

NFLC 10th Conference – Breakout Group - Ammonoosuc Room

General Comments:

1. I suggest that there should have been an 8th recommendation area – Education. Important enough to be by itself.
2. Report is too focused on forest products industry. Needs to focus on other economic areas.
3. Council needs to focus on coordinating regional implementation of recommendations.
4. Need to make the report more reader friendly. Too much policy talk. Too listy.
5. Assess health of forest first. Then see what it can offer us.

Recommendation Area 1:

6. Generally like recommendation. Specifically need more education. 1c is already addressed through FIA. 1e should address biomass.
7. Way too much focus on forest products industry.
8. Emphasis on post secondary technical education.
9. 1a should be highest priority.
10. Needs to recommendation on health of sawmill industry focusing on insurance, log supply, regulation, energy costs.
11. 1a should assess focus capital on current industry before exploring or diverting capital elsewhere.
12. 1d needs to look at what we could logging capacity.
13. Need to invest capital in youth who want to enter forest products industry and tourism.
14. Biomass needs a stand alone recommendation.
15. 1d recommendation is linking logging capacity to high wood costs but there are reasons for high wood costs. Need to look at other reasons as well. Separate logging capacity from high wood costs.
16. Recommendation needs broader understanding of the regional economy not just forest products industry resulting in holistic models that can be replicated in communities across the region.
17. Recommendation needs to mention communication infrastructure.
18. Need to delete 1b.
19. Need to study different opportunities for the economic future of the area: tourism, park or other magnet for tourism, water based recreation.
20. Need a regional economic strategy.
21. Restoration economy of lands and towns.

Recommendation Area 2

23. I would like to amend recommendation to strike “existing” and “include restoration”.
24. I really like rec. It needs to add more ecological reserves on public land and private land.
25. Needs to find ways to add value to landowners for ecological sensitive lands and including new incentives.
26. Recommendation 2 needs to recommendation for adding public land not just rely on working forest easement to protect ecology.
27. I don't understand why Montreal process is referenced.
28. 2e Pest and exotics are number 1 issue for protecting biodiversity.
29. Need to assess how much wilderness is enough.
30. Land protection must include community governments.
31. An opportunity for working forest easements to better protect sensitive areas.
32. In ecological reserves there should be emphasis on under-represented habitats.
33. Encourage support for state and federal funding for wildlife grants.

34. It is time to look at use values for conservation.
35. 2f Needs to be more specific to youth environmental education.
36. 2b Define critical resources.
37. Delete reference to Montreal process.
38. Keep benchmark from Montreal process.
39. Recognize acidic deposition and climate change.

Recommendation Area 3

40. I question the usefulness and opportunity cost of public funded easements on working forest.
41. The impact of the private acquisition and management of conservation lands and impact on local communities.
42. Need to assess the effectiveness of easements on other community values.
43. Language in recommendation area needs to be expanded to include stewardship.
44. 3a - needs to mention "including but not limited to forest legacy....".
45. No mention of including county or municipal government. Needs to include them. 3a.
46. Need to change language in introduction. Need to delete "in some cases" from paragraph 2.
47. Need to tie land conservation strategy with regional economic strategy.
48. 3d - delete last sentence.
49. Need to expand land protection funding mechanism being considered on private side.
50. Consider local regulation as tools for land protection.

Recommendation Area 4.

51. Recommendations are too vague.
52. 4a – question whether weakening current use programs is a good policy.
53. 4a – more people should be participating in current use program.
54. Have tax policy reward landowners for protecting rare biodiversity.
55. Consider large area leases as an income measure.
56. 4e and 4i – belongs under recommendation area 1.
57. 4c and 4d – delete because we don't have a good fact base.
58. 4c – what impact does estate tax have on how many landowners and how many acres.
59. Tie current use tax programs to require public access.

Recommendation Area 5.

60. Recommendation addresses the change in forestland ownership. It has the potential to do better than we have. Elevate in importance the new rather than rehashing the old.
61. Need recommendation that requires better forestry practice through public policy.
62. Need to evaluate to effectiveness current liquidation laws in Maine and Vermont.
63. Evaluate if current fines are enough to deter violations.
64. Augment 4h - Use land use planning to support private forestland stewardship.
65. Recognize need innovative finance strategies e.g. new market tax credits.
66. Consider expanding Vermont land gains tax to other states.
67. 5b – biased against fee acquisition.
68. Within findings clarify the meaning of "emerging new economic pressures".
69. 5b – we think this is happening at some level in all 4 states. Does recommendation mean it should be State government driven as opposed to organization driven.
70. There is a role for regional priorities.
71. There needs to be a connection between government based and organization based regional priorities.
72. 5a – delete it because no clear benefit.

73. 5a – keep it for sure!

74. Need to know more about TIMO's and next generation of ownerships.

Recommendation Area 6.

75. Recommendation too vague. Stronger state enforcement and stiffer penalties for illegal motorized recreation.

76. Government needs to be proactive and recognize that ATV's are part of local economy and culture.

77. Need to accommodate responsible ATV use.

78. Establish public lands ATV trails.

79. Planning and acquisition process for motorized and non-motorized long distance corridors.

80. Findings and recommendations should incorporate broader recreational uses rather ATV's.

81. Need to provide landowners restitution for recreational damage.

82. Need for tangible incentives for landowners to provide recreational opportunities.

83. Delete 6b- don't need it. Government recognizes private property rights.

84. Public should pay for recreational rights e.g. NH Current Use recreational reduction. Extent to other states.

85. Do not open public lands to ATV use.

86. Open public lands to ATV use.

87. Planning for ATV use needs to be tied regional strategies in recommendation area 5.

88. Provide more motorized access to people with disabilities.

89. Acquire new public lands for ATV use.

90. ATV use should not degrade other resources.

91. 6d – expand public lands access rights to ensure river access to wilderness campsites and portage routes.

Recommendation Area 7.

92. Amen on recommendation but reads like an afterthought. Strengthen findings.

93. Need mechanism for treating exotics, invasives, fire, all and identified on public lands including wilderness.

94. Disagree with public funding for pesticide programs.

95. Need specifics for reaction and deal with regional issues.

96. Need core areas with untreated and undisturbed areas to be left alone. Use to compare to treated areas.

97. Treatment in wilderness areas allowed by current law.

98. Examine correlation between fragmentation and invasive species.

99. New recommendation area 8 to bring people and organization to deliver on recommendation areas 1 – 7 regionally.

100. Need to identify who is responsible for who is implementing recommendation. Also need action plan.

101. 7a – make 7a grammatically correct.

102. Concern for term working forest does not get overworked.