Meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

Introductions were made by group participants. Opening remarks were made by Patrick Kell, Chad VanOrmer and John Bennett to introduce the agenda and topics.

The following are notes that resulted from the Group Discussion.

**Ecological Impacts (Dave Hardy facilitated and reported back from this breakout group)**

- Wild chervil is commonly found in the area along roads/trails
- State of VT has much more GIS information that could be included to make maps more robust. The State and Feds ought to collaborate more on mapping.
- There is an effort underway to regionally protect and connect ecosystems from northern New York east to New Hampshire and Maine. There may be complementing objectives to connect trails in the same locations. The North Country National Scenic Trail is currently analyzing potential routes to connect Crown Point, NY to the Appalachian Trail in VT.
- In a nutshell, I’d like to highlight our Department’s (VT Fish & Wildlife) potential concerns for unintended conflicts with either existing or future trail proposals that may have deleterious impacts on important critical habitats for sensitive wildlife species. In general, some examples of these would be snowmobile trails in or near critical deer wintering areas, hiking or biking trails thru critical mast or wetland feeding areas for bears/others, etc. Some of the potential impacts could be negated or mitigated by adequate buffers or perhaps seasonal use restrictions, but I did want to get these specific concerns into the record as a basis for future discussion and planning (Doug Blodgett, VT F&W, email 4/6/2010).

**Supply & Demand (Steve McLeod facilitated and reported back from this breakout group)**

- The supply of mountain biking opportunities was considered good in the Pittsford area.
- There is a desire to connect mountain bike trails from Pittsfield to Chittenden on existing snowmobile trails.
- There is a lack of snowmobile trailhead parking in the area, especially in the Granville and Hancock areas.
- There is a desire to connect snowmobile trails from Chittenden to Shrewsbury. This was implemented this year, but there is a need for a more sustainable route.
- Written comments from Granville Selectboard and Route 100 Snowmobilers (Norm Arseneault)
- There is a desire to see ‘no net loss’ of trails when proposing adjustments

**Connectivity (Patrick Kell facilitated and reported back from this breakout group)**
- The North Country National Scenic Trail is trying to connect Crown Point, NY to the Appalachian Trail. The route may go through the Champlain Valley to Middlebury and into the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area.
- State legislature should include municipalities in landowner liability law. Some municipalities are hesitant to develop trails on their property due to liability concerns.
- There is a desire to connect mountain bike trails from Pittsfield to Chittenden on existing snowmobile trails

**Trail Conflicts and Safety (Justin Kenney facilitated and reported back from this breakout group)**
- Dog mushing seems to be experiencing an expansion of use on existing trails. There may be potential future conflicts if the trend continues.
- There is currently a section of snowmobile trail located on a plowed road in Chittenden.
- There is a three-mile section where there is overlapping of VAST and Catamount trails.
- Trails constructed for one use may be suitable for other uses.
- No report of conflicts between snowmobiles, skiers and mushers in the area

**Unauthorized/Illegal Uses (Holly Knox facilitated and reported back from this breakout group)**
- There were around 10 areas located on the map with known unauthorized uses.
  - ATVs off Jenny Pond Rd towards/on NFS lands
  - ATVs on Goshen Dam Rd
  - ATVs on Minnie Baker Trail (GMNF)
  - Mountain bikes in Rob Ford Meadows
  - ATVs off Fassett Hill/Taylor Brook Area
  - ATVs on Knights Hill/Hayes Brook
  - ATVs on Ash Hill
  - ATVs on Caryle Brook
  - ATVs on Townsend Brook
  - Snowmobile trail leading out to Chittenden Reservoir (from Round Robin Trail)
- Recommendations
  - Provide more legal opportunities to ride ATVs
  - Educate people on what is not allowed and WHY.

**Funding and Volunteers**
- No focused discussion on this topic
- State manages a grant process for trail funding that is tied to the Federal Transportation Enhancement funds
• The Green Mountain NF does not hire trail crews like most other National Forests in the country. The GMNF relies heavily on partnerships (through volunteers and cost-share agreements) to provide the labor for trail maintenance activities.

Group feedback and suggestions for improving the meeting/process:
• Local meetings are good
• Provide information to the group at the beginning of the meeting about how their input will be used in the process (e.g., explain how their ideas might be implemented).
• Move public meetings to arenas where interests are active, to events where there is already a broad audience (i.e., at special events).
• Look for creative options to get the word out about this process.
• Keep public information meetings going as part of the VTC process
• Grow interest group involvement locally, slowly and incrementally
• Try to get industry or retailers involved in the Trails Collaborative effort. They have ways of communicating with stakeholders.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.