

# **Trails**

**Finger Lakes National Forest  
Plan Revision  
June 6, 2003**

# Meeting Agenda:

- Brief overview of Plan revision
- Trails in the current Forest Plan
- Public and Forest Service trail issues
- Understanding what's being said –Interface
- Small group work
- Introduction to proposed trail plan.

# Announcements

- Meeting notes
- Past issues
- Missed previous meetings?
- Vegetation and Timber Meeting
- Public input meetings – No Decisions

# Next Meetings

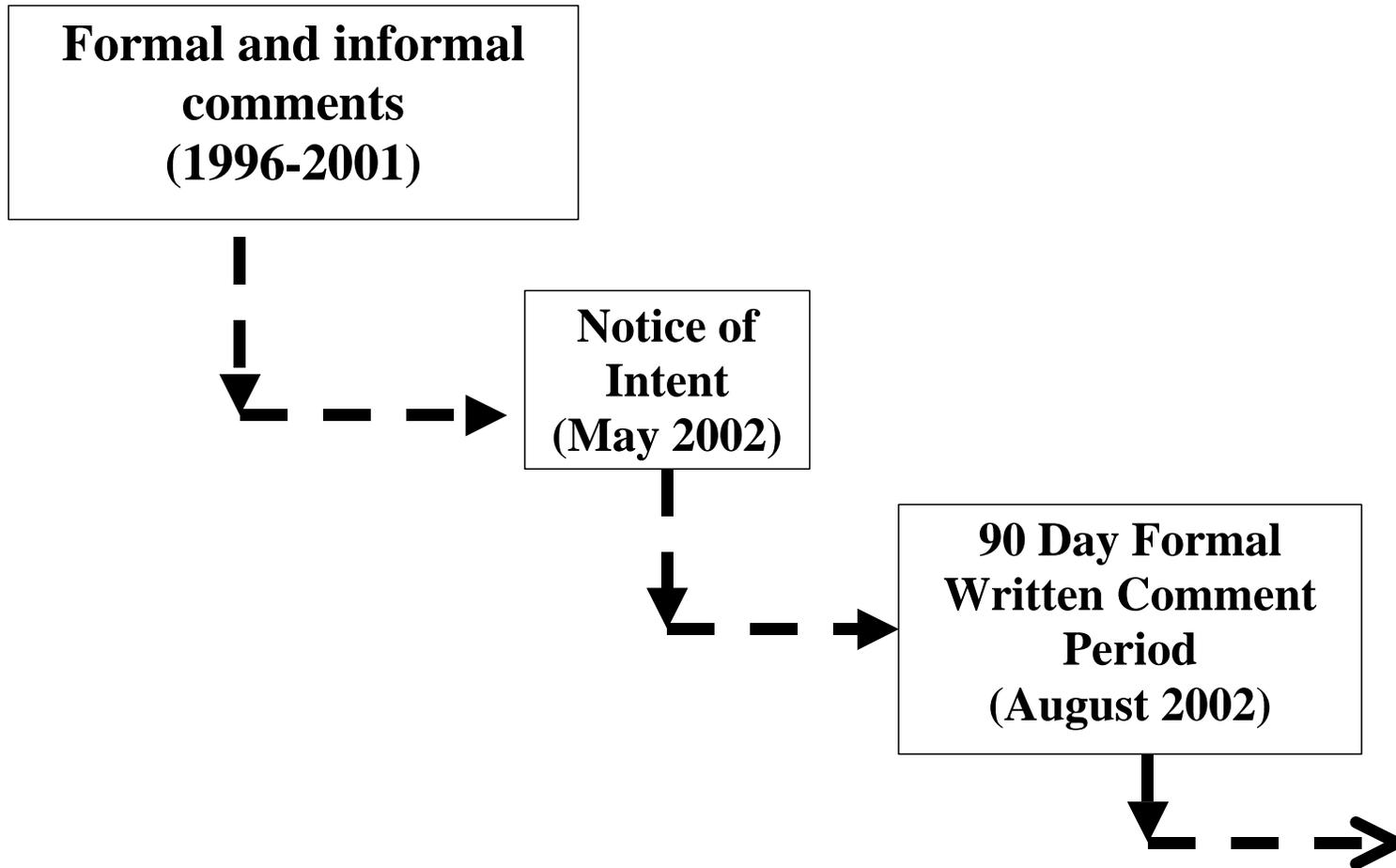
- **Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 7:00-9:00pm**  
Hector Fire Hall  
Trails (continue discussion)
- **Thursday, June 26 9:00am-1:00pm**
- **Saturday, July 19 9:00am-1:00pm**  
Trail Hikes- meet at Blueberry Patch

# Forest Plan Revision

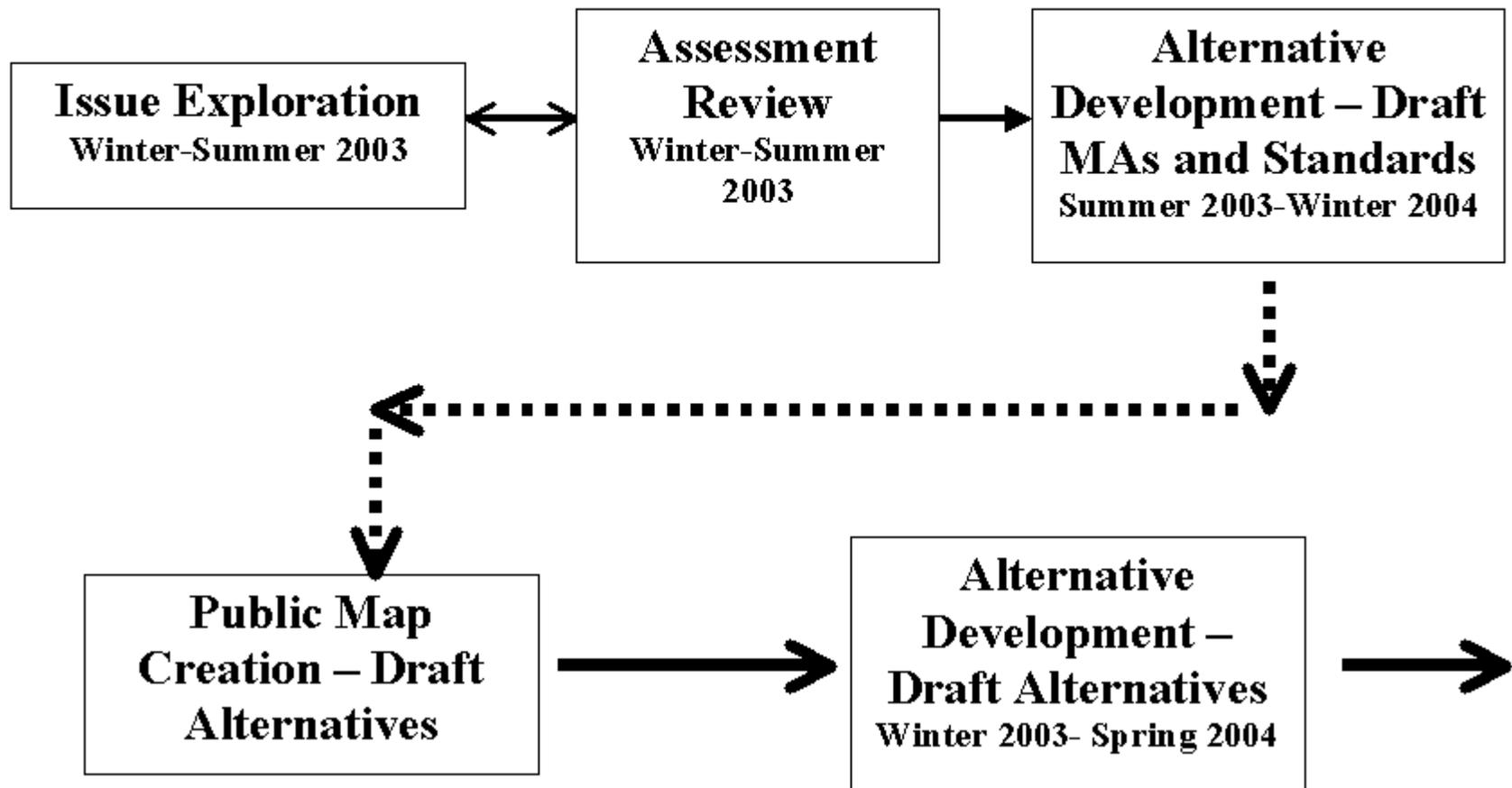
- Why are we revising the plan?
- How can you get involved?
- Where are we in the process?

# **FLNF Forest Plan Revision Timeline**

## **Where we have been...**

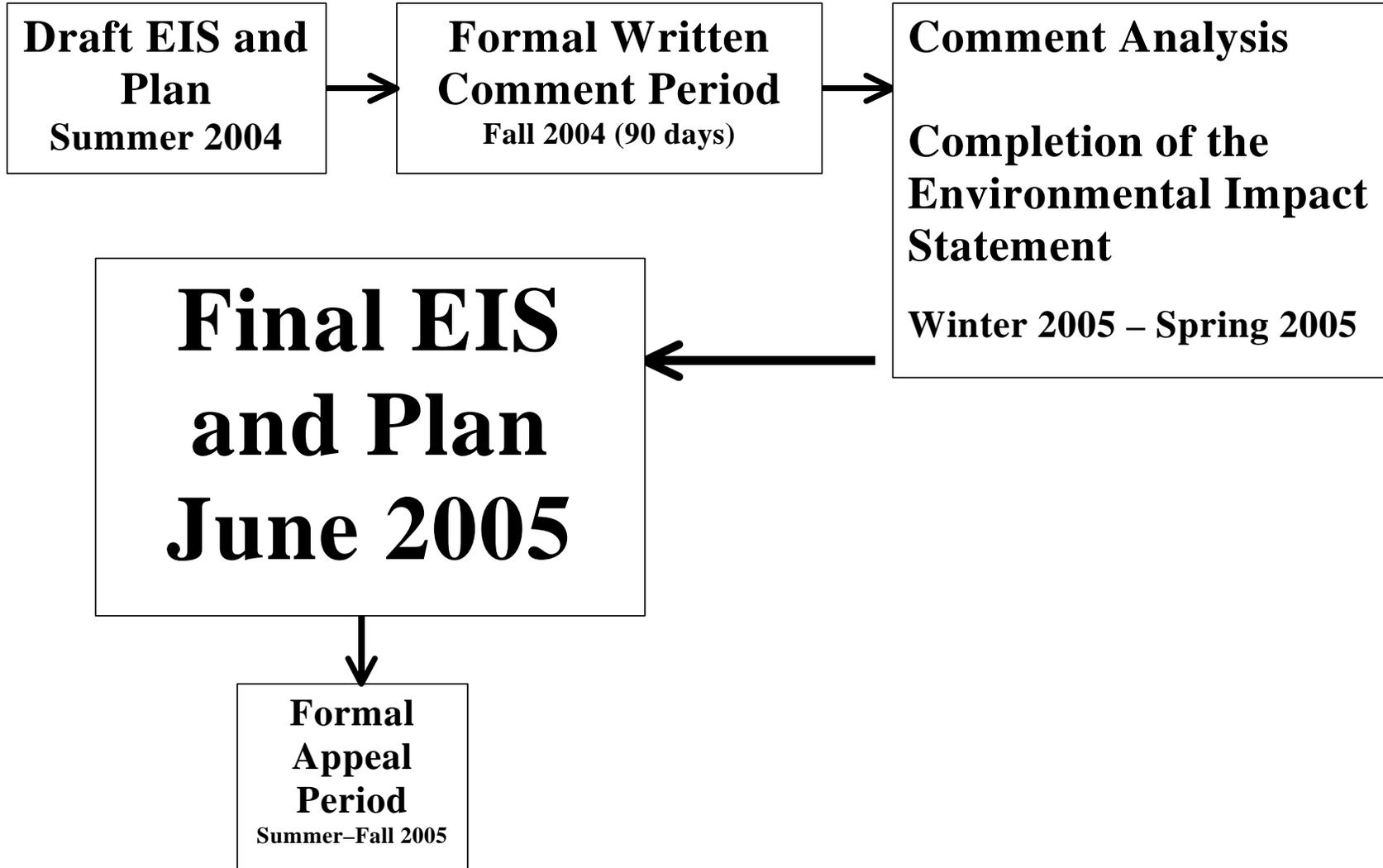


# Public Involvement Timeline Winter 2003 - Spring 2004



# **Formal Public Involvement Timeline**

## **Summer 2004 - June 2005**



# What is in a Forest Plan?

- Goals and Objectives
- Standards and guidelines
- Management Areas
- Land suitable for timber harvesting and upper limits on timber sales
- Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements

# Trails

- Trails in the current Forest Plan
- Accomplishments since 1987
- Public issues
- Forest Service issues

# Forest Plan was intended to:

- Protect and enlarge the trail system
- Reduce user conflicts
- Expand system for horse and snowmobiles
- Interloken, FLT, Ravine, Gorge and Potomac hiking/x-country skiing use only
- Better signage
- Land acquisition for consistent trail usage throughout the forest

# Forest Plan Goals and Objectives

- Forest Plan Goal:
  - “Provide recreation requiring large land area”
- Forest Plan Objectives:
  - 35 miles of trail maintained per year
  - 10 miles of new trail construction over the life of the Plan
  - 5 gates per year

\*Forest Plan doesn't build trails, it only provides guidance

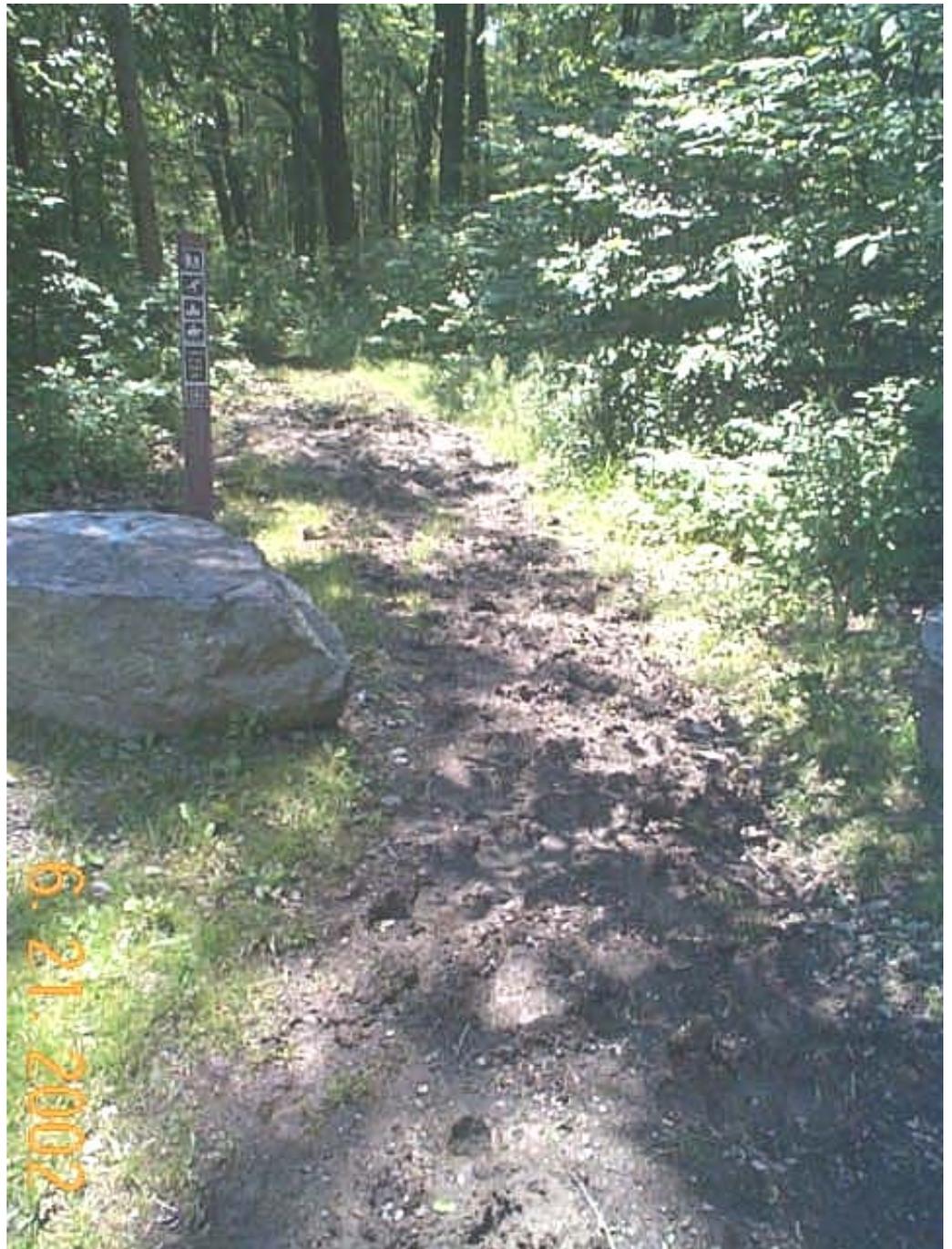
# FLNF Trails

- About 35 Miles of trail
  - 57% hiking and skiing (about 20 miles)
  - 43% Multiple-use for horse, snowmobile, hike, ski, some mountain bike (about 15 miles)
  - About 6 miles of multiple use include mountain bikes

# FLNF Trails

- Trails go through all Management Areas
  - Grassland
  - Pastureland
  - Shrubland
  - Even and Uneven-aged Forest
  - Special Areas

# Burnt Hill Trail



# Horseback riding Foster Pond



# Ravine Trail



# Forest Plan Focus:

- Recreation that provides solitude
- Loop trails are encouraged
- User groups encouraged to participate in trail maintenance
- Construction, operation, and maintenance of trails
- Parking
- Wheeled off-road vehicles were determined incompatible with the FLNF

# Forest Plan Focus:

- Low impact foot travel only trails in “old-growth” areas
- Trails and roads should form an interconnected travel network
- Users will be informed and educated on closures and trail guidelines
- Trails will be inventoried

# Construction, operation and maintenance

- Follows FS guidelines
- User groups to be encouraged to participate
- User groups and FS will meet annually prior to April 15 to update maps and prepare maintenance plans

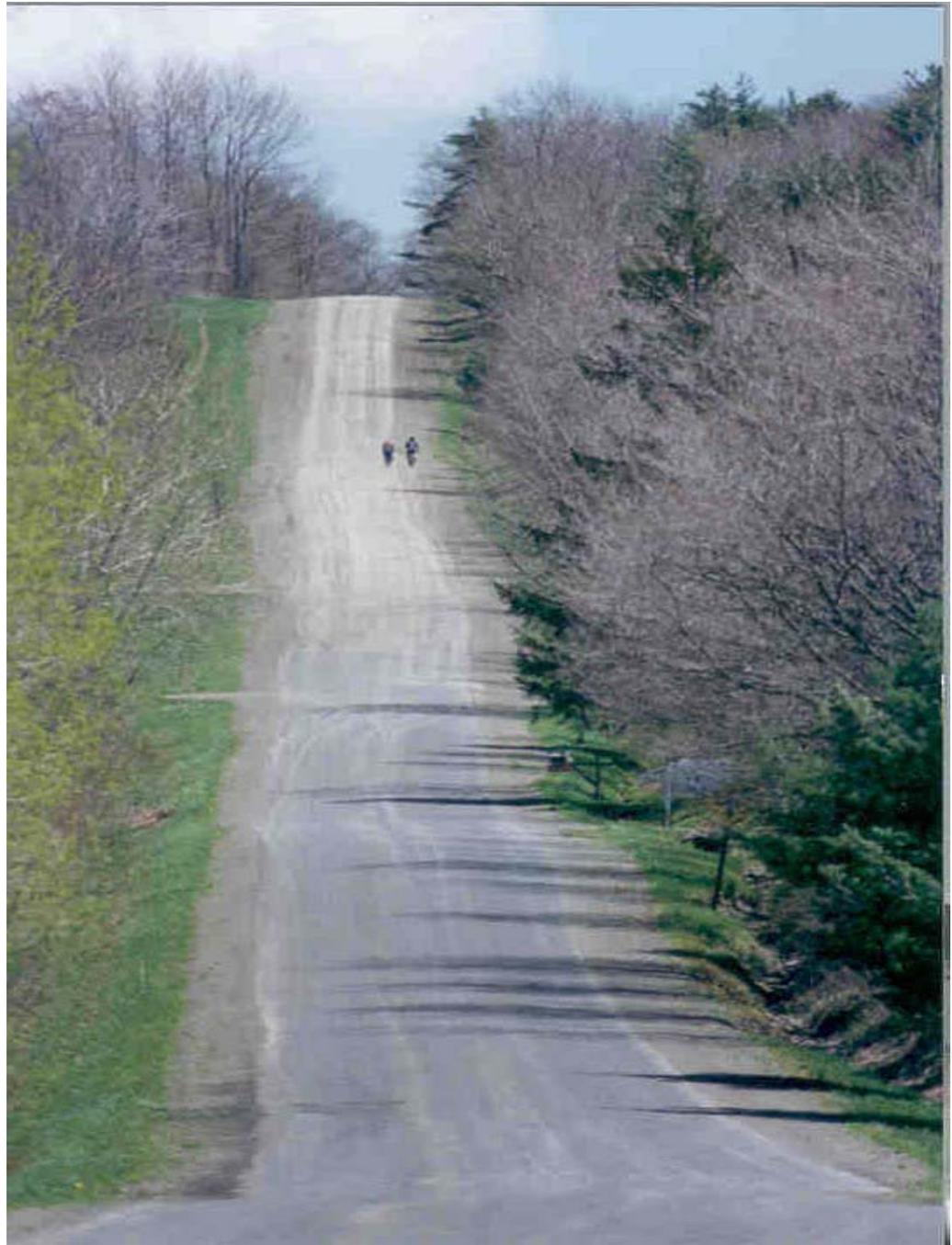
# Vegetative management along trails

- Used to enhance visual and vegetative diversity
- User groups will be informed of activities
- Seasonal restrictions to minimize negative impacts
- Alternate routes provided when management activities cause trails to be closed
- Slash and debris will resemble what is found naturally

# 15 Year Accomplishments

- Construction of 7 new miles
- No-Tan-Takto trail constructed to provide for horse back riders and snowmobiles
- Interloken redesignated hiking/skiing only (in 1996 1½ miles of horse use was allowed for equal access)
- Satterly Hill land acquisition for Finger Lakes Trail
- Finger Lakes Trail added to North Country Trail system

# Mountain Bikes



# Snowshoe race



# 15 Year Accomplishments

- Signage, now over 100 signs!
- Sections of Interloken relocated, mostly in South, due to wet conditions
- Maintenance of about 2.5 miles per year
- Trail reconstruction, board walks or filter cloth and gravel
- Gates for access to pasture
- Mountain biking on N. 2 miles of Interloken and No-Tan-Takto trails.

# Trail Signs



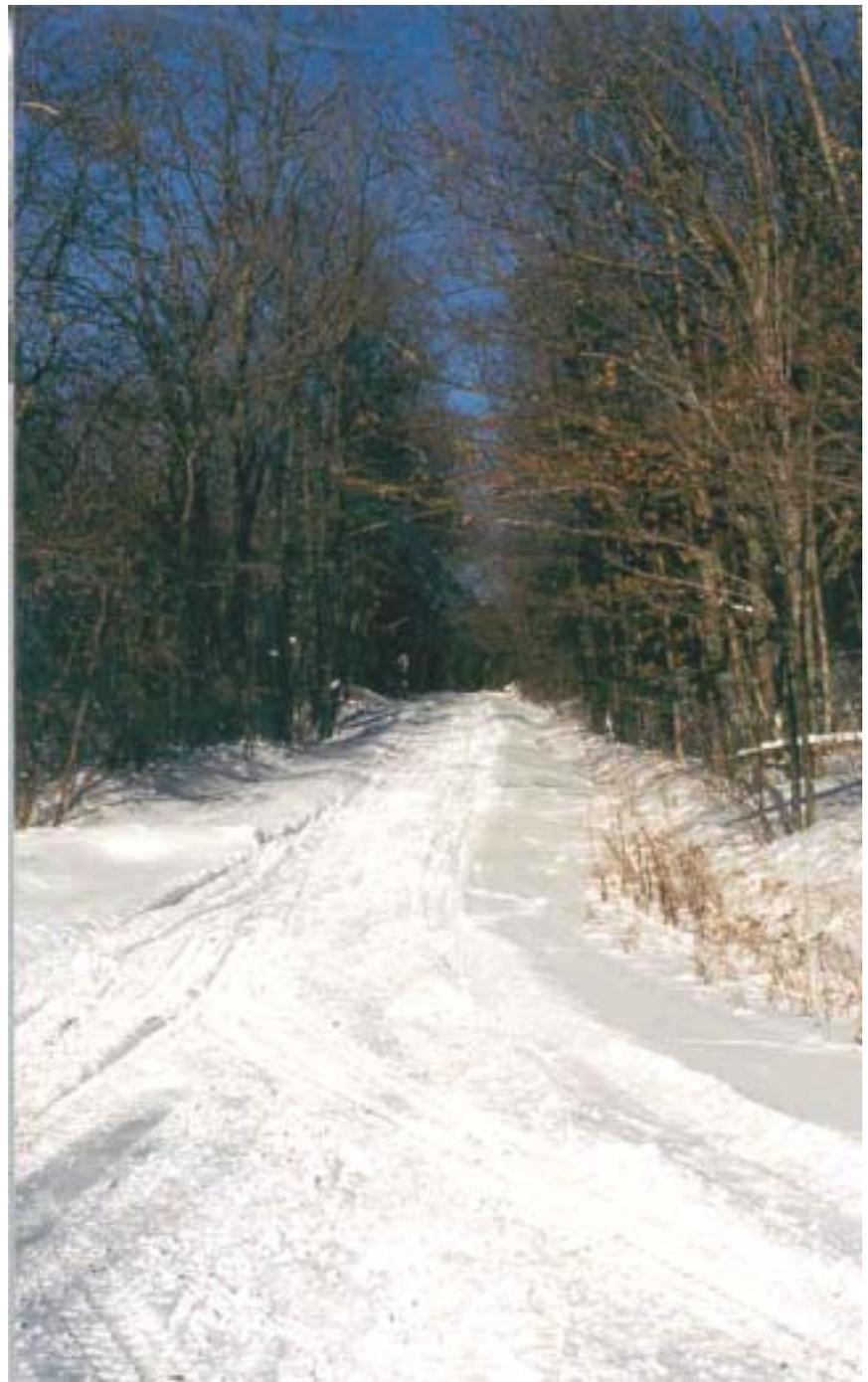
# Boardwalk on Interloken Trail



# 15 Year Accomplishments

- Partnerships: Friends of the FLNF, Cayuga Trails Club, North Country Trails group, Trumansburg Snowmobile Association, numerous individual volunteers

# Burnt Hill Snowmobile Trail



# Hike into the woods



# Some FS Issues and Concerns

- Effects on wildlife, plants, historic areas, soils, grazing, water, etc...
- Budget for maintenance and construction
- Engineering and NEPA staff resources
- Monterey Prison “Shock Crew” no longer works with FLNF
- Limited Forest land base

# Some FS Issues and Concerns

- Illegal use and enforcement (mountain bikes, ATVs, even 4x4s)
- Non-system trails
- Access for disabled people
- Safety

# Some Public Issues and Concerns

- Forest-wide trail system planning to meet the needs of different users
- Wheeled off-road vehicles
- Mountain Bikes
- User conflicts
- New trails
- Maintenance of existing trails, signs, and information

# Small Group Work

Judy Saul  
Interface

# Forest Plan Revision Trails Group

- Formed as part of the FLNF revision effort of 1996-1997
- Congress stopped all Forest Plan revisions
- Trail planning was a major public and FS issue
- This group was formed by many different user groups represented.

# Trails group

- Very good, tough work
- User groups started working together to solve trail conflicts
- Final product a proposed trail plan
- Friends of the FLNF

# Proposed Trail Plan

- The trails group wanted the proposed trail plan to do several things:
  - Reduce trail user conflicts
  - Increase the amount of multiple use trails
  - Add mountain biking to the list of approved uses on the FLNF
  - See the handout for specific information

# For next meeting...

- Look at and think about the proposed trail plan
  - General reaction
  - Suggestions
- Review 15 Year Retrospective
  - In particular: pages 10-12, 22, 46-48, 52-53, 62, 81
- Review handouts

# Thanks for Participating!

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