

from Karen Bennett <kbennett@ceunh.unh.edu>
to Rebecca McGuire <rebecca@monadnockconservancy.org>
cc kferrare@ceunh.unh.edu
date Mon, Apr 19, 2010 at 8:41 AM
subject Re: Thoughts on Good Forestry.
mailed-by ceunh.unh.edu

Hi Rebecca,

Thank you for your comments on Good Forestry in the Granite State. They will be included as part of the public comments on the second draft.

Karen

At 01:32 PM 4/15/2010, you wrote:

Hi Karen,

I had a chance to briefly review the second draft of "Good Forestry" and thought I would share a few of my personal comments with you. I wish I had more time to sit and read through this in more depth. It is a great resource and I can't even imagine all the work that has gone into it. I had just a couple of questions/comments.

- First, after doing my best to review each section in a limited amount of time, I began to wonder how a landowner without a forestry background might feel sorting through everything. I should say that the document itself is well organized and generally easy to navigate. However, it contains a lot of information. While this is wonderful for those working in the forestry and natural resource management field and using it as a professional reference, I wonder how overwhelming it might be for an individual landowner. I would be curious to find out what comments have come back from private landowners. The "Getting Started" and the "Setting Objectives" sections offer very useful advice to assist a landowner as they hone in on what their objectives really are for their property. Part of me wonders if a simpler and possibly separate document could accompany it. May just a simple primer for landowners. Something bite-size to get them started in the right direction. Does something like this already exist?
- "First Steps in Forest Management" - The recommendation for landowners to visit a completed harvest before embarking on their own is great! This section and the chapter that includes it really encourages

landowners to be proactive and make deliberate considerations about their objectives. Harvesting at any degree can feel and look shocking to a landowner that doesn't have a lot of exposure to forest management activities. I really think it is important for landowners to feel motivated to learn and understand as much as possible before managing their own properties. This is great!

- "Estate Planning & Land Protection" – Glad to see this!
 - "Timber Harvesting – Logging Aesthetics" – This is just a nit-picky detail, but being a person that recognizes the benefit of clearcuts (when appropriately applied), I am not sure I would agree with referring to them as "unsightly". I think this method is often misunderstood and using a negative term to describe the impacts might only perpetuate this.
 - "5.1 Regeneration: The Right Tree on the Right Site" – This section is really useful as it defines different harvesting methods. I might include a direct reference to that in the title to make the information easier to find. The current title is somewhat intuitive, but there are other sections that also sound like they might include this information and they don't.
 - "Harvesting in High-use Recreation Areas" – Love the direct reference to using harvests as educational opportunities!
 - "Riparian Areas" – No-harvest zones? I would be very curious to know what the reactions have been to this. I understand that these are only recommendations to be used in appropriate circumstances. I am certainly no expert on management of riparian areas, but I have been under the impression that diversity of canopy structure is beneficial to protecting water quality and cutting (responsibly!) can often assist with this. I would love to learn more about this.
 - "Invasive Plants" – Would it be useful to mention that "native" plants can also become invasive? One of the simplest examples I can think of would be the affect of beech bark disease on beech populations, if not managed properly. This is discussed in the "Insects and Diseases" section, but I think it is an important point to consider. It seems likely that disease and potential changes in climate could increase the opportunity for "native" and "non-native" plants alike to become invasive. I tend to think less and less about native vs. non-native, and more about loss of plant species diversity, increase in the potential for monocultures, and potential lack food sources for local wildlife populations. While we need to manage for the "non-natives" that are appearing in our forests now, should we also be considering the impacts of our management on the behavior of "native" species as affected by disease and climate?
- Overall, I really like the emphasis on the fact that these are recommendations and not regulations. It is made clear that this is not a one size fits all document. I also really appreciate the efforts to encourage landowners to educate themselves and learn more about the process of forest management. The information in this

document is not only useful, it is also very interesting!

Bests,

Rebecca

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