

GOALS COMPARISON 1987 FOREST PLAN – DRAFT GOALS 2003

1987 GOALS	DRAFT 2003 GOALS
<p>Nurture and protect the complex, interrelated, natural systems that are part of the GMNF and affected by its management. Recognize the many interrelationships and interactions between resources and uses when making decisions, which could be detrimental to the ecosystem as a whole.</p>	<p>Changed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a full range of naturally occurring ecological processes and systems naturally occurring on the forest and native to the Green Mountains, Taconics, and Vermont Valley. • Protect all uncommon or outstanding biological, ecological, or geological areas on the GMNF.
<p>Maintain flexibility in the ability of the GMNF to respond to an uncertain future-to allow decision makers to make shifts in policy and land use as time passes and situations change.</p>	<p>This is more or a procedural that is covered by the Forest’s ability to amend the plan. Changed to: Keep the Forest Plan current through an ongoing planning program and amendments.</p>
<p>Meet all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations which pertain to the GMNF.</p>	<p>This is a requirement and is covered in the section before goals.</p>
<p>Manage watersheds to protect municipal water supplies, provide adequate flood control, ensure high water quality, sufficient quantity, and benefit important fish and wildlife habitats.</p>	<p>This is covered in the Clean Water Act and these goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase woody debris in high elevation streams. • Maintain and protect wetland areas. • Enhance and maintain aquatic habitats.
<p>Stabilize and enrich the soils on the GMNF by fixing sources of erosion, preventing future problems from occurring and protecting the nutrients which cycle through the Forest ecosystem.</p>	<p>This is an objective. Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain productivity of soils.
<p>Respect the quality of the air passing over the GMNF and encourage others to do the same. Protect the forest ecosystem, which purifies the air we see and breathe. Learn more about the effects of air pollution on the forest ecosystem and adjust our management to buffer ill effects.</p>	<p>This is covered in the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the goals on ecosystem management..</p>
<p>Preserve and enhance the diversity of plant and animal communities on the GMNF so that it is at least as great as the natural range</p>	<p>This is a requirement in NFMA - Provide for viability of native and desirable non-native species. There</p>

<p>of diversity. Increase or maintain the existing amounts of oak and other less common vegetative types on the Forest wherever possible.</p>	<p>has been much discussion about the term “natural range of variability.” The second part is an objective. Changed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance biodiversity on the GMNF. • Maintain a full range of naturally occurring ecological processes and systems naturally occurring on the forest and native to the Green Mountains, Taconics, and Vermont Valley.
<p>Maintain adequate quality, amount and distribution of habitats to support viable populations of all existing native and desired non-native vertebrate species on the National Forest.</p>	<p>Changed to: Maintain adequate quality, amount, and distribution of habitats to produce viable and sustainable wildlife populations.</p>
<p>Protect all threatened, endangered and sensitive species (TE&S), as well as other species of concern on the National Forest.</p>	<p>This is a requirement.</p>
<p>Preserve all important physical remains of prehistoric and historic human activity as well as interpret and explain some cultural resource sites to improve public understanding and appreciation of the past.</p>	<p>The first part of this goal is a requirement. Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect all uncommon or outstanding recreational and heritage areas on the GMNF. • Increase educational opportunities provided by and on the GMNF within budget constraints.
<p>Protect all uncommon or outstanding biological, ecological or recreational areas which are special to the GMNF. Ensure that the qualities which make these areas special are preserved for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect qualities of the GMNF that contribute to Vermont's uniqueness and culture. • Protect all uncommon or outstanding biological, ecological, or geological areas on the GMNF. • Protect all uncommon or outstanding recreational and heritage areas on the GMNF.
<p>Coordinate this plan and future activities with the plans, goals and activities of the State of Vermont, regional planning commissions, town governments, conservation groups, and neighboring landowners.</p>	<p>Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance relationships with local communities. • Continue coordination with federal and state agencies.

<p>Provide the greatest good, for the greatest number over the long run.</p>	<p>This goal is too broad.</p>
<p>Manage the GMNF to provide what private land does not so that the public selects from the widest variety of choices. Anticipate the changes, which are likely to occur on private lands over time and recognize the interrelated roles of private and public lands.</p>	<p>It is unclear what is meant by the phrase "provide what private land does not" – areas where we will concentrate will be defined in objectives.</p>
<p>Provide present and future generations with a wide range of choices on National Forest lands in order to satisfy an equally wide range of needs and wants. The people should be able to choose from among a multitude of recreation opportunities, game and non-game wildlife uses, timber products, and other available benefits. Provide a full range of high quality recreational opportunities which are in harmony with the other resources and uses that we manage.</p>	<p>This goal is also too broad and all encompassing – it is more of a role statement.</p>
<p>Emphasize backcountry settings where Wilderness, Primitive, and Semi-primitive recreation experiences can occur since they are not likely to be provided on private lands in the future.</p>	<p>Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain quality settings for non-motorized recreational opportunities. • Maintain and protect Wilderness and primitive areas to provide opportunities for quiet recreation, quiet and solitude. • Emphasize dispersed recreation opportunities.
<p>Provide ample opportunities for recreationists who desire roaded access to the National Forest while recognizing that such opportunities can also be provided on private lands if the landowners allow. A roaded, but natural appearing environment will satisfy people looking for places to hunt, fish, pick berries, picnic and drive, ride, hike or ski through the woods.</p>	<p>Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing level of road access to the forest. • Create access opportunities for a more diverse array of uses. • Maintain quality settings for motorized recreational opportunities.
<p>Continue to provide opportunities for downhill skiing in partnership with the managers of Sugarbush, Bromley Mountain and Mount Snow ski areas. Ensure that the expansion of approved lifts, trails and related facilities occurs in an environmentally and socially sound manner. Work with ski areas, state and local governments and interested</p>	<p>Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain, not increase, alpine ski areas. • Continue to provide four season recreational opportunities at alpine ski areas.

<p>citizens to decide whether future proposals for expanding these existing ski areas should be approved. However, no new ski areas will be built on NFS lands.</p>	
<p>Provide for parking and legal, identifiable public access to all areas of the GMNF for the people to safely and easily enjoy.</p>	<p>This goal is too broad and inclusive. Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adequate parking for various uses taking into account the capacity of the resources to accommodate those uses. • Create access opportunities for a more diverse array of uses.
<p>Offer special protection and management of significant recreational streams, so that the values enjoyed by recreational users will not be diminished by other Forest activities.</p>	<p>This is covered in other goals and will be addressed through standards.</p>
<p>Protect the outstanding natural beauty for which Vermont and the GMNF are known by designing and conducting management activities, which will fit naturally on the landscape and will reflect the expectations of the people who see them.</p>	<p>Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect qualities of the GMNF that contribute to Vermont's uniqueness and culture. • Maintain and enhance visual resources such as viewsheds, vistas, overlooks, and special features.
<p>Better inform the public about the benefits to be enjoyed on the National Forest and help them to better understand the reasons for our management activities.</p>	<p>Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide educational opportunities on silvicultural techniques and sound forest management practices. • Increase educational opportunities provided by and on the GMNF within budget constraints.
<p>Maintain the nine existing National Forest campgrounds at their present size but improve their attractiveness and ecological soundness where needed.</p>	<p>This is more of an objective.</p>
<p>Allow the state parks and privately owned campgrounds to satisfy increased future demands for car-based camping and manage the National Forest to provide less developed forms of recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>The GMNF has no control over private and state campgrounds – this concept is covered in other goals emphasizing dispersed recreation.</p>
<p>Maintain existing areas which provide blueberries for picking and valuable habitats for wildlife. Identify other areas of the</p>	<p>Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a range of vegetative age classes and types from early

<p>National Forest, which will be managed to grow blueberries, raspberries, apples, and other wild fruits for people and wildlife to enjoy.</p>	<p>successional to old growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase use of prescribed fire to maintain openings on the GMNF for wildlife and human uses.
<p>Construct or reconstruct single lane, local roads where the overall benefits to society outweigh the costs, using the following priority: (1) eliminate resource damage which is occurring due to location or standard of existing roads, (2) provide legal public access for use and enjoyment of parts of the National Forest that are presently separated from roads on private lands, (3) meet demands for roaded recreation activities, and (4) gain access for timber management on the lands designated for timber management.</p>	<p>Much of this goal is objectives or standards.</p> <p>Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create access opportunities for a more diverse array of uses.
<p>Provide a well distributed variety of vegetative conditions and types on the GMNF in order to enhance diversity, to meet the habitat needs of wildlife, and to provide wood products and recreational opportunities for people.</p>	<p>Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide benefits to other resource areas through coordinated timber harvesting. • Provide a range of vegetative age classes and types from early successional to old growth.
<p>Increase the amount of softwoods in the areas, which will provide needed winter habitat for deer. Maintain all existing winter habitats on the Forest.</p>	<p>This is a specific objective.</p> <p>Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve habitat diversity. • Increase biodiversity through sustainable timber harvesting and vegetative management.
<p>Increase the amount of small aspen stands on the Forest, in order to enhance overall vegetative diversity, provide habitats for grouse and other wildlife and improve opportunities for game and non-game recreation.</p>	<p>This is a specific objective.</p> <p>Change to same as above.</p>
<p>Increase permanent upland openings for a variety of songbirds, other wildlife and recreationists.</p>	<p>This is a specific objective.</p> <p>Change to same as above.</p>
<p>Dedicate 22 percent of the Forest in large, remote areas, to Primitive or Wilderness recreation and do not commercially harvest timber in these areas. Manage an additional 10 percent as Special Areas, including the White Rocks NRA, where timber will be managed only where needed to provide or</p>	<p>This is an objective and was done when these areas were designated. The second part is covered in standards. Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure timber harvesting and vegetation management activities do not negatively impact other

<p>maintain specific wildlife habitat. Do not harvest trees where lands are physically, biologically or economically unsuitable for timber management.</p>	<p>do not negatively impact other resources.</p>
<p>In areas designated for timber management, this management should be compatible with other uses of the Forest. Intensive even-aged management (100 year rotations, 20 year thinnings, etc.) or uneven-aged management should occur only in areas which are fairly well roaded and where evidence of human activity wouldn't conflict with the recreational experience. In areas which are slightly more remote and are managed to provide opportunities for Semi-primitive recreation, the only timber management allowed is less intense (150 year rotations, 0-3 thinnings).</p>	<p>Much of this goals is either objective or standard. Same change as above.</p>
<p>In areas designated for timber management, emphasize production of high quality sawlogs.</p>	<p>Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for and manage a sustainable vegetation and timber management program on the GMNF.
<p>Provide continuous forest cover on 66 percent of the Forest. Of this land, at least 7 percent will be in uneven-aged timber management and the remaining 59 percent will not be managed for timber.</p>	<p>This contains specific objectives. Change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a range of vegetative age classes and types from early successional to old growth.
<p>Minimize the use of clear cutting when managing timber by only applying it to: -- increase and maintain some areas of aspen, paper birch, and openings -- create small patches of browse for deer, snowshoe hare, and other species -- salvage and remove damaged or diseased stands to prepare an area which is sparsely stocked for a new stand that more fully occupies the site.</p>	<p>The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires that clear cutting only be used when</p>
<p>Aggressively acquire rights-of-way, which provide public access to the National Forest. Adjust landownership within the National Forest boundary in accord with plans of other owners, the towns and State. Highest priority will be given to tracts which: are</p>	<p>Remove word aggressive – land acquisition priorities have not been fully determined.</p>

<p>priority will be given to tracts which: are near the Appalachian and Long Trails; are within or adjoining Wilderness and Management Area 6.1, where Primitive recreation is emphasized; have uncommon or outstanding dualities which make them special; adjoin significant steams; have important wildlife habitats; or consolidate public ownership.</p>	