

Rutland Plan Revision Meeting August 26, 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

Like the idea of keeping all the examples of biodiversity that are currently there

Like the idea of flexibility and adaptive management schemes

Current management has not reflected Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act-would like to see early successional stands increased, native wildlife populations increased, and use of reliable scientific data

Want to see increase in early-successional-some say there is plenty outside the forest boundaries but do we look at that? Do our Management Indicator Species show a decline in early-successional species?

Will we develop benchmarks for species?

Need to keep up with monitoring program and develop partnerships for that

Protect habitat for deep wood species-like a bobcat

Is our goal more habitat diversity?

Open land should be a concern-allow natural changes to occur and manage for a wider diversity of habitats

Continue management to provide what private lands are not providing

Need a regional perspective

Provide for ecological reserves: values species that need large blocks of land

Do not want active management for openings and early successional species

Extremely concerned about the effects of acid precipitation on forest health and biodiversity-needs to be factored in to forest management

Myopic policy to manage for crisis but need to manage for diversity of habitat

Don't bank on private lands to provide diverse management and openings

Federal government should provide what private land does not-early successional habitat-active forest management

Protection should include protecting traditional uses of the forest

Humans should be considered in ecosystem management and the plan

Need to look at the greater whole when we look at ecosystem management-look at Vermont, Forest Service should play a role in providing balance in the state

Want to see working forest protected, do not want to see forest be pure (example-if you can't provide the "natural" habitat for a species-consider more artificial habitat that would provide for viability-ex. bat boxes)-do the most effective things to provide diversity

Look at the forest and provide balance on the forest area-do not need to look outside the forest

Strongly support biodiversity management and how it is done in the 1982 regulations-important component is monitoring of species and management indicator species-critical to accomplish on the ground monitoring

Reintroduction is an important component for species viability and should be considered...consider pine marten for reintroduction and for adding to the viability concern list

Would like to see high quality waters

Give greater protection to spawning fishery habitats and nursery habitats

Look at other scientific information that supports high quality waters

Any reintroduction will need to take into account habitat requirements for the species and its prey