

# *Fracestown Conservation Commission*

## *Town of Fracestown, NH*

### ***Land Management Guidelines: Land use Goals and Objectives for Town Forests and Conservation Lands***

This plan provides guidelines for the Fracestown Conservation Commission's management of the Fracestown Town Forests and other conservation lands.

This Management Plan is predicated on a multiple use policy. The concept of multiple use provides for the preservation and enhancement of wildlife; establishment, maintenance and promotion of recreational opportunities; preservation of cultural and historical features; promotion of environmental awareness through educational programs; Protection of wetlands, surface and subsurface waters and watersheds, and the management of forests to provide for the sustained production of timber.

Due to the uniqueness of each forest, not every goal will be applicable. Goals and management plans will be tailored for each town forest or property.

### **Goals & Objectives**

- 1. Preserve and enhance wildlife habitat.**
  - A. Preserve existing food and water resources and promote diversity of cover types.
  - B. Introduce appropriate new and additional types of vegetation.
  - C. Deflect recreational uses from sensitive wildlife habitat areas.
  - D. Reintroduce appropriate vegetation and wildlife.
  
- 2. Establish, maintain and promote recreational opportunities.**
  - A. Continue to allow activities which have historically been performed on these lands; Hunting (in season), fishing walking, hiking, cross- country skiing, snowshoeing, nature/wildlife observation, snowmobiling, and driving of wheeled vehicles (When and where appropriate).
  - B. Develop, mark and maintain trails.
  - C. Restrict the building or starting of fires.
  - D. Prohibit the cutting or removal of trees and wood for personal use.
  - E. Maintain, where appropriate, parking at the forests.
  - F. Protect and enhance scenic features.
  - G. The conservation commission reserves the right to restrict any of these uses should abuse (or overuse) of these rights result in damage to the property or present an unreasonable financial obligation to the town.
  
- 3. Preserve cultural and historical features.**
  - A. Protect and maintain stone bridges; Protect stonewalls, wells and foundations or other historic or cultural features.
  - B. Develop interpretive write-ups of historical and cultural features.
  
- 4. Promote educational and environmental awareness programs.**
  - A. Sponsor forest tours and hikes.
  - B. Provide assistance and support for community groups.
  - C. Establish self guided nature trails.

5. **Preserve wetlands, surface and subsurface waters, watersheds and mineral resources.**
  - A. Identify significant water resource features and protect from adverse impact.
  - B. Coordinate with state and local regulations.
  - C. Coordinate activities with water protection associations.
  - D. Preserve mineral resources.
  
6. **Manage forests to provide for the sustained production of timber.**
  - A. Stipulate guidelines for timber harvesting in a ten (10) year forestry management plan on appropriate properties. The plan will be prepared and carried out by forestry professionals. Upon completion of one forestry plan another ten-year plan will be prepared. Federal SP-44 program assistance or its equivalent shall be sought.
  - B. Carry out the prescribed timber harvest as outlined in the forestry plan subject to the following conditions:
    1. Comply with local zoning and State regulations.
    2. Maintain 50' "No-Cut" buffers around areas of historical and cultural significance and sensitive areas.
    3. Appropriate removal of all wood wastes from landing sites, grade, lime, fertilize and seed area as per Soil Conservation Service recommendations. .
    4. Restore roadbeds and trails to their pre-harvesting conditions.
    5. Use biomass harvest where appropriate. Biomass products are to be sold in a similar manner as the timber.
    6. Preserve "character trees" and snags (standing dead trees) wherever possible.
    7. Work with wildlife biologists or other forestry and wildlife specialists when possible to help incorporate specific practices into the timber harvest that will help promote wildlife habitat.
    8. Follow timber-harvesting guidelines in "Good Forestry in the Granite State". Whenever possible time harvests and other activities for minimal disruption of nesting birds. (Late summer or very early spring)
    9. Avoid or minimize disturbance of any ecologically sensitive areas.
    10. Logging is a disruptive affair even under the best of circumstances. Best Management Practices will be followed to assure minimal forest and wetland impact.