

Arlington Plan Revision Meeting August 12, 2003: Public Comments

Provide input on how you think these concepts should be incorporated into the Forest Plan:

- What sorts of management activities or uses are consistent or inconsistent with conservation and protection?
- What **plant or animal species, or groups of species**, would you like to see protected or enhanced?
- What **natural communities, ecological conditions, or landscape features** would you like to see conserved, maintained or enhanced?

Public Comments

Question 1: What sorts of management activities or uses are consistent or inconsistent with conservation and protection?

Conservation is more active, involves actions to support versus preservation-status quo and prevents further loss

Like to think of conservation versus preservation-want to manage what we have to the best we can

Presentation shows fluid, over time management-management involves reaction-look for trends

Which MIS Species failed? They weren't effective indicators because they were not tightly enough connected to management

Snowshoe hare monitoring is declining because of decline in active management

Sapsucker was a MIS that didn't work well as a MIS

Question 2 and 3: What plant or animal species, or groups of species, would you like to see protected or enhanced? What natural communities, ecological conditions, or landscape features would you like to see conserved, maintained or enhanced?

Instead of emphasis of individual species, emphasis should be on habitat or ecosystem

Way the state regulates is a good way-look at entire spectrum, look at landscape larger than the Forest itself, consider conserving large parts of this forest to conserve what is not available elsewhere. Look at how to manage to be most resilient on a large scale-support populations instead of enhancing (not choosing one species over another)

Coordinate activities outside the proclamation boundary with the state...particularly interested in corridor to western Massachusetts where there are large chunks of forest lands

Maintain the largest variety of animals, landscape, plants, communities, etc

How does Forest Service maintain or enhance a landscape? Answer: we look at corridors for those species that need them. Corridors can be created to help prevent predators...Manage vegetation more than "earth" example: soils

29% of plant species are not indigenous...Forest Service worries a lot about the White River corridor-Japanese knotweed, honeysuckle-most are NOT on National Forest but are adjacent

Invasive=dominant versus non-invasive

Animals: Brook trout should have an enhancement program, moose need clearcuts for forage areas, need beavers to create more moose habitat, white tail deer enhance small patches

Green Mt. National Forest has never been devastated from deer over-population-need to clear cut and put in food plots so deer would be fed-clearcuts are good for moose also

Need Patch cuts and early-mid successional stages to create openings for hare, bobcat, deer and moose-hunting is declining due to lack of timber management

Turkey populations are poor on the Green Mountain National Forest

Need deer winter areas (should be winter logging around fringe to provide food)

Non-management (Wilderness) will have an evolution of new systems over time that will provide habitat

Wilderness-is there data to show loss of deer habitats? Show Wilderness data on animal habitat

Trend towards more uneven-aged management...stand management could stay even-aged with uneven over a broader scale like Management Areas

Look for a balance-deer need openings but a regional approach is needed

More Wilderness-think about long-term (10 generations)-old growth...Wilderness is the way to achieve old growth versus other designation

Study Wilderness we have-do not need more

Wilderness is federal land-other agencies (example Trust for Public Lands 2500 acres is Act 250) The Nature Conservancy also protects lands-private lands are being protected as Wilderness

Trying to be everything to everyone will lead to failure-habitat for bat kills other species

Wilderness is bad for moose

Wilderness is good for some but bad for other animals and plants

We meet National Forest Management Act to protect species-look for balance

This area is resilient

Wide diversity-environment does not have to be exclusive

Natural disturbances are everywhere

All species were more prevalent without any management prior to settlement