

Rutland Plan Revision Meeting May 27, 2003: Public Comments

General Comments

Make sure you know what you have

Do an ecological assessment

Wilderness not the best use for newly acquired land

Large 9.2 parcels: IP Lands, Glastenbury, Stanley Tools-should remain in Forest Products Industry

99% of all 9.2 lands could be in a multiple use program-keep in historical use

More land acquired but not many new employees-should do environmental logging in areas where old logs are rotting-will provide extra money to promote long-range management goals and funding for staff

Should have grandfather clauses on Forest Service land where Forest Service has to continue access and historical uses)

Can handicap people get a day pass to access areas typically closed off to motorized use?

Forest Service takes vehicles into Silver Lake-could give people rides in with them

Look at Chittenden access for people with disabilities (example: young boy scout couldn't get access to trail shelter)

Trail around Chittenden Reservoir: perfect (flat) for a beautiful peoples with disabilities experience: 10-15 mile loop...or do at Leffert's pond-could include camping and toilets

ADA Laws: how does Forest Service get around with buildings and access?

Unique spot-Roger's Bridge-needs repair to preserve it

Timber harvest management-requires roads and creates access-many benefits

Concern for access to all lands for people with disabilities

Cooperation with Forest Service on acquisition on Chittenden Reservoir and Lyme Timber-good process

If most of the land in a town is Forest land-how can town have more of a voice? Chittenden had the hindsight of other town's experiences

How is the socio-economic analysis being done? Town by town basis, by county, etc?

Does the Forest Service share information with the state? Yes.

Maintain access

Prescriptive right for historical use and public access

Keep historical town roads

Silver Lake road is good-Forest Service can restrict access but federal law must have access to buildings

Timber sales build roads and improve access

Want more roads opened up for access to Green Mountain National Forest for physically challenged people to get there...particularly 4 wheelers to access gated roads for hunting and fishing

Make 9.2 Lands immediately the same management lands as the surrounding lands instead of waiting for Plan Revision

Included town officials should be an integral part of the decision process for the development of these areas

Have the Forest Service do timber sales in areas conducive to environmental stats/ In this way the land gives back a resource which will help to create money to better manage these newly acquired areas.

All 9.2 Lands (within the VWA Proposal) be recommended as wilderness (both north and south portions of the Forest)

Please preserve all natural habitats in Vermont. We are seeing so much loss of areas where animals used to roam and find food to eat

Improve access for hiking and mountain biking

Offer continued wood roads or forest roads that encompass town areas, where Forest Service land surrounds town. My concern is to have access to forest in case of fire for fire barrier protection

Would like to see more access for mountain biking around Chittenden Reservoir, New Boston Trail, Leicester Hollow Trail, Silver Lake, and off Wheelerville Road-Mendon

More access for disabled

No more wilderness

Benefits from logging: roads, fire protection, trails for cross country skiing and snowmobiling

Haven't harvested enough timber in last 2 years-did good job in past

Need multiple use (recreation, deer hunting, cross country ski use, timber harvesting) for everyone

Approximately 90% of all 9.2 Lands should allow multiple use and should have a good timber management plan

Manage for wildlife

Increase access-whenever you can walk to, people who cannot walk should be able to ride to

All 9.2 Lands should be put into an active timber management plan as they are acquired to provide timber sales income in lieu of taxes to the towns

Map-Related Comments

Goshen Dam

Include in National Recreation Area

Undeveloped recreation activity around Goshen Dam-no designated camping-access from Moosalamoo Camp Area

Wilderness, regardless of the definition, is really not conducive to the lands in the state of Vermont...close proximity is New Hampshire which has some Wilderness, close enough...it is proportional to their National Forest

Any new roads to these areas should be developed initially for minimal environmental impact

Improve road to Sugar Hill/Goshen Dam

Designate within Moosalamoo National Recreation Area

Offer recreational opportunities for people who are ambulatorily impaired, with a loop trail system (like Robert Frost trail)

Manage as MA 6.2 (Goshen and Silver Lake)

Allow timber harvesting 2A, 3A or 6A

Stanley Tool Lands

The townspeople of the area voted on the sale of this land so it would be forever available for recreational purposes-even though it cost us a few bucks in lost taxes! The Forest Service should be allowed to get on with managing the forest-logging, etc. as they see fit without so much money wasted on litigation...allow them to do what we pay them to do!

Designate as MA 3.1

Continue timber harvesting

Dorset Mountain

Northwest corner: excellent bear habitat and corridor

IP Lands

Designate as MA 3.1

Chittenden Reservoir

Good for mountain biking

Designate as MA 6.2

The purchase of this property increases local property taxes because of the reduction in the tax base

Bills Acquisition

Need to have a bear corridor from Bills Acquisition to Dover Hills

Designate as MA 3.1

Glastenbury

Designate as MA 3.1

Black Hole Farm

Designate as MA 3.1

Dover Hills

Designate as MA 3.1

Other Areas

Leicester Hollow Brook: good for mountain biking

Pittsfield: good for mountain biking

West of Emerson: good for mountain biking

Chittenden: good for mountain biking

NW of Colton Pond: nice swamp area

Silver Lake: Allow ATV access

Silver Lake: Allow timber harvesting 2A, 3A or 6A