

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2020 5:09:35 PM

First name: Larry

Last name: Garland

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please accept these comments on the proposed Peabody West Integrated Resource Project.

Comments are with reference to the newsletter that was distributed on this project in December 2019.

Table 1 (p. 2) "Project activities are proposed on a subset of acres within the HMU." Could there be an additional column in this table that enumerates the acres impacted by proposed activities within each Management Area? This would help us understand how different MAs are being used.

(pp. 2-3) "...to provide a sustainable range of quality recreation opportunities consistent with the Forest Plan and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum assigned to lands within the project area." There is no description or reference to the ROS that is assigned to this project area. A reference or description of the ROS within the scoping document would allow us to better understand how the project helps to achieve the desired conditions established by the Forest Plan.

(p. 4) "The WMNF also proposes to conduct vegetation thinning at the Androscoggin Ranger District Office administrative site in Gorham, NH..." The location of the District office is not shown (should be shown) on Fig 2 Project Area Map. The acreage subject to thinning is not stated.

I am aware that improvements have been made in the recent past to the walking paths behind the Androscoggin Ranger District Office ("Fifth Hole"). Are these paths now complete, or is further work needed to complete them? If so, would they not qualify for inclusion within this project scope?

(p. 4) "Up to 25 existing log landings would be reconstructed and expanded, and about 8 new log landings would be constructed...." Are log landings considered to be or serve as wildlife openings? This acreage should be accounted for in a tabulation of acres impacted by proposed activities (addition to Table 1 as noted above).

(p. 4) "The WMNF proposes to construct about 1 mile of new road, reconstruct and maintain about 8 miles of road, and decommission about 0.2 miles of unauthorized roads. About 1.7 miles of unauthorized roads would be added to the Forest Service road system...." Where are these roads? They should be shown on Fig 2 or some other Figure/map to better understand how they relate to other facilities and activities within this project area.

(p. 4) "The WMNF proposes to construct a combination of up to about 14 miles of single- and double-track trails, designed and maintained for mountain biking .... Trails designed under the proposed action would be managed primarily with mountain biking as the designated use."

It is absolutely imperative that these 14 miles of trails include a linear multiuse non-motorized corridor between Great Glen Trails, Dolly Copp, and the northern border of the project area (either in the Town of Gorham or the Town of Randolph). This multiuse corridor must be graded, hardened, sufficiently wide to accommodate groomers and two-way pedestrian use, and suitable for use by people of all abilities including families with children, seniors, and persons that require mobility aids. Recreational access and improvements should not be limited to nor solely focused on mountain biking. The developed facilities of Great Glen Trails and Dolly Copp Campground attract visitors of all ages and abilities who should be able to access and enjoy this area. Furthermore, connectivity to current and planned recreation paths to the north are essential for multiple use.

(p. 4) "The WMNF also proposes to relocate about one mile of the Bear Springs snowmobile trail..." It is not clear from Fig 2 if/where any current (to be relocated) segment of Bear Spring Snowmobile trail is being taken out of inventory. Where is the one mile of existing trail that is to be relocated and what will be the status of that current,

to-be relocated section?

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.