

Bristol Plan Revision Meeting September 16, 2003: Public Comments

Break-Out Session: 6 Question Stations

1. What Kinds of Features are Important to have in Potential Wilderness?
2. What Kinds of Features are a Concern if Included in Potential Wilderness?
3. Which Evaluation Criteria do you Consider Most Important?
4. Which Specific Geographic areas to Include or Exclude from Potential Wilderness?
5. Are there Current Wilderness Mgm't Issues that the Plan Revision should Address.
6. Are there Other Special Areas that are Important to Protect? i.e. Botanical areas, National Recreation areas, Natural Research areas...

Public Comments

Question 1: What Kinds of Features are Important to have in Potential Wilderness?

Early successional forest

Wildlife habitat

Mimic natural disturbances (fire-let burn or prescribe fire), girdling trees-could use to manage deer yards

Aesthetics-natural areas and buffers, large trees, forest diversity

Predator habitat-ex. bobcat and fisher, marten?

Quietness-low noise (including distant noise-trains, highways)

Late successional forest habitat (or potential for it)

Nature for nature's sake-not needing to mimic nature

Doesn't inhibit rights of those using areas now for outdoor recreation (motorized)\

Truly primeval areas-pre-Columbian

No loss of jobs in forest industry

No trails-if Wilderness, should be wild, no trails

No Wilderness

Fire suppression

Question 2: What Kinds of Features are a Concern if Included in Potential Wilderness?

Lack of potential wildlife habitat

Lack of early successional habitat-detrimental to flora and fauna that require young forest types

Potential negative economic impact similar to the depressed area of Essex County, NY

Long Trail system should be abandoned in Wilderness

Loss of resource base for forest products-snowmobiling, ATVing, hunting, fishing

No more Wilderness

Existing roads/motorized access must be clearly removed and closed

Concerned about lack of access for fire control
Loss of use for outdoor recreational use (motorized)-and its impact on Vermont economy
Proximity to developed areas-too close to development
#1 issue is lack of diversified recreation to include emerging and growing forms (OHV, equestrian)
Declining snowshoe hare along with predators (bobcat, fisher)
If Wilderness is created around existing or planned cross country ski trails-how are bridges to be constructed and maintained?
Do we want a forest of all maple stems?
Blueberry management area is Goshen-keep out of Wilderness (also raspberry and blackberry areas)

Question 3: Which Evaluation Criteria do you Consider Most Important?

Biological features
Ecological features
Unique features not found elsewhere
Provide adequate buffers for wetlands, rivers, streams, and older forest communities
Public influences
Anything roadless is unique biologically
Economic benefits to local communities
Sustain current uses for outdoor recreation and its economic impact on Vermont
Forest diversity
Impact on wildlife in short and long term
Impact on native trout quantity and quality-need insects
None of the listed criteria
Historically social/cultural Vermont values
Value and need of it not being a Wilderness for local community
Solitude, remoteness, lack of 4wd access, distance from major roads
Manageability
Local and national distribution of Wilderness
Solitude, serenity, manageability (enforcement aspects)
Biodiversity and different types of forests
Positive and negative effects of Wilderness
Effects on local community
Proximity to 2.4 million acres to NY
Consider all on the evaluation chart are pretty good
Look at areas that are presently managed for timber

Question 4: Which Specific Geographic areas to Include or Exclude from Potential Wilderness?

Current amount of Wilderness is adequate
Mo more Wilderness, Conservation Areas, or NRAs in Addison County
Exclude areas suitable for harvesting of forest products and for the creation of early successional habitat
Expansion of Lye Brook Wilderness may preclude Catamount Trail because of need for bridges and motorized tools
All areas in VWA proposal should be put in Wilderness
Former lands of Joseph Batelle
Romance Mt. And Worth Mt. Ranges should be in Wilderness
Extend the Breadloaf Wilderness to include inventoried roadless areas
Exclude any current recreational uses and consider economic impacts
Include all inventoried roadless areas in Wilderness
Exclude all Vermont forest from Wilderness
Any land which has been logged bare in last 150 years
Breadloaf Wilderness needs to be recalled-this has not provided what Wilderness is supposed to be
We need an end to the process of continually adding Wilderness
Wilderness is precious, if you don't save some we'll never see it again

Question 5: Are there Current Wilderness Mgm't Issues that the Plan Revision should Address.

How does having a high use trail with facilities fit with a "W" designation?
How to react to fires, insects, and disease in Wilderness?
How are search and rescue conducted in Wilderness and who pays for it? (local folks!)
Need to consider the economic impact that outdoor recreation has to Vermont-and what the impact is if that is ceased
No more Wilderness
Conflict between biodiversity goals and age-class distribution, bias caused by Wilderness
Guidelines to allow for the existing trails and Wilderness to co-exist
Wildlife
Motorized recreation
Job loss in forest industry
Lack of enforcement and ATV encroachment
Let the public discuss the real issue-no more Wilderness
Too many restrictions on timber harvesting and the creation of early successional habitat, and on snowmobiling
ATV/snowmobile encroachment into Wilderness must be stopped
Allowance for bridges (may be more primitive) for cross country skiing/winter use

Question 6: Are there Other Special Areas that are Important to Protect? i.e. Botanical areas, National Recreation areas, Natural Research areas...

Cape Research Natural Area

Leicester Hollow Trail
Propose an area designed to compare multiple use and Wilderness-nearly adjacent
Undeveloped lakeshores
NCAs and new NRAs (I.e. VWA)
Watersheds of significant streams from 1987 LRMP
Protect jobs for timber industry
Total closure around protected areas
Areas for intensive timber management and wildlife management
Match intensive management with designated Wilderness acres
Areas with outdoor recreation with economic impact to Vermont

General Comments

Whether snowshoe hare is stable depends on how long you monitor-time over years...in the 1950s there were plenty
In order to manage the motorized (ATV and trail bikes) access in the Forest, you have to offer a place to use motorized equipment.
Please help keep ATVs out of the Forest-we need more enforcement to keep existing prohibitions in place
I think Wilderness is a good thing-don't be discouraged by the process
I fear that the GMNF's application of Wilderness many forms of recreation-particularly those that are currently not offered
The mission statement for the GMNF makes no mention of recreation, why? The Forest is a great asset to the state and the recreation opportunities, management, development, etc. is important to all
Please create (with Congress) more Wilderness in Vermont

Corrections

Missing all old roads-many were paid for by federal and state money