Participants on the call: Mollie Matteson, Anthony Iarrapino, Pete Pettengill, Bill Valliere, and Lisa Chase
Unable to participate: Rob Hoelscher, Jim Harding, Don Dickson, Bryant Watson, Rees Harris

Summary of discussion:

1) Literature review and annotated bibliographies -- Thanks to Jim Harding's students at Green Mountain College for sending annotated bibliographies on several topics! Bill and Lisa will put together a summary document with research priorities and findings to date. We'll circulate that before the April 14 meeting and plan to hand it out then. Feedback welcome, and please be sure to send any publications that you would like posted on the website to Bill at william.valliere@uvm.edu. We'd also like to post the latest version of the document on trail standards for disabled accessibility on the webpage, so please send us the link if you have it.

2) VAST study update from Bryant Watson -- Bryant was not able to make the call but sent out an email update saying that snowpack samples were taken from all sites and have been tested. Water and soil sampling will begin next week, as the weather permits. Bryant will be at the April 14 meeting and will give an update on the study then. Lisa asked Bryant to bring copies to the April 14 meeting of the publication from the American Council of Snowmobile Associations titled Multiple Use Trails for Winter Recreation: Facts and Myths about Snowmobiles.

3) State scientist on the science panel -- Doug Blodgett will be the point person representing Fish & Wildlife. Welcome to the science panel, Doug! Doug has been employed as a wildlife biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department for 28 years. Throughout his career, Doug has worked extensively on game and non-game management programs as well as public and private land management programs. Doug has been the Vermont Wild Turkey Project Team Leader since 1990 and has also assisted on the black bear, deer, moose, furbearer and peregrine falcon research projects since 1984. More recently Doug has travelled to Wyoming and Arizona to participate in on-going mountain lion research programs in those states and currently serves as the Department’s investigator on the dozens of Vermont mountain lion sightings received annually from the public.

4) April 14 meeting -- Each work group will have 30 minutes to give an update. During the science panel's time, Bill will present research priorities and summary findings, including work by Jim Harding's students. Bryant Watson will give an update on the VAST study. We'll make sure we leave time for discussion about research priorities from the rest of the trail collaborative. Other topics we should address? Let us know and feel free to chime in on April 14. Many of you may have heard that the GMNF has a new supervisor, Colleen Madrid from the Tonto National Forest in AZ. She begins April 11 and we're hoping she'll be able to attend the meeting on April 14. In any case, we'll make sure we have time for open discussion the last part of the meeting on April 14. A question that was raised during the call today is how the trail collaborative and science panel can inform policy decisions about state and federal lands (e.g., ANR's recent process related to ATV's). That question needs to be addressed in a larger forum with representation from ANR and the FS and can be brought up during the April 14 meeting.
4) Next steps -- Continue to send relevant research papers to Bill for the webpage. Lisa and Bill will send out a summary for your review before the April 14 meeting.