

Comments at Middlebury Meeting

October 4, 2001

COMMENTS ON ISSUES

1. Physically challenged people—felt that Forest had shut out. Can only go into Forest a little way. All the motorized can go in
2. Picked on mission—felt had left out people part. Missed mark of why here. Wanted us to go back and look at role, earlier times. Recreational pursuit. Why are we here.
3. Acquisition—very important—nobody can tell how big the forest is going to be. Felt needed to know how big Forest should be.
4. Old growth reserves. Pockets. Important for the future to protect what is left.
5. Accessibility – social justice ties into the fees. People who don't have a lot of money still have access to the Forest.
6. Connectivity—wildlife—boarder landscape—connecting the North and South half of the Forest.
7. Access – locked gate—lot of roadbed exists—through access—look at management impact of through access so people can get through and not have to turn around and come back.
8. Silver Lake—even though a road, nobody can go in a vehicle or OHV. Shouldn't be locked out of using this road.
9. Trail bikes— causing damage, cutting channels. Should be designated areas where bikes can go and not all over the forest.
10. Sports—fish & wildlife board—rod & gun clubs—lack of defining deer population in GMNF. Last 10 years taking is about ¼ of what it used to be. Dwindling. Years ago a lot of timber sales, diversity, lot needs timber mixes. Also need fires. Trees are over mature. No browse. Nothing for deer to eat in snow. Pleasing to look at older trees, but it is devastating to wildlife.
11. Every animal is declining. Lack of openings. No successional growth. It is dying. There is no snowshoe hares so big cats and fishers have nothing to eat.
12. Let fire go if it starts.
13. OHV recreation, you have the obligation to offer this. Zero right now. OHV is effectively managed in many forests—this isn't one of them.
14. Designated areas for wilderness, scenic—with gridlock we have experienced. Should we set aside a special area for logging?
15. Litigation and appeals—if a person files an appeal, or stops a timber sale and loses, they need to pay the bills. Loser should pay. Used as a tactical weapon.
16. Blueberry management area—is it special designation—issue in non-timber forest products.
17. Recreation—important to be able to go where it is safe and quiet.
18. Demonstration of management for people in urban areas—along trails so people can understand management is something not to be afraid of.
19. Historical—lot of towns have historical societies and they can share with the Forest what they know.

NEW ISSUES

20. Old growth reserves – preserve what little we have left
21. Connectivity – thinking about wildlife on large and small scales (part of biodiversity and Wildlife issues) n- relationship between wildlife and timber management
22. Litigation and Appeals – costs should be paid be litigant.
23. Making multiple use work – how can we do it and make everyone happy

COMMENTS ON EDUCATIONAL FORUMS

24. historical ecology - how far back in history are you going? Are you going further back than the establishment of the National Forest? Need to understand healthy forest with biological progression.
25. Trail management will it be included in the recreational forum? Where are the forums going to be?
26. Explored using educational television—can reach out to a larger audience. One meeting on one day but on nine campuses.
27. How will the public be notified of meetings?
28. How will the forums be set up?
29. Will folks have an opportunity to recommend people for the panel? I need a month lead time. Felt the process was frontloaded and he wanted to fly someone in from Idaho.

FORUM TOPICS

30. Other Topics: Interested to know—how you view the coming and going of different administration—popularity contest. How are you able to do long-term planning? Every four years it's a different tap dance. Worried about plan—let them do their job.
31. Ask delegation to come and explain to us how public policy works. Tom Berry got up to address it. Senator Jeffords would like to have the tools the Forest needs to manage the Forest. Clinton fully developed a set of criteria, and Bush put his own fingerprint in. Look to professionals. Vermont has a long Congressional delegation—have been there a long time. Once a plan is in place might be stuck with it for a long time. Forest is constantly changing.
32. Gridlock—need to have an education forum on it. We need to acknowledge that it exists, describe it, why it's happening and how we can remedy.
33. Economic relationship between the forest and the community.
34. Forum where all these issues overlap. How can rec people live with loggers, etc. How can we all share the forest
35. Watershed planning and roads either as separate topics or weaving the 2 together

COMMENTS ON PLANNING PROCESS

36. Question with planning process—new rules that are coming out. Are you going to go ahead and do things that might not be required.
 37. Question: Where is the work you have done previously going to be used.
 38. Are you trying to get this done during the current administration.
 39. Why does the disability act not apply to the federal government—Tom said more can be done.
 40. Other states have done a much better job of accessibility in Forests and Parks.
 41. Tech Working Groups vs Local Planning Groups. Why have you dropped Technical Working Groups? What is the explanation of this. Where is the science going to come in?
 42. Seems like we've already done the local groups.
 43. Will have hired guns from both sides, people who are impassioned about this will be the ones who show up. Community based won't work in my opinion, but would like to come up with something that will work better.
- Tech Working groups had a good feel before, not dependent on FS experts, going to use local, along with the Forest Service. Pick up with tech working groups—outside of the FS. Wants to see sciences based on
44. Fair representation—need to bring this—not to larger public.
 45. Are outreach objectives more this time. People who were at the last process said they wouldn't come back to this round. Do you feel a disconnect. Something about a mailer.
 46. Local groups will be a duplication and redundancy. Will they identify new issues? Will they get more details than we already have.
 47. Is it possible at a kitchen table to come up with a plan?

48. Do you expect to get consensus at these local groups? We been through this now for the last several years. Issues are issues. Why can't you pull in those folks who want to work on them.
49. Have you put a survey out to the people of Vermont? Should consider doing a survey on the issues.
50. Ask question about the reach – FLNF to Boston? Seashore.
51. Access question again—wants to see what work we have done on this – additional data related to issue.
52. Last questions and issues. Will you publish comments on website?