



## Trails Analysis Process Factsheet



### INTRODUCTION

As part of the Plan Revision process the Forest Service identified the need for a forest scale trails analysis. The analysis will ensure that the National Forest trail system meets current and future management objectives, provides for safe public access and travel, allows for economical and efficient management, and addresses trail maintenance and operations needs.



The Trails Analysis Process (TAP) will examine Forest Service trails (existing and proposed) on the Finger Lakes National Forest. The analysis will produce a trail management strategy that will ultimately lead to guidelines for addressing future trail management issues. This effort is part of revising the Finger Lakes National Forest *Land and Resource Management Plan*.

### THE PROCESS

The Trails Analysis is a six-step process. The steps are designed to be sequential with the understanding that the process may require feedback among steps.

#### **The six steps are:**

1. Setting up the Analysis
2. Describing the Situation
3. Identifying Issues
4. Assessing Benefits, Problems and Risks
5. Describing Opportunities and Setting Priorities
6. Reporting

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Forest Service held two public meetings on trails. Input obtained from the public was used for the analysis. Public comments can be found on the Finger Lakes web site (see below). A great deal of work was done by the local trails group in recommending new trails for the forest. These recommendations were also considered.

### ISSUES

The Trails analysis was done to identify both values and risks for each trail segment. Issues considered include erosion, stream crossings, impacts to wildlife, safety, user conflicts, loop opportunities, solitude, pastures, parking, wetlands, Research Natural Areas and special areas.

### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PLAN

1. All existing trails will remain open.
2. Three of the proposed trails move forward to detailed analysis
  - a. Burnt Hill Alternative
  - b. The Horse Camp Connector
  - c. Pearsall Loop Trail
3. The Forest Service needs strong partnerships to achieve our collective goals with the public.
4. Mountain bikes will be allowed on all multiple use trails with educational signing after completing detailed a more analysis.
5. ATV's will not be allowed on the forest (No change from current policy)
6. The Risks highlighted in the analysis will drive the operations and maintenance program objectives.

Information regarding public meetings will be posted on the Finger Lakes website at [www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa\\_planning/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa_planning/)



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The mission of the Green Mountain National Forest is to sustain, protect and enhance the forest ecosystem. Employees, with the aid of the public, understand that their greatest asset is the land, their greatest strength is the work force, and they will strive to gain public understanding, trust, and confidence in all that they do through demonstration and education.

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