Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/6/2022 2:57:30 PM

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Title:

Comments: Both the Cabin and Big Rock Cave Trails were severely impacted by increased runoff engendered by the logging of Mt Mexico in the 1980's or thereabouts. The damage was more extensive on Cabin Trail. Cabin is easily the wettest trail in this area. In the first third of the Cabin Trail, the concatenated length of water bars and side ditches exceeds the length of the trail itself. You know you have water problems when the length of water diversion structures exceeds the length of the trail they are protecting. Will the USFS reconstruct Cabin to both resolve the damage of past logging operations as well as to harden it to any increased runoff engendered by the proposed logging operations. The damage to Big Rock Cave trail is less extensive but would also benefit from some attention. Both of these trails beg the question of whether the integrity of recreational resources needs to be sacrificed to the exigency of logging operations in a forest with the high recreational profile of the WMNF. What precautions and procedures will the USFS employ to both protect and restore all recreational resources, such as trails, that are impacted by the logging operations?

I have been told on a number of occasions that the revenues and resources associated with a Timber Sale can be used to benefit trails and other recreational resources in the area proposed for the Timber Sale. It appears that there are no such benefits to be had from this Timber Sale for the Ferncroft area. Without a Recreational Plan being part and parcel of the proposal how can there be such benefits? Would you update this proposal to include a Recreational Plan as was implied at the Pre Scoping meeting in Sandwich?

What is the size of the buffer between the Wilderness Boundary and the logging areas that approach it?

Over the past 15 years WODC has invested approximately \$250,000 through matching grants in reconstructing and relocating trails. There is currently a shovel ready project waiting to be undertaken once funding is secured. The lower section of Dicey's Mill trail has already been scoped for reconstruction. In the past 5 year \$100,000 has been invested on upper Dicey. Will revenues from the Timber Sale be available to fund the completion of the reconstruction work on the Dicey's Mill Trail?

In the winter, FR 337 is used by both cross country and backcountry skiers. The Tamworth Outing club grooms FR 337 from the parking lot for about 0.4 miles. That provides access to both the Behr Trail Network and Gordon Path as well as to folks who just enjoy the groomed skiing on FR 337. What accommodations will the USFS make for winter skiing on FR 337 during logging operations?