

## Hector Plan Revision Meeting Notes 9-04-03: Biodiversity and Ecosystem management

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

#### 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

Need a more balanced approach to management, example is mowing: now mowing happens along trails and trails are graveled-leading to loss of cool species (example: closed gentian)...or pond mowing right to water's edge affects odonates. Balance would be mowing that accommodates both recreation and species needs-keep an unmowed buffer with a few entry points-don't need highways

Changing conditions-mountain bikes and 4 wheelers-need to consider the affects of these on the dispersal of alien species. Need a quarantine program and an eradication timeline to eliminate invasives-don't do things that will encourage their spread. Protect native species from these alien species...inaction can have undesirable consequences

Active management needs to be a part of the plan to accommodate diversity-need to include mechanical means, modern forest practices (small clearcuts, uneven age) and chemicals for invasives-need to include these to maintain a diversity of species and habitats

Grasslands: need management and consolidation-some species need larger habitats; management-need to manage for cold-season grasses (and warm!) and use grazing to manage habitat: good balance of warm and cold season grasses

Burning, mowing and grazing are all viable options for maintaining warm season grasses

Introduction and reintroduction are tools that should be considered (ex. chestnut)

Bears are reintroducing themselves from Pennsylvania-need to educate public about this...it is currently staying where bears and people are happy-don't worry about enhancing

Consider taking a section and making a deer quality management area for research where doe management is the focus-this will help balance the herd-will help some other species come back as the herd will be less

Great opportunity to designate research areas-experimenting with different management tools-have a teaching forest/research forest

If do the quality deer management thing-don't restrict the number of doe permits-have free doe permits, lots of them

Deer management-cooperate with the state-build on the state's program for quality deer management-Cornell and Arnaut Forest

If do intensive management, consider the requirement to make additional habitat to make up for what is lost

Trade-offs may not work-example: lose wetland, retaining a pond does not make up for it

Domestic dogs and cats on forest-Forest Service should consider this potential: both free roaming and feral-they are a negative issue and can cause a lot of damage

Would like to see a couple of reserves for demonstration, but will lose species-good for showing what you would lose with this type of reserve

Management in reserves: not traditional but include invasives control, cleaning up, preventing erosion-like Finger Lakes Land Trust manages reserves

Need to come up with different way of designating areas besides flagging-lots on the forest that make the forest look dirty

Consider writing invasives control into timber sale contract-like pulling up rose or honeysuckle or bagging garlic mustard

Consider releasing beetle for loostribe on Finger Lakes-work with Cornell and the New York state invasive plant council

Buffers work well with something like a vernal ponds but, they need to be suitable. Visual concerns can sometimes lead to no buffers when they are really needed

Clarification of the difference between National Forest and National park

How can National Forest follow an ecosystems management plan and manage the forest for multiple use?

Conserve: to protect species, landscape, etc. to sustain it over generations

Conserve the current biodiversity of the forest

Balance conservation between the benefits to local people and forest species...protect species and educate people about rare, endangered species

Have signs which identify rare species to educate people

History of lands (farms and orchards) is of interest to people and could be used to make people interested in forest (protect historic apple trees)

Enhance and protect lady slippers

Historic trail-from old geologic rock formation through forest, agriculture, etc. Display geologic changes of rock over time

Protect Birds: warblers, migrants, grassland birds

Protect Butterflies

Maintain ecological biodiversity appropriate to this region to support diverse, healthy species in the future including migratory populations

Restore natives and animals that have been over-harvested-example: lady slipper and ginseng

Use more vulnerable species management indicators (MIS) such as butterflies and salamanders, rather than squirrels and deer

Restore wetlands

Restore old growth forest

Preserve natural gas for future generations

Preserve the loyalty of the community to the forest