Comments on "Good Forestry in the Granite State" = Revised

In general, I thought that "G.F." was well done from each chapter's limited prespective. Overall, its a handy guide to consider in the creation of management plans. Implementing specific suggestions on thy ground may present some interesting challanges though.

There seemed to be an excessive emphasis on habitat management as if those habitats were somehow more desirable than others not mentioned. Remember that every square foot of forest is habitat for something no matter how that forest is managed or not managed! Humans have some options to pick which habitat(s) to emphasize in their management efforts but I see nothing compelling in the deer (there are way too many deer now!) and the beaver (the principal ANTI-forestry creature other than humans) habitats that were stressed in the revision.

More on beaver ---- their forestry activities could be called ANYTHING but "good forestry" in the managed forest you are trying to achieve. Why should they be encouraged to muddy the State's waters, build dams w/o permits, leave trees and branches in streams, and alter riparian areas all without benefit of government or landowner oversight?? Prehaps in an UN-managed forest they fill an important roll but in the managed forest "G.F." seeks to create I must question that roll.

Cont

As for the scientific approach – G.F. is almost exclusively based on the physical sciences. I maintain that Social science - economics, politics, and human psycology are most important in achieving the long term goals of holding as forest and managing as a well cultivated "garden" the forest lands we have left today! Many if not most of the incentives of late are negative. Ie. more taxes, more regulation, a more activist but often uninformed public, and of course, a soft economy. We need a "G.F." equivilent for the politicians, bureaucrats, and general public that stresses the values of good forestry in practice to the general welfare and has the same clout with them "G.F." has with us. I wish I knew how to accomplish that -- sorry I don't.

Lastly the mandatory reading section of the introduction is crucial and can't be stressed enough! Management plans are kept for each land holding even if the plan is to leave this plot unmanaged or wild. Landowner goals and local conditions should still not be preempted by generalized physical science or social science recommendations. Each chapter should remind the reader of this.

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