

Bristol Plan Revision Meeting May 20, 2003: Public Comments

General Comments

- Vermont forests need timber management to keep Vermont in keeping with traditional use. Logging provides jobs. Timber is a natural resource that renews itself. The number of deer (evident by deer kill) in Hancock and Granville have declined in the past 20 years, so has timber harvest in these towns.
- The Forest Service needs to increase timber harvest and meet previous harvest objectives.
- There have been several meetings and no results presented...if our input is truly meaningful, tell us why and how.
- This process appears to be a smoke screen, lots of meetings and inputs but no results.
- I believe the Forest Service should keep up with the plan they had when they acquired these 9.2 lands: for instance: Goshen Dam Road has been forgotten about, the only thing that has been done is the dusk until dawn sign meaning you can't be there at night. If need be, it needs to be managed with camp sites and sanitation.
- I believe that all of the land the Forest Service has acquired and owned before should be managed for wildlife and timber harvesting because it always has been in the past, we know that there are lots of places not suitable for logging but that doesn't mean it needs the big "W" the whole forest is wilderness to us and it does not need to be designated by Congress as wilderness forever.
- Trails! Whether they are walking paths through wilderness with no name, or a VAST snowmobile trail that goes the length of the mountains or just crosses it, there shouldn't be a big study or hassle as to what goes on in the Forest. The Forest Service needs to make some educated decisions on their own and leave our (public) opinions out.
- Whether Forest Service owns or has just acquired land with roads on it (which they have), they should be labeled and maintained as they always have...not just let them be abused and forgotten.
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- "TMDL" The Total Maximum Daily Load of phosphorus (whether free or particulate) is a concept applying to Lake Champlain as a major repository. Free phosphorus entering surface waters becomes food for algae within hours; -particulate phosphorus (P bound mainly to aluminum in the soil) is deposited as sediment and may be released to become food for algae for up to ten years; A major source of both kinds, but particularly of the slow-release form, is erosion. Therefore it is necessary, I think, to minimize or to eliminate erosion into surface waters, regardless of causative use.
- Need more wilderness areas (or another unmanaged area designation) at low elevations.
- Add to Lye Brook Wilderness portions of Winhall and IP Lands.
- Parcels adjacent and west of Bristol Cliffs, as well as near Beaver Meadows: manage for habitat protection
- Chittenden Reservoir, new areas along Long Trail, and Sugar Hill Reservoir: recreation and watershed protection
- Winhall and IP Lands: Manage mostly for recreation, particularly along the Long Trail corridor
- At the time that the USFS purchases a piece of property, they know more about the land due to the purchase process than they will 10 years later after no attention to it. No land should be bought without a plan. Roads must be put into road inventory and maintained!!! A good example is the access road to Goshen Dam that has gone since 1996 without maintenance.

- The Forest Service does not have the resources to manage the property it currently owns. Too many resources are expended satisfying endless regulation. Not enough resources are available for road maintenance, timber production, recreation opportunities, and the wide variety of opportunities available under multiple use. The needs of the broad spectrum of the local communities are brushed aside to satisfy the recreation desires of a small segment of the population. There should be many more opportunities for recreation than are currently available
- The Forest Service is easily paralyzed by appeal. The appeal process has made it nearly impossible to put forward a timber sale. The health of the forest and the economic vitality of a significant segment of the community suffers as a result. By limiting use and access, the economy of the state has less variety and as a result is less durable. No more wilderness, no more purchases-do a better job of managing what you have for the benefit of the entire community.
- Anybody in state of Vermont who is lucky enough to draw a moose permit should be allowed to have a 1 time ATV use permit to go in and get the moose out...permit good for one trip only and if caught at any other time, there would be a heavy fine.
- GMNF should provide what the private sector does not...we do not need RV parks as that is a perfect mom and pop business that the Federal Government should not compete with a small business for; instead provide open space, wilderness, and animal habitat
- Most of the new areas should be used for as little as possible-extending wilderness areas and general recreation use. ATV and motorized use should be restricted. Horse packing for hunters should be encouraged.

- The USDA generated a report titled "Early Successional Habitat and Open Lands Assessment for the Eastern and Southern Regions, Report I" dated September, 2000. In that report, there are findings for stand age class distributions of all types of trees in the GMNF. In 1999 it shows less than 7% of GMNF lands are classified as early successional and pole timber stages (0-29 years). In 1996, 23% of Vermont timber lands were early successional. Our forests at that time were teeming with wildlife, especially snowshoe hare and bobcats. Because of lack of management, our wildlife populations are decreasing, especially snowshoe hare and bobcats in the GMNF. Lets do the right thing for wildlife and create more young forest types.
- The maps should show the adjacent management area classifications for best analysis of newly acquired lands to determine best uses.
- No more wilderness
- No more property acquisition
- Manage the land we already own for multiple use
- More recreation opportunities for snowmobiling, hiking, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, camping and horseback riding
- No more wilderness areas
- Develop no new trails over private lands-it risks taking by eminent domain
- No more wilderness, the Forest Service does not have the resources to manage the land they have now.
- No more land purchases
- Manage more of the FS land for multiple uses, timber production, recreation, wildlife
- Support local jobs to support the community
- Update maps with full Catamount Trail
- No more wilderness designations
- Increase oak forest stands to 2% of GMNF
- Increase GMNF to 20% early-successional forests for wildlife habitat
- No more wilderness
- Expand Breadloaf Wilderness to lower elevation

- Manage for timber and early successional habitat
- ATVs also need a place to go
- All higher elevation-we need to understand role of fire, animal browse and timber harvest in order to maintain mountain spruce populations

Map-Related Comments

Goshen Dam

- Allow firearms for hunting season for duck hunting
- Remove no camping signs that CVPS put up and allow firearms during hunting season
- Put dam access road into inventory and maintain it
- Manage heavily for wildlife-release apples
- Management designation must allow construction and maintenance of Catamount Trail (including bridges)
- Timber management: designate as 3.1 A or 2.1 A
- Retention of old meadow and woodcock management
- High value hardwood timber management
- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat
- Recreation area
- Mixed use: timber and early successional habitat

Winhall

- Maintain roads and trails for mountain bikes and ATV use
- Winhall and lands near Peru: manage for: wildlife, saw timber, recreation, multiple use, NO MORE WILDERNESS
- Continue timber management designation as 3.1 lands
- To allow continuity of Catamount Trail, management designation must allow cutting of trail and construction of bridges, preferably with paver tools (chainsaw, drills, etc)
- Create new wilderness area or add to existing wilderness area or National Recreation Area
- The areas was managed with seed tree selection and is now ready for harvest
- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat

Stanley Tool Lands

- Keep managed for wildlife and timber
- Manage as 6.1 MA
- Historically managed for timber: designate as 3.1 A or 2.1 A
- Maintain roads for ATV/mountain bike use
- Manage for timber
- Designate new wilderness area in southern half of the northern section
- Manage all lands for large diameter high value hardwood timber

- Was managed actively for timber and for early succession for many decades and should continue and should be continued to be managed as a working forest
- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat

Chittenden Reservoir

- Manage for recreation
- Designate as 2.2 MA
- Management designation must allow construction and maintenance of Catamount Trail (including bridges)
- Manage for timber
- Recreation watershed
- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat

Dorset Mountain

- Continue timber management designation as 3.1 lands
- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat

IP Lands

- Continue timber management designation as 3.1 lands
- Create new wilderness area or add to existing wilderness area or National Recreation Area
- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat
- Maintain roads and trails for mountain bikes and ATV use
- The former IP Lands were being developed into long range sustainable mixed hardwood stand and tremendous infrastructure was installed. The infrastructure should be maintained and timber harvests should continue.

Bills Acquisition

- Continue timber management designation as 3.1 lands
- Stafford National Recreation Area
- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat
- Maintain roads and trails for mountain bikes and ATV use

Glastenbury

- Continue timber management designation as 3.1 lands
- Create Glastenbury Wilderness Area
- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat
- Maintain roads and trails for mountain bikes and ATV use
- This area of old farms was excellently managed for timber yield and wildlife habitat...that program should be continued

- Beaver openings on Glastenbury River should be encouraged

Black Hole Farm

- Designate as MA 6.2B: rich natural hardwood area
- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat

Dover Hills

- Continue timber management designation as 3.1 lands
- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat
- Maintain roads and trails for mountain bikes and ATV use

Stamford Pond

- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat

Stamford Meadows

- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat

Dutch Hill

- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat

Howe Pond

- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat

Warren Falls

- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat

Blueberry Lake

- Dissolve public ownership because it is outside of the proclamation boundary. Protect the beech stands.
- Should be actively managed for timber and early successional habitat

Rutland Municipal Watershed

- Timber Management: designate as 3.1 A or 2.1 A
- Actively manage for timber and early successional habitat
- Was managed actively for timber and for early succession for many decades and should continue and should be continued to be managed as a working forest

Other Areas

- Areas between Glastenbury, IP Lands, Bills Acquisition and Dover Hills: No more purchases, manage well the land the Forest Service already owns
- North of Ripton, south of Lincoln: Management designation must allow construction and maintenance of Catamount Trail (including bridges)
- Ripton areas: designate as MA 4.2
- South of Middlebury River and Ripton, Satins Kingdom, and east of Silver Lake: add to Silver Lake National Recreation Area: MA 2.1B
- Two 9.2 areas north of the Alphonse Quesnel Trail: Add to proposed Abbey Pond National Conservation Area, MA 8.1
- Two 9.2 lands west of Bristol Wilderness: add to existing wilderness
- French Settlement Area and near Road 54 and 59 intersection: Leave open for Catamount Trail
- 9.2 areas northeast and east of Lincoln: add to Lucida National Conservation Area
- Parcel SW of Warren Falls: add to Breadloaf Wilderness
- In 9.2 lands south of Bristol Cliffs Wilderness: have logging in this area (such as the work done by Fish and Wildlife in 1965-where there were clear-cut portions and buffer strips in between)-manage for wildlife-similar to Starksboro and the Lewis Creek Wildlife Management Area
- Areas north of Freedleyville: Add to Big Branch Wilderness
- Downingville: Manage for wildlife with retention of early successional forests through patch cuts, softwood release, and maintenance of wild apple orchards; create small wildlife openings, manage for songbirds that require young forests
- In 9.2 lands south of Bristol Cliffs Wilderness: manage for early successional forest and deer yard management with strip and patch cuts; grouse and woodcock management; maintenance of abandoned apple orchard; creation of aspen stands
- Parcel east of Lincoln: maintenance of abandoned apple orchard
- Parcel east of S. Lincoln: create aspen stands
- Parcel Southwest of Sugarbush: manage for bear habitat
- Rochester RD area: Dissolve public ownership because it is outside of the proclamation boundary or manage for timber
- Parcel SW of Ripton and west of Rochester RD: Manage for timber and wildlife, designate as 3.1 A or 2.1 A
- Kent Pond area: actively manage for timber and early successional habitat, manage for mixed wildlife habitat: hares, grouse
- Adjacent to Bristol Cliffs Wilderness: habitat protection
- Southwest of Granville: Rochester snowmobile club needs more trail opportunities through and over the mountain
- Rochester RD area: these lands should support a series of demonstration forests exhibiting the benefits of a variety of management strategies
- Rochester RD area: hay or pasture lands adjacent to RD should be rented to neighbor farms at Vermont modest rates, not by federal formula