

**Public Outreach Meeting for the Second Draft of Forestry in the Granite State  
Part of the NHTOA Timber Talks  
Fox State Forest, Hillsborough  
NH April 8, 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**

Hollis	Austin	Moultonboro	NH
Grant	Benson		
Stanley	Brown		
Wes	Brown		
Anson	Burt	Westmoreland	NH
John	Caveney	Spofford	NH
Ginny & Tom	Chrisenton	Lyndeborough	NH
Harrison	Cook	Nashua	NH
Dan	Cyr	Fracestown	NH
Ann	Davis	Wilmot	NH
Bill	Doonen		
Bob	Early	Nashua	NH
William	Eva	Hancock	NH
John	Ferguson	Milford	NH
Don	Frenette		
Richard	George		
Mark	Keith		
Dave	Kent		
Don	Kent	Concord	NH
Walt	Lacey		
Jay	Marden	New Boston	NH
Dennis	McKenney		
Beth	McQuinn	Canterbury	NH
Jon	Nute		
James	Putney		
Lauri	Rahnasto		
John	Randall	Richmond	NH
Andrew	Ripanti	Deering	NH
Mark	Rivers		
John & Sandy	Salo	Marlow	NH
Carsten	Springer		
Mark	Thompson	Hancock	NH
Augustus	Traynor	Chester	NH
Stephen	Walker	Deering	NH
Janet	Withington	Hillsboro	NH
Keri	Yankus		

Jasen Stock opens the meeting at 6:00 – After welcome and introductions, a legislative update by Jasen Stock and an update about the stream crossing rules by Collis Adams of NH Department of Environmental Services, the Good Forestry in the Granite State outreach began.

About half of the attendees indicated they came to the public meetings on the first draft.

Karen acknowledged other steering committee members attending tonight: Jasen Stock, Brad Simpkins, Phil Bryce, and Don Kent.

Karen Bennett reviewed public comments made on the first draft and changes made in response to the comments. She explained that, unlike the first draft meetings, where the committee listened and didn't respond to questions or criticisms, we would be more interactive at this meeting. Her talking points were distributed as a handout and appear at the end of these notes.

John Caveney— Where did steep slopes come from? There is no reference to the work from Hubbard Brook. It also talks about the sensitivity of cuttings on slopes as well as a watershed. Is this about cutting or the view? It is a mechanism for taking acres out of productive use.

Brad Simpkins— The RSA that establishes the document lists steep slopes as one of the sensitive areas to include. Brad felt the first draft didn't say enough about steep slopes and asked for a chapter to be added.

Karen Bennett— Suggested John look at the references in the soils productivity chapter for the use of Hubbard Brook Research.

Dan Cyr— Need to have language that we may be able to use BMPs to access steep slopes and we should be able to harvest steep slopes correctly with the proper harvesting techniques

Walt Lacey— Thanks for this resource, but would like to talk about steep slopes. The City of Keene passed an ordinance that prohibited forestry on steep slopes. The biggest problem with this chapter is the phrase "Check local ordinances". This gives local ordinances credibility. No other chapter gives the recommendation that you should check for local ordinances. Suggests this phrase should be removed.

Carsten Springer— Is also concerned with suggesting people check for local regulations. Some of these ordinances do not make sense.

Phil Bryce suggests removing references to local ordinances from the individual chapters and leaving it in the introductory section.

John Caveney— We need to emphasize that we can operate on steep slopes.

Dave Kent— The situation in Keene is an example of our greatest fears for this document. It gives people who don't have a clue, a little information and they make ordinances that don't make sense. He went to a meeting as one of two professional people and our input had no results and was disregarded. The regulation was voted on in a positive way. This is why you've hear a lot of concern with people making regulations or ordinances. Well intentioned people who have just enough information to be dangerous.

Brad Simpkins— Our message is that we can manage on steep slopes and this is how to do it.

Phil Bryce— When this is published it will provide us with an opportunity to get town boards in the field to show them how complex the management issues are.

Dennis McKenney – Question to Brad: In your search of steep slope ordinances, were they generic? In other words, were the towns getting language from other towns or regional planning

commissions, or are they creating their own language? I've seen instances where towns have adopted generic wording for the ordinances and they can't even figure out what the wording means.

Carsten Spring— I have the same fears. Well intentioned people just don't get it. Is there a standard definition for steep slopes such as from the US Geological Services?

Dennis McKenney – Suggests using NRCS definition and the various categories of slopes.

Ann Davis— Those soil map books includes information on steep slopes for certain land uses such as forestry.

Dan Cyr— He liked the steep slope section. But he is worried about towns abusing this and other sections. He is willing to sue towns that create unworkable ordinances.

John Caveney— If this document is intended to be a guide to help work on steep slopes, this chapter doesn't leave the impression that you can work on steep slopes. It is the emphasis.

Tom Christenton— Put it right up front that forestry and agriculture are desirable land uses.

There are some assumptions made in the book regarding stream continuity that are contrary to flood prevention. If you open every stream to free flow there will be an increase in flooding. Need to allow wetlands to work more effectively. The flood control dams are a good example of this. Hanging culverts aren't necessarily bad, especially for intermittent streams. Continuity is appropriate with perennial streams. Continuity may not exist in a stream for fish because of topography or because of perched culverts along a stream that aren't on a landowner's property. Concerned with what our definition of aquatic organisms is.

Please get it to support forestry.

Carsten Springer— Look long term— more than 10 years.

Dave Kent— Keene is taking development issues and applying it to forestry. They are taking permanent activities on the landscape (development) and making regulations for forestry (temporary activities).

Ann Davis— I've walked my land and on the streams downstream from my land and there are perched culverts off my land that will prevent fish passage.

Likes the references in the back and that the list is shorter, but there is still too many inaccessible references. She is still concerned that we are citing sources outside of New England (e.g. steep slopes reference OH and NC documents).

Vernal pool chapter still a problem, but it is better. Any time you put a number in the document, it may become a regulation.

Tom Christenson— The vernal pool chapter was written for other land uses not forestry. Treats all vernal pool as equally important. You've got to tone it down to "some" they aren't all the same. They aren't all important. There should be a minimum size. It should be written for our benefit.

Dennis McKenney– You might want to consider a general statement that forestry and agriculture are consistent with the rural character of New Hampshire and if that isn't encouraged you will be growing something different than trees. People on planning boards are really nice and well-intentioned but don't have a clue.

Ginny Chrisenton– Reiterate the importance of forestry to the rural character in the state in the vernal pool chapter.

Anson Burt – Concerned with the statement in the steering committee's message encouraging conservation commissioners to share the book with landowners. Feels this contradicts Brad's statement that the book shouldn't be used to develop ordinances.

Ann Davis– Bold the word “voluntary.”

Richard George– You should say who the volunteer is.

Dan Cyr– Invasive species chapter: The statements about power washing equipment are ludicrous, unreal, and crazy. Doesn't belong here. I can see how landowners would want that, but you can't power wash equipment. Brush it to get the seeds off but power washing my skidder or mower is ridiculous.

Phil Bryce– Power washing is one option given to clean equipment. The book provides context.

Ann Davis– As a landowner, I had an operator who I knew had been in an area of invasive species and I told him I was going to look at his equipment and make sure that nothing was stuck.

Carsten Springer– Could you find a definition for aquatic organisms from the Army Corp of Engineers. Bold-face the word “voluntary” The over-regulation of long-term use land such as forestry is driving land out of this long-term use.

Dennis McKenney– Unintended consequences from well-intentioned people.

Dan Cyr– Towns will use GFGS to their advantage and don't have enough information.

Carsten Springer– This book is positive, but you can't please everyone.



## Draft for March 15 - April 15, 2010

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### 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)**