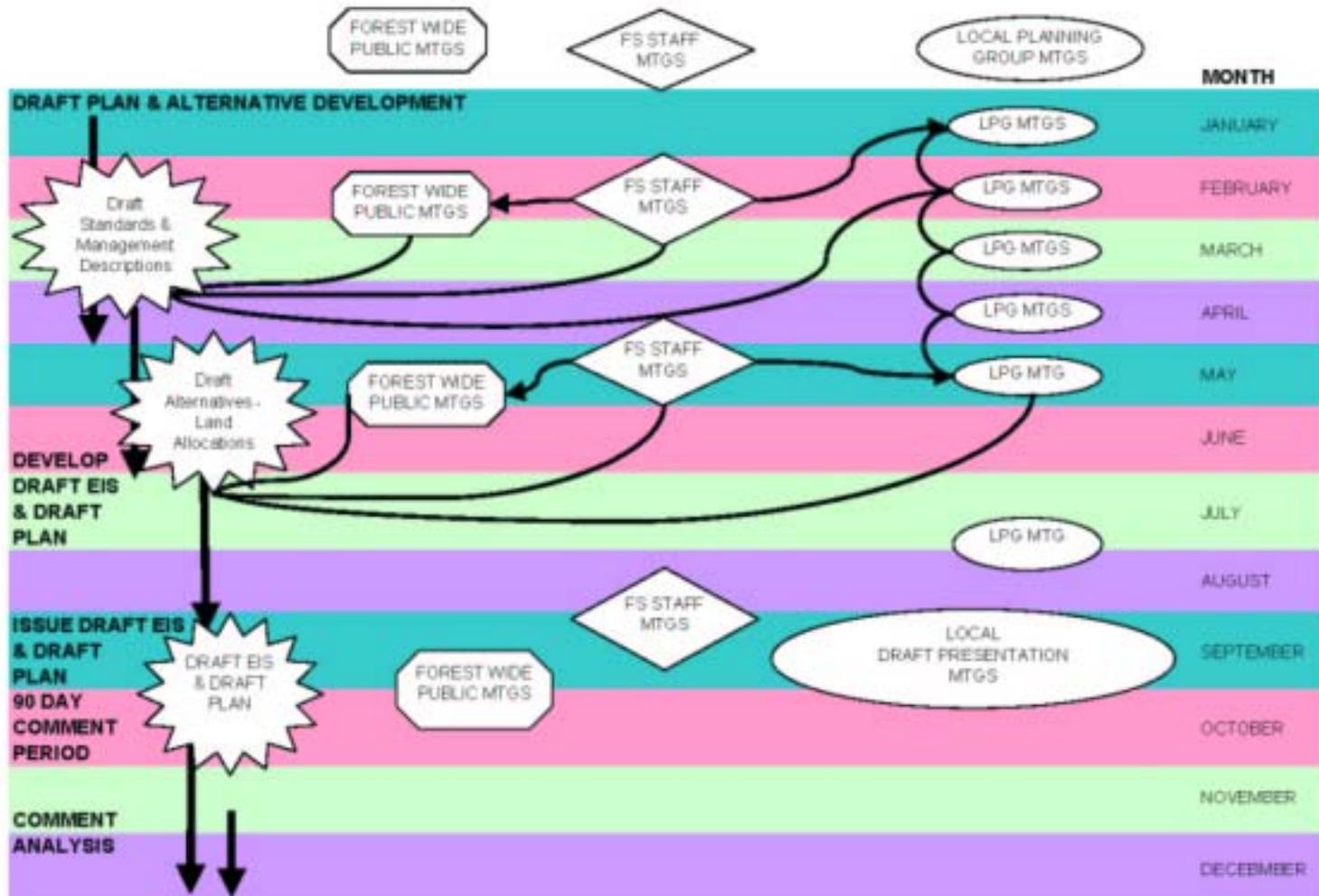
# Public Involvement Timeline GMNF Forest Plan Revision



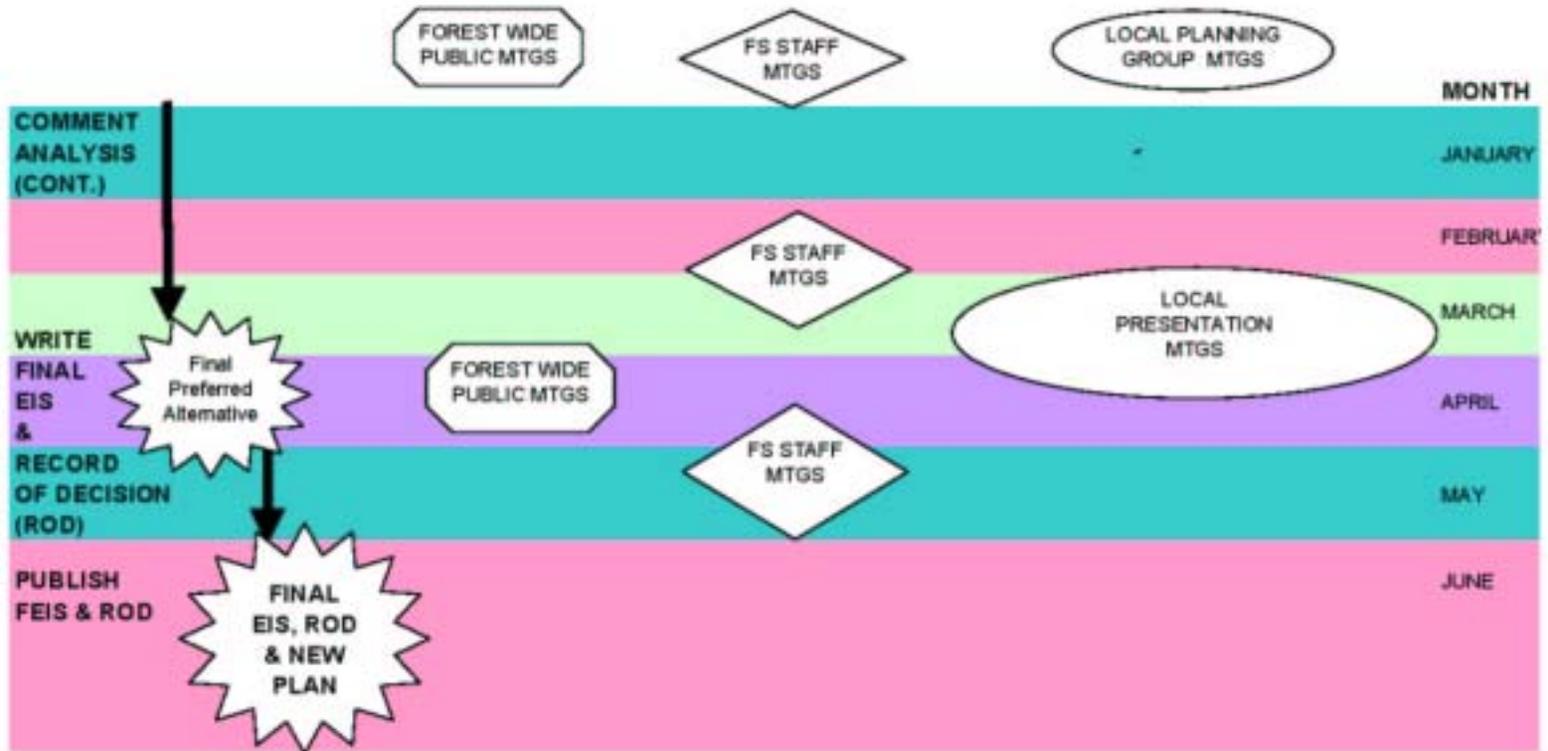
# PLAN REVISION ROAD MAP - 2003



## PLAN REVISION ROAD MAP - 2004



## PLAN REVISION ROAD MAP - 2005



# TOPICS FOR LOCAL PLANNING GROUPS

- Recreation – developed and undeveloped areas
- Trails – amount, use distance
- Biodiversity/Wildlife
- Ecosystems
- Land Acquisition Priorities
- Road Management & Uses

# TOPICS FOR LOCAL PLANNING GROUPS

- Sustainable Timber Program
- Wilderness
- Other Special Areas
- Newly Acquired Lands Management
- Socio-economic Concerns

# TOPICS FOR LOCAL PLANNING GROUPS

- Interactions Between Uses
- Land Acquisition's Future Management
- Management Standards
- Management Area Descriptions
- Management Area Land Allocations

# DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

## BEYOND GOALS – REQUIREMENTS

- Forest plans must follow federal law – some future conditions are not a choice
- Maintain and restore chemical, physical and biological integrity of surface waters – Clean Water Act
- Protect and enhance the quality of air resources – Clean Air Act
- Conserve threatened and endangered species – Endangered Species Act
- Provide for viability of native and desirable non-native species – NFMA

# DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

## BEYOND GOALS (CONT.)

- Preserve and protect historic and archeological sites and resources – National Historic Preservation Act And Archeological Resources Protection Act
- Provide for multiple uses: outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed and wildlife and fish - Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act (MUSY)
- Develop and administer renewable energy resources – MUSY

# DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS



## GROUP BREAK OUT

- Introductions
- Key Questions
  - ↳ What Kind of Place should the Forest be?
  - ↳ Is that different than what it is now?
  - ↳ What is unique, special, important about the Green Mountain National Forest?

# NEXT LOCAL PLANNING GROUP MEETING



MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> 6:30 pm

3rd TUESDAY of every month

Franklin Center at the Howe Center

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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[www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa\\_planning/  
plan\\_revision.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa_planning/plan_revision.htm)

THANK YOU!

