

Hancock Plan Revision Meeting October 16, 2003: Public Comments

Break-Out Session: 4 Question Stations

1. What is your view or "desired future condition" for the vegetation on the Green Mountain National Forest?
2. How would you like to see timber management change from the current Forest Plan?
3. What methods would you like to see used for timber management? (Even-aged, un-even aged, other?)
4. For what purposes would you like to see timber management used (wildlife habitat, timber production, other purposes)?

Public Comments

Question 1: What is your view or "desired future condition" for the vegetation on the Green Mountain National Forest?

Manage for biodiversity

Intensive timber management for all suitable forest lands including: pre-commercial thin, commercial thin, regeneration harvests (including clearcuts)

Mixed stands of 80-100 year age classes, medium density

More oak

Restore butternuts

Apple orchard releases improve conditions of trees

Good cross section of forest communities, types, tree size and age based on best forest science, benefit to community, environment, local economics, and recreation

Need to rely on scientific analysis to determine conditions

Healthy conditions-harvesting

Hemlock stands should be managed to include white pine and red spruce

Try to increase conifer component in hardwood areas 2200-2900'

Majority of forest should be dark and quiet-not openings

Young (50-75 years) healthy. Actively growing forest

White Pine management down to a lower DBH >24" as opposed to >30"

Continue mix of species and ages from pioneer to climax that is still healthy and growing

A mix of trees-likes hardwoods, not monoculture regeneration

Question 2: How would you like to see timber management change from the current Forest Plan?

Tolerant northern hardwood rotation increased to 120-160 reach greatest potential valuable tree-also creates down woody debris to support decomposers

Support forest plan-no status quo-sound, reasonable good science

Should reach potential in Forest Plan

MA 9.2 lands should be moved immediately into suitable timber lands according to adjacent MA

Meet the ASQ

Increase the needs to meet public demands for forest products

Opposed to continuous short rotation aspen, paper birch or balsam fir...intermediate harvest with these species and use longer rotations

Harvest levels closer to growth rates

Adequate mix of large and small timber sales

Much more public education about the ability of eastern forests to respond positively to appropriate timber management

Land to be actively managed to meet socio-economic needs of forest communities-local products for local use (state)

Timber management should be more aggressive to promote active growing and healthy trees-is any thought given to restoring balsam stand?

Manage forest from a business standpoint

More selection cuts to promote recreation

More land use for timber-release suitable timberlands-make appropriate

Close-out of timber sales should be more carefully inspected-believe in controlled harvest-no more wildness

Change the appeal rules

The local economy will find it difficult to compete in the global economy of NAFTA, so devise a human ecosystem that uses local products for local use

Question 3: What methods would you like to see used for timber management? (Even-aged, un-even aged, other?)

Dependant on forest type and conditions (land dependant)

Even aged=good, sound management

Need to achieve annual harvest goals

Consider helicopter logging for difficult logging areas in lieu of considering them un-harvestable

Need to leave room for silviculturists to decide how to best use even and uneven aged management on varied landscapes

Achieve Forest Plan goals

Mix of management styles to promote active growth and good, healthy trees

Whatever mix to promote biodiversity

Mix of even and uneven as long as it is managed!

Make sure we are cutting and managing

Mix of even and uneven aged management based on best forest science

Clearcutting only when managed for appropriate reasons (example for aspen regeneration)...no huge clearcuts just for money

Question 4: For what purposes would you like to see timber management used (wildlife habitat, timber production, other purposes)?

No more wilderness, we need all land for timber

TIMBER PRODUCTION

Capture the value of timber before it is lost or rots

Use timber production to provide wildlife habitat and demonstration forestry

All of the list-wildlife, timber, demo...

Use timber management to maintain the working landscape

Timber production that can compete in a global economy

Timber production, wildlife habitat, management of insect and disease problems, salvage wind and ice storm timber, open scenic views

Contribute to local economy

Diversity of uses, including timber harvest as an important ingredient

Supply public needs for housing, furniture, raw material

Be able to match market conditions

Recreational purposes-trails are opportunity to cut trees

For early successional habitat and other wildlife browse situations

Firewood production, TSI

For creation of multi-use trails

Biodiversity through timber production and demo forestry to meet socioeconomic demands and needs of communities (all other needs will be met such as recreation and it will promote a viable business community)

Concluding Remarks

People can live in harmony with the earth and make a living from it

Object to Marion's statement-Forest Watch is unethical

FS has always done excellent job in forest management-they are schooled people who know their work-shouldn't be questioned by other groups in terms of the job they're doing. Let the FS run the forest as it used to-means a lot to people as people like wood. Manage as a multiple use forest

Land managed for sustainable forest can produce wood and provide habitat

Great renewable message=we can sustain a forest forever if it is managed

GMNF needs to work with environmentalists (not extreme groups)

Earn living from earth

Private land is an example of old farm now sustainable

Need to work together, may be difficult but worth it

FS does an excellent job-opposed to GM Forest Watch

Let silviculturists apply their trade

Sawmill owner in northern Vermont proud and passionate about producing wood products
Very proud to manage forest, wildlife and long-term sustainability