

**Public Outreach Meeting for the Second Draft of Forestry in the Granite State
Part of the NHTOA Timber Talks
White Mountain National Forest Headquarters, Campton, NH
April 7, 2010**

Notes compiled by Karen Bennett, UNH Cooperative Extension and Project Manager and Deb Park, NH Timberland Owners Association. These notes are our best interpretation of what was said. They haven't been verified by the people in attendance.

Attendees

Charlie	Evans	Londonderry	NH
Dave	Faulkenham		
Richard	Flanders	Plymouth	NH
Larry	Gould	Canaan	NH
Tom	Hahn		
Beverly	Hammond	Chocorua	NH
Todd	Hammond	Chocorua	NH
Harold	MacLauchlan	Loudon	NH
Peggy	Martin	Campton	NH
Charles & Carolee	Miller	Georgetown	MA
Janice	Mulherin	Rumney	NH
Peter	Parady	Danbury	NH
Henry	Parker	Hanover	NH
Joe	Roberti		
Stephen	Shaughnessy	Campton	NH
Jason	Walker	Alexandria	NH
Steve	Weber		
Pam & David	Webster	Canann	NH
Robert	Williams	Bridgewater???	NH
Ed	Witt		
Put	Blodgett	Lyme	NH
Roger	Boyer	Ashland	NH
Donald	Bradley	Plainfield	NH
Darrel	Covell	Durham	NH
Emily	Crane	Plymouth	NH
Peter	Drouin	Sanbornton	NH
Pete	Howland		
Dan	Keniston		
Phil	Bryce	Deering	NH
Brad	Simpkins		

Jasen Stock opens the meeting at 6:05 – After welcome and introductions, a legislative update by Jasen Stock and an update about the stream crossing rules by Mary Ann Tilton of NH Department of Environmental Services, the Good Forestry in the Granite State outreach began.

About 1/3 of the attendees indicated they came to the public meetings or read or commented on the first draft. Karen acknowledged other steering committee members attending tonight: Jasen

Stock, Phil Bryce and Will Abbott. She also acknowledged Dave Falkenham, technical team member and Grafton County Forester.

Karen Bennett reviewed public comments made on the firsts draft and changes made in response to the comments. Her talking points were distributed as a handout and appear at the end of these notes.

Hank Parker – Is it up on the web? Karen responded, yes at www.goodforestry.org

Ed Witt – Haven't had a chance to read this version completely but from what I've read you've done a great job capturing our comments. Vernal Pool – still concerned about some aspects. Read some stuff from Maine and I'm not an expert. What I've read in Maine is the management zones are at 100 and 400 feet. Good Forestry uses 200 feet and beyond. We are almost double the size. The chapter still mentions 950 feet which covers 65 acres. He would like to see the Maine standard used. The 5th bullet in the recommendations gives recommendations for beyond 200 feet which is too open ended. There should be an outer limit. There are a few tone concerns that I'll share specifically.

Neat thing about the website- you can see what has been edited.

Steep Slopes – Fourth bullet of recommended practices– doesn't like the qualifier regarding clearcuts. Erosion on steep slopes is a potential issue with skid trails, not over the entire area of a clearcut. If the harvest is put to bed correctly that will minimize the run-off. Would like to suggest that you add a different qualifier when you clearcut on slopes greater than 35%, use methods to minimize the aesthetic impacts. The chapter doesn't define clearcut– size or stocking.

Maggie Mumford – Has a process question – What happens after this, does the steering committee finish the editing? Karen answers that she anticipates the steering committee will review the comments and provide direction to her (as technical editor) and the editing team (Will Abbott, Phil Bryce, Will Guinn, Brad Simpkins).

Dick Flanders– Because of the emphasis on BMPs and forestry it is important to make the distinction that this book isn't a BMP.

Phil Bryce- The RSA that established this book specifies that it is an educational, not regulatory document and that they are recommended, voluntary practices. The book was originally written because there were increased calls for regulation in the mid-90's and this was seen as something we can do instead of regulating.

Roger Simmons, White Mountain National Forest – It would be great to have that language right in this document to distinguish it from BMPs and how it fits into the larger regulatory structure. If it is clear in the beginning of the document, there will be less confusion.

Brad Simpkins thanked the steering committee for their work and all who came to the meetings and commented.



Draft for March 15 - April 15, 2010

www.goodforestry.org or contact Karen Bennett karen.bennett@unh.edu 862-4861

What We Heard

- Too long, too technical, too anti-management
- Concern about use by town boards and the affect on lands in conservation easements
- A lot of specific suggestions by chapters
- Concerns about the process and who was involved

What We Did

- Shortened by removing repetitions in chapters, combined or deleted some chapters
- Changed the order (see” table of contents” below) to bring core forestry topics first
- Change language to make sure the tone isn’t anti-management and too technical
- Removed in-text citations, reduced reference lists and moved them to back of the document, kept a shorter, more useful list of “additional information” in each chapter
- Added a message from Brad Simpkins, NH State Forester, about the importance of forests, forest management and the forest industry. Also addressed use by towns, emphasizing the voluntary nature of the document.
- Simplified the introduction section so important messages are emphasized (see below) - voluntary recommendations, not intended for regulation, based on landowner objectives and site conditions, not all lands can implement all recommendations, and the importance of professional help. Added wording about conservation easements.
- Added two chapters- setting objectives and steep slopes
- Reviewed all chapter comments and incorporated them as best we could. All chapters were edited based on comments. Some notable changes:
 - Combine 2 soil chapters into one- “Soil Productivity”
 - Combine 6 chapters into two chapters: “Logging Aesthetics’ and “Aesthetics of Skid Trails, Truck Roads and Landings”
 - Re-work “Vernal Pool”
 - Shorten “Deer Wintering Areas”
 - Re-work “Ecosystem Services”
- Comment about the process: Goal to involve as many people as wanted to be involved to get the best product we could. 24 member steering committee had people of a range of skills, knowledge and experiences and represented different stakeholders. Another 25 people contributed as part of a technical team. Public review part of the process- all who commented are un-credited contributors. Endeavored to be as fair, open, and honest as possible. Early efforts to inform people about revision (press, newsletters, personal contact, meetings). First draft- met with NHTOA policy committee, extended the first comment period. Added a second draft for comment. We want this to be useful.

Next Steps

- Public comment through April 15 and then summarize them, analyze, and incorporate them (steering committee and editing team and project manager).
- Edited by a professional editor. Incorporate illustrations, design and layout.
- Publish book and post to web- summer 2010 (estimated)

Table of Contents, draft March 15- April 15, 2010

Introduction- Setting the Stage

Message from the State Forester

Using this Manual

Getting Started

Additional Reading

First Steps in Forest Management

Setting Objectives

Forest Management Planning

Estate Planning and Land Protection

Staying Safe Working in the Woods

Silviculture

Additional Reading

New Hampshire Forest Types

Regeneration: The Right Tree on the Right Site

Forest Structure

Managing for High-Value Trees

Timber Harvesting

Additional Reading

Choosing the Right System

Logging Aesthetics

Aesthetics of Skid Trails, Truck Roads and Landings

Harvesting in High-Use Recreation Areas

Soil Productivity

Water Resources

Additional Reading

Water Quality

Wetlands

Riparian Areas

Stream Crossings and Habitat

Forest Health

Additional Reading

Insects and Diseases

Invasive Plants

Ice and Wind Damage

Logging Damage

Wildlife Habitat

Additional Reading

Mast

Cavity Trees, Dens and Snags

Dead and Down Woody Material

Overstory Inclusions

Permanent Openings

Temporary Openings Created by Forest Management

Aspen Management

Beaver-Created Openings

Deer Wintering Areas

Woodland Raptors

Bald Eagle Winter Roosts

Heron Colonies

Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Sensitive Areas

Additional Reading

Natural Communities and Protected Plants

Seeps

Vernal Pools

Pine Barrens

Old Growth Forests

High-Elevation Forests

Steep Slopes

Cultural Resources

Nontimber Forest Products

Additional Reading

Non-Traditional Forest Products

Maple Sugaring

Ecosystem Services

Glossary

Appendices

Information Directory

Important Forest Soils

Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need

References

A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FORESTER (entire text included)

A MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE (entire text included)

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND GOOD FORESTRY IN THE GRANITE STATE (entire text included)