

Hector Plan Revision Meeting Notes 6-05-03

Interface Presentation

Understanding What is Important

Information: clarify concerns, beliefs, and values behind statements

How to open up a discussion: 1) Reflect, 2) Ask clarifying questions, 3) get at specifics

Listening for Understanding

Reflection: benefits both speaker and listener by: 1) helping listener understand what the speaker is saying from the speaker's perspective; 2) allowing speaker to hear him/herself and consider what they communicate; and 3) allowing speaker to know they've been heard.

Small Group Work: Identifying Goals and Uses for Trails

1. Each person answer the question: What should be the goals/uses for trails for the revised Forest Plan?
2. Person to the left reflects and checks in
3. If needed, members of the group ask questions to clarify
4. Facilitator summarizes and records
5. Each person answer the question: Given your goals and desired uses, how best do you achieve these goals and uses?
6. Facilitator summarizes and records

What should be the goals/uses for trails for the revised Forest Plan?

Optimize as many uses as we can while avoiding conflicts between users and protecting resources

Make the trails accessible and user-friendly to casual tourists and provide information to the tourist

Maintain existing trails

Somewhere in the 20,000 acres we ought to be able to find a place for ATV use-accessibility to Forest

Fair and equitable use of the trails by all interest groups

Trail system should provide safe, serene, primitive experience unique to the area in a non-motorized environment...can make exception for a person with a disability to use an ATV at walking speed on a multi-use trail

Natural experience as an escape to solitude and no motorized uses

Preserve natural beauty

Trail system should be a reflection of the Forest as a whole, to the extent that when you get off the trail there is no difference in the forest-not a virtual forest

Educational aspects-more clear markings for old homesites, information and interpretive signing, trail difficulty and mileage, comprehensive and easy to use trail maps included estimated times to complete various trails

Quiet uses

Conflict in multi-use-example, if ATVs could use a multi-use trail, then not comfortable to hike there-they should be separated

Environmental impacts are an issue on trails-don't favor motorized uses due to impacts and quiet

Have place-based education on Forest-historical guides, local history, minimize conflicts with those types of quiet activities

Fair and equitable use by all interests, include ATVs-no different than snowmobiles-both motorized

Percent of trails for different user groups-need a balance, currently hikes have 100% use and ATVs 0%-others less than 50%-not balanced

Remove snowmobiles

Balance-trails should be separated enough not to interfere with quiet uses

Multiuse trails for wheeled uses should be marked as such so that hikers know that there are those uses there

Many uses are not compatible with the Forest environment, lots of erosion problems-environmental protection should either limit uses or lead to creative solutions

Want hiking trails

Provide safety-trails removed from hunter's bullets and arrows

No problem with horses and bikes-will share

Prefer no ATV but would be willing to share

Concern: minimum trail requirements of 20 foot width if make it a multiple use trail

Want cross country ski trails

Concern: allowing motorized, wheeled vehicles...do not want to share with them

Concern: degradation caused by motorized vehicles-including snowmobiles-such as noise pollution

Horses ruin trails

ATV users are pro-vegetation and wildlife

Concern: more attention to maintenance of vistas-overgrowth causing loss of views and loss of wildlife needs

Doesn't all have to be old vegetation-need a mix

Want narrow trails where vegetation grows up to a "natural state"

Forest is sacred

Too small of a forest for 20 foot wide trails

Why need ATV trails-have private land with trails

ATV goals-use of roads or use of existing trails that currently receive minimum use

ATV needs a link between 1 end of Hector and the other because Hector does not allow ATV use on roads

ATVs would like to build trails on edges of existing roads

Are cows (bulls) safe on trails for trail users? Need interface between Forest Service, Grazing Association, Friends of the Forest Service, and other trail users.

Manipulate lands next to trails to improve wildlife habitat example: open gaps

Safety concern: hunters mixed with alcohol and vehicle drivers mixed with alcohol-need law enforcement

Multi-use forest-need to be aware that lots of people/activities out there

Different seasonal use-give and take so people can do different things at different times of the year

No Tan Takto-not nice hiking

Dislike ATV noise and degradation of all aspects

Hiking + horse is okay but horses do cause degradation

Impacts to trails from different uses-all uses have impacts

You hike, ski and bike but not on Forest because of impacts

Concerned about enforcement...especially snowmobiling on ski only trails...there should be multiple use however

Concerned about poison ivy-there have not been too many concerned about herbicides and other control methods for poison ivy

The people we need to reach are not here

How do you reach the people who are not at this meeting?

Hard to reach people in the Finger Lakes-not one paper or common publication for everyone

The Cayuga Trails Club works on private, state, and federal land-they maintain the trails and have the same problems as the Forest Service

ATV ban on town roads could cause a spillover on to public lands...ATV trails could keep them off roads and out of areas they shouldn't be in

Concern about increased costs from maintenance of ATV trails (compared to current costs of maintaining hiking trails)

Concerned about wide multiple use trails on the "Little Forest"

Using legal mountain bike trails

Forest Service needs to understand that horses can cause more damage on trails than mountain bikes o

Mountain bikes cause little conflict with horse trails and should be allowed to use system trails with proper trail etiquette on trails that are currently open to horse use

Peace, solitude, safety, quiet are important-concerned about ecological damage of multi-use trails-especially if they are 20 feet wide

Interested in ATV use on Forest Service trails-feel that would help limit illegal use and the damage that could happen

Any trails that would allow ATVs would be an improvement

Hiking-currently satisfied with the situation-however, would like additional trails to access new areas-more variety

Cross country skiing is very good, high quality, duration of snow-area could become a major destination for cross country skiing...could have hut system with rentals, cross country ski could only be shared with snowshoe-not foot traffic

Some deep snow conditions-snowmobiles help pack trails for cross country ski use

Snowmobile (and all multiple use) trail widths should be kept to current Forest Service standards

Mountain bikes could be allowed on trails-not too steep-where no ecological damage

Oppose allowing ATVs due to noise pollution

On multiple use trails (horse/hiker)-areas that are wet have side trails developed by hikers to avoid mud-should require horse to stay on main trail-hikers should have a designated bypass around problem areas (for example-between trees)

All uses should stay on main trail/tread to avoid creating multiple trails

Horse should/does have seasonal restrictions because of mud season

Trail etiquette brochure should be part of maps to help with brochure discussion...especially when sharing with motorized bikes

Post wet trail advisories when susceptible to damage-stay off when damage could happen

ATVs are not allowed on any town roads in area, except for 500 yard crossings

State funds have been collected from ATV users, no trails have been provided locally in foothills of Adirondacks

State Forest (District 8) will be restricting ATVs also

Concerned if there is a large influx of snowmobiles-then would need limits via permits or quotas

ATVs are the fastest growing recreation sport in New York-if not provided for, even more problems will occur..if ATVs would be allowed, economic stimulus to local area could happen

ATVs conflict with all other uses-could drive them away.

Goal for solitude-hiking, cross country skiing, horseback riding-especially quiet and primitive is important-gravel and wide trails and wood chips are not necessary

Given your goals and desired uses, how best do you achieve these goals and uses?

Some trails can be used by ATVs-share with horse use

ATV use should be separate from hiking

ATV renegades-all should have to follow rules

Alternative routes that allow you to avoid pastures being used by cattle

Appropriate use by mountain bikes and hiking-multiuse on the same trail depending on trail conditions

Make trails more understandable and interpreted for community planning

Outside funding for trails maintenance and improvement-users should help pay (user fees?)

More boardwalk for easier access

If users can't be responsible than they should be cut off (example-if they are using trails not posted for them)

No cars in Forest

Need enforcement-with limited budgets, consider barriers to restrict use (make use impossible if put up barricades)

Use existing Forest Service roads for 20' wide trails-why need more?

Wildlife corridors=regular trails

Balance what people want with plant and wildlife needs

Due to environmental concerns/degradation: No ATV...appreciate access uses but still not appropriate in National Forest

Enforce current regulations

Need a plan that the Forest Service could realistically implement and succeed-one that has a realistic budget and that benefits the local community...these are the reason for law enforcement problems

We can't maintain what we have now-hoe could we have a larger network? What are the parameters for building a larger network? How does this affect the areas where new trails would go?

More multi-use trails-this way you won't have an enforcement problem

More multi-use trails-snowmobile and for ATVs (even small trails)-this is done in other parts of the country

There could be sound limits, a better sign system, and an ATV trail could solve illegal use

Give the public more opportunity to help maintain the trails

Realistically it needs to be apart of the planning process to look at how to implement the revised plan (look at past budget for example)

Have we tried different materials for signs that would be easier to maintain (stone)?

Would a fee for use program work?

Maybe set guidelines for trail placement to keep maintenance down