

## Londonderry Plan Revision Meeting July 9, 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?**

Good network of trails

Good multiple use network

More multiple use and horseback trails

Gates have increased and closed access

Need more loop trails for use

Maintain traditional uses on all newly acquired land (9.2)

Lack of use areas for mountain bikes

Snowmobile system working to well-more areas for their use than any other use

Two districts (north versus south Green Mountain National Forest) not balanced-more trails in north for all uses-need to balance

Need more interpretive trails-especially for kids

Need more loop trails-especially for kids

Want hiking area through timber management area-with interpretive information

Green Mountain National Forest should be a model for people with private forested land

Dover Hills-cellar holes-opportunity to teach history

Snowmobiles very organized group-why they can have so many trails

Trailheads not maintained/plowed because off town roads-they plow road but not trailhead

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

Suggest that noise/fumes incompatible-engineering controls should be used

Experienced snowshoe/snowmobile conflict-motorized use not compatible with 2 legged users

Would be useful for all user groups to be organized to help educate user and minimize conflicts...Forest Service may have a role with education and enforcement

Forest Service could help educate all user groups of the existence of the other user groups

Mountain bikes (although mechanized) do not create fumes/noise-should not be lumped with motorized

More Wilderness means more restrictions and I oppose this

There should be some exception for motorized/mechanized use for handicap accessibility  
Possible to utilize winter trail network for summer use  
Counter seasonal use would optimize maintenance efforts by multiple groups  
Forest Service should reference and use American with Disabilities Act  
Hard to phase out snowmobiles with less strict requirements on noise, pollution, etc  
Mountain bikes-so little available trails-people tend to go where they are not allowed: need more balance of trail use  
With no mountain bike trails to build and maintain-there is a lot of enthusiasm to do work but no work to do  
Keep mechanized uses on the fringe of the Forest-reserve the interior for quiet and solitude  
Keep motorized and non-motorized uses separate-keep motorized (ATV) off Forest and enforce it  
Mountain bike problem: where are monitoring results??  
Need motorized uses to get places-don't want to only be on the fringe...educate user groups on the dangers of motorized use but don't close off Forest to use  
Can combine uses in one area but on different trails  
Plans should remain "fluid" as uses and technology change  
Old and young need motorized access as handicap  
Seasonal use is appropriate (ex ski and horse or ski and bike)-hikers okay to combine with most other seasonal uses...multi-use to accommodate more people  
Problem with seasonal use: winter trails go through marshy areas while they are frozen-consider possible summer damage  
Forest Service needs to address in the Plan how to accommodate new uses that arrive between Plan and Plan Revision so users don't have to wait 10-15 years  
Concern: how to share with different uses? Safety? Need to educate-example dog sledding on cross country ski trail  
Be careful with dog sledding and safety  
How do you get user groups to share costs?

### 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?

Keep no ATVs on Forest and enforce it  
Trail standards need to change-mountain bikers want "free riding" or minimal trail widths  
New ATV trails on: IP/Kendall Farm Road, Road west of Stratton Rd, FR 85, 307, 266  
5-10 miles of rugged, uncleared, undulating terrain on Forest  
"Free riding" not appropriate for Forest

### 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?

New science shows poorly built trails will be damaged no matter what-good trails support many multi-uses (less of a use problem, more of a design problem)  
Lot of room for mountain bike use that wouldn't affect other uses  
Respect wildlife corridors ...have trails and/or education about wildlife and signs of animal life  
User fees should apply to people using Wilderness  
All user groups should have to pay for Forest use-including sweat equity  
Green Mountain Club charges people to stay overnight on the Forest-supposedly a "non-profit" group  
Fairly poor trail work is being done by partners-need standards (example-a trail goes up a fall line and causes erosion)  
Non-motorized uses have economic benefit too (sport shops, lodging, restaurants, etc)

Lack of funding/resources prevents adequate sources of control for erosion

In adding new uses, user groups should participate (money and labor)

Forest Service needs to take more initiative and hire more trail crews to maintain existing trails (improve multi-use)

All winter trails should avoid winter deer yards

Rescue opportunities are an important part of our existing trail system

When re-routing trails, you create 2 trails to maintain

Some user groups do create ruts and erosion problems-they should repair these areas

Trailheads have some problems: insufficient parking, vandalism issues, loading space for snowmobiles

Trailheads should also serve as interpretive and educational sites

Forestry is a way to pay for Forest improvements