

# NOI/Retrospective Meeting Wilmington, Vermont May 23, 2002

Attending: 45

1. When will retrospective be out?
2. Where is the 85,000 acres you are talking about?
3. Are you going to grandfather in the people who are currently using the trails or what? Worried about what restrictions were going to be put on snowmobilers.
4. How come we have a lot of trails now—gated haven't cut timber on them for quite a few years. Why are they gated. When land was bought, it was agreed that the use would continue. But that isn't the case.
5. New lands—is some in the Taconic area?
6. Are the proposed wilderness areas in the retrospective?
7. What is the Vermont Wilderness Association?
8. Curious—rumors about what VWA is pressing for. Wanted to know the areas that were included.
9. Major concerns about wildlife and wilderness areas—9423 acres in Somerset it is designated 3.1—read plan description—haven't cut a tree up there in 10 years. Stratton—58 percent of the land, 92 of Glastonbury, Searsburg, Woodford, no timber harvesting in any of those towns. What are you going to do about that. Everyone burns firewood. So where are we going to get our firewood. This was a logging community, we've been there a few days. Have 5 or 6 units that haven't been sold. Nobody will send proposals. What are you going to do with camp 17 sale in Stratton? (Mentioned three other sales.) Timber on them today that hasn't been harvested. Get the feeling we are getting the shaft. Shovel snow and you're going to tell us we can't cut any timber?
10. Impact of private lands—have 110 acres—not in NF—current use on land—I gather all of that is outside of this system?
11. The only way the towns get money is through the timber sales. With no logging the deer herd has nothing to eat. Two winters ago they starved. If you turn it into a place where nobody can log you are inviting fire. It is going to take everything.
12. 100 years ago Vermont was mostly fields—now it's 90 percent forested. What happened to the fields. Just in my lifetime, I've seen a lot of changes—roads, etc. Now it's grown up so you can see anything.
13. Does the retrospective look at the socio-economic impact of the FS inability to help the towns with their economies. One of the reasons for the turnout tonight is loggers, snowmobilers—affecting livelihood.
14. Are you looking to come up with some sort of method so newly acquired lands don't go into the 9.2 holding pattern.

15. Wondering if I have to write to Jeffords—what is going to happen with Lamb Brook? What is going on down there. Makes a recommendation to us it the way it has always been used. Three towers on it, timber company owned it at the turn of the Century and when it was sold it was timber. Affecting our livelihood. Want a piece of pie. When we offered to go in and clean up mess someone else made someone is dragging their feet. People took the best of it—can't even do a salvage there. If I wanted to put cell tower up or a ski area if I had the money I bet I would be able to do it. How do the ski areas get to lease the land? I don't have anything against skiing or snowmobiling or ATV's. That's probably because I don't have one. Speed on roads.
16. Asking a Forest Service Road for a private timber sale—go 10 miles an hour snowmobile passes going 70 miles/hour.
17. Assume CLF is it part of VWA. Big money from Boston and other places get your ears and the ears in WO. Want to send them back so FS can manage the Forest the way it should be managed.
18. Will this 100 pages present a plan or will it be a double talk presented tonight. When is the real plan going to appear?
19. When you come to communities you promise the world. You are not holding up on your part of the bargain. Would be better for us if you would give the land back to us. It's pitifully going downhill. Not good for future generations. Timber, recreation, wildlife you are doing a lousy job.
20. If anyone wants to know more—had a document about history. ORV had a Rutland article from Dick Andrews. This is the same with timber management. Buck Matthews was around here stopping everything, now works for Leahy, Jeffords, etc. Had an open letter.
21. What state is the NOI in now? Confused about what NOI was and difference between the NOI and the actual plan.
22. What steps as far as pub meetings and the work that you folks do—what happens—are there deadlines you have to meet so we get to this date in 2004? Will plan be implemented after that or do we have to get Congressional approval to start implementing.
23. What kind of confidence should we get when we leave here. CLF – is the training ground for people to learn the system, give you a title, and then someone will hire you. My concern is these are high-powered attorneys—how can we walk out of here and be assured that these people won't stop everything. I'm sure CLF hasn't witnessed what I have—videotaped—deer slaughter—
24. Want to add to previous comment: big power, big money who will run havoc with your plan. How can the people in this room get the same voice—do we have to do a big community action. People in this room know that forest better than anyone in the service. How can we keep the plan from getting aside by a bigger mouth. Talked about planning process—can people like us come into the planning process and help you do alternatives.
25. Big snowmobiler—ski industry is on shaky grounds. Doesn't compare with snowmobile industry. If it wasn't for ? and ? cutting the trails people would be off everywhere. Against one little group and their wilderness area.

26. Define the difference of a ski mountain clear cut—top to bottom—and a forest clearcut. Why can't we clearcut for wildlife habitat?
27. Curious how wilderness fits into the FS. Thought preservation was part of the Park Service. Can't touch wilderness—Congress won't do a wilderness if you don't recommend it, will they?
28. Will the new plan be a 15 year plan? What is the length of it? Will it be over in 2020?
29. Discussion of planning being a continuous process.
30. What % of people of the VWA reside in Vermont. Wouldn't that be a good thing to check?
31. Sounds like you have done a lot of looking at issues. How can we have some input? Strikes me that the biggest issue you have is the that the process doesn't work and have a way to fix it. Big problem is (couldn't hear the rest).
32. Special area designation—wanted a definition of what that meant exactly.
33. Article from wilderness—73% of Vermonts want wilderness. Haven't seen anybody around here doing poll. Figures can lie and liars can figure.
34. Who can you ask and who can you poll? (This may not be right—too much noise.) Is there a way we can say we don't want to sell any more land to the National Forest. Readsboro
35. Gave a story about having to stop cutting because the government took the land away—immient domain.
36. How can people in this room contact the Congressional delegation?
37. Has land next to FS and it was traded for land up North. Now I've got spraying there and I don't like. You can do anything with your land.
38. Once land is put into wilderness is that it? Can it ever be changed. What is the likelihood of that happening?
39. How does this meeting compare with other meetings? Another meeting there were a lot from the other side. Appreciated our coming down and the four selectmen that attended. Think the marriage is about over.