

Bristol Local Planning Group Meeting Notes 1-23-03

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

Land Acquisition Comments

No more land purchases-stay the same size

Suspension of Green Mountain National Forest land acquisition until current plan is implemented

Timber Comments

Need timber management: logging

Active management: do not agree with trend towards inactive management (ex. wilderness)

Need more younger stands and more harvest

Selective "small" clearcuts ok

Forest and silviculture experts should be in charge of harvests

Need more active (timber) management

Implement forest plan that exists now-harvest allowable cut/access to allowable cut

Increase allowable cut for future

Access Comments

More/better roads for access to the forest for multiple uses (including recreation and fire)

Access for handicapped and disabled people

Accessible to all (currently not American Disability Act (ADA) accessible)

Trail connections (roads too) for better access

Roads to allow access to all multiple uses

Accessible to all people with emphasis on timber and wildlife

Increase accessibility

Recreation Comments

Diverse recreation access with balance

Some designated ATV trails (there should be legal places they can go)

More opportunity for snowmobiles

No recreation should be excluded

Some feel ATVs should not be included while some feel trails should be designated for ATVs

Place for multiple forms of recreation: snowmobiles, ATVs, hunting, hiking

More inclusion-ATV's should be allowed

More use of recreational vehicles should be allowed

Open more land to motorized and mechanized vehicles and horses

Multiple Use Comments

Lot of different things to do in the forest

Need multiple use

Public land=open to hunters, bikers, etc.

Small percent open for other uses-such as sugaring

Buffers between multiple use areas and wilderness

Place for people, animals, wood, spiritual reflection and foraging=multiple use

Ecosystem Health/Management Comments

Greater diversity in vegetation-reduce the number of maple trees
Sustainably managed (it is not now)
Positive management (project management should have multiple goals ex. timber harvest providing trail connections)
Healthy ecosystem is necessary
Diversity of management
Improve fisheries: brooks, headwaters
Protect watersheds with management
More areas with young conifer and aspen
Early successional areas for wildlife
Keep wildlife in the forest-off the roads
Loss of predator and prey species in the higher elevations
Practical management plan=implementable
Forest used to have a lot more vegetation and animal diversity in the 1960s
Biodiversity with sustainable forestry
Special interests are managing the forest
Need more active forest management
Stream-line appeals process
Provide renewable resources
Lifeline, clean water, steward of the forest
Place for wildlife habitat (game species ex. rabbits, grouse, partridge, deer)

Wilderness Comments

Do not support existing wilderness, some smaller areas ok
Large undisturbed tracts for wilderness and wildlife

Social/Economics Comments

Income-providing to towns
Support economics of the Champlain Valley
Not similar to Adirondack Park
Utilized by all
No one locked out
For the people: use and availability
Special place-not much federal public Vermont/eastern U.S. land
More local contracts-more jobs for local people on forest
Respond to local needs
Increase jobs in timber, recreation, and other economic opportunities in forest
Not developed
Contribution to economy
Provide economic opportunities, livelihood, and tourism
Use our own forest-buy locally

Information and Education Comments

Continue and increase educational opportunities
Monitor/studies of unmanaged (wilderness) and managed forests
Provide more educational information on topics
More outreach/public education about Green Mountain National Forest
Demonstration of good forest practices/public education (classroom)

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

Multiple Use Importance

Provides excellent opportunities for multi-recreational uses: mushing, skiing, foraging, bird-watching, fishing, mountain biking, hunting, wildflower viewing, mushroom foraging, blueberry picking
Larger land area can provide for multiple uses

Wilderness Importance

Enough wilderness as is-no more

Ecosystem Health Importance

Water quality/watershed health: beware non-point source pollution
Unique as a hardwood forest
Lot of un-torn up area
Large continuous land which provide watershed protection and water quality
Filters the air
Healthy because well-managed
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)

Social/Economic Importance

Sugarbush-provides skiing and jobs
Jobs available because of the forest
Continuous block under one ownership
Publically owned
Accessibility to eastern population centers
Spending time in it
High quality trees and natural regeneration which are readily available-lots of economic benefits
Green Mountain National Forest is centrally located
Protects open space and protects against sprawl because publically owned
Potentially a good working forest
Free access (as opposed to fees like White Mountain National Forest)
Scenic

Recreation Importance

Recreational opportunities (motorized-not available anywhere but West Virginia near large populations)
Backcountry ski access through existing ski areas
Snowmobiling
Hunting and fishing
Uniqueness of the Long Trail