BCRC Staff: Jim Henderson, Catherine Bryars, Jim Sullivan

BCRC Chair Janet Hurley opened the meeting and welcomed commissioners, local officials, and interested residents. Special thanks to Jim Henderson for doing the grilling!

I. Minutes of March and May BCRC Meetings

Motion by Boehlert to approve the BCRC Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2018 and May 17, 2018. Second by Shea. Passed unanimously.

II. Pownal Town Plan Public Hearing

The public hearing to consider approval of the recently adopted Pownal Town Plan was opened and, following minimal public comment, closed. Commissioners submitted ballots to vote on approval of the Pownal Town Plan and confirmation of Pownal’s planning process. The vote on these measures passed with 21 municipal commissioners plus three interest group commissioners voting in favor, none opposed (13 and 17 required per statute and BCRC bylaws).
III. Green Mountain National Forest

David Francomb, District Ranger for the Manchester office of the Green Mountain National Forest, gave a talk on the National Forest in Vermont with a focus on recent initiatives in the Manchester Ranger District, which extends from approximately Route 4 south to the Massachusetts border. **Presentation handout is attached.**

Francomb discussed GMNF activities in the areas of timber management, recreation, fish and wildlife management, botany, and energy. He noted that the Forest has been instructed to place a primary emphasis on timber production and support for rural economies. Other topics covered included: forest health and resiliency, improving operational efficiency, engaging with communities and partners, integrated resource projects, early successional habitat projects, recreational trails – included a proposed hut to hut mountain biking trail, water quality work, and grant opportunities for local communities working with the GMNF. Francomb answered a number of questions about the GMNF and specific projects being undertaken in our region.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jim Sullivan (BCRC Director)
The Forest

- **Approximately 450,000 acres along the spine of the Green Mountains**

- **Three administrative offices**
  - Supervisor’s Office – Rutland
  - Rochester Ranger District Office – Rochester
  - Manchester Ranger District Office - Manchester

- **Resources managed**
  - Recreation
  - Soils
  - Water
  - Fire
  - Wildlife
  - Fisheries
  - Timber
  - Botany
  - Roads/Engineering
  - Lands Special Uses / Conveyance
  - Wilderness
  - Noxious Weeds
  - Law Enforcement

- **Management guidance**
  - Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan)
  - Federal Land Management Laws (Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, etc.)
  - Forest Service handbook and manual policy
  - Other jurisdictions (State, County, landowner) with existing rights or agreements
Manchester Ranger District

- Approximately 250,000 acres from Highway 4 down to the Massachusetts boarder
- Primarily high elevation lands along the spine of the Green Mountains
- Some lands in the Taconic Range along the Vermont – New York boarder
- District Staff – 18 permanent employees (5 vacant positions) / 5 seasonal employees
- Responsible for all land use management decisions
- Responsible for community and partner engagement and collaboration
- Responsible for public notifications (Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA), public scoping, opportunity to comment, closure orders (roads, trails, campgrounds, areas, etc.), certain permits)
- Responsible to work in alignment with management guidance (previous slide)
District Programs by the Numbers

**Support and Visitor Services**

- **100** Hapgood Season Passes Sold
- **125** Maps Sold
- **1** Fungi Permits Sold
- **$2,000** ENFIA Sales
- **72** Firewood Permits Sold
- **150** Christmas Tree Permits Sold

**Timber**

- **10,000** Annual Timber Target in CCF
- **1,136** Timber Acres Being Treated
- **3** Number of Active Timber Sales
- **$265** Value of One CCF of Sugar Maple
- **4 - 5** Number of Timber Purchasers Operating
- **20,000 – 30,000** CCF Under Contract

*Numbers are annual approximate values*
## District Programs by the Numbers

### Developed Recreation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developed Sites</th>
<th>Total Number Developed Sites</th>
<th>148</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trailheads</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Fire Tower Lookouts</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelters and Camping Areas</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed Campgrounds</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Use Areas</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trails

- **Total Miles Of Trail**: 493
- **Miles of Hiking Trails**: 204
- **Miles of Snowmobile Trails**: 253
- **Miles of Nordic and Snowshoe Trails**: 09
- **Miles of Mountain Bike Trails**: 53
- **Miles of Appalachian and Long Trail**: 87

**Number of Recreation Club / Organization Partners**: 26
# District Programs by the Numbers

## Wilderness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wilderness</th>
<th>Winter Sports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong> Wilderness Areas – Big Branch, Peru Peak, Lye Brook, Glastenbury, and George Aiden</td>
<td><strong>2</strong> Number of Alpine Four Season Permits Administered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>200</strong> Percent Increase in Use from 2005 to 2010</td>
<td><strong>600,000</strong> Annual Skier Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> Wilderness Shelters</td>
<td><strong>1</strong> Percent NFS Lands Permitted to Ski Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>59,642</strong> Acres of Wilderness</td>
<td><strong>2</strong> Nordic Ski Areas Administered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14</strong> Number of Wilderness Trails</td>
<td><strong>41,000</strong> Number of Summer Alpine Resort Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>53</strong> Miles of Trail in Wilderness</td>
<td><strong>2</strong> Number of Summer Activities Permitted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$360,000$ Permit Fee Revenue Generated Annually
### District Programs by the Numbers

#### Recreation Special Uses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Recreation Special Use Permits Administered</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolated Cabins Under Life Tenancy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile Tour Company Permit</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outfitter Guide Permits</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Event Permits</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Wildlife and Fisheries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Permanent Openings Managed</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Fire Acres Burned Annually</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote High – Elevation Ponds Stocked</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Program Partners</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Permanent Opening</td>
<td>1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term Stream Temperature Monitoring Sites</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
District Programs by the Numbers

**Botany**
- 150 Sensitive Plant Species Populations
- 100’s Number of NNIP Infestations
- 2 Unique Botany Ecosystem Areas - Dome and High Elevation Ponds
- 56 Regional Forester Sensitive Plant Species
- 1 Walk with a Botanist event at Hapgood Pond
- 2 Number of Seasonal Program Employees

**Law Enforcement**
- 1 National Team Representative (TCEMS)
- 250,000 Acres to Patrol
- 3 Number of FPOs Certified Annually
- 3 Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements
- 911 All-risk Responder Availability 24/7
## District Programs by the Numbers

### Fire / Fuels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed fire Acres planned FY2018 – Man RD</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year The Dome Tree Coring Indicated Past Fire</td>
<td>1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Active Fires on Ranger District</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engine with Crew Available for Suppression</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Program Staff stationed in Manchester</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Wildland Fire Fighter Type II Hand Crew Deployments</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lands Special Uses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Lands Special Use Permits</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Powerline Special Use Permits</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Use Special Use Permits</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid Sewage Pond Permit</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple Tapping Permits</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Forest and District Initiatives and Emphasis Areas

- Meeting Agency-wide priorities and expectations
- Proactive engagement with communities and partners
- Completing backlog of small projects / expired permits
- Improving visitor experience
Meeting Agency-wide Priorities and Expectations

- Focus on increased vegetation management and prescribed fire
- Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (efficiency effort)
- Forest Products Modernization (efficiency effort)
- Stand Up for Each Other (Internal work environment improvement effort)
Proactive Engagement with Communities and Partners

- **Focus on community-based collaboration**
  - Partner Engagement Sessions at Supervisor’s Office (Spring / Fall 2018)
  - Integrated Resource Projects (Somerset IRP)
  - Early Successional Habitat Creation Project (Ruffed Grouse Society and Mennen Environmental Foundation)
  - Dorset Hollow Mountain Bike Trail (NATS and Town of Dorset)

- **Working across land jurisdictions**
  - Good Neighbor Authority (shared position with State of Vermont – Ethan Crumley)
  - US Forest Service State and Private Forestry
  - 2014 Farm Bill
  - Joint Chief’s Tower Road Project

- **Forest Service Leader Stance and Habits**
  - Stewards the Whole Place
  - Sees Opportunity
  - Shares Leadership
  - Builds Community
Completing Backlog of Small Projects and Expired Permits

- Manchester Ranger District focus on finishing small projects started years ago before taking on new proposals (ongoing for 3 to 10 years)

- National effort implemented on the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests to reduce the backlog of expired permits (lands and recreation special uses)

- Using Nominal Effects Determination for recreation and land special use proposals
Improving Visitor Experience

- Green Mountain and Finger Lakes Forest Development Fund
  - First Impressions (Signs, kiosks, and facilities)
  - It’s All Yours (Green Mountain and Finger Lakes Ads, Testimonials, It’s All Yours Walk Series)
  - Employee Development (Forest-wide training opportunities)

- Grout Pond Campground Site Plan (Part of Somerset IRP)

- Manchester Ranger District Office Remodel

- Diversifying Recreation Offerings
  - Dutch Hill (Manchester RD) and Brandon Gap (Rochester RD) backcountry skiing
  - Expanding mountain bike opportunities (Dorset Hollow – Manchester RD and Blueberry Lake (Rochester RD)
  - Looking at fat bike opportunities across the forest
Opportunities

- Sustainable Recreation Infrastructure Financing (Quantified Ventures)
  - Modeled off of the Wayne NF’s City of Athen’s, Ohio mountain bike trail network
  - Velomont Trail in Vermont (RF Thompson – Vermont Huts and Shelby Semmes – The Trust for Public Land)

- Build Discretionary Grant Program
  - FS cannot apply, however, we can partner with a local governmental body to include improvements to facilities under FS jurisdiction.
  - Partnering with tribes, counties, town and private is extremely beneficial.
  - Minimum grant is $5 million, maximum is $25 million.

- Community Led Planning Effort

- Participate and provide input to ongoing planning efforts
  - Somerset IRP
  - Early Successional Habitat Creation Project
  - Additional Small Projects

- Federal, state, and other fund granting entities grant programs