

Lyons, Johanna

From: alexcote1955 <alexcote1955@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 10:08 PM
To: Lyons, Johanna
Subject: Fwd: Bear Brook food plots

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Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: alexcote1955 <alexcote1955@yahoo.com>
Date: 6/19/19 4:07 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Jeff Eames <jeff@nhforestry.com>
Subject: Bear Brook food plots

Ms, Lyons,

I recently was forwarded a request from your office regarding the new management plan for bear brook state park.

I am writing as branch president of the first N.H. branch of Quality Deer Management Association. Our mission statement in short is: To insure the future of white tail deer, wildlife habitat, and our hunting heritage.

Over the last half dozen or so years, our branch has constructed and maintained several food plots with in the confines of Bear Brook. Not only do these food plots provide forage for deer but also they provide browse for other valuable species game as well as non game animals and birds.

We also promote and encourage timber manage practices to enhance wildlife to flourish and sustaine allowable populations by habitat improvement within timber management plans.

I would like to ask that we be allowed to continue our current programs within the parks boundaries. We also would request that we be included, if possible, in any timber/ habitat improvement plans.

With regards,
Alex Cote, president 1st NH Branch, QDMA.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

To: Department Of Natural and Cultural Resources and the Bear Brook State Park Management Plan Steering Committee.

Regarding : Bear Brook State Park Steering Committee 's public listening session June 27, 2019

From: Debbie Briscoe

A Member of the NH Horse Council and the Statewide Trails Advisory Committee

Below is a public comment response to the committee who is soliciting opinions from local and statewide associations and organizations, recreational clubs, forestry and wildlife professionals and citizens on the current management of the Bear Brook State Park property, existing uses, and desire and suitability of new uses.

Comments for the questions provided by the committee are:

1. What is working well at the park?

Good trailer parking for horse trailers

Bathroom facilities are available in both parking areas

Communication with Park Ranger has improved

Trail projects are being addressed

2. Does your organization have any concerns about existing recreational uses or natural resource management practices?

It is suggested, as a management practice, that this Park have a basic Trail Management Plan. The 1994 Plan had recommendations and needs for trails that still resonate in 2019 and they need to be reviewed periodically. The new Plan for Bear Brook should specify an outline of a trail management plan in a way that a basic plan can be implemented in year one. This concept is not looking for anything elaborate, but looking for direction to stay on track for the long term care of the trails with a systematic schedule.

The idea of a trail management program does not eliminate projects done by users groups, who are providing the labor and funds for some projects. The user group activities can be done in conjunction with a Staff driven Trail Management Plan and the groups are likely to fulfill some of the funds and labor needed for Staff planned maintenance.

It is asked that the points below be considered for a Staff driven trail management program.

- Include trail evaluation-yearly, or by section, or specified trails for each year..... covering ALL trails in 5 years, then start over.
- Yearly trail maintenance schedule specifying the stage of a larger project or the focus on a project that is doable that year, including construction, reroutes, basic and advance maintenance.
- Trail Maintenance where the Staff plans, prioritizes and organizes a trail project. Project ideas come from Staff and input from user groups
- Staff organizes/solicits funds and labor from individuals and groups for a trail care day/project.
- Create a Park trail project account where donations can be accepted for a specific project
- Create a list of advance projects, including Bridges, in Water Crossing, Trail Drainage, New or Reroute of trails. These items should be in the list of projects to prioritize, track and be available for public viewing.
- Staff meets with user groups together at least once a year to review project list for the Park. Can groups and individuals work together to help get Staff projects done?
- Improve Signage of trails
- Update maps via GPS with a yearly review, or as needed
- Kiosk Posting- what should be there? Map, rules, Join a club, trail etiquette, event schedule, how to donate, etc.
- Free Day Pass for volunteers as a reward

3. Is there a need for improvements or additional facilities for existing uses? If so, for what purpose, and where?

Could there be a possible trail reroute to connect One Mile Trail to Sentinel Pine to avoid a steep fall line route? Is Alp d'Huez adequate enough to continue utilizing Sentinel Pine off of One Mile/Lane? Is this currently being addressed and actively being looked at? Or does this already has answer?

Could there be a possible connection from Sentinel Pine to Carr Ridge trails to create a loop without going to One Mile/Lane Trail?

4. What potential new activities/management would your organization like to see implemented? How and where? And 5. What facility improvements or additional facilities would be needed/desired to support this new activity and where should they be located?

It is my understanding that the development for Horse Camping at the Park is well underway near Catamount Pond. Glad to see this happening, Thank You.

6. What conflicts with existing uses/users might result at Bear Brook State Park if the new activity was permitted? What other uses can your activity best be paired?

If there is a possibility of the inclusion of EMountain Bikes, it may produce concerns more than regular bikes because of their expected sustained speed that may exceed that of a regular Mountain Bike. Continued education on trail etiquette will be needed regarding meeting a horse on the trail.

Sincerely Submitted

Debbie Briscoe

Response by Avis Rosenfield, presented by Karan Wood, Derry Trail Riders

1. What is working well at the park?
 - a. The current relationship between the Mt Bike and Equestrian Officers. The relationship with park mgt at all levels.
2. Does your organization have any concerns about existing recreational uses or natural resource management practices?
 - a. Concerns: Trail user Etiquette.
 - b. Trail identification: All trails are multi-user not single-track Mt Bike only as this is not a mt bike only park it is a SP open for all users.
 - c. Natural mgt: do not allow defragmentation of the park as it will adversely affect wildlife.
 - d. There should be No additional trails effective June 2019 only those in existence.
3. Is there a need for improvements or additional facilities for existing uses? If so, for what purpose, and where?
 - a. Signage is needed to identify public facilities "Pit-toilets" or water for day users & their animals. A non-potable well in Hayes field would be welcomed for day use for animals.
4. What potential new activities/management would your organization like to see implemented? How and where?
 - a. Horse camping, which is currently in-process.
 - b. Mounted Rangers to be out on trail like Bradly Palmer Park in Topsfield, MA to ensure trail users stay on existing trails.
5. What facility improvements or additional facilities would be needed/desired to support this new activity and where should they be located?
 - a. Ref#4 -1 above: is in-process off Deerfield Rd- East of Catamont Pond. The facility is there the camps need to be completed.
6. What conflicts with existing uses/users might result at Bear Brook State Park if the new activity was permitted? What other uses can your activity best be paired? Existing conflicts currently occur with a small percentage of uses.
 - a. Typically conflicts occur between bikers and horses as many bikers do not recognize that "ALL Trails" are currently Multi-use regardless as to which group reopened an ole trail or created a new trail; There needs to be more signage at the Kiosks and on trail to identify this for ALL users also the Etiquette signs should be posted at key locations throughout the park.

Comment: Find a way to allow gates to be opened for day use by carriage drivers as many can no longer ride a horse they can however drive.

Lyons, Johanna

From: Maria Noel Groves [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2019 7:23 PM
To: Lyons, Johanna
Subject: BBSP Meeting

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Hi Johanna,

Tom St. Martin (a family friend) gave me the info on the upcoming meeting after I asked him about the upcoming BBSP meeting (that I heard about today via Allenstown's email list). I don't really know too much about the kind of feedback you'd like or what the management plan will include, but...

I'd love to speak briefly at the meeting as an individual if it seems like it would be useful input. Feel free to let me know if this is NOT the kind of feedback you're looking for since I don't have much context.

My name is Maria Noel Groves, and I live on Deerfield Road in Allenstown with the park bordering my property on all sides. Every year my husband and I purchase annual park passes and feel like it's really our extended backyard. We use it regularly to hike in particular but also cross country ski, mountain bike, and my husband fishes and hunts for small and big game there. We enter the main park multiple times a week (not counting the multiple trips a day in our adjacent "backyard" to walk the dog). Due to heat and bugs, we actually use it more often in the off season.

I'm very grateful that this park exists for me and for the broader community. I love the it serves a diverse set of interests and provides easy, low-cost access to nature and activity for the community at large. I greatly appreciate the trail maintenance and accessibility as well as the outhouses, and I know it is challenging to make ends meet in the self-funded park.

I appreciate that motorized vehicles such as ATVs and dirt bikes are kept to a minimum. They cause tremendous trail damage that I don't feel the park staff and volunteers could keep up with. As it is, foot, bike, and horse traffic cause a bit of wear and tear, but motorized wheels really rip it up quickly.

As far as improvements go, the biggest area I see as a hiker is for better signage. This has improved somewhat in the past few years but could be better and need not be expensive. My husband and I have "saved" several people over the years who have ended up completely lost and sometimes several miles from their vehicle. I keep extra trail maps in my backpack to give to people and am glad to see that trail maps are more readily available in the past year.

The maps are missing a lot of key data, though. Until recently, all the roads were missing on the map and links were broken on the website (that's been fixed - thank you!). Several unmarked new and old trails do not appear on the map, which can cause people to get lost and also poses a risk during hunting season as hunters may not be aware that hikers could be nearby. Signage throughout the trail network could be dramatically improved. I wonder if we could also do some work directly with All Trails.

As a hiker, I enjoy seeing new trails constantly being cut by the mountain biker community that I can use, but it does create confusion since they are often unmarked. I don't appreciate more straight-forward hiker/ski-friendly trails getting shut down and re-routed with a gazillion ridiculous switchbacks. And although I personally enjoy

having new trails, this poses a conflict for the avid hunting community, especially since the new trails are loop-d-loop and really cut up open areas.

I would also love to see increased signage during hunting season alerting hikers, bikers, and horse riders to the fact that hunting is allowed in most parts of the park, when the hunting seasons take place, and that wearing hunter orange is recommended. Non-hunters often see the “hunting is unlawful” signs and assume this means that there is no hunting anywhere in the park. On a similar note, increased tick signage right at the trailheads would be useful.

I don't mind logging as long as it isn't excessive.

The park gets a lot of use in off-hours. Some people may appreciate getting in for “free” but I wonder if it would help the park to set up a self-service pay system like you see up in the Whites during off hours so that the park could generate more money.

Personally I would love to have a few more outhouses throughout the trail networks, but I don't know how practical this is.

Overall, I think the park and its staff do a great job, and I have noticed and appreciate several improvements in recent years. I'm grateful to have it here and hope for it to remain an excellent resource for our diverse community in the years to come. I've noticed that the gates don't close as frequently anymore, which is nice.

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