



RAP: Roads Analysis Process

Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest

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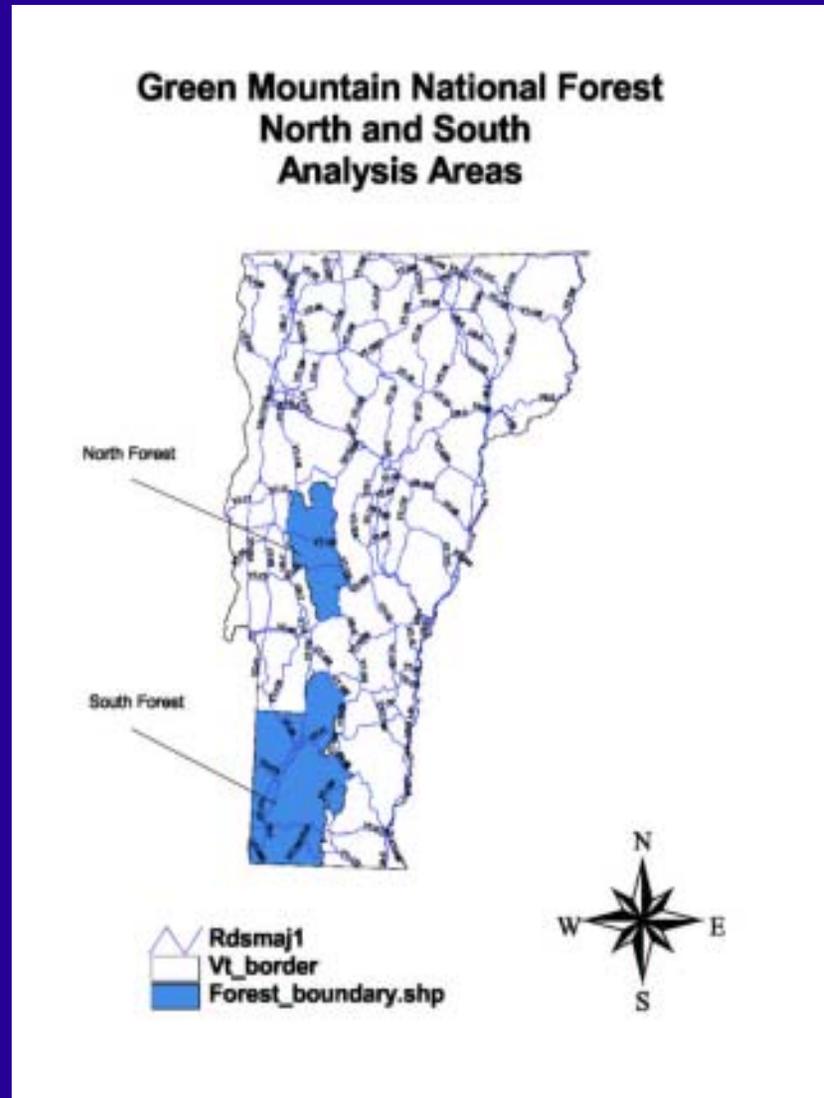
Briefing Overview

- Forest Plan Revision
- Roads Analysis Process (RAP)
- Public Involvement
- Schedule
- Working Session (Maps)



Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forest

- Established in 1932
- Mission:
 - ◆ To Sustain, Protect, and Enhance the Forest Ecosystem
- 3.4 Million visits per year
- Almost everything is FREE!



Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forest

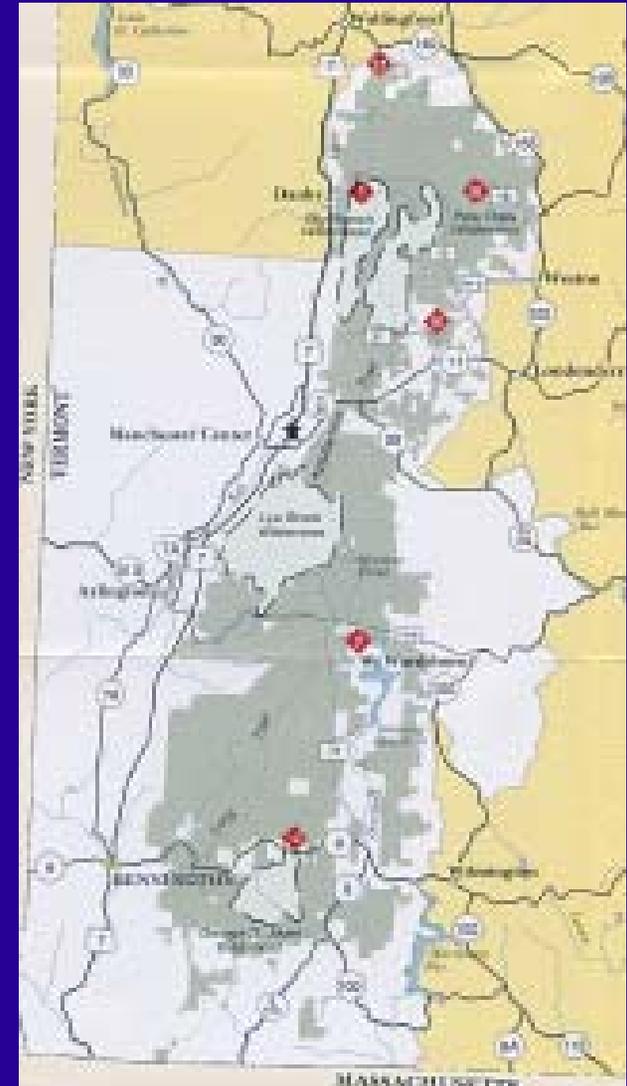
- 385,000 Acres
- 432 Miles of Roads
- 900 Miles of Trails (approximately)
- 7 Developed Campgrounds
- 6 Wilderness Areas
- 9 Developed Picnic Areas



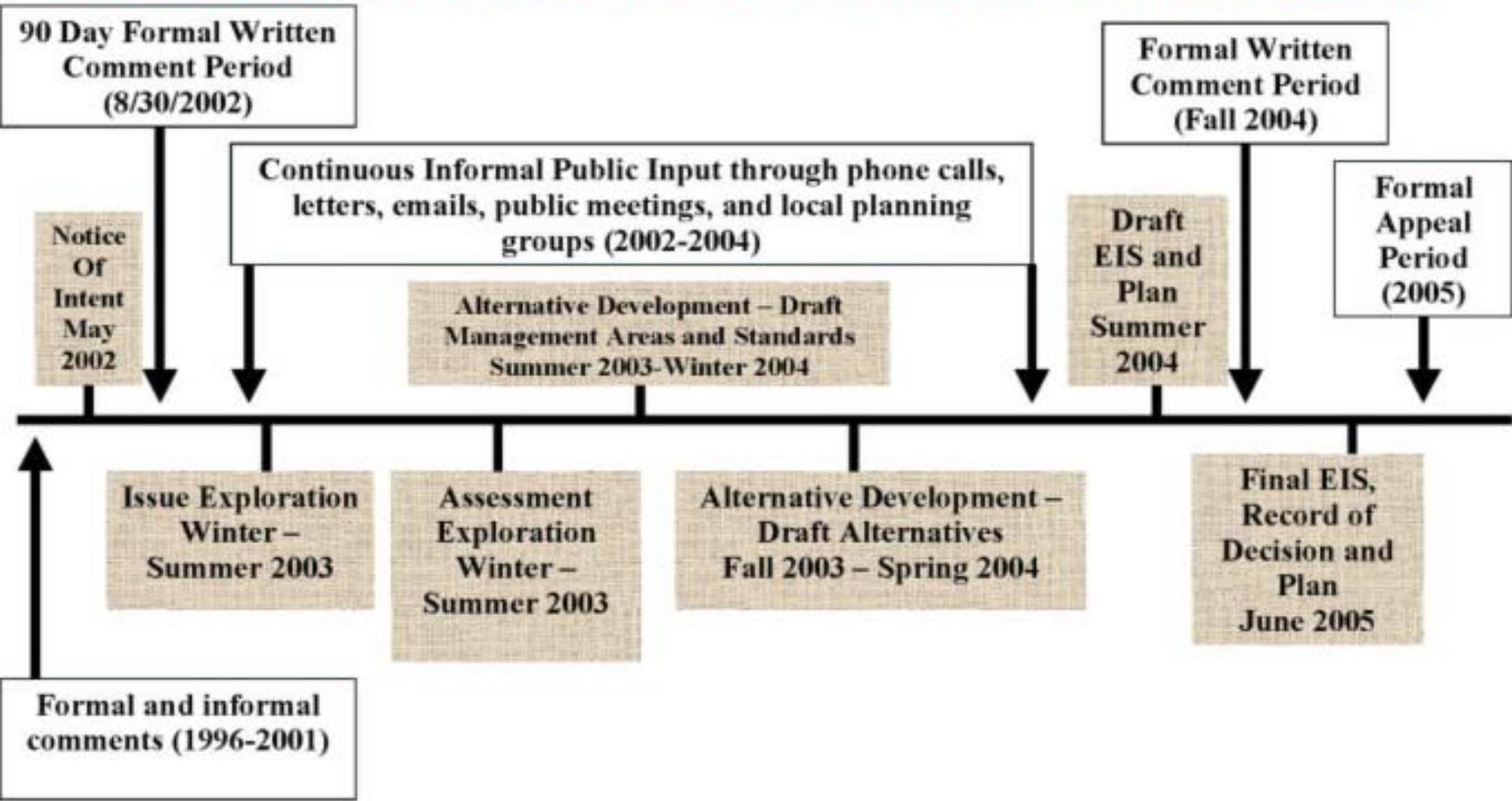
Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests

➤ Partnerships

- Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
- Green Mountain Club
- Vermont Association of Snow Travelers
- Catamount Trail Association
- Ski areas
- Touring center operators
- Moosalamoo Association
- White River Partnership
- Regional Planning Commissions
- Forest Products Industries
- West River Watershed Alliance
- Battenkill Watershed Alliance



Public Involvement Timeline GMNF Forest Plan Revision



Roads Analysis Process (RAP)

- Planning to ensure the Road System is...
 - Safe
 - Responsive to public needs
 - Affordable (economically balanced)
 - Efficiently managed
 - With minimal ecological effect
- Phase I (May '02-Jan '03)
 - ◆ Class 3,4 & 5
- Phase II (Jan–Dec '03)
 - ◆ Class 1 & 2



Roads Analysis Process (RAP)

- Six Step Process:

- ◆ 1. Setup the analysis
- ◆ 2. Describe the situation
- ◆ 3. Identifying issues
- ◆ 4. Assessing benefits problems and risks
- ◆ 5. Describing opportunities and setting priorities
- ◆ 6. Reporting

Yellow denotes
high level of
public involvement



Road Levels Defined...

- Class 5: (5 miles – 1%)
 - ◆ Assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort (double lane – paved).





Class 5

06 14 2002

Class 5

06 14 2002

A paved road with a center line curves through a dense forest of green trees. The road surface is light-colored asphalt. The surrounding vegetation is lush and green, with many trees and undergrowth visible on both sides of the road.

Class 5

06 14 2002



Class 5

06 14 2002

Road Levels Defined...

- Class 4: (56 miles – 13%)
 - ◆ Assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of comfort at moderate speeds... low clearance vehicles.





Class 4

06 14 2002



Class 4

06 14 2002



Class 4

06 14 2002



Class 4

06 14 2002

Road Levels Defined...

- Class 3: (120 miles – 28%)
 - ◆ Assigned to roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car... Low speed, single lane w/ native or aggregate surface.





Class 3

06 10 2002

A gravel road curves through a dense forest. The road is light-colored and appears to be made of gravel or crushed stone. It is flanked by lush green vegetation, including tall grasses and various trees. The forest is thick, with many trees visible in the background. The sky is bright and clear.

Class 3

06 10 2002



Class 3

06 10 2002



Class 3

06 10 2002

Road Levels Defined...

- Class 2: (170 miles – 39%)
 - ◆ Assigned to roads open for use by high clearance vehicles.



A gravel path leads through a forest. The path is composed of light-colored gravel and dirt, with some sparse green vegetation growing between the stones. On either side of the path, there is a thick layer of bright green grass. The forest consists of tall, thin trees, likely spruce or fir, with a dense canopy. The sky is visible in the distance, appearing overcast. In the bottom left corner, the text "Class 2" is written in white. In the bottom right corner, the date "06 10 2002" is written in yellow.

Class 2

06 10 2002

A photograph of a dirt road winding through a dense forest. The road is light-colored and shows tire tracks. The surrounding trees and foliage are lush green. The road curves to the right in the distance.

Class 2

06 10 2002



Class 2

06 10 2002



Class 2

06 10 2002

Road Levels Defined...

- Class 1: (81 miles – 19%)
 - ◆ Assigned to intermittent service roads closed to vehicular traffic...





Class 1

06 10 2002



Class 1

06 10 2002



Class 1

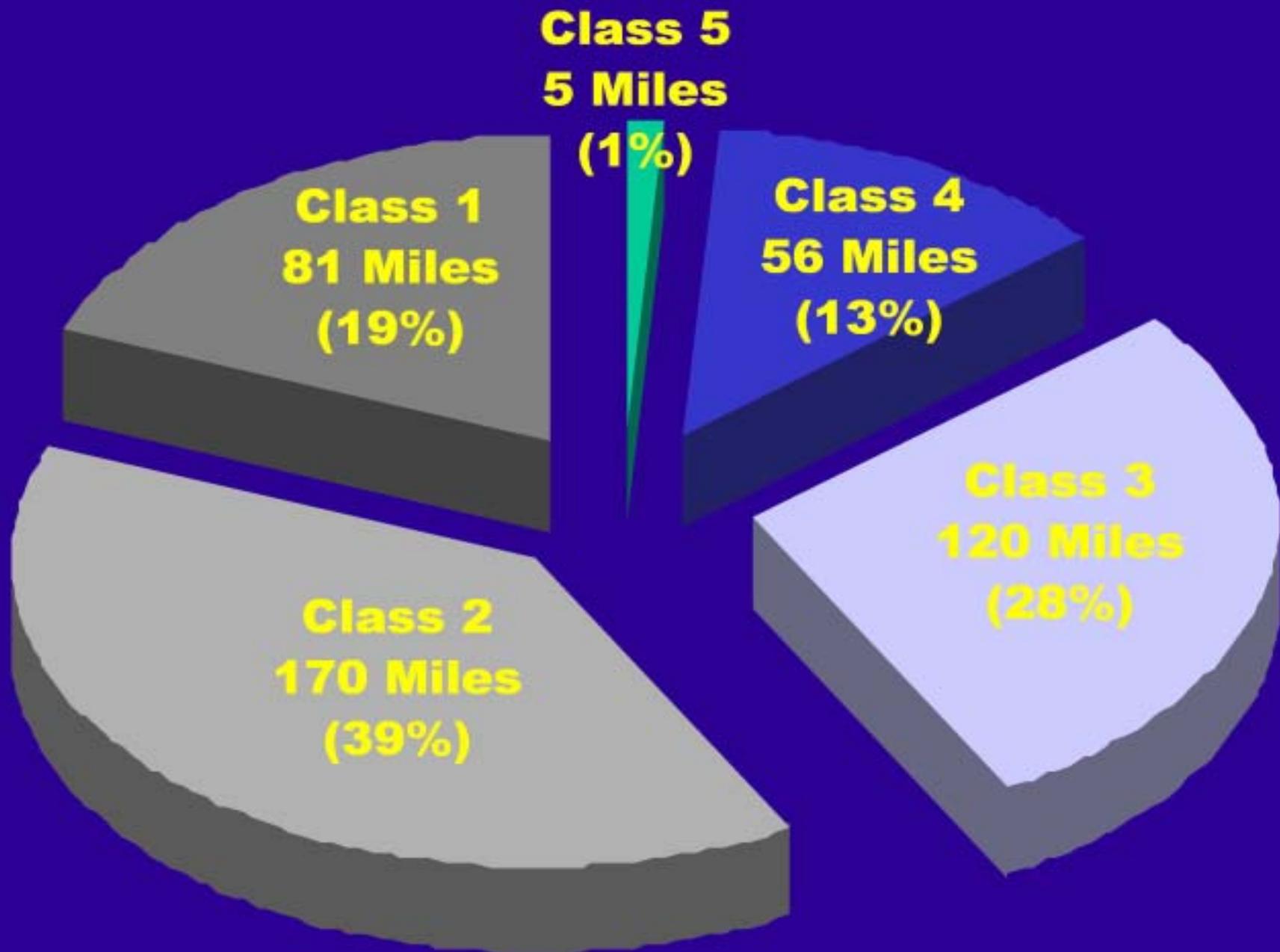
06 10 2002



Class 1

06 10 2002

Road Classifications



Phase I (Class 5,4 & 3)

1. The existing road network (Class 3,4 & 5) is meeting the access needs of the Forest.
2. We are following the intent of the current Forest Plan
3. We are currently under-funded by approximately \$160,000 annually for Maintenance and Construction
4. Environmental Impacts from the Roads needs to be prioritized and addressed.

Phase I (Class 5,4 & 3)

5. Some roads are currently misclassified and should be evaluated and re-classified.
6. An in-depth analysis is needed to define Roads Management Objectives (RMO) of all roads.
7. The forest should continue its cooperative agreements with Vermont towns.
8. We should continue to seek National Forest System (NFS), Capital Improvement and Trail Deposit Funds.
9. An Assessment of road signs needed.

Public Involvement

- 6 Public meetings to the North and South
- Regional Planning Commissions
Transportation Advisory Committees
- Web Page
 - ◆ http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa_planning/plan_revision/rap/rap.htm
- Interested Party mailing List (1200)
- Special Interest discussions (VAST, Timber, Recreational users, VT Wilderness Association, etc.)



Public Involvement

- What are we looking for?
 - ◆ What Roads are important and why?
 - ◆ What's your expectation of this system?
 - ◆ What resources are important?
 - ◆ Are there risks associated with these roads? (i.e. – erosions, T&E, habitat, water quality, other?)
 - ◆ What problems do you see?
 - ◆ Do we have enough roads? Not enough?
 - ◆ How are we (the Forest Service) doing?



Public Involvement

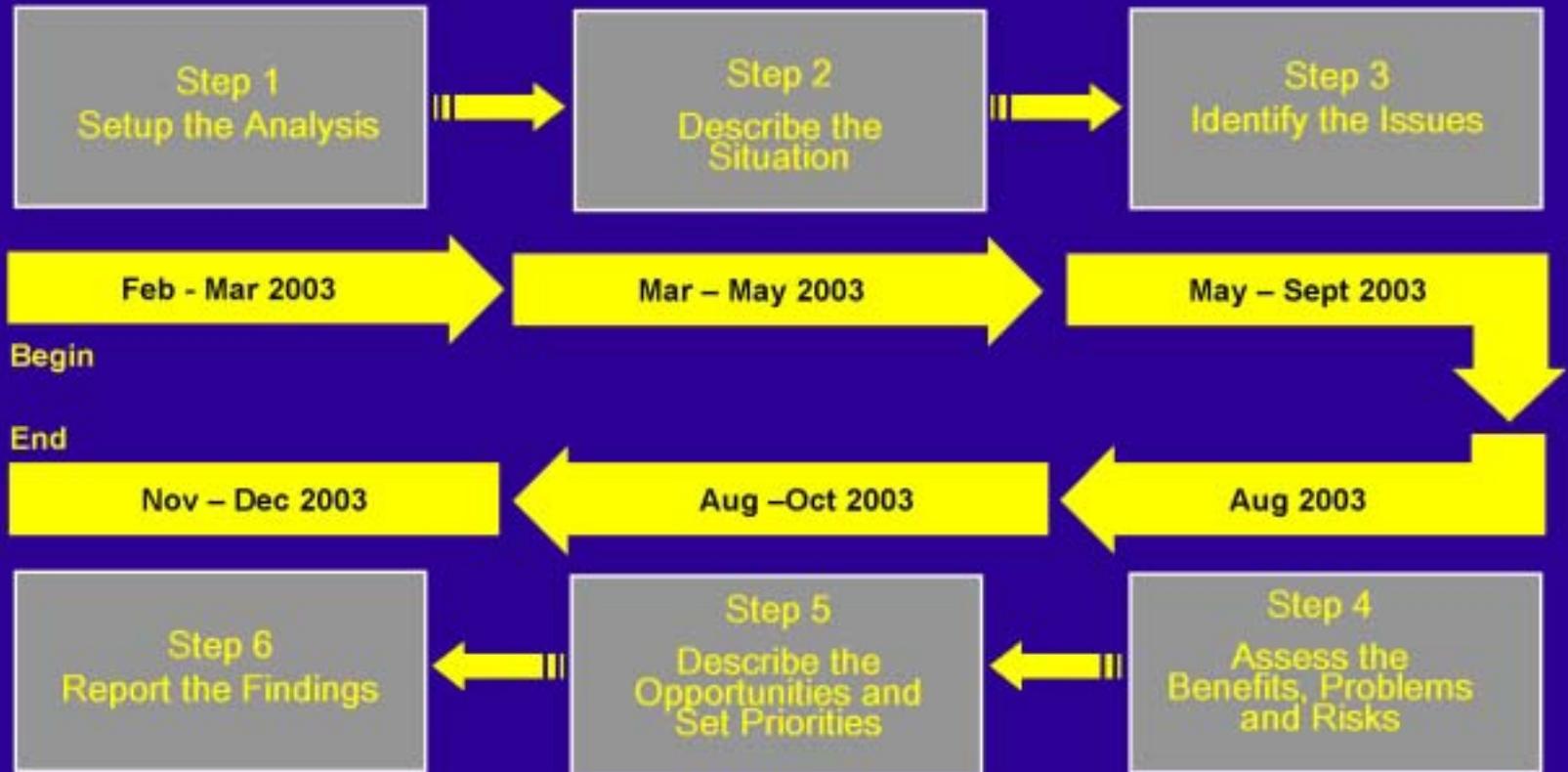
- Road Issues:

- ◆ Private Access
- ◆ Bus Routes
- ◆ Recreation
- ◆ Cultural Resources
- ◆ Trash Dumping
- ◆ Fire Control
- ◆ Water Quality
- ◆ Economics
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Spacing (Logging)
- ◆ Managing Special Use Sites
- ◆ Aesthetics



- ◆ Poaching
- ◆ Public Road Connection
- ◆ Jurisdiction
- ◆ Law Enforcement
- ◆ Traditional Uses
- ◆ Gravel needs
- ◆ Shortcomings
- ◆ Riparian Zones
- ◆ Stream Damage
- ◆ Maintenance Cost
- ◆ Noise
- ◆ Forest Access

Roads Analysis Process (RAP)



What do YOU think ?

**Where are our
Transportation Access
shortcomings?**

What do YOU think ?

Which roads are crucial for:

- Private access?**
- Bus routes?**
- Gravel needs?**

What do YOU think ?

Which Roads are problems for:

- Poaching?**
- Trash Dumping?**
- Safety?**

What do YOU think ?

Which Roads have:

- ❑ High Traditional Uses?**
- ❑ Low Traditional Uses?**
- ❑ High Recreational Use?**
- ❑ Low Recreational Use?**

What do YOU think ?

Do Roads contribute to the control of:

- Insects?**
- Disease?**
- Parasites?**

What do YOU think ?

**Are there adverse effects of
Noise from:**

- ❑ Developing Roads?**
- ❑ Using Roads?**
- ❑ Maintaining Roads?**

What do YOU think ?

Which Roads are:

- ❑ Damaging Streams?**
- ❑ Degrading Water Quality?**
- ❑ Harming Plant Communities?**

What do YOU think ?

Which Roads Should be closed?

Why?

Why not?

What do YOU think ?

Which Roads Should be opened?

- Why?**
- Why not?**

What do YOU think ?

How does the Road system affect:

- ❑ Cultural Resources?**
- ❑ Special Features?**
- ❑ Unique Communities?**

What do YOU think ?

Which Roads would be better served under:

- Town Jurisdiction?**
- State Jurisdiction?**
- Federal Jurisdiction?**

What do YOU think ?

**Does Road spacing and
location affect logging
system feasibility?**

What do YOU think ?

**Does Road system provide
adequate access for
Fire Control?**

What do YOU think ?

**Does the Road system
adequately connect blocks
of land?**

What do YOU think ?

**Does the Road system affect
economics in the area?**

What do YOU think ?

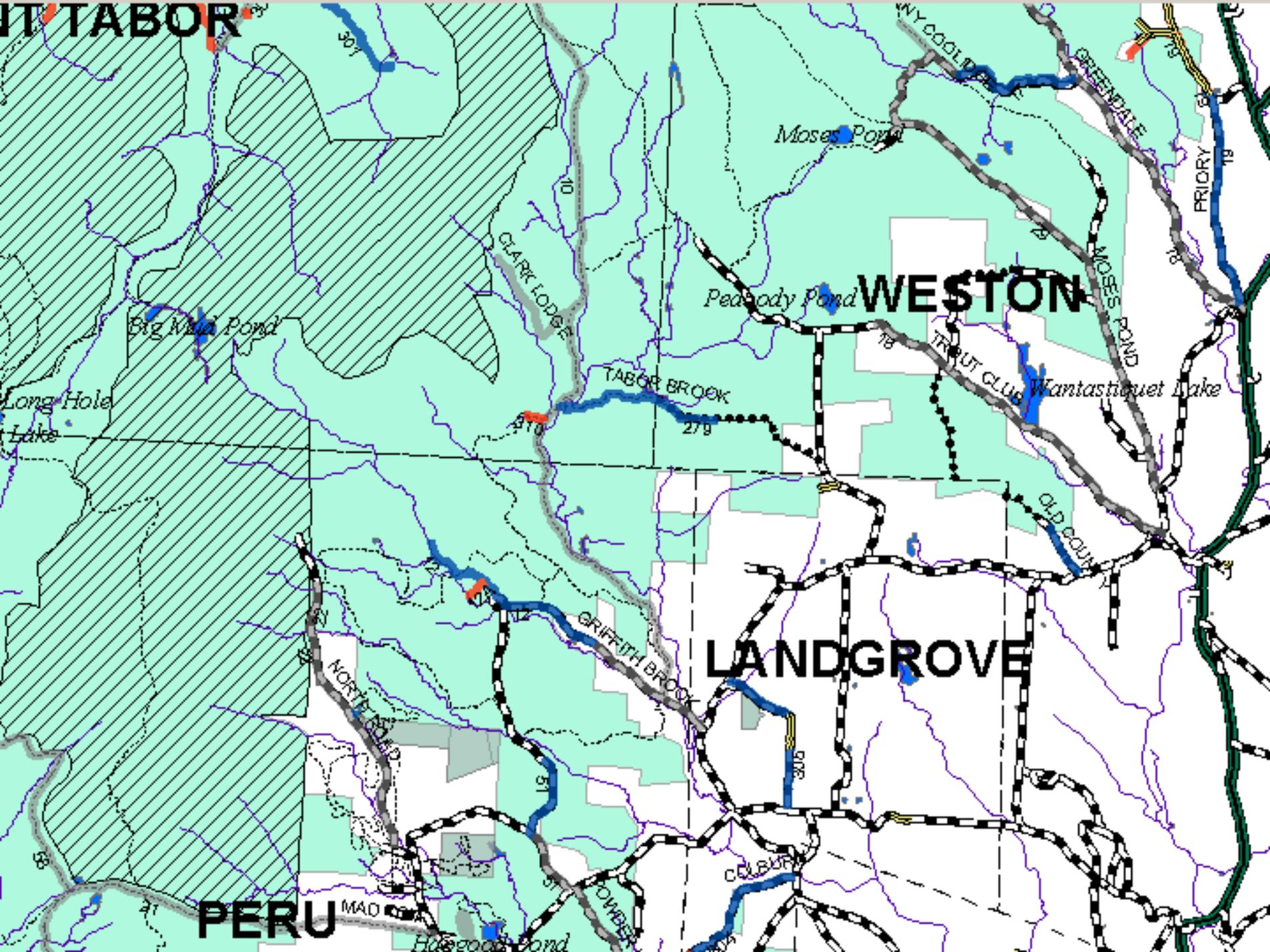
**Does the Road system
connect to public roads and
provide access to
communities?**

What do YOU think ?

**Does the Road system
facilitate human activities?**

What do YOU think ?

**How does the Road system
affect Law Enforcement
activities?**



TABOR

WESTON

LANDGROVE

PERU

Long Hole Lake

Big Muddy Pond

Moses Pond

Peabody Pond

Wantastiquet Lake

TABOR BROOK

GRIFFITH BROOK

NORTH ROAD

CLARK LODGE

TROUT CLUB

OLD ROAD

GREENDALE

PRIDRY

MOSES POND

CLUB

OWDEN

Horseshoe Pond

Questions?

