



Trails

Finger Lakes National Forest

Plan Revision

July 1, 2003

Meeting Agenda:

- Brief overview of Plan revision
- Summary of last meeting
 - Forest Service standards for trails
 - Trails in the current Forest Plan
 - Public and Forest Service trail issues
 - Public Comments
- Small group work
- Forest Service thoughts on trail discussions

Announcements

- Meeting notes
- Past issues
- Missed previous meetings?
- Public input meetings – No Decisions

Next Meetings

- **Saturday, July 19 9:00am-1:00pm**
Trail Hikes- meet at Blueberry Patch
- **Thursday, August 7th 7:00-9:00pm**
Hector Fire Hall
Vegetation and Ecosystem Management

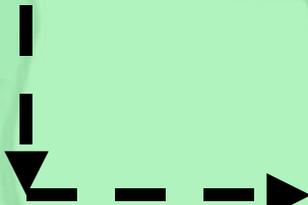
Forest Plan Revision

- Why are we revising the plan?
 - Regulations, new science, issues and trends, good planning
- How can you get involved?
 - Meetings, phone calls, emails, visit the office, write letters
- Where are we in the process?

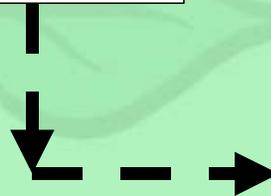
FLNF Forest Plan Revision Timeline

Where we have been...

**Formal and informal
comments
(1996-2001)**



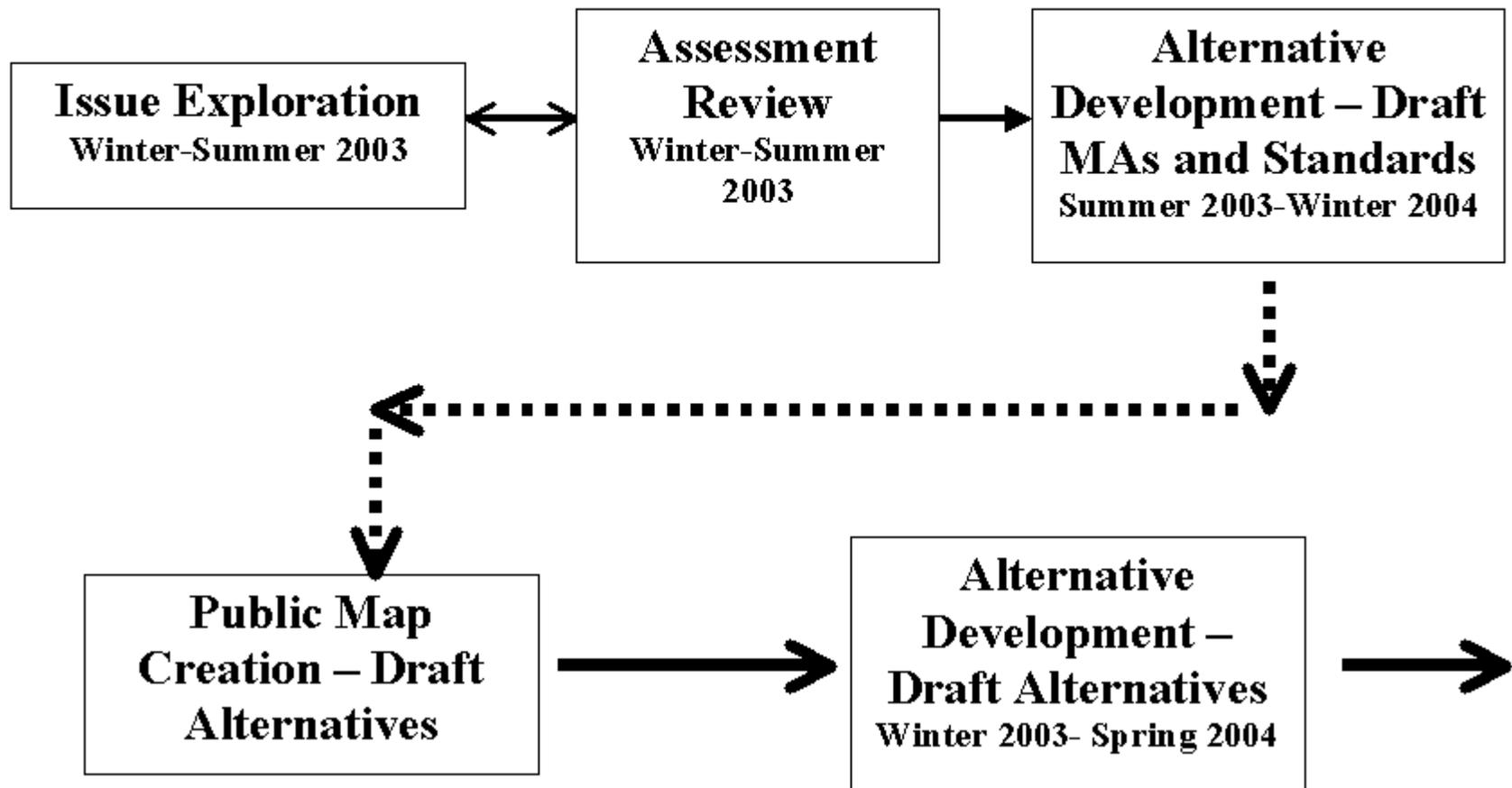
**Notice of
Intent
(May 2002)**



**90 Day Formal
Written Comment
Period
(August 2002)**

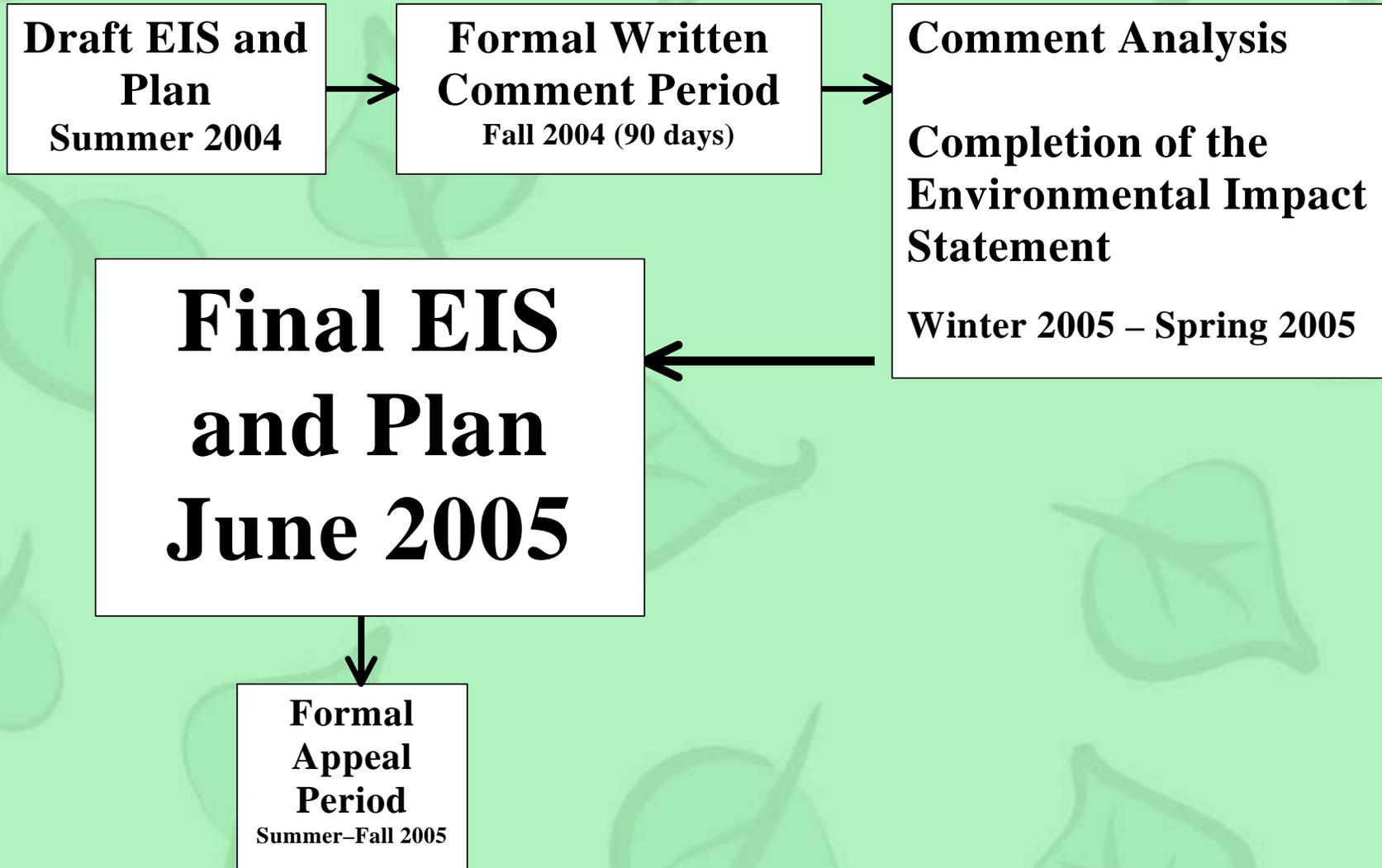


Public Involvement Timeline Winter 2003 - Spring 2004



Formal Public Involvement Timeline

Summer 2004 - June 2005



What is in a Forest Plan?

- Goals and Objectives
- Standards and guidelines
- Management Areas
- Land suitable for timber harvesting and upper limits on timber sales
- Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements

**Forest Plan doesn't build trails, it only provides guidance through Goals, objectives, S&Gs, MAs*

Forest Plan was intended to:

- Protect and enlarge the trail system
- Reduce user conflicts
- Expand system for horse and snowmobiles
- Interloken, FLT, Ravine, Gorge and Potomac hiking/x-country skiing use only
- Better signage
- Land acquisition for consistent trail usage throughout the forest
- ATVs were seen as being incompatible with the FLNF

FLNF Trails

- About 35 Miles of trail
 - 57% hiking and skiing (about 20 miles)
 - 43% Multiple-use for horse, snowmobile, hike, ski, some mountain bike (about 15 miles)
 - About 6 miles of multiple use include mountain bikes

FLNF Trails

- Trails go through all Management Areas
 - Grassland
 - Pastureland
 - Shrubland
 - Even and Uneven-aged Forest
 - Special Areas

15 Year Accomplishments

- Construction of 7 new miles
- No-Tan-Takto trail constructed to provide for horse back riders and snowmobiles
- Interloken redesignated hiking/skiing only (in 1996 1½ miles of horse use was allowed for equal access)
- Satterly Hill land acquisition for Finger Lakes Trail
- Finger Lakes Trail added to North Country Trail system

15 Year Accomplishments

- Signage, now over 100 signs!
- Sections of Interloken relocated, mostly in South, due to wet conditions
- Maintenance of about 2.5 miles per year
- Trail reconstruction, board walks or filter cloth and gravel
- Gates for access to pasture
- Mountain biking on N. 2 miles of Interloken and No-Tan-Takto trails.

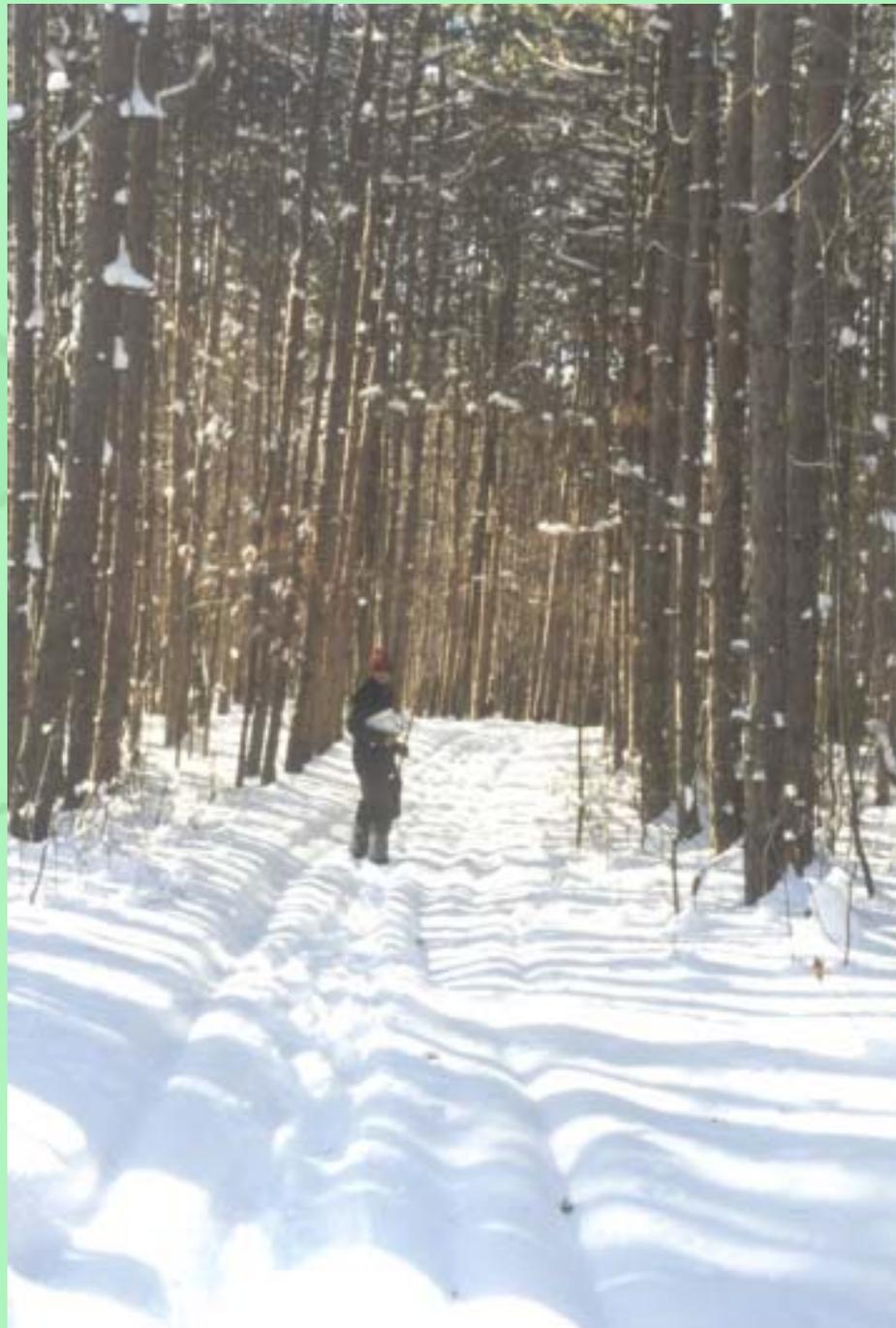
15 Year Accomplishments

- Partnerships: Friends of the FLNF, Cayuga Trails Club, North Country Trails group, Trumansburg Snowmobile Association, numerous individual volunteers

Partnerships



Interloken Trail



Backbone Trail



General FS Trail Standards

| | Clearing (ft) | Tread (ft) | Height (ft) |
|---------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Hiking | 3 - 4 | 1 - 2 | 8 |
| Ski | 6 - 13 | | 6 - 10 |
| Mountain Bike | 2.5 - 4 | 1 - 2 | 8 |
| Horse | 6 - 8 | 2 | 8 - 10 |
| Snowmobile | 14 - 16 | 8 - 12 | 10 |
| ATV | 10 - 13 | 5 - 7 | 5 - 6 |

Some Public Issues and Concerns

- Forest-wide trail system planning to meet the needs of different users
- Wheeled off-road vehicles
- Mountain Bikes
- User conflicts
- New trails
- Maintenance of existing trails, signs, and information

**See 15 Year Retrospective for more information*

Some FS Issues and Concerns

- Effects on wildlife, plants, historic areas, soils, grazing, water, etc...
- Budget for maintenance and construction
- Engineering and NEPA staff resources
- Limited Forest land base

Some FS Issues and Concerns

- Illegal use and enforcement (mountain bikes, ATVs, even 4x4s)
- Non-system trails
- Access for disabled people
- Safety

Public Comments from June 5

(see handout)

- Goals for trails in the new plan
 - 23 categories
- Achieving the various goals and uses
 - 10 categories

**Typo in the handout*

#10 needs/desires/concerns rather than ways to achieve goals

Forest Plan Revision Trails Group

- Formed as part of the FLNF revision effort of 1996-1997
- Congress stopped all Forest Plan revisions
- Trail planning was a major public and FS issue
- This group was formed by many different user groups represented.

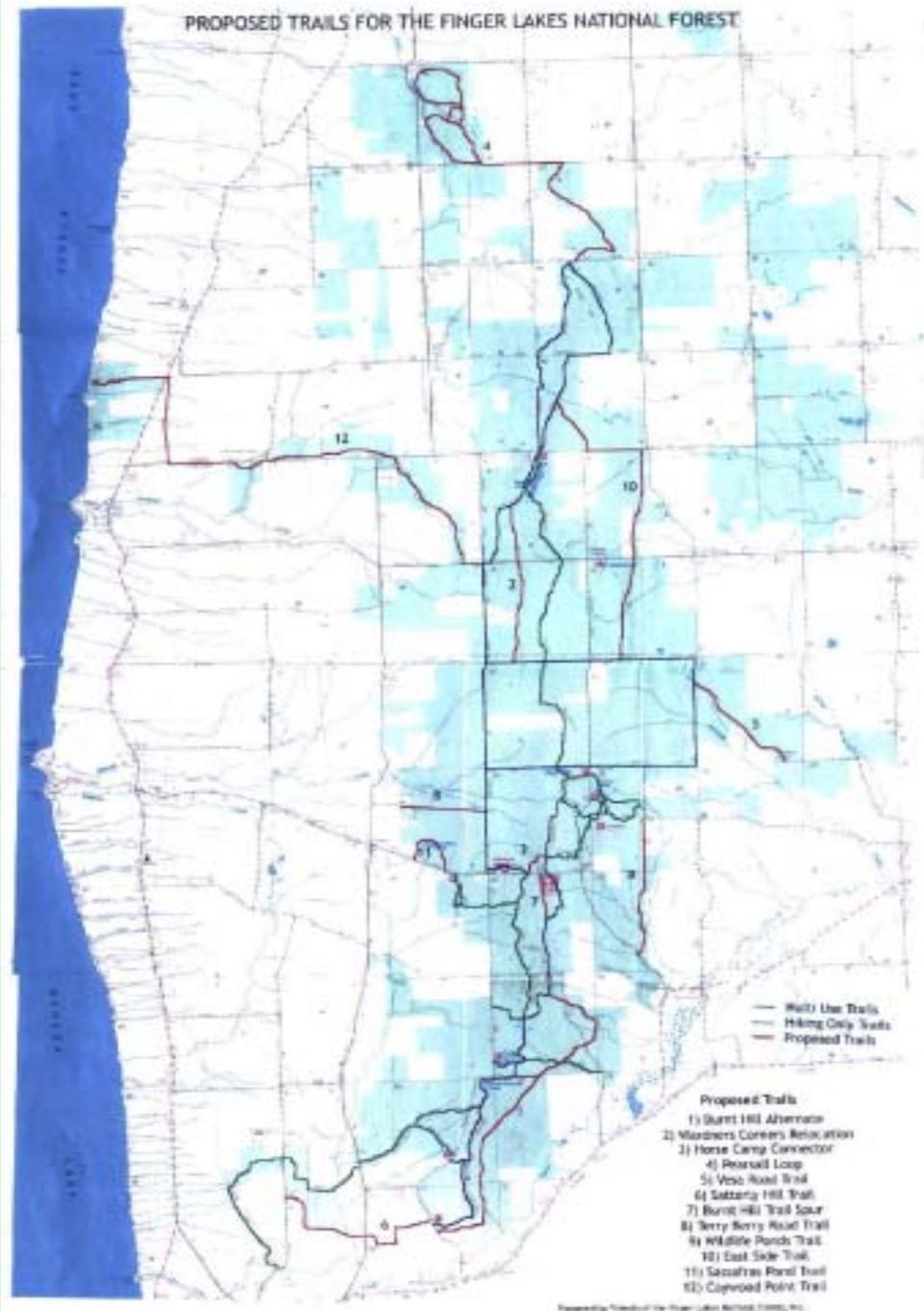
Trails group

- Very good, tough work
- User groups started working together to solve trail conflicts
- Final product a proposed trail plan
- Friends of the FLNF

Proposed Trail Plan

- The trails group wanted the proposed trail plan to do several things:
 - Reduce trail user conflicts
 - Increase the amount of multiple use trails
 - Add mountain biking to the list of approved uses on the FLNF

Proposed Trail Plan



Small Group Work Interface

1. Review Comments from last meeting
2. Is trail plan consistent with range of interests reflected in comments?
3. How could the trails be adapted to address interests not being met?

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Thanks for Participating!

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