

Londonderry Local Planning Group Meeting Notes 3-12-03

Goals Public Comments Received at the Meeting

1. Maintain productivity of soils.
2. Restore Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River watershed.
This may be an objective.
Broaden to restore extirpated species.
3. Enhance and maintain riparian and aquatic habitats.
4. Maintain and protect wetland areas.
5. Maintain adequate quality, amount, and distribution of habitats to produce viable and sustainable populations of plants and animals.
Should be native only.
Change sentence beginning to "Maintain or create high quality..."
6. Maintain a full range of ecological processes and systems that naturally occur on the Green Mountain National Forest (Green Mountain National Forest).
What is meant by "ecological processes and systems?"
7. Increase use of prescribed fire to maintain openings on the Green Mountain National Forest for wildlife and human uses.
Maintain at existing level of human uses.
May conflict with Goal #6
8. Enhance and maintain wildlife corridors and linkages.
9. Coordinate habitat management with other federal, state and local agencies. (Requirement?)
Move to requirements.
10. Protect all rare and uncommon or outstanding biological, ecological, or geological areas on the Green Mountain National Forest, including old growth and native flora.
11. Provide for and manage a sustainable vegetation and timber management program on the Green Mountain National Forest.

12. Provide benefits to other resource areas through coordinated timber harvesting.

Provide recreational access to managed forest where trees are cultivated for large size
Change "resource areas" to uses'

13. Increase biodiversity by providing a range of vegetative age classes and types from early successional to old growth through sustainable timber harvesting and vegetation management.

14. Maintain quality settings for motorized recreational opportunities.

Currently there is a lot of illegal ATV (4wd) use throughout the southern Green Mountain National Forest...this might be due to the lack of areas designated for this kind of activity. Maybe Goal #14 should address this with the words "enhance" or "additional".
What is included in 'motorized'? Buses??

15. Maintain quality settings for non-motorized recreational opportunities.

16. Maintain and protect Wilderness and primitive areas to provide opportunities for quiet recreation and solitude.

Look at this in planning future trail projects as an objective, also qualification for Goal #17 as remote areas are scarce.
Good one-strong support
This is good but is there an arithmetic way to know enough wilderness has been set aside?

17. Provide a high quality and diverse trail system.

Should add "all seasons" because a lot of trails are not maintained other than for snowmobiles

18. Decrease recreational user conflicts.

What are the ideas-how will this be accomplished?
Objective: skiers and snowmobilers

19. Emphasize dispersed recreation opportunities.

What does this mean? Change the word 'dispersed'
Is it better to disperse and have a wider area of impact with less concentration or have more concentrated impacts

20. Provide recreation and relaxation opportunities for the wearied urban masses.

Remove (comment made by 4 people)
Revise to general public
Discriminatory and prejudiced-remove this goal

21. Maintain, not increase, Green Mountain National Forest lands designated as alpine ski areas.

Is this compatible with Goal #22
May not be compatible with Goals #30 and #33

22. Continue to provide four season recreational opportunities at alpine ski areas.

Question-what does this mean?

23. Provide an adequate level of road access to the forest.

Seems to indicate increased access-need to keep some areas quiet and inaccessible

"Adequate" is vague

Need access to the forest to evaluate what is within (objective)

"Adequate" too vague, how is this determined?

Too vague-what does it mean?

24. Provide adequate access opportunities for a more diverse array of uses.

Seems to indicate increased access-need to keep some areas quiet and inaccessible

What are the "diverse array of uses"-need to list somewhere which ones.

"Adequate" is vague

Don't need to accommodate every use

Too vague-don't know what the uses are

"Adequate" too vague, how is this determined?

How much more diverse can it get?

Too vague-what does it mean?

25. Improve accessibility opportunities for people with disabilities.

More information about the road system that is available

26. Improve control of illegal uses through law enforcement and access controls.

27. Maintain and enhance visual resources such as viewsheds, vistas, overlooks, and special features.

Enhance with a lighter touch to maintain a natural appearance.

28. Protect all uncommon or outstanding recreational and heritage areas on the Green Mountain National Forest.

What are heritage areas? Unique botanical? Historical?

Protection of historical structures could include interpretation (ex. logging camps and communities such as Old Job).

29. Provide opportunities for renewable energy use and development as long as it does not negatively impact other resources.

Could be contradictory with Goals #30, #33, and #34: dependant on a delicate balancing act.

Add to end of the sentence: 'as long as it does not cause undue adverse impact on the natural resources.' (Because may have to have some negative impacts-is a matter of scale and definition of "resource.")

30. Support regional and local economies through resource production and resource protection.

Provide more timber sale opportunities for local loggers...maybe smaller timber sales. Maybe cooperatives. National Forests should be certified for timber.

31. Maintain and enhance partnerships with community organizations.

Should be tied to Goals #37 and #38: as Forest Service budgets and staff are under crunch there should be more opportunities for volunteers to help with management of recreation resources and education functions.

32. Protect qualities of the Green Mountain National Forest that contribute to Vermont's uniqueness and culture.

33. Provide for a wide range of uses and activities in an ecologically, socially and economically sustainable way.

Be careful with allowing new activities.

34. Minimize negative impacts of human activities to forest resources.

35. Improve Green Mountain National Forest sign system.

How do you deal with snowmobiles using trails they are not allowed on? Possibly an objective under this goal and a law enforcement goal?

Not particularly worried about this-use a map!

Agree with this goal-real problem not knowing what activities you can do where

Objective: signs to direct people to ranger stations/district offices

Signs should say what you can do, not what you can't do (so people don't want to tear down signs that tell them not to do something)

Goal should describe what is meant by an "improved sign system."

36. Provide educational opportunities on silvicultural techniques and sound forest management practices.

Objective: Have loggers subscribe to a certified sustainable timber management plan (similar to the Smart Wood program).

Add to end of sentence "including demonstration projects" (especially for school-age children).

37. Increase educational opportunities provided by and on the Green Mountain National Forest.

Should be tied to Goals #37 and #38: as Forest Service budgets and staff are under crunch there should be more opportunities for volunteers to help with management of recreation resources and education functions.

Good goal-should also include an increase in the publicity of opportunities

38. Maintain and enhance relationships with local communities.

Should be tied to Goals #37 and #38: as Forest Service budgets and staff are under crunch there should be more opportunities for volunteers to help with management of recreation resources and education functions.

39. Coordinate with federal and state agencies.

Very vague-coordinate what?

40. Keep the Forest Plan current through an ongoing planning program and amendments.

41. Monitor activities and resources to determine effects, benefits, and conditions on an ongoing basis.

42. Evaluate potential land acquisition parcels for resource conditions before or immediately after purchase.

Should resource conditions be evaluated before acquisition?

43. Place newly acquired lands in a management area immediately after purchase.

MA 9.2 is a management area now...goal should read "Place newly acquired lands in a management area other than 9.2 immediately after purchase."

Land adjustment-no new acquisition

44. Identify and mark Green Mountain National Forest boundaries within budgetary constraints.

New Goals Suggested at Meeting

Certified sustainable forestry programs.