

Arlington Local Planning Group Meeting Notes 4-08-03

Land Adjustment Comments

Sell land back to the people

Keep purchasing land

Priorities are ok as is

Consider effects on towns-especially taxes...when a large percent is National Forest, also consider how the land use affects the town

Individual should have the right to see to whomever they want

PILT payments are to low

Need to examine process of purchasing large acreages through Vermont Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land as they are wilderness advocates.

Before acquiring land, outline desired management for the area

Selectboard approval may not fully represent the town

Look at Somerset Reservoir for purchase (be proactive)

Be more proactive in land purchase

Try to protect watersheds in land purchases

Recreation Comments

Developed recreation should be oriented to natural values-rustic-the forest Service has the right orientation now

Don't do more to compete with private campgrounds...see more uses that can be an extension of activities on private land-for example, signs-provide better identification of what is available

Good balance now between developed and undeveloped

Would like to see dispersed recreation more available seasonally-open later in fall and skiing later in winter

Parking problems-limited access for skiers-they get filled up with snowmobilers

Saturation issue-need to be aware of higher levels of use than the towns can support

VAST Trail Plan-was great for a while but now need to go to no net gain-VAST trail system has reached saturation

Keep some old log roads that have a canopy that limit brush so there are options for other uses-ex. horseback riders

Deal with cross country ski versus snowmobile conflicts

Concerned about and don't want to see any further development in the National Forest-especially ski areas

Built structures-non-rustic

Consider focusing wind tower development in the ski areas-make it a condition of their permit to allow for wind towers

recreation expansion-does that come with garbage, law enforcement and bathroom facilities? Impacts towns negatively unless provided by the Forest Service

Good thing that the Green Mountain is providing an attractive area for tent camping that excludes RVs

Look for opportunities for shared law enforcement with towns to help control Concentrated Use Area abuse

Look for volunteer and educational opportunities to help control Concentrated Use Area use

Consider limiting dispersed camping to certain sites and charge a fee-eliminate the camp anywhere idea-old idea who's time is up

Should consider providing opportunities for RV camping-like Woodford State park-including swimming, sewage, etc..

RV camping is easy to find anywhere-keep the RV camping limited-the rustic camping opportunity is rare and we shouldn't lose it

Keep the backcountry open and free to users-they are very responsible

Distinguish backcountry camping from Concentrated Use Areas, don't lose backcountry just because of Concentrated Use Areas

Sight-seeing: Forest Service does a horrible job of maintaining vistas-excellent opportunities out there, just not taking advantage-not only maintain but provide parking

Need to provide overlook opportunities-parking, small trails, or opportunities for bird-watching in the forest

Very difficult to get off Route 9-it would be nice if there were opportunities for winter parking-look for partnership opportunities so that an interest group maintains the parking on Forest Service land if they want to use the land

Better educational and signage system-like Adirondacks...right where you park are signs telling you where you are, what is there, what to do. Very limited signage on the forest-needs improved

Skiing is not growing-economics not working out-but depends on area-Mt. Snow probably has capacity

Limit provision of Red Mill type campgrounds-it brings in certain uses that aren't consistent with the rustic atmosphere and leads to impacts to private facilities

Campgrounds that are not supervised leads to problems such as sanitation

Instead of more campgrounds, take Concentrated Use Areas and provide a lot of supervision-provide more of the rustic experience than you get at places like Red Mill (example: airport area at Somerset)

Consider requiring special use permit for activities like geocaching

Parking/trailhead adjacent to private-concerned with impacts to private landowners

Hunting-habitat management has declined from 1986 Forest Plan and the Forest is losing habitats-need more logging to create this habitat

Outfitter guides and tours are ok as long as they aren't limiting or displacing opportunities for those doing things on their own

Better signage would be helpful in Concentrated Use Areas to tell people the rules

Put "restricted use" on concentrated use

A resident of Winhall who is an avid fisherman and also guides fisherman feels strongly that there should be a catch and release program on the Winhall River. I understand that when the state of Vermont grants fishing licenses they can make this happen on National Forest land