

America's Great Outdoors
Notes from Listening Session

Location: Concord, New Hampshire

Date: August 9, 2010

President Obama launched a national conversation about conservation in America at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, 2010. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level. Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserve our lands, waterways, historical and cultural resources and to reconnect Americans with the Outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local government, recreation and conservation groups and others. The President placed a special priority on engaging with America's youth. Below are notes from the breakout groups at the Listening Session sorted by Discussion Question. Please feel free to use the ideation tool at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> if you would like to share your thoughts.

Discussion Questions

1. What works: Please share your thoughts and ideas on effective strategies for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors.
2. Challenges: What obstacles exist to achieve your goals for conservation, recreation, or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
3. Federal government role: How can the federal government be a more effective partner in helping to achieve conservation, recreation or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
4. What additional tools and resources would help your efforts be even more successful?

Comments	Question (1-4)
Concord Public School system students choose outside activity (ski, ice skating etc) one afternoon per week.	1
Walk Talks – several nonprofits lead a walk into the woods (flowers, soils, etc).	1
Dark Sky initiative in Waterville Valley – surrounded by National Forest, star gazing in the town square weekly.	1
Health Initiative (community supported agriculture) – some health insurance gives you money. You pay a flat rate then you receive a weekly share of the farmers produce. Several in New Hampshire, the Rey Center is one. Includes community gardens.	1
Cooperative Extension Service – great programs.	1
Incentive to get adults outdoors is to give health insurance break – may be hard to monitor.	1
Statewide Archeology program (Scrape program) – survey, catalog historic sites.	1
Project Archeology for teachers – train the trainer program. (Information on website).	1
History Underfoot - interesting too all.	1
Using websites for marketing & word of mouth to get folks involved.	1
Link to other programs/agencies.	1
Hands on programs.	1
LCHiP matching grant program.	1

Comments	Question (1-4)
Land & Water Fund – good for economy, leverages money	1
Development - difficult to maintain land in forests. Planning Boards are there for assisting in the development not discouraging it. Development is leading to pesticides etc, no infrastructure to support it. The Nature Conservancy Wilton Community Farm – kids can learn farm techniques. It took a lot of money. Being a good steward. Land not accessible after purchase/development.	2
Taxes too high - people being forced to sell land.	2
Lack of funding source (sales tax, income tax). General funds get tapped into. (LCHiP funds)	2
Our prime aggie lands are getting development	2
Development affects hiking trails – new land owners not always allowing access to trails that start on private lands.	2
Local decision makers' need the information regarding cost of develop so they can include them in their Master Plans and Zoning rules.	2
Lots of passion for all nature resources. At National level may not see working together.	2
Long term leases on NF ski area need to be more restrictive - require recycling and more sustainable practices	3
State agencies are respectful of tribe as a government – no federally recognized tribes. Some agencies aren't informed on role.	3
People care about the land - preservation not getting the press or being recognized	3
Farms, woodlots and scenic vistas important nationally. Preserving barns and other buildings, unique vernacular architecture preserves the area culture.	3
Preservation through reuse - sustainable programs to manage historic architecture, land and vistas	3
Praise EPA work with schools – keeping schools in community centers. Green schools in Ireland good example.	3
Help share programs and expertise - how to get the message out.	3
Support Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts programs with funding - it teaches children outdoor skills, preparedness, raising vegetables.	3
Support Cooperative Extension - they provide instruction and out reach	3
Improve conditions of trails - more maintenance. WVAIA – volunteer hiking group, would like to see Level I maintenance from The Student Conservation Association group. Hard for groups to keep up with the maintenance.	3
Bring back the Conservation Civilian Corps to rebuild infrastructure and employ people out of work	3
Support partnering with groups (Audubon, Squam Lakes), WMNF campground programs.	3
NH Coop Extension needs more funding and support. It is a much loved and respected in all program areas. They have a great service delivery.	3
Bring back the Conservation Civilian Corps program to provide jobs.	3
Support and expand Youth Conservation Corps program	3
Wilderness should be a "no-fly" zone for military aircraft	3
Does not support multi-use trails (Nordic skiing, mountain biking & hiking on same trail). It is bad for the experience and a safety issue	3
Acid rain is a problem in our high county ponds. Need more resources for scientific data collection.	3
Unstated assumption is that everyone's outdoor experience happens in the day. Less than 10% of Americans can see the sky. Parks etc have too much light. Supports a better night experience.	3
We more support for multi-discipline programs and collaboration.	3

Comments	Question (1-4)
Would like to see the Forest Service purchase land to include the Cascade Brook area in Waterville Valley	4
Would like to see Trail Adopter Workshops for trail maintenance.	4
the Clear Act - preservation fund House bill includes full funding, would like to see the full funding to go forward (HR3534 Clean Energy Jobs and Accountability Act - companion act)	4
Food labeling needs to be easier for local farmers - not so restrictive. We don't want to lose our local foods while trying to protect it.	4
We need safe, clean local foods.	4
We want natural foods, not processed. Support local schools using local foods. Local farmers markets should be able to accept Food Stamps	4
We are in a climate crisis! I don't think any of us will live out our lives without seeing the effects of climate change on our forest.	2
We have a financial system that is about to collapse and anything involving agriculture and the environment should be long term if it is going to be sustainable. Would like to see strategic banks, instead of NRCS being bureaucratically focused, would like to see the funds spent correctly as a representation of trust. Strategic banks need to be built to fund those starting out.	2, 3, 4
Biochar is important and comes from forests.	1
Reduction of bureaucracy to enable good decisions by EVERYONE.	2
It is challenging for next generation to take over small family-owned forestry business. E.g., he has lumber, dry kilns, sawmills, etc., but no funds to pay his sons to become involved.	2
We need to increase the biological literacy of citizens. Suggest we need to find a way to make parks "destination points" and so individuals can watch them change over time like working forests do, including signage built locally from local materials.	2, 1
It is important to educate the voters so educated decisions related to the environment can be made. First we need to protect the land and then build educational trails on protected lands and engage teachers to write a trail guide. Then take the trail guide to the school and encourage kids to share that with their parents. The input from that small effort is what we are all about here: reaching out to the young people that are our future, but we need the connected strings on this violin to make that work (need the land, connect the kids, etc.).	1
The Student Conservation Association is actively getting youth out, high school and college age, and they realize they can be part of something larger than themselves, especially during the recession when sometimes they can feel powerless. SCA has partnered with AmeriCorps. Liked Gordon's points--it is a matter of connection across the age ranges.	1
The nation is also facing a shift of race and culture in America. We need a way to connect across age ranges, as well as across all types of diversity--such as youth in urban areas.	2
Being in a place like Vermont is quite a contrast from DC which is so culturally diverse. At the Marsh-Billings Rockefeller site, they have a 200 year land ethic history and that is part of the mission. There are examples of Hispanics preserving land in the SW or native Americans in other places. These stories often get left out; it is important to keep these stories alive. They recently had a program with urban youth brought to the park to camp and participate in a program (cleaning trails, etc.). Felt this program was a success and really brought a hands on and close connection to the natural environment. How do you replicate these programs and secure the funding to keep them up?	1, 2
Her group is going into schools in the Manchester, NH area which is a large refugee area. They teach environmental education and engage the kids in a service learning project in the community. E.g., mural on earth stewardship, community gardens.	1

Comments	Question (1-4)
It is important to be place-based and experiential and get students to participate in a program with environmental themes. It connects kids to their local environment in a meaningful, personal way.	1
These experiences and place-based education is critical, but is important to not have it be a single time in their school career. It would be better for it to be integrated throughout the students' education. E.g., extend through the High School years (from Elementary up throughout high school).	1, 3
It is important to take the kids out and do different conservation projects and that it doesn't stop at the elementary level. One of the biggest things we can do is encourage propagating this type of program and get the word out.	3, 4
Environmental literacy is development and sequential. We often let the bottom numbers dictate what is taught because the teachers may not have passion or education to teach science. "No Child Left Behind" has been detrimental-it has squeezed out science and made it difficult to get kids out for hands on experiences. How do we scale the Manchester The Student Conservation Association program out to other school districts? That works when there is a really interested teacher or an administrator that really understands the importance. We can do huge things to change the experience for kids.	2, 1, 3
There is a partnership in NH between the state, Forest Service (White Mountain National Forest and S&PF), and others that provides a teacher's institute focused on environmental education. They do intensive professional development with teachers and follow-up over with additional workshops. The Federal Government role is to pass the "no child left inside act." If we are serious about this, we need to pony up the funds to support this.	1, 3
We need resources and time in support of the environmental literacy plans (no child left inside act). That effort also supports the US Fish & Wildlife Service. That legislation has been taking a bit of a back seat; she really supports making this a priority.	3, 4
We are asking teachers to take children outside, but the teachers themselves need some help in understanding how to take kids out and mitigate the risks of going outside (some teachers are hesitant to go outside). E.g., program focused on learning more about your back yard.	2, 4
Finding that it works better to build in short field trips to teach more hands on.	1
Would like to increase the ability to work across the Fed government. It is really hard to work across agencies and if that could be streamlined it would be easier for programs like The Student Conservation Association and others.	2, 3
She would have nature parties for her son and it was surprising to her that many of the kids had not been out in nature. Accessibility is an issue, e.g., for families that can't reach out to provide those opportunities. Making choices that are smart for our children, such as providing experiences outside, is so important.	2
We have a generation of parents that are afraid to take their kids out. Some teachers are just as bad. Need to expose the kids early in school--so they go home and ask their parents to take them out.	2, 1
Going outside to do something free with your family can be attractive, esp., while we are in a recession.	1, 4
We need good program evaluation. E.g., they worked with one elementary school for 3 years and they evaluated throughout the effort so they could clearly show how it was successful for replicating elsewhere. We have a growing base of good evidence of the positive value of environmental education.	1, 4
As a parent, there is such pressure to enroll children in structured programs and pressure to do the best by our kids. Richard Louv's book was monumental in allowing kids to have free time. Another good book is: "The Blessing of a Skinned Knee." Scheduling a safe outside experience for families has to be a first step to allow them to be comfortable to provide kids these experiences (unscheduled) in the future.	1, 2

Comments	Question (1-4)
In their school system they have a program that involves parents in helping with an environmental education program. Often the parents learn a lot and enjoy it just as much as the kids. In this program the parent chaperones are paid a stipend for helping out.	1
Great Parks Pursuit is a state parks program (there is one in CT and NH), whereby families participate by visiting parks around the state. They get points for each park they visit. There are some scheduled events and they also go on their own. They sign up for free and get to explore the parks and can win prizes (there is a celebration at the end of the summer). It would be great to see this in other parts of the country.	1
A lot of the concerns and ideas that have been shared are also going around the historic/preservation community. There is a rift between the preservation and conservation communities and we should work together better. Maybe some different partnerships we could think of more holistically. E.g., hike to ruins (combines the two). In a broad sense, having these conversations, can help with this issue. Also looking at historic buildings in addition to the land that is being focused for conservation.	2
Looking at Scout clubs, citizen science clubs, etc. that can provide connection between historic resources and conservation groups.	1
In the Epsom town forest, they discovered a number of old sites, e.g., mill house foundation, etc. Preservation and conservation can go hand in hand in conservation work.	1
He gave seminars on White Pine and was called to help with planting density for a program. It was successful-the trees are growing a great rate. If they do the right thing, they should be able to generate \$100,000 per acre every year, but they may not be able to keep it up due to lack of funding.	1, 2
It would be neat if we could find a way to remove the danger of people being responsible for their selves and taking a look at wildlife that moves and trees (that don't move).	2, 1
It is important to recognize regional differences; the potential of a particular area may be not recognized enough when compared to species in other regions of the country.	2
Schools around here do their testing in October and that is during the time that would be good to get the kids out. So it would be helpful to move that testing time frame to a different time of the year so it is not an obstacle to getting kids outside.	2, 4
School administration be aware of outdoor opportunities close by and connect that to the required school physical education program.	2, 1
Don't forget the key to success with young people is their parents and that is a gap that is often left. Parents are often not invited in to participate with the kids. Need to invite parents more. He gave an example of a program he did a trail walk with the kids and invited parents. When it was one of the kid's birthday, that is what she wanted to do with her friends for her birthday (go back up and walk the trail).	1
In addition to parents, there are other important adults too, such as scout leaders.	1
Idea of modeling in addition to mentoring. E.g., tremendous example is Michelle Obama's Let's Move Initiative and organic garden. Those are key models that can go back and be replicated in our communities. When kids have experiences with hunting, hiking, fishing, etc., they build strong environmental ethics.	1, 3, 4
Challenge the Fed. Government could help address is access on a number of levels. For ex., find places that are interesting, engaging and alive that are close by.	3
Need to also provide access on a socio-economic level. Having parents that are available to take kids outside is really difficult for some, e.g., single mother working and struggling to make ends meet.	2, 3

Comments	Question (1-4)
Programs like the Great park Pursuit also have great value. But looking at families, it is also important to have programs that are extracurricular and are not parent let. Kids need to be getting muddy at much younger ages!	1, 2
Looking at how different racial and ethnic communities relate to the outdoors: a lot of communities (esp., non-white) are coming from families that are of a such a broken nature, e.g., single mother, working and no free time, etc... it is difficult to get the experiential, place based education, and they are leaving the education up to the institution. The institutions are busy dealing with issues like gang violence, etc.	2
The Student Conservation Association has put together some programs with cities-they get kids to participate in programs weekly or bi-weekly and by the end of the program they go out on a week or 2-week trip. Allows them to safely experience the hands-on and experiential learning. It also positions them well for additional opportunities.	1
Public Land Service Core is in congress right now-he encourages increasing opportunities such as The Student Conservation Association and others.	3
Idea of Conservation Leaders is important. For example, how could they take the Environmental Teacher's Institute model they are using in NH to other places to help increase the collaboration.	1, 3, 4
They emphasized getting kids to do something with their own hands, by their design, for the community. That is so important. They put themselves into the project and can see the results of their efforts over time. It sticks with the kids.	1
Challenge: every region needs something different and there are different ideas that will work in each place. The Federal role is to stay out of that to allow flexibility. Provide funding from programs, but allow flexibility in the solution. If we can "infect" the youth and future leaders that will make the difference. The Fed government role is to understand the individuality and that it is by the people and for the people and stand back so the good programs can succeed.	2, 3
Idea for an insurance product on a nationwide government level that could be created to cover liability for school environmental education programs. To allow school programs to take the kids out into nature. Liability is often the reason used for not being able to get kids outside. If the school system is accepting federal funding--would there be an opportunity to do this nationwide--and utilized nationwide?	2, 3
Forestry curriculums throughout the nation have eliminated hands on experiences due to liability concerns.	2
Imagine the potential if everyone is funded to have their first job to be to make the best decisions for the environment. Referenced his web-site "Common Goods" forestry on-line (http://sites.google.com/site/commongoodforestry/home)	4
The national partnerships, e.g., Boy Scouts of America sent teams to National Parks for service projects. Would like to see that national partnership model more at the local level. E.g., scouting program to bring NH kids into the WMNF and engage them in their local environment.	1
There is new legislation allows groups to engage in service learning projects locally.	1
In response to a question by the moderator about potential sale of State parks: The state of NH is facing a budget crisis and one option is to sell some state park properties. That is just one idea, just one option out there.	2
A state bank could solve some of these problems.	1
We have small populations and low unemployment comparatively and so sometimes we don't get as much in way of resources. Often the rural areas don't get what they need and that is really important.	2, 3, 4

Comments	Question (1-4)
Youth Promise Act-being able to engage kids that are in the juvenile justice system in environmental service projects. We are seeing juveniles charged for minor infractions. There are issues with lack of parenting, etc. In many cases these kids are just bored. They have programs called diversion, and are required to do community service. Perhaps build off the The Student Conservation Association programs and develop some opportunities for these kids to spark their interest and engagement.	2, 3, 4
There is diversity of opinion; there are multiple ideas of the best use of a particular parcel of land. Encourage the President and Fed initiatives to include the word "sustainability." E.g., don't just talk about growth and jobs for the sake of jobs; need to incorporate "sustainability."	1, 3
Federal government and states need to agree to a broad principle to allow flexibility on the details for programs.	3
Biggest fear is that we will get more programs on top of other programs that we don't have the resources to fully implement. Emphasis on building on what is working and incorporate the new ideas with what is already working.	2, 3
To president: don't forget that you have reached out to the youth and need to get back to them.	3
Mr. President: we are in a climate crisis, arctic is melting, and more methane is being released and is going to eclipse the green house gas effect. We have to re-freeze the arctic and enable farmers and forests to serve as carbon sinks (biochar).	2
Outdoors is where children learn creativity, risk taking, and responsibility and the those are characteristics that make them strong.	1
A vision for the future: every citizen has a conservation ethic.	1
Would remind the president that everything is connected: making environmental stewards of our children-it gets them outside and in touch with their local communities, and increases their health.	1
Support volunteerism!	1, 3
Need to make volunteering cool! Volunteers also do that because they are passionate about it. They get paid by the change they make in the world.	1, 3, 4
Not just about being cool, but also about being practical. It is important to value AmeriCorps, The Student Conservation Association and other programs. They get money for college for this program and that also makes it valuable for them.	1, 3, 4
Make the The Student Conservation Association and other programs more accessible and do even more recruiting across all communities!	1, 3, 4
The Fed. Government needs to lead by example. E.g., Obama needs to go out and get dirty on a environmental service project!	3
Not necessarily adding more, but giving a boost to what we already have.	3, 4
In our society we live on instant gratification, so need to get across the idea that working forests are for the future.	2, 3
Thanks for this initial step; the dialog on America's Great Outdoors!	1, 3
45 schools in Vermont are now heating with wood chips, of Forest Service getting more than 1 million gal of heating oil. They are leveraging more to do the same.	1
Mud season is longer now and therefore the timber operating season is shorter. They have helped operators convert from old-style harvesting equipment to balloon-tire equipment, which can operate for a longer season and leave less residual stand damage to a forest. There should be incentives for contractors to convert to this type of equipment, which also uses 50% less fuel than old-style equipment.	1,3,4

Comments	Question (1-4)
It has become increasingly apparent that deforestation is big contribution to greenhouse gases and climate change. We can play a critical role in mitigating climate change by protecting forests and getting people out in nature/forest. It needs to be a combination of education and awareness—if you know something you’re more likely to care and more likely to protect it.	1,2
Their area became an Americorps site for land conservation, protecting 24,000 acres. 7 regional land trusts came together (240 towns) with 20 staff to do conservation and stewardship. There is more of an economy of scale with a larger organization of partners. They want to incorporate strategies in selecting projects to help mitigate/adapt to climate change, but are having difficulty finding direction. There should be more connections between local/regional land trusts and the feds, partnering at the federal level to implement policies. We should also be talking more to the public about how what we do in our daily lives affects climate change.	1,2,3
He expressed a concern about the stated purpose of this meeting. Obama said that ideas from these meetings will help better protect our natural landscape and history in the future. People here have not used “natural landscape”, only working landscape. Why are we avoiding using this term? He does not log his land, and is allowing it to return it to “natural landscape”. He don’t sell woodchips, etc. So we should remove the "working forest" from this discussion—it does not belong in a “natural landscape."	1,2
They partnered with Trout Unlimited (TU) for climate change and protection of a valued resource—the eastern brook trout. TU figured out where conservation priority areas for the trout are—Trust for Public Lands works to protect the lands and TU works to protect/restore the habitat. They involve other organizations, too, all brought together by the desire to protect this species. Another idea--protect carbon values and create economic incentives for private landowners. For example--the Forest Carbon Incentives Act--Senators Shaheen (NH) and Snowe (ME)--this is an opportunity to create these incentives.	1,3
Forests in NH are young in geologic time—we should protect them. Pathways for species migration can successfully build and conserve the landscape.	1
Critical to get young people into outdoors; he takes his college students out every week into the forest. Discussed in the morning was the concept of getting carbon credit for using sustainable forestry rather than only for leaving forests alone. Can landowners put their land under conservation easement (with no logging permitted) and also be eligible for carbon credits? This would make it more attractive for folks to get conservation easements.	1,4
The definition of “working forest” is very limited in that it means logging. Forests can "work" in lots of different ways. There are alternatives to a working forest as logging. Response by Ginger: this particular session was focused on “working forest” and that is why it was presented that way. Lots of other benefits from working landscape—carbon sequestration, water quality/quantity, etc, but we may not convey this well to the public. “Marketing conservation”. We need to do a better job of marketing what we really do.	2
Public utilities are encouraged to have a certain amount of their power generated sustainably--using biomass, for example. A recent study (Manomet) says that biomass is not necessarily sustainable unless there is cogeneration. The government should more carefully evaluate what is "sustainable" when power companies are working toward these incentives/laws, because they may not actually be sustainable. Power companies should not be allowed to do these things if they aren't really sustainable. We don't want do dig ourselves into a bigger hole. People may be trying to "do the right thing" but may not know what that actually is regarding sustainable energy production. As a private citizen, she would like the federal government to step in with scientific knowledge and provide guidance.	2,3,4

Comments	Question (1-4)
Studies in NH show that there are enough NH forests to sustain a certain number of biomass plants, but there is not enough information available to know if this is actually the case. Concern: we are having a difficult time sustaining our state parks. NH is the only state in the country that doesn't provide any general funds for state parks, which are at risk and have millions of money of infrastructure needs. These parks are a great education tool for climate change and natural resources and they are at great risk. Is there a way in this initiative to help improve state parks?	2,3,4
With climate change our ecosystems are under greater stress and it is important that government and private folks look at protecting areas and creating corridors for habitat from ME to northern NY. One way would be federal encouragement for towns to buy and maintain town forest. If there were federal tax incentives for managed town forests or federal grants for key corridor purchases, it might help Forest Service the fact that towns will lose tax dollars if they have more town lands.	2,3
A carbon analysis should be included with logging proposals and with wood burners in the state. This is not required in state process currently and will be difficult to do because of all the details involved. This would help determine what is actually "sustainable", including carbon accounting for things like trucking, etc. We might find out that what initially appears to be the "greenest" is not. We need to tackle this and hold the public trust that this renewable energy is truly renewable. When NH signed RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative) that is what it was about.	2
Haven't heard about what the monetary value of carbon is? We don't know where to get information on the value of carbon. This conversation should begin with discussion of the global carbon market. This will affect the value of land in "current use" because if carbon has a monetary value, the value of land will increase if you let trees grow. The government should do something about this.	3
Challenge 1: We need to better understand forest genetics in order to help forests transition in light of climate change. What species should we be planting? We need help. How are we going to help forests adapt? Challenge 2: Lots of landowners are driven by economics; therefore economic incentives are necessary to keep these forests. Low-grade markets, including biomass, will help and result in more carbon sequestration. The MA study about biomass does not say that it is not sustainable if you look at it from a lifecycle analysis. Another important component is green building—no better building material than wood from a green/carbon standpoint. How can the feds encourage green building? Federal policy to say "American wood first" as opposed to other building materials. More thought needs to go into the green building certification process.	2,3
Concern that there is confusion with the American public about biomass energy and whether it makes sense. There is a public education need. There is a way to do biomass responsibly and well, the government should think strategically about how it is incentivized.	1,3
There is a fear factor when people talk about climate. We need to build trust and acknowledge that a lack of trust will hold us back. Another challenge: resources. There was a grant program created in 2008 Farm Bill, but haven't been able to get money in it. Biomass: created program in 2008 to provide money for communities to buy biomass facilities, and heat schools, etc. Haven't got any money into program yet. Tools are there but not the resources/money.	2,3
These listening sessions are great ideas but are they going to go anywhere given our political situation, partisanship, and political agendas? There is a challenge that needs to be overcome on the political side.	2
Most American forests are owned privately. Families need healthy markets to keep healthy forests. They need lots of tools in their toolkits—easements and markets for green building. FSC is not the only certified sustainable market—American Tree Farm system as well, people should not have to go out of state to buy FSC green-certified wood when ATF wood is available. Families need incentive programs to protect their forests and store carbon. At the end of the day, healthy markets equal healthy forests.	2,3,4

Comments	Question (1-4)
Parks are such a doorway for getting people to learn about the great outdoors, continuing funding these programs is so important in showing the value of forests.	2,3
The general public is unaware of the role that forests play in climate change--we need to get the information out. People have heard about climate change but don't know what to do about it; they don't understand that keeping land in forest is key in mitigating climate change. We need to communicate without scaring people away and share that the land conservation we're already doing is making a difference.	1,2
During White Mountain NF plan revision in 2004-05, he asked if anyone was considering the effects of climate change on forest composition projections in 100 years. Answer was: well, we don't think that is important. He is happy that we are now recognizing that it is a problem and thanks for thinking about it.	1,3
SPNHF believes that sustainable forestry is responsible forest management. A lot of good things have been done in NH in the last 100 years. Our forests take up 50% of the man-made emissions that we generate. You can have healthy forests, healthy economy, and have a net gain on the carbon front. Wood is not a silver bullet, but it fills a role. It may not fill the same role in 100 years as it does today, but it plays a role. Government policies need to pay more attention to what is the most efficient/appropriate use for wood, because there is evidence that what we're doing now is not the most efficient.	1,3
Forest Service shows real desire to put all the pieces of the puzzle together—"all lands" model is mission critical for success, especially in New England. Updating to federal grant criteria is taking climate change into account, including LWCF. Any program that isn't already updating their program should be doing so. Forest Legacy program, etc. If it still feels like there is a missing tool it would be that we need forest and agriculture carbon incentives programs. This would maximize carbon benefits on the landscape.	1,2,3
The federal government should not encourage wasteful practices such as using biomass harvesting and then burning wood quickly in a wet condition. Burning (and transporting) wood that has not dried is inefficient and wasteful. Focus should be on wood that is harvested close to where it is burned, and is burned in a dry state.	3
Idea: There is a proposal in Congress to allow community municipal bonds for purchase of forests. Sustainable forest management on these lands would pay the debt and there would not be a huge hit to the federal government because the purchase eventually pays for itself.	3,4
The reason we have forests in the US now is because we stopped burning so much wood and instead burn fossil fuels. Now we are talking about burning forests again--this is not good. A healthy forest has no invasives (log trucks bring in invasives), is free of logging and is free of species under human management. I take issue with us saying we're trying to get healthy forests—we're trying to degrade the forests we have today.	2
I would hope that the federal government would increase the diversity of our forests-working and non-working and support multi-use. Give carbon incentives to help people do this. There could be a huge diversity of uses with that land, which equates to huge habitat diversity--very important in NH and the northeast. The effects of climate change will alter New England like we've never seen. We want to be prepared for that change. A diversity of incentives for people is a really important piece that covers a lot of different bases.	3
The National Forest Protection and Restoration Bill, which died in 109th Congress, would have ended logging on Forest Service lands. It may be time to revisit that, especially if we ever get a value on carbon. Thinks that there is probably more timber harvested on private land than on Forest Service land. There are lots of forest products coming from private land. Urge someone to take a look at this bill because some things have changed since it first came before Congress.	3

Comments	Question (1-4)
Urges simplification of application process for landowners (such as NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program) so more folks could participate. Their land trust is discouraged that they cannot promote to the public these programs because they're so cumbersome. We need more tools that will work for the "average" landowner.	3
The government should identify more lands that are already a part of the northern corridor and purchase these lands. Key linkages between core areas have already been identified—they should help to get info out to landowners so they realize that their land may be in one of these key areas and give them incentives to conserve. Need to keep corridors open to allow species to move across habitats and not isolate them to an 'island' of habitat.	3
Feels that state and private forestry is an important role that the Forest Service has filled—encourage this program. Within that program, Forest Stewardship Program helps landowners understand their forest, develop objectives and sustainably manage it. This is an appropriate role for the federal government and encourages continuation of that role.	1,3
Would like the federal government to play more role in sustaining small farms. 80% of farm revenue goes into transportation. Government should support small, local farms, CSA, organic which may be more productive than big monoculture farms. The more small scale, the less we have to rely on big lands for production. More clusters of small farms can allow for larger areas of forested land. People can be reconnected to the outdoors by being involved in small scale farming or by purchasing from local farmers.	3
We are looking at the perfect storm—intergenerational transfer of private forest lands over the next 10-15 years combined with the repeal of the estate tax—this is very serious for family forest owners. Have to look at value of different forest properties—not a one size fits all solution. Working forests have less of a tax burden. Also--the federal government should play a significant role in helping get kids outside-- federal resources for environmental education should not be an afterthought, but a core part of the education curriculum.	2,3
In light of climate change and forest management, there should be a mechanism for the recognition of microclimates-cold pockets, for example-favorable to native species. These microclimates are important habitat for species migration and success and should be conserved. This could be addressed in best management practices or in some other way to get the message out to citizens and land managers.	3
New Englanders put in huge effort collaborating during Forest Plan Revision and would like to see the Plan Implementation funded. Funding the WMNF Plan is extremely important to N.E. timber industry and workers and to the larger economy of NH and ME.	2
Getting kids in the outdoors is important and part of that should be about observing what kind of vocational opportunities there are working in woods related industry (timber and recreation, conservation and wildlife management).	1
Need policies that will be with us and set the course for the next 100 years.	3
Property owner who wants to pass on the land and legacy to his family, with the assistance of the government (deduction , etc) to make an incentive to put land into conservation easement - as opposed to costing money to do so.	3
LEADS, tree farm, federal forest programs, SFI certifications are resource tools to encourage sound management that could be incorporated into the 'easement'. These are good programs that should be extended and improved.	3, 4
Private landowners ready to donate but due to costs are hesitant, due to the costs for land surveys and title search. Fully fund LWCF. quality Carbon	2, 3

Comments	Question (1-4)
Please incorporate into the final report the New England Governors conservation report as a useful template or blueprint for the current administration to use.	3
The working forest is my 401 K, and is so for many other people. Owners need to be able to entrust good stewardship of those lands to their heirs through a conservation easement that can be adjusted, or updated with the current needs such as things (like tax laws, or even resource requirements, etc). Situations change over time and could require adjustments, whereas locking into strict easement without the opportunity to adjust to change over time is like having a "mutual fund" or 401 k that has no flexibility. Not asking to break the "core" purpose of that "easement".	2, 3
Tax Credits for Conservation - not just deduction, like the Colorado and Virginia model.	1
Couldn't get much money for anything: LWCF needs to place more emphasis on forest land and maintain recreational facilities. Landowners are discouraged because the process takes so long to complete.	2, 3
Forest Stewardship Program's work, Tree Farm Programs however need more support. Connecting small tree farm owners with professionals is critical. These programs help small family landowners and are critical to keeping this type of ownership. And States need flexibility from regulations imposed by Federal Regulations on how monies can be spent on Conservation and Legacy Programs.	2
Link resource professionals to landowners - State and Private Forestry and funding State Forest Resources, so with federal assistance, States and professionals can continue to help implement conservation on the ground and these professionals can often be most knowledgeable with local on the ground conditions and what works.	3
The challenges for land trusts and conservation easements are in part that each landscape is unique and complex. Lots of variability in the needs and opportunities, and also on the stewardship requirements.	2
Simplify Land Trust Regulations to allow land trusts to hold easements under federal programs.	3
Due to complexities of regulations and limitations, communities find it difficult to get through the process and hold easements in their towns	2
People with land who want to donate can get some help with costs for donation but no monies are set aside through federal funding programs to fund the 'stewardship' monitoring of these easements. That is a critical absence and need for the future protection of these lands. Funds for Stewardship of conservation Lands is critical.	2, 3
Rules are complicated, professional and Federal staff often have to wade through a pile of rules, to understand them. Would like rules to be straightforward and workable, and to be brought forward without delays. The process is not being simplified - new rules are merely added, but the process is now quite cumbersome and needs to be simplified and streamlined.	2, 3
Make the tax incentives permanent. Fund outreach to landowners who might be considering donating their land for conservation easement is needed.	3
Incentives, investments, and partners are about where to conserve lands and whether these tools are applicable in all areas of the country or under all economic situations. Saving special places is not the whole solution to the question of land uses, and the solutions vary from region to region. Market incentives (by policy) are more important thru incentivizing markets; thereby allowing private funds and landowners to work towards this goal. Government funding is not the total answer; leveraging private interests will provide a lot of motivation and results. Easements are not for everywhere, and there is not enough money to purchase all protections that are needed. Economic incentives and market forces would create the same results for working forests. The disincentivization of private working forests through rules and regulations (of these wood markets in general and the bio-mass market particularly, etc) would also prevent natural market driven forces from maintaining these working forests.	1, 4

Comments	Question (1-4)
Conservation decisions must be based on Conservation science. There are studies and documents that outline which resources are most important to conserve. Local knowledge, and local entities at the County and state level should be driving these decisions.	1
Small woodland owners need to have more access to these programs. A small woodland owner acts as a conservator on his property. Regarding easements, an environment needs to be created where land owners are looking more positively toward long term ownership and allowing recreation on his/her property. Problem is landowners "Get No Respect", so a program that would help encourage them to continue providing these benefits on their land is important. The message that small woodlot owners cumulatively are so beneficial and important to the "conservation of lands goals" is needed, and might then encourage other landowners to do the same.	2, 3
Market the fact that many benefits come from private Land owners who allow public access.	3
Full funding for I and C Conservation fund, and forest Legacy fund. These programs tend toward large tracts and smaller <1000 acre sites cannot compete at the national scale.	2
Land and water conservation fund has not been funded well yet but needs to be to bring people together for mutual conservation benefits and economic benefits. Funding for Community and Town Forests. Open space to be conserved permanently but managed and owned locally and which provides a working forest with recreation and wildlife benefits is so valuable (see Errol NH town forest story).	3
Community space and open forest Bill with 50% matching fund is valuable but getting the other 50% funds at the local level is difficult; even when people from diverse interests agree on the ultimate goal. But additional funding is critical for these small towns, or increasing incentives. Forest Legacy funds one purchase per state. In the densely forested NE states, there is need for more parcels or purchases to be funded.	3
The need for more Money and the ability to consolidate purchases of the many smaller parcels at the local level so small towns with limited resources can compete with larger entities and parcels.	4
Need to create a market for forest landowners to sell their carbon credits at.	4
Building markets in this region for combining wood use & wood energy (pellets, wood fired boilers, etc) through energy programs that utilize the raw materials and industry facilities available locally, mostly on private ownership, and thereby develop this regional economic opportunity.	4
The federal government can establish new programs or adapt existing programs to aid in the development of wood product energy uses and market place incentives to provide for private forest land management and the continuing development of these alternate energy sources and uses. Wood energy programs need federal funding to develop.	3
NRCS should focus more on the educational resources that private land can provide for schools, other landowners etc.	3
Community Forests - play the same role of providing resources like non-industrial landowners provide where stewardship is a large part of their goal but they do not have the same access to Federal incentive programs. Doing good conservation - resulting in public good - would be more likely if they could tap into some of this federal funding.	3

Comments	Question (1-4)
Management funding for community forests, which are run democratically, is needed. They are currently excluded from EQIP and WHIP programs.	4
We have compact lands with multiple ownership in N. E. With 400 land conservation land trusts each doing their own projects one at a time is inefficient. A new initiative is proposed, such as in western Massachusetts where 72 individual projects were combined into one project purchase (needing about \$21 Million). But the efficiency, synergy and collaboration approach has huge benefits through combining knowledge, economy of scale, and individual landowners being part of a larger effort. Another ongoing effort combines 120 land trusts and 400 purchases - but requires a large amount of funding and (hopefully) federal assistance to complete the process. Aggregation and bundling saves money on administration. People like that they are part of a large conservation effort.	1, 3
Not enough discussed for small tree farmers. Many programs and assistance designed for larger land holders. Obtaining government assistance for stewardship, for tax relief, and to make improvements is tough. The soon to return 45% estate tax (the break on this tax sunsets next year) would prevent many landowners from being able to pass on to their heirs their land, and pay the 45% estate tax as well. This is resulting in extreme difficulty for maintaining working forest lands within families through the generation.	2, 3
Carbon releases from 57 million acres of private land if turned into developments would kill any change in climate change that other efforts might accomplish. Incentives are needed to maintain these private lands in forest status. They have to be economically feasible for this to occur. The future needs to be conservation - not fragmentation. Reducing development and the subsequent reduction in carbon sequestration will be detrimental to the environment. Additionally, increasing incentives for wood product heat sources versus continued increases in oil heat would benefit the climate concern scenario as well. Tax incentives for developing markets and providing raw materials for wood markets will be key.	2, 3
Wood heat for New England (including pellet stoves) is very locally efficient. Additional homeowner tax incentives for purchase & installation would benefit Climate Change rather than continued oil burning dependant on imported oil.	1, 3
Government support (tax breaks etc.) are the only incentive that allows continued ownership and forest retention, and they also provide public and wildlife benefits. Landowner would not have been able to retain the land if it had not been for government assistance and tax incentives.	1, 3
The states and private Landowners who provide these benefits to all Americans - could use more help to keep these lands open to public and forested.	2
Fully funded forest Legacy programs are critical	3
Collaboration is critical and Land and Conservation and interplay with collaborators is so important. Like the Northern ME and NH initiatives that have conserved so much land, and prioritized lands to be conserved, etc. The main point is that Collaborative, Incentive, and funding is needed to continue accomplishing needed conservation goals. Fully funding LWCF is needed.	1, 3
ATC is a critical greenway connecting 8 states - much of it protected by private landowners and farms. The Fed Gov and American people get the benefit, and making it possible for this thru land conservation is critical. So these incentives and partnerships are key to the success of the AT and other like-minded conservation and outdoor rec. programs. Public lands are critical as is the public/private land interface (relationship).	1
The value of these lands, acquired through enormous energy and conservation effort, includes taking on a huge effort dealing with government bureaucracy and incentive programs. The government should rather allow for normal market fluxuations (supply and demand) and tax conditions to provide for land conservation, rather than government intervention.	2, 3

Comments	Question (1-4)
Separate fed government programs need to work together to provide efficient successes at these goals.	3
Towns in Maine have fallen on hard times, and deforestation in all NE states has doubled - like a second wave - in the recent decade. The need for conservation that can aggregate conservation lands and we need a climate and carbon initiative where small landowners can take advantage of these incentives (normally for 1000 acre lots +). Private landowners and landowner outreach - is not technically up to speed - a method that would connect these landowners is needed. And finally - facilitating landowners as part of a solution to energy issues and policy.	2, 4
We need incentives for good management and for protection of community and state forests.	3
Municipalities are easily forgotten in the incentives programs and yet the general population benefits, so they need to be considered in legislation and policy.	3
Communities are starting to do good forest plans but they need help (incentives and grants), especially now as planning boards are not as busy as in a normal economy. Now is the time to utilize their availability.	3
LCHPS - a state agency that provides for urban forest land in small towns is a program has helped his town, Wilson NH. With purchasing conservation lands. More emphasis is needed for dealing with the threat of forest pests.	1, 2
Has protected up to 50,000 acres in the area but what is needed to continue this conservation effort is money.	2
Establish conservation priorities in the NE region with connectivity across these separate land areas.	4
Money is needed for Maine forests.	2
Collaboration at the National Level is needed. Landscape planning regarding conservation lands is also critical. These relate to strategic conservation goals. Maine gets less money per acre of forest than many states with low percentages of forest land and thus conserves a much lower Percentage of their lands than could be conserved in Maine and NH, and Vt.	2
Conservation of lands resulting in loss of tax revenues (PILT) is causing some resistance at State levels.	2
Keys: Collaboration, incentives, funding	1
Priorities need to be evaluated by local and regional groups - collaboratively - and funding sought in a consolidated effort.	4
Recognized ecosystem services that forested lands and conservation easements provide to the greater public. Regarding Biomass - start with science based lessons.	4
Parents taking kids to the White Mountains, enjoys taking his kids and wants them to want to go back. Should be no barriers. AMC has huts so minimum of equipment is needed. Federal program not necessary; anything that would facilitate opportunities for kids.	4
Wetlands conservation, Fish & Wildlife, etc. North American waterfowl recovery. Joint ventures to implement. Has brought together state, private, and federal. Most successful in the world. We should use it as a model for other programs. Preserves habitat and connects people to it. Continue funding. Continue encouraging private landowners. (How adapt to forest concept?) Has already been adapted. Great Bay partnership. Forested land (was a valuable partner).	1, 3, 4

Comments	Question (1-4)
Northern Forest Canoe Trail and CT River Joint Commission. Headwaters subcommittee. Don't know if others are in existence. VT River conservancy establishing campsites on CT River and provide outdoor rec. Ask government to look at existing organizations because they are working.	1, 2
Board made up of fed, private, non-profit. Work with teachers to get kids outside and learning about the outdoors. Lot of great programs (Project Learning Tree). Teachers frustrated with No Child Left Behind – teaching to the tests for fed requirements that don't fit. Would love to see federal mandates that cater to outdoor pursuits addressed.	1, 4
Speaking for private landowners, I've heard overwhelming requests to raise money for education (I support this). Another is to buy developments. Wouldn't it be easier to educate landowners? Tax reduction for allowing recreational use on private land is 20 percent (amounts to about \$35 a year). I can post my land, still get current use, and only have to forfeit %35. If I enhance recreational benefits, pay me for it. Shouldn't be either or situation.	1, 2, 3
Oldest interstate hiking trail in Northeast, older than AMC. The 21 mile trail crosses 34 privately owned properties. Two problems with our northern trail terminus: land is designated forever wild, so no cutting or improving trails. Also, MOU with USDA prohibits dogs on trail. A private land owner whose property trail crosses trains dogs and was told that's illegal. Another regulation prohibits jogging. For many years a race on the trail has been allowed once per year. But no parking available at northern terminus. Would like a half-acre for parking there. For first time, a landowner refused to let trail cross property. Had to reroute. Later comment: A unique program is Municipal Trails Act: we fund easement for existing trails and turn over to municipality.	2, 3, 4
Paid attention to what was attracting people to northern NE. Read that Forestry association had evidence that proximity to trees actually improved health and quality of life. Even being able to see trees from a hospital room is beneficial! From Emerson and Thoreau to our own experience, trees are important. I propose that there's a real power that has the economic capacity to drive people to do something that is healthy to them. But no one is paying attention to that benefit. That underlies all the conversations we've had today. Why they call it a natural attraction. We need to learn more about it.	1, 2, 3, 4
We depend on private forest in New England. Re Current Use: huge amt of private forest and people aren't aware that this occurs. Need more collaboration. At \$35/year may be more incentive to go another way. I think we could build on relationships. New models south of the border. Make most of fed benefits. Later comment: Two areas government can connect with: INVEST IN RECREATION. Challenge cost share program (50/50) match to local investments in trails. Reduce our reliance on automobiles, find recreation close to home. FUNDING! Landowners have liability protection, but still can get sued and have to protect themselves – how to further protect them from this.	1, 2, 4
No Child Left Behind is a challenge. One of our successes is bringing kids to the outdoors, but need access. We have wonderful places, but schools don't have money to visit these places – busses are obstacle in connecting to tree farmers. Field trips are the first thing taken out when budgets tight. Instead, we have to focus on school yard to learn about habitat. Hard time getting this generation of kids to think critically about things that are complex. We need to get them to look at local issues. What works and barriers go hand in hand.	2, 4

Comments	Question (1-4)
<p>Challenge is making sure that purposes are upheld. Lives will change/environment will change. Feds should realize that forest legacy program is a great program. Stewardship is ongoing. Funding needed for education and the whole scope of resources. Change is happening, from climate change to what the public needs for recreation and what landowners should do to remain economically viable. Agriculture is a challenge – change from 20 years ago. From B/W Holsteins to how can I bring agri-tainment? (program works but challenge is monitoring). Monitoring and Stewardship together, working with land owners to achieve their goal.</p>	1, 2,
<p>If we look at anything as a standalone problem or solution we're going to fail. I would offer that there be a communication strategy that integrates solutions. Growing disconnect with outdoors. VT is integrating schools and environment. We think of the outdoors as an add-on, a separate piece. Integrated solutions or value, impact is lost.</p>	2
<p>Reconnecting to outdoors. We have wonderful resources in White Mountains, but we do very little to tell people about the cultural resources. We have historic roads, abandoned homesteads. Need signage to tell people what's there. Signage would be inexpensive. If people know would out they would be more likely to support.</p>	2, 4
<p>We are nature center and shelter in southwest NH, and a land trust. What works well is that we are in a mosaic of protected lands, created largely by conservation easements and land trusts, and what works is the opportunity to lead programmatic trips to protected lands. A great asset to have these places to show off. Every weekend we have hiking trips with 40-50 people going. Without the mosaic of protected land we wouldn't have this. Need to provide more incentive to landowners for conservation easement, funding to make it possible to donate (many are land rich and cash poor). Also think about ways to connect people and children to outdoors by linking to strategies such as sound health, combating obesity, promoting healthy minds. Target is health and getting people outside.</p>	1, 2, 4
<p>We are model of grassroots conservation groups. Help six towns talk to each other on shared issues like drinking water protection. Land trust with strong educational component. Ranch and Farmland protection program, along with 600 donors that protect farmland south of the Sandwich range. Hire grad student every summer doing research. Takes us months to get a stipend for them. Need a federal program that would allow us to pay the stipend and ensure we continue the program.</p>	1, 2, 4
<p>NH strength: collaborating well; only way to get things done. Challenge is what's happening in school system. Passage of No Child Left Inside act would greatly impact what states can do. Supports teacher professional development, also connecting schools to outdoors and supports field trips. Funding must be appropriate, and more than \$100,000/state. We know the benefits of getting kids outdoors – they do better on standardized tests, problem solving, become more holistic citizens. I'm also watchful wildlife coordinator. In 2000 we had funding but those dollars have dried up, and we need a dedicated fund. Look at extension of existing programs. People need to thank their hunters and anglers because they are paying the bill. Some places should be left wild, with no human influence. Education is critical; holistic approach needed.</p>	1, 2, 3
<p>Government role should be providing consistent funding for various funds and grants. Also community assistance facilitation. Private landowners under pressure to host trails. Government should do more than just hand out money.</p>	1, 2, 3

Comments	Question (1-4)
I have 40 acres under conservation easement and am preparing for final 20. Foresters and extension service have been helpful. Keeping connected is to allow people on to see what is going on. But 100 acres abutting has been sub-divided for lots. When I asked for non use of fertilizer, was told OK as long as 50-foot buffer not violated. I'm concerned about what happens to landowner when changes happening around them. Trying to get people to bear the expense is hard. My son doesn't understand the land, wants me to sell to someone who does. Program to match people looking for such an opportunity with people like myself.	2, 3
Speaking as parent, has two sons who played team sports, but were not interested in outdoors. One went to a college that had a state-funded outdoor program that got him on backpacking trip. It changed his life, and he majored in environmental science. Maybe federal government could force people to go outside.	1, 2, 4
NH's inclusive nature makes it special, has promoted more harmonious relationships. Work with private landowners to include motorized recreation, often maintaining roads at own expense in exchange for access. Offer donations to landowners for privilege of using land. Often there are restrictions such as prohibiting summer motorized use. Federal government can help by extending RTP (Recreational Trails Program – dollars from gas tax). The greater the amount of motorized trails, the more money received.	1, 4
This [listening session] series is an example of what works. What works with our organization is recognizing that we don't have all the answers. Knowing we're right divides and creates animosity. Simple act of listening, asking someone for their own story about what's special for a piece of land is important.	1, 2, 3, 4
In NH a number of state-specific programs to encourage recreation use on private lands. State has hold-harmless law which encourages landowners because it reduces their liability. If you receive payment, though, this doesn't hold true. Another encouragement of public use of private land is incentives from local property tax – more land, more money. Network of trail clubs (e.g. snowmobile clubs), self policing, helps out. Maybe a model at national level. Challenges: simple economics: if I can't afford to own land, it becomes a liability. Government should support local markets for lumber/timber over imported projects, should also support alternative energy (windmills). Expenses: vandalism, management costs, taxes. Sunsetting of estate tax break will hammer private landowners. Federal government should be an example in the management of their own lands, showing public how active management works.	1
A unique thing we do is stretch federal and state dollars, as well as funding a lot of volunteer programs (Fish & Game and others do this, too). Volunteer programs get the word out beyond what we can do as staff members. Challenge is how do we fund them /support them (e.g., conservation education, Urban Forestry). Federal funding should be made available for these efforts.	1, 2, 3
Hidden challenges: The number of NE hunters is dwindling. The result is reduced funding for NH F&G and others. Excise tax on firearms also goes into state and federal budgets.	1, 2, 3
Diversity is the key -- diversity of forest product markets. The federal government's role should be to support lion's share of activity, which is private markets. We can offer incentives to help people, but underlying problem is stronger markets. What can USDA do? Agencies show by leadership by using local products. Don't discourage use of sustainable wood and paper products. Promote rather than put disincentives in place.	2
Wildlife Action Plan, funded through state wildlife grants, is celebrating tenth anniversary. We need to plan for next ten years. The program has allowed our game and wildlife programs to thrive. Specific to working forests: public needs to be educated about term clear cuts, needs to understand that a 5-acre cut is important for wildlife habitat. Planning for future, we need to incorporate that notion and help people understand how important to future to habitat and wildlife in general.	3

Comments	Question (1-4)
Greatest NH success was establishment of the White Mountain National Forest a hundred yrs ago. It brought more people outdoors than any other single thing. New England is unique and White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) is unique, and forest need to be managed as a NE national forest, not a western forest. Federal government needs to recognize this. Multiple use sets an example (I'm also a tree farmer). Fed should continue and promote WMNF as multiple use, enhancing all aspects including recreation and economic development.	1, 2
Focus is changing from management to stewardship, resulting in less timber harvest. In northern Maine, clear cuts are no longer allowed. Federal government should educate people in importance of harvest, provide incentives to wood products industry (e.g., mills facing closing). Message should be the importance of forest products to overall economy.	1, 3
Androscoggin River has gone from industrial sewer to recreational use. It's now possible to swim in it. We take 7 th and 8 th graders on canoe trips, and they end up wanting to do more. This is a wonderful way to engage kids with nature.	2, 3
Need to build appreciation of nature and connect general public. Experience is exponential – will last a lifetime. Federal government should offer events to encourage this, to promote “ecotourism” and public awareness of pollution (such as Give a Hoot). The Ken Burns series on national parks is a good example of education.	1
Company manages 3 million acres in New England, New York, and Canada. Education works – get people outside. White Mountain National Forest is good example of management and research. Challenges include committing to education, especially about working forests. Also to help private landowners with the costs of keeping land open and for trail and road maintenance. Incentives, especially tax incentives for landowners to maintain working lands. Win/win situation.	2, 3
An example of a program that works is the Mahoosic Initiative. Previously, land ownership was in disarray. Land trust and Chamber of Commerce used variety of tools such as forest legacy and landmark conservation fund, state and local partnerships. \$280 million invested over 12 years, most for conservation use, and two-thirds from private sources. Conservation and economic development go hand-in-hand. Federal/local/private form 3-legged stool.	1, 2
Important to share respect for outdoors with both veteran and new campers. Explain why important to stay on trail, for example. Educate them on good practices, Leave No Trace, etc.	1
The poor economy has increased use of state parks; people seeking low cost, nature-based activities. Challenge is how this will play out: private landowners face new expectations from enthusiastic new users who don't want to see cutting, hear chainsaws. Need to educate recreating public on multiple use, working forests.	1
No Child Left Behind focused attention on testing, not experience nature/outdoors. Money is a barrier to nature-based field trips. No Child Left Inside will go a long way to help. Target should be on the family unit: they come back and bring friends. Forest Service could help with conservation education funds. There is gap in awareness of connecting with nature and understanding working forests. Can't approach this piecemeal.	1, 2
Bring your children outside. Some places have to be left alone. Environmental education should begin early and continue through high school. As important as 3-R's (reduce, reuse, recycle).	2, 3
Our organization has a long term interest in promoting long term sustainable forest industry in the four state region. This includes creating new markets for forests.	1
Highest value in forest is saw logs and having markets for these is key for keeping forests as forests.	1

Comments	Question (1-4)
Mr. Rohde supports and works with the Regional Wood Products Consortium that provides specialized innovation workshops and how forest owners can innovative.	1
Sustainable Forest Futures just received a grant for the Forest Service to establish a series of educational workshops for 35 states. This helps demonstrate that there is energy in the private sector to make the changes that can make this work. USDA needs to continue to support efforts that supports innovation in this industry.	1
Requirements for Rural Enterprise Zone are too restrictive. USDA needs to make this designation more attainable for small, rural communities.	4
The wood products industry has done a poor job of marketing its own message. We need to talk about sequestered carbon or that wood comes from solar energy. We need a massive public education campaign and USDA can partner with trade associations and coordinate the entire federal government's message about forests as green industries.	2
Our company has been working with with Sustainable Forest futures. SFF has helped us expand from a pure wholesale business to include retail business as well. With SFF's help, the retail business is "going gangbusters".	4
Maple syrup producer. Local eating movement is growing, how about establishing a local building movement. Establish a movement to buy local wood from local wood producers.	1
Wood pellet boilers are growing in popularity. I have just installed a large wood pellet boiler in my small business. What will happen to the forest when the economic incentives to cut often and early to meet the demand for biomass? Will biomass efforts actually adversely affect forest sustainability? How do we make sure that biomass production is sustainable?	1,3
EPA requirements discourage biomass plants. (Air scrubbers) In the Southeast US, there is a great supply of biomass material and great interest in developing biomass energy, but ever-increasing EPA regulations dissuade biomass development. USDA can provide leadership in sustainable forestry by working with EPA to have realistic regulations. Also, the USDA has to send a message about its support for biomass as a sustainable resource!	2
Furniture industry has vacated low and middle market. Foreign low end design and marketing has been very effective at lowering costs such that our industry can't compete.	3
Ad valorem property tax has been terrible discouraging for forest owners. The World Bank conducted a study on the ad valorem tax and set up 12 (?) guidelines for an effective tax. Vermont violates 6 or 7 of the 12 guidelines.	2
I have been with this organization for 30 years and our goal for 30 years has been to enhance the value added capacity of the wood products industry. We are not effectively realizing our value added. We are shipping raw materials to Canada and elsewhere - we are acting like a third world country by exporting our precious resources. This is a lost opportunity.	2,3
Regarding energy. NH has a good system of independent power producers. We are aware of the inefficiencies of producing energy from wood chips. We are trying to encourage smaller scale heat only systems. Obstacles are that there are not economic incentives for thermal projects as there are for electrical projects.	2
NH has a native lumber law. Most local mills are not even aware of this law. Local sawmills may not be aware that they can sell structural lumber directly to the retail market. BUT building codes prevent the use of non-graded lumber. USDA can help by getting building codes to accept non-graded lumber for structural purposes.	2,3,4

Comments	Question (1-4)
Wood product manufacturers will locate in communities that are economically viable. Traditional financing for forestry and agriculture is not currently available. Wood product manufacturing is an "orphan child" for economic development efforts. USDA needs to increase emphasis on Forestry and Agriculture industries to help provide support (financing opportunities) for these businesses to grow.	1,3,4
We will not run out of wood in regard to demand for biomass. We no longer have the paper mills to maintain the market for low grade mills, so Biomass is a great use for that. Remember that biomass is mostly tops and leaves. One tree produces sawlogs, then pulp wood for the larger branches and then biomass from the smaller branches and leaves. Biomass does not displace the sawlog or pulp market.	2,3,4
We have learned a lot about forest markets through history. Forest markets have remained consistent or, as now, seen an incredible increase in market demand, yet our forest inventories have increased.	1
Biomass markets are generally local. The efficiency is for the local use of biomass for combined heat and power.	1
The market will provide incentives for efficiency. There is a threshold question. Is our country really ready to embrace and support renewable energy? Congress and EPA are both calling into question if we really want renewable energy. What Congress is NOT saying is as telling as what it IS saying. USDA should state that WE WANT BIOMASS as part of our energy future.	3
USDA could take a strong leadership role in procurement regulations. If the federal government states clearly that wood is a highly desirable building product, that message will resonate throughout government and the private sector. If the government is promoting the use of foreign wood products, that will also send a clear message and damage our domestic market.	3
LEED does not state a preference for wood over other building materials. LEED should identify wood as an environmentally preferable building material. All studies shown that for a lifecycle, wood is better than steel, concrete, etc. The other industries may not like this, but wood should be supported as the preferred, sustainable material.	3
We need to see leadership and partnership from USDA. Recently, Lincoln Pulp and Paper went bankrupt. If the mill was left unheated over the winter, the equipment would be damaged and the mill would be sold as scrap. The government heated the mill over the winter, found a buyer for the mill, and it now employs 400 people and it operates at a profit. This is the type of support and intervention we need.	3
Where is the organized support for the woods products industry? We need organized support for wood products policy, economic development strategies, etc	3
Four states and political boundaries pose challenges for long term management of forests. Our council has to sometimes make four separate applications for one project - one for each state. USDA needs to standardize forms and regulations so that we can manage across boundaries.	3,4
Innovation and multi-jurisdictional approach will have best long term effects. We need to look at all Forest resources, including recreation, is essential. Engage the private sector in developing public policy. We need to accelerate our positive efforts - we don't have time to wait.	2,3
Green Building. USDA needs to draw a hard line - BUY AMERICAN WOOD.	1,2
Market access and market development funding is essential. Can we sell wood at the highest possible price?	2,3
Recently received a Forest Service grant to build on our agriculture "buy local" program. MA is in constant warfare between the wood products industry and the environmental movement. USDA needs to show the environmental movement that cutting a tree is not on par with murdering someone. USDA can help provide information and examples of good forest management.	1,3

Comments	Question (1-4)
With regard to policy - USDA needs to send a CLEAR SIGNAL about the importance of working forests to the economic and environmental future of this country. This should include clear policy direction. This will change management across the country. This clear message will be the most important result of these listening sessions. Not all agencies are as far along on this topic as the USDA. (EPA is an example of an agency that is NOT doing what it should be doing to promote sound forest management.)	2,3,4
I am also afraid of federal involvement. I have used federal cost share programs and think I can do a better job by doing the projects myself. Conservation Easements are not the answer. Markets are important, but you must get the costs down. Between taxes, access costs, inheritance taxes, etc, I have not made a profit on my forest lands. We need long term policies that favor landowners.	3
USDA must advocate for forest landowners. USDA must stand up for landowners by providing information and policy to EPA regarding the carbon benefits of biomass as energy. This reflects what the Sec of Ag has released in his recent press release.	3
The Forest Service must change its climate change plan. Advocate for green building NOT advocate for LEED certification. (LEED is a "brand" and the government shouldn't endorse a brand.) USDA should advocate WOOD.	3,4
Engage EPA upfront on all issues that will affect forest landowners. EPA should consult with USDA and vice versa so that both support the needs of.	2,3,4
Incentivize landowners by making permanent the repeal of the state lands sale tax. At least raise the deductible or lower the tax percentage. USDA should encourage Congress.	2
USDA needs to regionalize programs and policies.	3
Average parcel size is getting smaller. Who owns these small parcels? New owners. What is the message they receive about forest ownership? The County Forester is the most important messenger to provide educational outreach to new land owners. Our service foresters and cooperative extension foresters are critical for continued forest management on the parcels owned by these new owners.	3
In MA, we are working with temporary conservation easements. The farm and forestry viability program helps landowners write a business plan that includes temporary restrictions on the land (10-20 years) and allows the landowner the assurance that the forest will remain and allows a timber purchaser to know that the land will be available for forest management, yet it does not confer permanent easement rights. The program has been successful in MA.	2,3
Although NH is well forested, there are species that are still in peril. There is still great need for forest restoration and that depends on diverse markets that allow a variety of prescriptions	1,2,4
USDA must help citizens make a more clear connection between their lives and lifestyles and forest management. The wood we use comes from trees that we cut!	2,4
Very concerned about economic growth in Maine. We are against the "America's Great Outdoors" movement. We are worried that there is a movement to take over the State of Maine with any sort of conservation easements. We don't like the word "perpetuity" - we shouldn't saddle our children with agreements that we made for things we need today. We are also watching the whole state of Maine being sucked up into conservation easements and then the land is not available for future economic development. Maine is broken up into small communities and small woodlots. Maine Woods Coalition supported the Plum Creek Project, but the environmentalists didn't like it. We are afraid that if the feds get involved, we will lose local control.	2,3,4

Comments	Question (1-4)
NRCS established the Technical Service Providers program; many foresters tried to become certified, but it was too arduous. Subsequently, several employees of the Vermont Dept of Forest and Parks became Technical Service providers. NRCS should recognize the professionalism of consulting foresters so that they can approve forest management plans without going through the arduous tasks of becoming Technical Service Providers.	2
People cannot readily see the peril of the demise of forest.	1,2,4
Working on a commission formed by the New England governors to develop a resolution (www.negc.org) regarding to managing forests across political boundaries. A listening session like this in the state of MA would really assist MA in its conservation efforts.	2
Land conservation must also include the economic effects of management decisions. Keep farms as farms. Keep forests as forests. Protect coastal areas. Connect people to the land.	2,3
We have worked with seven state foresters, managers of LWCF, and agricultural staff and have designed five national demonstration projects and on July 12, all five governors have endorsed these projects. These projects recognize the relationship between the welfare of the environment in small communities directly affect the welfare of the small communities that depend on them.	2,3