

**Public Outreach Meeting for the Second Draft of Forestry in the Granite State
Part of the NHTOA Timber Talks
UNH Cooperative Extension Office, Lancaster
NH April 6, 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

Greg	Ainsworth	Lancaster	NH
Charles	Baylies	Whitefield	NH
Marti	Driscoll	Lancaster	NH
Steve	Eastmen	Chatham	NH
Robert	Elwell	Lancaster	NH
Kevin	Evans	Milan	NH
Susan	Ferré	Gorham	NH
Gordon	Gamble		
Neal	Haven	Bevlin	NH
Dan	Kilborn		VT
Jill	Kilborn	Lancaster	NH
Haven	Neal		
Northam	Parr	Rumney	NH
Peter	Pilgrim	Littleton	NH
Jerry	Poulin	Bangor	ME
Peter	Powell	Lancaster	NH
Scott	Rineer	Errol	NH
David	Tellman	Whitefield	NH
		North	
Paul/Scott	Tessier	Stratford	NH
Tom	Thompson	Orford	NH
Walt	Wintturi		

Jasen Stock opens the meeting at 6:07 – After welcome and introductions, a legislative update by Jasen Stock and an update about the stream crossing rules by Linda Magoon 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, Dave Tellman, Will Staats, and Linda Magoon.

Karen Bennett reviewed public comments made on the firsts 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.

Haven Neal – Went to one of the early meetings which was fraught with criticisms. All of the changes you've made did a pretty good job at addressing those issues. A lot of the criticism was

unfounded. You say in the handout that this document is not regulatory or mandatory. I don't think you should deny people information because you are worried what town and easement people might say or do. Landowners are interested in a wide range of values and providing information about these values is a great thing. As long as we all understand that goals and objectives are important and if you carry those out to the maximum value – those things will conflict. There needs to be balance and landowners must set priorities.

Robert Elwell – attended the Berlin Meeting – Was concerned with the carbon trading at that meeting. Still is concerned with that section. It is in its infancy. Isn't it better to hold off on this section until there are better facts and figures? Don't have a real warm feeling that the carbon exchange is in Chicago and you reference California and Florida (not very fiscally responsible states). Unless the information is more definitive, urges that this section be deleted completely.

Dave Tellman – Whether or not to include carbon was the subject of some discussion. The reason it is here – a lot of folks have questions. Is there an answer? – no – but we were asked about the importance of carbon sequestration.

Karen – Essentially we are saying even though we don't know much about it, keep your eyes open about the subject.

Walt Wintturi – Manages the Randolph Community Forest which has an easement that cites Good Forestry. Comfortable with using the new version. No problems using it. Good guidelines to use. As a forester, it is congruent with my thinking.

Robert Elwell – cite one more passage from the ecosystem services chapters – Could you explain commitments and expenses?

Nory Parr – Since we don't know what costs or rewards will be associated with this. We should use the word “may” instead of giving people fear or hope that they will be hit with a cost or profit from the carbon market.

Karen Bennett – Don't think that because we are including carbon we are “pushing” carbon trading, essentially we are saying pay attention to the topic.

Jasen Stock – In response to the question, “What does NHTOA think about the topic?” NHTOA has three principles: 1.) Any market has to be voluntary. 2.) Shouldn't create disincentives to management. Concerned that carbon markets will pay landowners not to manage land for traditional forest products. There are important benefits to traditional management. 3.) Public lands shouldn't be viewed differently. Let the management drive the policy – not vice versa.

Haven Neal – As a forester share the same concerns as Jasen as to the effect that carbon management has on more traditional management. I don't think the scientific community has figured out how to manage forest for maximum carbon. Just isn't enough good information out there about how to cut trees and sequester carbon. It is going to be a long time before there is a good understanding.

Jasen Stock – There is so much unknown and you have policy being written that could have problems. You have to have the science push the policy – not make policy that messes with management. Policy should not be ahead of the science.

Robert Elwell – A general comment – Regulation and those concerned with ecosystems ignores the restorative power of the forests themselves. So many regulations assume the damage is forever – but it is gone in a very short time. Seems very over-reactive.

Linda Magoon – Karen Bennett did a tremendous amount of work and deserves a lot of credit for doing the amount of work that this has taken. Hats off!

Tom Thomson – Hopes there will be numbers on the pages (Per Karen- yes, this is a draft and the final will have numbers, illustrations, layout, etc.).

The letter from the state forester – Voluntary statement should be on the front page – bolded large type. Concerned that when people pick up the document up it is for VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES only. Not law. Educate not regulate. Town boards change on a regular basis – and people will change – it is a good reminder.

Nory Parr – Would like to disagree with Tom. Doesn't want to diminish the state forester's statement. Putting it on the front like that reduces the value or perceived value of the document.

Dave Tellman – Attorney General's comment will dissuade most town boards from adopting these recommendations as ordinances, but town boards are very independent. And will do whatever they damn well please. Not able to tell towns what to do – they won't do it.

Will Staats –The steering committee received the question, “Who wrote these chapters?”
Everyone wrote the chapters.



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)