

## Londonderry Local Planning Group Meeting Notes 2-12-03

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

#### **Access Comments**

Increase the number of trails for all (hikers, skiers) and access to forest  
Control trail access: enforce rules (ex. no ATV in areas-make sure they don't go there)  
Improve access to forest (roads) as private landowners buy up around the forest  
Maintain existing roads and keep open in a sustainable fashion  
Accessible areas for more intense human use and management  
Continue access for backcountry recreation (to quiet places)

#### **Habitat Comments**

Consolidate ownership and expansion to allow for bear and other wildlife habitat (cannot call it habitat when private land is mixed with forest land and they have different management)  
Natural habitat for all-including man: good, healthy and diverse

#### **Ecological Environment Comments**

Protection of certain areas and resources  
Need lands that are natural-with no human management: restoration of older forests to natural conditions  
Maximize ecological values within the context of multiple use (ex. backcountry use connected and consolidated)  
Green Mountain National Forest should remain forest.  
Need balanced age classes of trees  
Both active management (timber) and preserved areas are important but fragmentation (or wrong mix) can lessen their value (ex. lots of bear habitat but not good if crossed by trails)  
Worried about leasing land for ski trails that would get credit for being "open areas"...concerned with density requirements

#### **Multiple Use Comments**

Multiple use with various groups at different times of the year (ex. snowmobile trails in winter are horse trails in the summer)  
Manage overlapping uses and keep compatible as population levels and use increases  
Have multiple uses but keep most disturbing uses on periphery and least disturbing in center/remote areas (for wildlife, solitude and adventure)  
There should be a place for everything-it is everyone's forest  
Inclusiveness with proper management  
Actively managed forest for timber and recreation  
Continue as a multiple use forest  
Multiple use through most of the forest  
Serve all the different multiple uses

#### **Education and Information Comments**

Forest Service needs to provide a historical forest context when speaking to public (educate on past history)  
Forest Service needs to provide education to public on timber management (ex. PILT fund)  
Forest Service directives-explain shared uses to the public  
Increase or have better signage

### **Land Use and Management Comments**

Forest is currently neglected and unmanaged

Remote areas should have less activity

Keep remote areas remote

Contiguous land-space and time provides management opportunities

Conduct scientific forestry but not as a predominate activity...can also have commercial activity but not as main focus

### **Wilderness Comments**

No increase in wilderness

### **Recreation Comments**

More horse trails

Safety concerns while recreating (ex. motorized vehicles/snowmobiles that don't see pedestrians)

Have more places for mountain bikes

Continue recreational uses (a place to get lost)

ATV use all over forest would create a problem- a trail (or hard packed roads) system is the only way but that could be a problem too-lack of controls

Developed recreation and good forest management near existing roads

Snowmobile trail in Glastenbury

Concern for snowmobile traffic - it is inappropriate due to level of noise and fumes

Need more law enforcement in Windhall and Weston for snowmobile traffic-most are good but some are not. Consider limiting use at certain times (ex. weekends)

Tremendous demand for all types of trail uses-plan for trails if road closures displace uses or are not compatible. Do not close roads and trails for motorized use.

### **Comments on the Planning Process**

Appeal process needs addressed (why are all timber projects so easily stopped?)

Changing technology requires a change in management (ex. snowmobiles can't share as well anymore)

Continue coordination with state agencies

### **Social/Economic Comments**

Balance Forest Service needs with public interests

Balance tolerance/appreciation/value of public lands

Produce economic impact statements

Green Mountain National Forest is in Vermont-encourage local input

Accessible to urban areas

Receive fair market value for resource extraction (timber and gravel)

Worried about leasing land for recreation that could be used for residential (ex. Stratton is boxed in by Green Mountain National Forest)

### **Land Acquisition Comments**

Less acquisition by Green Mountain National Forest

Concern that private land is liquidated of timber and then sold to Forest Service as Green Mountain National Forest will buy anything (even over-cut private land)

Goal: discourage purchase of mismanaged land

Priority: acquisition of contiguous land

Avoid fragmentation of ownership: we could add a lot of Forest Service ownership, but not effective if fragmented.

### **Wildlife Comments**

Is salmon reintroduction worth the huge cost?

Emphasis needs placed on game species (deer and grouse) and their habitat

Focus habitat and land acquisition on those species most sensitive to development (or species not likely to breed on private lands) ex. Northern Goshawk, Pine Marten

### **Timber Comments**

Keep the forest healthy through timber management (for wildlife habitat), this is not done now. Can mix it with wilderness areas.

Need a viable forest products industry with many tools (clearcuts, selective cuts, etc.)

Newly acquired lands are healthy because they have managed by the private industry for timber

Need more active timber management

Lack of timber sales on the Green Mountain National Forest has pushed harvesting on private lands-causing over cutting on private (non-industrial) lands-driving prices up

Logging not on some areas (ex. adjacent to Cape or old growth areas)

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

### **Multiple Use Importance**

Large, contiguous block of publically owned land presents unique opportunities for multiple uses-need to balance competing demands

### **Ecological Importance**

Important natural communities (ex. wetlands, beaver ponds, Mt. Abe)

Green Mountain National Forest located on biological poor areas-rocks, steep slopes, high elevation

Chance for large natural areas connected as large blocks that are not at risk for fragmentation

Inclusion of high country (ex. ridgelines) protected from private suburbia, without development

### **Economic and Social Importance**

Belongs to everyone

Tremendous opportunity for uses and income from timber

Large, contiguous block of publically owned land that is undeveloped

Green Mountain National Forest is so close to a large population (value and a threat)

Large area is public land when compared with other eastern states

### **Wildlife Importance**

Sustain wildlife (habitat and corridors)

### **Recreation Importance**

Green Mountain National Forest provides a long-term recreation resource (eternity)

Importance for public land-use for all for varied recreation

Long Trail, Appalachian Trail, Green Mountain Trail, Catamount Trail=continuous nature trails that are lengthy

### **Wilderness Importance**

Nowhere else in Vermont can you have large system of connected wilderness-unroaded

### **Timber Importance**

Forest Service has opportunity to practice exemplary silviculture without constraints or tenure of ownership