

Hector Plan Revision Meeting Notes 8-07-03: Vegetation, Timber and Ecosystem Management

Small Group Work (8:10-9:00)

Question #1:

What is your view or “desired future condition” for the vegetation on the Finger Lakes National Forest?

- Forest communities: oak, maple, aspen, hemlock, etc. Mixes?
- Tree size, age?
- Forest attributes: dark, quiet, open, park-like?
- Pasture, grassland, and shrubland?

Question #2:

What types of tools would you like to see used in vegetation management?

- Even-aged, uneven-aged management
- Demonstration Forestry
- Others???

Is this different from what is happening now?

How does that fit with Question 1?

Public Comments

Group #1

Forget that we need to make money on timber sales

Let trees live longer than 75 years (100-150 years instead)

Forest Service does NOT know how to manage the red pine

Develop a management plan to optimize how the funds from timber sales are spent locally

Like to see more habitat-conservation project (National Wild Turkey Federation)

Provide a 30 mile (restricted radius) diameter selection for expedition of funds

Forest Service needs to spend more money on the ground

Forest Service should not be entirely privatized

Topography (ridgeline) is helping with the limited distribution of invasive species

We need to sustain the people in this community

Should bring specialists to the Forest to best utilize our resources

Is there any way to develop an ecotourism connection between 414 wine corridor and the Finger Lakes National Forest?

If visitor center is established at Caywood Point-how do you make the connection with the rest of the Forest?

Tough to get traffic to Blueberry Patch or within the Forest (dirt roads)

Group #2

Soil productivity-consider long term effects from farming and soil erosion

What was the predominant species before white man?

A pulp wood market would not be desirable to manage the Forest

Large diameter white pine would be a desirable native tree to promote

Presettlement forest conditions and timber products as a secondary benefit if cannot produce high-quality timber. Conversely-no timber harvest.

Timber products from private lands

Forest Service needs to make a group solution (with the public) to address the concern of soil erosion

Forest is a public trust-best use is in an undisturbed condition

Expand MA 8.1 to all areas of the Finger Lakes National Forest-not just ravines

Let all lands (forest, shrub and pasture) revert to undisturbed forest over time. This objective is far more important than creating/maintaining business interests-is a goal for generations: no disturbance is far better as there is no erosion, noise, etc.

Increase land purchase for inholdings to provide an ecological approach across the landscape

Old growth can create an economic benefit: visitation increases (example of Pacific Northwest)

Concern with logging damage in vernal pools-need better protection from logging and need to develop Standards and Guidelines for vernal pools

No drilling!

Group #3

In a landscape like today, it is difficult to achieve what we had in the past-we should strive for diversity

Rehabilitation of soil to promote maximum diversity of all plants (not just trees)-especially shade tolerant plants because those were originally defining the ecosystem

The current Plan says the National Forest has opportunity for long-term management and the trees have a chance to grow mature...encourage this

Want to see a lot more areas unmanaged-where the forest is managed by God...let trees grow old on their own and regenerate. Protect older trees

Have heard staff use "to recreate" as a verb-this lumps a lot of views into one verb, so use other words

It is hard to satisfy all need son a small forest

Have areas limited to horse logging

There is usefulness in both even and uneven-aged harvesting methods-the rotation length could be expanded if there is no financial pressure to harvest earlier

Use fire to control woody exotics

The best tool is to prohibit the Forest Service from logging until the Forest Service catches up with scientific and public opinion

Analysis should look at the best long-term health of the Forest

Tool: have people go on walks to learn about biodiversity and relationship between logging and those communities. Becca Harber would take decision makers and staff on walks

Grazing appears to be an effective tool for grassland management-continue this and mowing-these provide different habitats throughout the summer

Tool: use community skills that they have for education, publicity, etc.

Include local knowledge on timber sale planning

Finger Lakes Land Trust does work around the Forest...working with them and private landowners could increase shrublands

Pay more attention to soil-let established soil go to forest and let poor soil go to shrubs

Designate a big chunk of Forest as a "no machine" area-kind of Wilderness

Tool: issue more doe permits: check into the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

Tool: decision maker needs to take on-the-ground tours before making decisions

General Comments

Let hunters use ATVs to get deer out of the Forest to the road only. Use an ATV to bring out a deer only. No riding the trail-you'll get more hunters out to help open up and widen trails.