

Hector Public Planning Meeting Notes 4-3-03

Goals from the 1987 Forest Plan

Public Comments

Protect the Environment

1. Protect the basic integrity of soil, air and water resources so they can continue their life supporting functions in perpetuity, by such requirements as preventing erosion, meeting air quality standards, preventing contamination of surface and ground water.

How does gas leasing fit with this goal

In addition to protecting water, do not export or sell it

Be pro-active in removal of invasive (non-desirable) species

Go beyond basic integrity to enhance and improve

Protect headwaters

Advocate reforestation on pasture areas

2. Promote a diversity of life forms. - - This goal recognizes the inherent rights of other species with which we share the earth; the importance of genetic diversity in maintaining resilience in the face of environmental disturbances, and the enrichment of human lives by variety. It includes the protection of unique habitats and species, and management to provide a diversity of habitat types.

Remember that humans are one lifeform

3. Protect significant cultural and historic resources. - -Cultural and historic resources are important to remind us of alternative ways of coping with and viewing the world, and of what worked and didn't work in the past, and the forces that shaped current management.

Consider acquisition of historically important parcels

Disagree with simplification, should expand protection to include future considerations...need second opinions!

Protect in undisturbed state

4. Conserve resources and energy. - - This involves not wasting non-renewable energy sources in the works we do; getting full utilization of resources we do remove; giving back to the land what is needed to sustain its long-term productivity, and making the most effective use of the taxpayers dollar.

Does this conflict with any mineral extraction (non-renewable resources)?

Seems to conflict with Goal #17

Provide a variety of goods and services; emphasizing those not available from other lands

5. Provide types of recreation that require a large, relatively undeveloped land area. Includes providing “room to roam,” opportunities for relative solitude, and freedom from restrictions.

Include "quiet" to focus on removing non-natural sounds

Question 'freedom from restrictions,' for example ATVs...maintain ATV exclusion

Focus on non-mechanized recreation

Provide areas for quiet recreation (non-motorized)

Other areas are available for ATVs, the Forest should provide an area to get away from them

Expand recreation provided to include trails

Keep the forest open to public use

Expand to include ATV trails or ATV areas (also bike trails)

Keep trails out of grazing areas, or alternate route

Actively promote low-impact or no-trace recreation

Increase mountain bike trails and mountain bike use on other trails (horses cause more damage than mountain bikes)

6. Provide types of wildlife habitat not common on other lands (e.g. shrub openings).

Include over-mature forest and decadent

Are shrub openings still uncommon/not provided on other lands

Plenty of even-aged forest everywhere, the Finger Lakes National Forest should provide over-mature forest

Do not introduce game bird species

Remove non-native species from the forest

Increase amount of special areas and create more areas for future old growth...all ravines should be special areas

7. Produce range forage commensurate with demand, and compatible with other uses of the Forest.

No surface disturbance for minerals

Produce range forage in a sustainable manner

Grazing and timber are available on other lands in the area

8. Manage timber to produce high quality sawtimber, since this requires long tenure of land ownership.

No surface disturbance for minerals

Manage timber to produce high quality habitat and increase biodiversity...extend harvest rotations and provide continuous forest cover

Grammar is bad

Objective: limit harvest to 1% per year to produce quality sawtimber

Manage timber in a sustainable manner

High quality timber needs to be defined, this may mean dense growth rings not necessarily rapid growth
Grazing and timber are available on other lands in the area

Provide a reasonably safe, hospitable environment for Forest visitors.

What is considered 'reasonably safe'?

9. Conduct management of recreation facilities and other uses to provide a reasonable level of safety in keeping with a relatively undeveloped outdoor environment.

ATVs are unsafe

Undeveloped environment should apply specifically to Caywood Point...also no boat launch, new buildings, or structures

10. Provide sufficient public information for the Forest visitor to take full advantage of available goods, services and opportunities
Expand to include promoting the use of the forest

11. Promote equal opportunity for all citizens in Forest programs and uses, regardless of race, color, creed, disability, etc.

Consider more accessible trails (ex. for blind)

Consider partnerships (ex. with Audubon Society) to have interpretive information on habitats and bird species...good location may be Sassafras Pond

Isn't this a requirement or something that people already do in our culture

Improve signage-mainly access and boundary signs

Promote a conservation ethic and knowledge of natural resource management

12. Promote use of the District for environmental education and research.

Create community games/gatherings/celebrations to help support management activities and environmental education opportunities

Include partnerships with local organizations (such as Soil Water Conservation District, non-profits, etc.)

Include lots of partnerships-not commercial adventures

Concern over development of Caywood Point-off limit areas and talk of a retreat?

Tie education to archaeology and other programs such as 4-H and kid programs

13. Demonstrate innovative, ecologically sound management practices that can be applied to other lands.

Develop inventory of invasives. Change goal to read " Demonstrate...applied to other lands to control invasive species."

Encourage stewardship contracts with non-profit entities, no commercial

Develop annual biological inventories to track plant migrations

What is 'ecologically sound,' should be sustainable forest management (to address diversity of tree species as well)

Consolidate national forest land ownership for more effective management

14. This goal involves perusing State enabling legislation, and carrying out land acquisitions and exchanges to improve Forest ownership patterns.

Forest Service should pay premium to private landowners for good habitat and lands that have been taken care of when acquiring land...in order to prevent liquidation of timber before a sale and to encourage good stewardship.
Would like to see more steps for land acquisition with a priority along roads for access
Make land acquisitions/exchanges broadly known to public

Promote economic stability of local communities

15. Provide a fairly consistent flow of goods and services on which local communities depend for their economic survival.

Modify header to "Promote a sustainable economy"
Should not support unsustainable projects
Should be clarified-hard to see where this fits in and what the "local communities" are

16. Minimize disruptions to local economics that might result from forest management decisions.

Should not support unsustainable projects

Help meet the Nation's Energy Needs

17. This goal involves leasing for gas exploration and development, in a way that is compatible with conserving surface resources and their uses.

Eliminate this goal because of tourism
Would change to include "smart exploration" and species protection, fragmentation goals. This doesn't talk about protection
Eliminate this goal! This should be fair for the people who live here; impacts on a long, narrow forest...
Change goal...to no leasing, exploration and development of gas resource
Do not merchandize minerals or water

Retain the ability to respond to a changing environment

18. Keep abreast of economic, social, technological, and environmental trends that may affect the Forest.

19. Limit irreversible commitments of resources to keep options open for future generations.

Drilling is irreversible
Power lines, communication towers, and pipelines are also irreversible
Seems to conflict with Goal #17

New Goals

Promote tourism (include objectives of audio tours, self-tours, driving tours; provide more information such as better signage on roads and the forest)

No ATVs

Tourism-promote Finger Lakes National Forest for cross country skiing (separate trails so they don't go through pastures-to avoid people going on trails with cattle and leaving pasture gates open)

Minimize forest fragmentation

Control invasive species. Concern about activities that introduce or increase the amount of invasive species

No mechanical activity.

Partnerships with non-profits and private landowners for non-Forest Service land stewardship

At horse camps provide: 1) covered horse shelter; 2) water supply for horses (and maybe people) other than pond; 3) pavilion for picnic tables and a place to escape rainy weather (like on Potomac Rd) where groups could reserve shelter

Provide locust posts for personal use or possibly small commercial use