

Arlington Plan Revision Meeting May 13, 2003: Public Comments

General Comments

- Put 10 acre cuts together in areas that are flatter (such as Somerset White Rocks) for early successional habitat
- Provide more education opportunities along trails-Appalachian Trail and Long Trail-especially for timber harvest education opportunities
- Windmills: Expansion is a great idea but please not in Lamb Brook area...land swap with Trenor Scott is okay but not in Lamb Brook...put windmills west of Rte 8 on ridge going northwest
- Most forest land in Vermont is more economically productive for recreation than for timber production
- More wilderness designation will increase surrounding land values
- Present wilderness areas get heavy use by recreationists
- Black Hole Farm: the timber is a significant feature and should be managed.
- Suggest: recommending the Lamb Brook area east of Route 8 as prime candidate for "wilderness" designation. It contains two unnamed 3,000 foot mountains and the "Freezin' Hole"
- Many of the 9.2 p should continue under public ownership...parcels have good to excellent timber. These parcels were managed under private ownership through timber harvesting. There is excellent wildlife habitat, mainly because of the timber management and this
- The existing roads and trails should be maintained for the current uses unless there are erosion concerns
- Maintain all existing roads and trails
- Review existing logging skid roads/trails to clear for snowshoe, cross country skiing, snowmobile, ATV trails
- Create trails for use by ATVs and snowmobiles only
- Create trails for snowshoe and cross country ski use only
- Create trails for hiking only
- Turn Glastenbury into a snowmobile and ATV use playground
- Clearcuts max: 5-10 acres, should have more sustainable selective cuts
- The GMNF is a forest, not a park, and should be managed as a forest through multiple use...the forest contains excellent timber that has been well managed for several decades. Timber management should continue on the forest...there are many benefits of timber management including providing excellent wildlife habitat as well as monetary benefits to the towns with National Forest Land within their boundaries
- Landscape scale management
- Birds in decline are in most need for early successional habitat
- Avoid steep terrain
- Rotate temporary openings
- More early successional wildlife habitat
- Windmills: Expansion is a great idea but please not in Lamb Brook area...land swap with Trenor Scott is okay but not in Lamb Brook...put windmills west of Rte 8 on ridge going northwest
- Early successional good habitat for neo-tropical migrant songbirds-SERIOUS decline
- Private landowners do not, or cannot, manage for wildlife
- White Rocks NRA-manage for wildlife habitat, why not implement the White Rocks Wildlife Refuge in the NRA plan?
- Maintain old growth in large tracts, then early successional...a lot of cutting outside of large tracts
- More interpretive signs

- National Forest timber sales are not motivated by profit but designed for wildlife habitat improvement
- High elevation conifer/hardwood-manage for Bicknell's Thrush where present
- Fill in and around existing wilderness areas with more wilderness-create large blocks
- Leave steep slopes unharvested or as wilderness
- Rest of lands-have rotational clearcuts and heavy (70%) cuts in a scattered mosaic-size 5-15 acres
- In areas with moist, productive soils (stream bottoms, swamps, seeps) in particular-manage as clearcuts of 5-10 acres with seeded landings-landings to act as singing grounds for American woodcock-NE Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife has set up a task force to address woodcock management due to long-term declines (2.6 % per year since 1966).
- Clearcuts in a loose scattered clump are notably more beneficial than widely scattered cuts
- In areas with Aspen do Aspen regeneration cuts on a 50-60 year cycle in a checkerboard pattern
- 1972-2000 in Vermont, early successional habitat in 2000 is 40% of what there was in pre 1970s
- BBS data and North American Bird Conservation Initiative recognizes that early successional bird species are declining more rapidly as a whole that species that prefer mature forests-there is a tremendous need for early successional habitats...also, many "mature" forest birds will benefit from some selective logging and even clearcuts for nesting or post-nesting foraging
- All 9.2 land that is within the proposal by the Vermont Wilderness Association-recommended for wilderness, national recreation areas, or other conservation classifications should be managed to protect the qualities those designations would preserve
- The entire south half of the forest lacks good hiking trails-we need more
- Existing trails need better maintenance-brushhog them every couple of years
- If you really want to deal with the current ATV use-then give them more places to ride!! (ditto!)
- P.S. I'm not a fan of ATVs so separate them from other trail users

Map-related Comments

Goshen Dam

- More clearcuts

Stanley Tool Lands

- Very good timber on these parcels that should be managed under public ownership
- More early successional management

Dorset Mountain

- Most important role of the Forest Service is to protect water supply-supply aquifers
- Keep pristine with hiking trails
- Recreation and wildlife habitat

IP Lands

- Make a National Recreation Area: could include snowmobiles, camping, etc.
- Maintain beech stands through active management
- Maintain bear habitat
- Cannot sustain logging on steep slopes
- The IP Lands in Winhall, Stratton, and Sunderland have been actively managed for timber harvesting in the past and have potential for future timber harvesting

- Manage for Bicknell's Thrush

Bills Acquisition

- Cannot sustain logging on steep slopes
- Continue as timber production

Glastenbury

- Snowmobile access for link between Shaftsbury and the National Forest
- Designate as wilderness: no more parking put in
- Keep existing but no new trails: allow snowmobiling, hiking, cross country skiing
- Keep traditional use: logging, motorized access, hunting, deer yard management (deer yards on west side)
- Protect Bicknell's Thrush
- More clearcuts
- Extensive illegal ATV and 4 wheel drive use takes place on 9.2 lands-some has been identified by Forest Watch-see correspondence with Paul Brewster-this should be stopped.
- 9.2 Land in Glastenbury has been managed by the Scott family in the past through timber management-there is still significant timber that should be managed
- Close snowmobile trails in Glastenbury
- Contains a significant investment in infrastructure-roads, bridges, culverts, etc...these provide a (unique) access to very remote areas-they should be maintained for both recreation and timber management...there are not many places in NE Vermont where this sort of "backcountry" is readily available-careful managements required
- ATV use allowed on some of the main roads only

Black Hole Farm

- Recreational use is more valuable: minimal management
- Keep more natural
- Manage for wildlife habitat
- Black Hole Farm-some of the best timber on the south half of the forest-oak, yellow birch, hickory, black birch
- Good timber
- Well managed by previous landowners for timber production
- Occasional bear
- Excellent timber on these parcels-well managed under private ownership through timber harvesting and this should continue under public ownership. Excellent wildlife habitat because of past timber management and this should continue under public ownership to maintain excellent wildlife habitat.
- This areas has significant high quality timber that has been managed in the past and should continue to be managed

Dover Hills

- Cannot sustain logging on steep slopes
- Remain actively managed: timber harvesting for bear habitat and to maintain viable bear population

Other Areas

- Readsboro: no windmills here

- Searsburg: windmills ok here
- West of Glastenbury: add parking for ATVs and snowmobiles
- West of Shaftsbury Center: keep existing trails open-especially McIntyre, Glastenbury, Fayeville for snowmobiling and hiking
- Grout Pond: camping should be monitored along the river on Kelley Stand Rd. Trash is left, noise, partying, etc.
- Woodford: less snowmobile activity in Little Pond-Pine Valley area...wonderful cross country skiing which has been ruined by excess snowmobile activity
- N. Bennington and Waterbury water supply needs protection
- Boils Brook and Bit for Brook-watersheds need protection: Bennington water supply
- Somerset Reservoir: acquire this parcel at any cost when it becomes available