

Londonderry Local Planning Group Meeting Notes 4-09-03

Land Adjustment Comments

Supportive of land acquisition...consider buying land that currently has a conservation easement (Deerfield, Somerset). Needs to be accelerated as this is a special case

Should be considered even though under existing restrictions similar to National Forest management

Most "recent" purchase looks sensible, should continue doing a good job

Sage Hill-State identified areas between acquisition-should go out of our way to make connection as a habitat corridor

Dover-North Branch of Deerfield River is excluded from property boundary-why? Good wetlands and a recognized wildlife corridor next to towns

Forest should not buy land without a good reason, not just because it is there

Not sure of priority along AT/LT

Wants United States Forest Service (USFS) to work more closely with towns (especially Conservation Commissions)...helps work with local communities better-collaboration with these to get best benefits

Emphasis on buying inholding-especially when the required access impacts the forest

Romance and Glastenbury inholdings especially important

Inholdings might over-develop (such as a large hotel)

Land acquisition-large tracts are acquired through wilderness advocate agencies (for example: The Nature Conservancy, Vermont Land Trust, Trust for Public Land) bought by USFS

Encourage USFS to work with universities, national conservation, Vermont Biodiversity to identify critical wildlife habitats threatened by development

Trust for Public Land has worked to have lands remain open-would like this to continue

Recreation Comments

White Mountain National Forest has good management of low-use areas to prevent over-use

ATV-designated use areas (provide handicap access, not just trails)

If ATVs are allowed-no 2 cycle engines

Roads have been closed in past-want to have roads remain open or re-open closed roads to all kinds of uses

More emphasis on wildlife habitat improvement (example-through vegetation management)

Some campgrounds have shortened camping season, would like to see shoulder season (ex. foliage season)-many in-state and out-of-state would prefer not to have bug season

Make sure it focuses on management within budget

Consider Acadia National Park-they closed some critical nesting and feeding habitat

Lot of illegal ATVs-work to prevent it

Likes existing balance between White Mountain National Forest (providing more developed recreation) and Green Mountain National Forest (backcountry recreation)

Green Mountain has historic campground to continue-if upgraded maintain at good safe level

In reference to Concentrated Use Areas-consider closures to prevent resource damage

Endorse less developed recreation activities, "quiet and solitude" types of activities

Nordic areas are good to keep separate

Current ski area expansion should be dropped by Mt. Snow due to: 1) town plan corridor; 2) lack of plans officially dropped by Mt. Snow; 3) State has designated corridor

Concentrated Use Area that are real problems the USFS should consider some to be upgraded to prevent environmental impacts-rather than restrict use

Some CONCENTRATED USE AREA more hardened to prevent damage

Attempt trying more signs

Attempt trying less signs

Access to recreation areas needs better roads maintenance-major roads leading to recreation

Snowmobile using major roads

Would like to see Mt. Snow expansion...there was good thought put into it. No new areas so it makes sense to keep these potential expansions-lots of Vermont folks make a living skiing

At would expense would we give up a bear corridor for ski area expansion

Small percent is ski area-low impact on forest

If Mt Snow doesn't want it, then remove from expansion management area classification

Access to Wallingford Pond, road is in worse condition now than 50 years ago...4x4 to water edge-however Forest Service doesn't have jurisdiction over the road...Grout Pond access is a good example of how the Forest Service has better organized to allow for vehicle access

USFS could approach towns concerning their road maintenance

USFS doesn't have obligation to provide road access to remote areas

USFS should honor traditional access-if horses and farm tractors used to have access then they should continue to have access

Would support USFS figuring out recreation carrying capacity

Able to co-habitat between wild and recreation

No more wilderness

Disabled access should be balanced to areas-Federal government should include

Don't do Champion

Work with VAST to encourage partnerships in areas other than the Forest-use cooperation of local stores-encourages businesses

Work with state agencies regarding the impacts to communities and private landowners

Please correct locations of Mt. Snow, which is shown too far south

It is important the Forest Service works with local town officials on improvements and any proposed uses which in many cases has some impact on townspeople

Mt. Snow is misplaced on maps-it is not where I live but 1/2 mile north! Also, it is on top of Cold Brook-a class A stream-not possible! Clarify map please

I would like to snowshoe in winter and additional plowing of parking lots would be helpful

I am not sure ATVs are helpful to the handicapped, or that people who use ATVs are in the main handicapped. I think ATVs tip over from time to time and a handicapped person would be very hard pressed to deal with that

Access via roads should be limited in newly acquired areas

Special permits should allow access for handicap

Special permits for ATV

Eliminate Mt. Snow proposed expansion area due to critical bear habitat and a class A watershed

Road System map shows parts of Old Somerset Road as a National Forest road...it is actually a thrown up town road-not even a towns trail on private land of Edith Mas and/or Lawrence Cornelia Ren

Mt. Snow shows in wrong location

Area shown for future expansion of Mt. Snow should not be allowed to continue. It is prime wildlife area...as Beth LeClair stated it doesn't make sense without Sargent Inc. lease which Mt. Snow gave up...we also understand that Mt. Snows own wildlife consultant recommended against development. It is time to remove this issue

Good idea to have balance between White Mountain National Forest and GMNF recreational goals-with White Mountain National Forest more developed, GMNF more backcountry

White Mountain National Forest looking at ways to protect low-use areas by not encouraging movement of people from high to low density areas-good idea

Consider closing critical nesting and feeding habitat to recreation when seasonally needed and do good public education (Acadia National Park does this well)

Illegal ATV use is happening all over the forest-need to get rid of this and not allow legal ATV use

Make sure recreational goals reflect expected budgets, including budgets for monitoring and enforcement

Eliminate keg party sites along roads