Below is an update on the Vermont Trail Collaborative and work groups. Visit www.uvm.edu/tourismresearch/trails for more information.

**Upcoming meetings:**
-- Trail Summit hosted by the Catamount Trail Association, July 12.
-- Trail Summit hosted by the Green Mountain Club, July 14.
-- Vermont Trail Collaborative, Tuesday, October 19, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce in Berlin. The room is reserved for the day in case work groups want to meet earlier.

**Stewardship and Communication Work Group** -- Brian Cotterill is taking the lead facilitating the initiative to develop a trails stewardship education plan for the state. Work group meeting notes are posted on the website at www.uvm.edu/tourismresearch/stewardship. Brian is working with recreation groups to organize several Trail Summits around the state. The Vermont Horse Council hosted a Trail Summit on June 13 and the Westmore Trails Association hosted one on July 12. Notes can be found on the google group and they will be posted on the website soon. Two more Trail Summits are scheduled (July 12 and 14). Contact Brian if you'd like more information, or if you'd like to work with him to organize a Trail Summit for a different group/location. The work group also is in the process of pulling past recreation-related surveys together. They are aiming to have a survey ready to administer to trail/recreation stakeholder organizations and Trail Collaborative members in late summer or early fall.

**Next steps:** Contact Brian at bdcotterill@gmail.com if you would like to schedule a Trail Summit and/or learn more.

**Landscape Management Work Group** -- The Landscape Management Work Group completed the public meetings on the north zone. Meeting notes are posted at http://www.uvm.edu/tourismresearch/landscape. They are synthesizing data and developing a report with preliminary findings. They are also working on setting up public information meetings for the south zone in the fall.

**Next steps:** The work group will summarize major issues and common themes from the 3 public information sessions in the north zone of the GMNF. Public information meetings for the south zone of the GMNF will be scheduled for the fall.

**Science Panel** -- The science panel is completing annotated bibliographies and sending them to Bill. The VAST study report will be posted soon at http://www.uvm.edu/tourismresearch/science and a conference call will be set up to discuss the report after it is posted.

**Next steps:** The next conference call will be set up once the VAST study report is available. Please send all literature and bibliographies to Bill at william.valliere@uvm.edu by July 31.

**Steering Committee:** The steering committee has monthly conference calls and everyone is welcome to join the call. Our last call was Friday, July 9, and Danny Hale joined the steering committee call to get clarification on the role of summer motorized groups in the Vermont Trail Collaborative. The discussion focused on the need for input from ATV/OHV groups for the Stewardship and Communication Work Group and the Science Panel. More information is needed about ecological impacts and social impacts of ATVs as well as the role of legal trails in reducing illegal use. From the state perspective, if VASA is going to seek permission for
connected trails to cross state lands, there should be consistent messages for ATV users of trails on public lands, and the Stewardship and Communication Work Group can help with that effort. In addition, work on the SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) will likely begin in the fall and the comprehensive assessment of outdoor recreation in VT will include the ATV community. From the Forest Service perspective, Meg Mitchell put sideboards on the landscape assessment when the Trail Collaborative process began to ensure that the focus would be on existing uses. The FS needs to maintain those sideboard and work on making the existing trail network sustainable before including development of summer motorized trails as part of the Landscape Management Work Group discussions.

The next steering committee call will be Tuesday, August 17 at 9:30 a.m. Please let me know in advance if you'd like to join so I can send you the call-in info and make sure we have enough open phone lines.

Feel free to get in touch with me to find out more information or share suggestions.

Thanks and enjoy the summer!
Lisa