Londonderry Plan Revision Meeting October 8, 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?

Management reflects the natural communities
Mixed uses with a variety of species-consider the tree species needs for soils and light
Tree species harvested for wood products should be harvested to provide the highest results for the trees and industry…example, thinning improves quality of timber and healthier trees
Reflect the working forest tradition…practicing sustainable forestry/providing quality wildlife habitat
More working forests, quality habitat, sustain forestry on a much larger scale
Decline in current (30 years) management has led to decline in observable wildlife sightings
Cutting for more diversity in wildlife habitat, especially white tail deer
Timber harvest is good for economy
Saw logs, high quality
Balance between timber local economy and the ability of the GMNF to provide that
More old forest and longer harvest rotations because of a need regionally. Consider outside of Vermont (NH and NY)
Management reflects consideration of natural communities
Managed stands should contain larger diameter stems and longer rotations and large coarse woody debris on forest floor
Future condition should reflect acknowledgment that diseased and damaged trees provide an important niche for a variety of species-include snags
Damaged trees should be removed because they might damage adjacent trees when they fall
GMNF should be a showcase for timber methods that are examples for private owners
GMNF should encourage timber sale methods that would encourage "green certification"
GMNF should not look "park-like" with underbrush removed
Strive to have a multiple-use forest…room for every wood, don't need to be mutually exclusive
Over last 30 years there has been an erosion of "available lands"
Vermont has been Vermont because farms are farmed and forests are working farms-this is being lost due to economics and restrictions
Note: "ecological forestry" (from chart #2, last sentence in PowerPoint)-newer forestry (example, retention clearcut) consider diameter of stems that are left versus stems that are left on the forest floor. Alternative rotation lengths. Upturned root wads have certain habitats
Smaller sales might work faster

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

Management reflects natural communities, stronger than now

More active timber management in larger areas-better implementation of the present Plan-relates to decline of animals in the forest
More cutting in recreation areas-selective cuts for wildlife habitat, too much mature forest in recreation areas
Relax regulations for timber management in recreation areas
Focus on what the timber community needs to be viable

Monitor logs that go out of the U.S.-especially to Canada that are returning empty-impacts mills and mil suppliers and has a ripple effect

Monitor what happens after timber is cut-compared to what was predicted-is management actually achieving desired conditions?
Management by professionals, not by silviculturist, not by groups
Implement the Plan-meet the goals and objectives
Stick to the Plan ASQ (allowable sale quantity)
Find out how to get logs to be required (or encourage) to stay in the U.S.-conscious choice: make logs cheaper
More unconventional thinking-natural communities, longer rotation ages, ecological forestry, retention harvesting

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

Logs going to Canada should be monitored and tariffed
Use uneven-aged methods
Use natural communities as base for management type (soils, aspect, hydrologic)
Ecological forestry: longer rotations
Rather not clearcut-use shelterwood or delayed cuts instead-if use clearcuts, then use small patches
Use a variety of methods to create diversity, like ATVs
Use well-trained Forest Service employees to make decisions
Use best research to mimic natural disturbance regimes
Use a combination of even-aged and uneven-aged…only use clearcuts in conifers
150 year rotation is too long-may only be appropriate at higher elevations
Winter logging only
Use selection and group selection cuts
Use all methods appropriate to type

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

Common sense approach: uneven age management, stop clearcuts (except small 1-2 acres)
Promote wildlife habitat
Longevity for high grade timber-hardwoods
Large privately owned timber land is getting fragmented

Managing FS land for timber keeps mills going and so takes some of the pressure off private land
Provides example of good, sustainable management
Provide more early successional habitat and more late successional-leave some for longer rotations with a goal of more diverse age classes
Spot clearcuts are good for wildlife habitat
Managed timber sales are good for wildlife habitat
Would like to see more of spot clearcuts and timber sales
Manage for mixed tree species
Generate money for 25% fund (would like to see 25% fund increased)
Demonstration forestry with an emphasis on management techniques for smaller non-industrial size tracts
Wildlife habitat
Recreation
Timber production
Improve wildlife habitat, especially white tail deer
Landscape approach to forestry-mimic natural processes
Cut management to decrease disease
Cut along edge of Wilderness areas to provide early successional habitat and promote wildlife
Forest products and wildlife habitat
Forest health