Public Information Meeting Agenda

Objective of our meeting: To learn about local ideas, opportunities or concerns associated with all types of trail use to help land and trail managers provide a more sustainable trails system, more consistent management across jurisdictions, and a better quality recreation experience for the public.

6:30 – 6:40 Introduction

6:40 – 6:50 Vermont Trails Collaborative; What's this all about?

6:50 – 7:00 Landscape Management Work Group; How does the work of this group help with the overall trails collaborative effort?

7:00 – 8:00 Information Stations; Participants informally visit different tables to provide ideas, opportunities or concerns covering a range of trail issues (see page 2 for specific objectives for each issue)

➢ Trail connectivity and trails with multiple landowners
➢ Ecological impacts from trails
➢ Trail user conflicts
➢ Existing supply and demand for trails
➢ Trail funding
➢ Unauthorized/illegal uses of trails

8:00 – 8:25 Group Discussion; Summary of what was heard at the information stations

8:25 – 8:30 Close-out and Next Steps

Visit our website to learn more about the Vermont Trails Collaborative at: http://www.uvm.edu/tourismresearch/?Page=vttrailcollaborative.html
## Trail Issue Objectives

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<th>Issue</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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| **Trail connectivity and trails with multiple landowners:**          | 1. Identify high priority state-wide or regionally important trails within the analysis area that transition across various landowners.  
2. Determine priority trails for protection and management in perpetuity through identifying land interest acquisition (easements, fee, etc.) and/or management agreement priorities to protect against potential gaps or resolve existing gaps in the trail network. |
| Trends show an increase in trails that cross multiple land ownerships and have to be relocated due to changing landowners and unprotected trail corridors. Rerouting trails and constructing infrastructure to reestablish broken corridors are costly, time consuming and may adversely impact resources. |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| **Ecological impacts from trails:**                                  | 1. Identify a set of physical/ecological indicators of concern.  
2. Utilizing existing information, identify potential sources of physical and ecological impacts resulting from trail related activities.  
3. Provide recommendations to address identified areas of concern where trails may be adversely impacting physical and ecological indicators. |
| There has been a concern that trails and/or their users cause adverse impacts to physical and ecological resources such as wildlife, soils, water resources (streams & wetlands), air, cultural resources and plants. |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| **Trail user conflicts:**                                            | 1. Identify social factors (such as noise, conflicting uses, safety, etc.) that cause trail based user conflicts.  
2. Identify locations and sources of existing and potential trail user conflicts within the analysis area.  
3. Provide recommendations to address existing and potential trail user conflicts. |
| The increasing number of trail users and types of trail uses may be leading to conflicts and reduced satisfaction of recreation experiences. |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| **Existing supply and demand for trails:**                           | 1. Utilize existing data to identify/quantify supply of existing trail based recreation opportunities in the analysis area and the trends of demand for different public recreation activities.  
2. Identify compatible uses that can be shared on multiple use/experience managed trails.  
3. Provide recommendations to address areas where the existing supply of trail based recreation opportunities does not meet the public demand for experiences. |
| There has been a concern that the supply of existing trail based recreation opportunities does not meet the current demand for the different types of desired experiences. Examples include not enough supply of bicycling, equestrian and non-motorized winter recreation to meet the public demand for those opportunities. |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| **Trail funding:**                                                   | 1. Identify major sources of trail based funding that benefit trails within Vermont.  
2. Develop standard baseline cost estimates by use type for establishing and maintaining trails, including deferred maintenance.  
3. Provide recommendations on how trail management organizations can work together to leverage scarce funding. |
| Funding for establishing and maintaining a system of public trail based recreation opportunities continues to be a challenge. Trails that are not regularly maintained due to the lack of funding accrue deferred maintenance, which in turn may diminish the quality of the recreation experience and the resources in which they are located. Vermont has many citizen based (NGO) and government based trail management organizations that compete for limited funding. Opportunities may exist for trail management organizations to better work together to leverage scarce funds. |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| **Unauthorized/illega uses of trails:**                              | 1. Identify existing unauthorized uses within the analysis area.  
2. Provide recommendations on how to address unauthorized uses to land managers.                                                                                                                                 |
| There are concerns that unauthorized uses of trails is increasing in Vermont. Unauthorized uses have the potential of negatively impacting authorized recreation use experiences, safety and the resources. |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |