

From: Dyer, Rick [REDACTED]
Subject: Request for AMP Technical Assistance at the Fairlee Town Forest
Date: July 27, 2020 at 3:32 PM
To: Veileux, Laurent townadministrator@fairleevt.org
Cc: bill.weale [REDACTED], Paganelli, David [REDACTED], Wilcox, David [REDACTED]

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Hi Tad,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me last Tuesday and introducing me to the Fairlee Town Forest. I really appreciated the opportunity to observe some of the roads and trails with you and Bill and to learn the history of management. It was very helpful in understanding the concerns surrounding soil and water quality and how they pertain to current recreational uses. I also appreciate the chance to provide technical assistance for the sustainable management of our valuable natural resources and look forward to working with you in the future.

As you know, I observed numerous soil and water quality issues almost everywhere that we went. They ranged from severe erosion of road and trail surfaces to direct discharges of sediment into streams to under-sized and poorly installed stream crossings. It should be noted that the unpermitted discharge of material into the streams is a violation of Vermont State law and is negatively impacting water quality through an increase in turbidity and temperature. In several places, we observed sections of trail and road that are severely eroding and actively depositing large amounts of sediment directly into the adjacent streams. During my visit, I observed very few erosion control structures and to my surprise, even saw multiple places where they had been removed.

To assist us in protecting soil and water quality, a set of guidelines and sound practices has been developed that is referred to as the Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs). The AMPs will guide us as we implement proven techniques to properly build and maintain a network of roads, trails, and stream crossings that allow for the continued use of the Fairlee Town Forest for multiple purposes. The Vermont AMP Manual is attached for your reference.

Given the severity of the issues and the active discharges that are currently happening, multiple strategies need to be implemented now and in the future. First, the direct discharge of sediment into the waters of Vermont must stop. A quick temporary fix is to install several water bars by hand and to apply seed and mulch in key locations. This needs to happen where sediment is getting into the stream channel and should take place as soon as possible. Second, an inventory of roads, trails, and stream crossings needs to be conducted and current conditions assessed. This will allow for a prioritization of the water quality issues and a determination of what to fix immediately and what to fix later. An inventory of this nature will also allow for the planning and budgeting of adequately-sized stream crossings which are typically a large expense. Third, undersized and eroding stream crossings must be fixed to ensure that water quality is protected. Fourth, all road and trails must have erosion control structures properly installed to control the flow of water and to prevent washouts from occurring. All of this work should adhere to the AMP guidelines and should be implemented in a timely manner and as soon as conditions allow.

Given the size of the Fairlee Town Forest, the severity of the soil and water quality issues, and the fact that I only saw a small portion of it, I strongly recommend that the remaining infrastructure (roads, trails, stream crossings) be assessed as soon as possible and before the fall rainy season begins.

Once again, I look forward to working with you as the Town of Fairlee addresses these concerns. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns. Thanks.

Rick



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