

Arlington Plan Revision Meeting July 8, 2003: Public Comments

Topic: Trails

Questions Discussed at the Meeting:

1. What is working well with the existing trail system? For example, enough long distance trails, loop day trails, interpretive trails?
2. How can we resolve existing and potential trail-user conflicts? For example, through education, separate trails, seasonal restrictions, better maintenance
3. Specific ideas to propose for new uses of the trail system (all terrain vehicles, pack animals; bike trails). For example, what is minimum length of trail needed for use? Seeking new trail construction? Sharing of existing routes? Sharing trails in different seasons?
4. Discussion of resource, wildlife and social concerns from trail usage. Ways to help limit resource damage? Wildlife concerns? How are you affected by others trail usage? For example, what benefits are provided by existing or proposed trail use?

1. What is working well with the existing trail system? For example, are there enough long distance trails, loop day trails, interpretive trails?

Use of volunteers

Long Trail and side trail system

Winter access is limited-connect interior areas for cross country ski and snowshoe use

Need better winter trailheads-look at State Park examples

System works well for hikers and snowmobilers-not working so well for mountain bikes and other uses

Snowmobiles and hikers provided for-other uses are not-need more variety to encompass more users

Opportunities for dual use (summer/winter)-use volunteer groups

Generally trail system works well-not interested in accommodating ATVs-already illegal use

Are there any trails where one cannot carry a firearm?

VAST system is well supported and maintained and funded-system may be complete

Would like to see Vermont Horse Council have a system similar to the VAST system

Problems with parking and VAST system

Snowmobilers happy with agreement-support multiple use---but separate--- for seasonal use (ex. bikes and snowmobiles)

Walks in Glastenbury works fine

Snowmobile system works well in Glastenbury

Dual seasonal use is a good idea-ATVs would bring in another set of volunteers to maintain trails

2. How can we resolve existing and potential trail-user conflicts? For example, through education, separate trails, seasonal restrictions, better maintenance

Need more signs about what uses are allowed (not what is not allowed-those get torn down)-could work the other way too-but have better signs

Want a lot more enforcement for ATVs-Lamb Brook is being used by ATVs-do trail closure techniques

Identify trails with a logo shape-standardize nation wide (like for ski trails)

Gasoline is the dividing factor with trail conflicts-divide conflicts by motorized/non-motorized uses

Forest Service needs to be more proactive about education-more bulletin boards at trailheads, web information, maps at town clerks, tourism brochures

User groups can take lead in educating members

Designate different trails for different use

Allow multiple uses on trails

Need to define a trail versus a road-they have different uses...need to manage what we have

Does the trail drive the management area or does the management area drive the trail uses?

Noise is also a dividing line-also odors-these are conflicting uses with quiet

Multiple use does not mean every use on every trail or acre

Glastenbury has motorized and non-motorized areas-keep both available

3. Specific ideas to propose for new uses of the trail system (all terrain vehicles, pack animals; bike trails). For example, what is minimum length of trail needed for use? Seeking new trail construction? Sharing of existing routes? Sharing trails in different seasons?

Take gated roads and convert them into wheelchair accessible trails (FR 60, 266, 85)

Kelley Stand to Kendall Farm Rd, MacIntyre Rd., Road from Fayville into Glastenbury, FR 261, Cold Brook Rd-open to ATVs, snowmobiles, bikes

Horse Trail-Red Mill Campground-3 hour loop through Castle Meadows onto logging road-east side of Rake Branch

Put corridor 9 back on edge to east side-around rim

Allegheny allows regulated, designated ATV trails-also other forests-allow ATVs on FR 60, 266, 71, and 85

ATVs need a system like VAST-need to go someplace

Look into ADA and motorized use

40 mile long Southern Vermont trail-W. Rupert to Merck Forest

Mad Tom Brook to Landgrove to Londonderry to Brattleboro-not sure of allowed uses

Established county road that goes over Spruce Peak-Stanley Road-Shaftsbury

Series of old roads I Somerset around Castle Brook that are great for mountain biking

4. Discussion of resource, wildlife and social concerns from trail usage. Ways to help limit resource damage? Wildlife concerns? How are you affected by others trail usage? For example, what benefits are provided by existing or proposed trail use?

Resource access is a benefit

Establish a standard that allows only certain levels of sedimentation per mile per year and apply it to all uses

Soil erosion is a concern-to protect resources, continue ban on all ATVs

Not really a conflict with trails and wildlife

Moving trails is not a solution for erosion

ATVs should be allowed in a few places with club association only-like VAST-also need to maintain trail

Need to control ATV use-uncontrolled use creates damage-control of use will help prevent this illegal use

Check out ATV use in New York

Winter trails of any kind should be kept far way from deer winter yards

Night access may create problems-need to search for lost snowmobilers, etc

2 cycle engines create fumes and odors-4 cycle engines would create less pollution and unpleasant odors

Access for fire also

Trail planning will reduce conflicts-keep motorized, high-speed uses on outside, and quiet, non-motorized uses on inside