

TOWN OFFICES
FAIRLEE, VERMONT 05045

May 23, 1979



Mr. Craig Whipple
HCRS Grants Administrator
Agency of Environmental Conservation
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Dear Mr. Whipple:

Enclosed are two copies of a map depicting the access roads leading to the land proposed for Fairlee's HCRS Project. These maps also indicate the names of abutting land owners to the land proposed for the project.

Also enclosed are two copies of the draft of the Plan for Management of Recreational Activities in the HCRS Project and Forest Management Plan on the Fairlee HCRS Project.

Two copies of the new General Provisions, signed by board chairman Paul A. Sargent, were mailed on May 22, 1979 to the attention of Shirley Aldrich.

Please contact us if you have any question.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF FAIRLEE

Shirley D. Godfrey
Clerk to the Board of Selectmen

enclosures

SHIRLEY
PLACE THIS



FOREWORD

This plan for the recreational activities in the ECRS project is prepared for discussion and revision by the Kee Committee.

Copies will also be sent to the Planning Commission, the Recreation Council, Lee Marsh and all other interested organizations and individuals for suggestions. Approval for the final revision will be sought from the Selectmen.

Most importantly, the county forester, Russell Barrett, has agreed to review, revise, and eventually endorse all aspects of the plan which pertain to his field of expertise.

This plan conforms to the format of the Fairlee Recreation Plan and is designed to become a section in the final revision of the Fairlee Recreation Plan, when it is requested by the federal government. This latter plan was prepared in the summer of 1978 by the Two Rivers Planning and Development Commission and the Two Rivers Recreation Council.

PLAN FOR MANAGEMENT OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE HCRS PROJECT

A. Introduction

The goal of the following plan is to expand and enhance four (4) types of recreational activities on HCRS land, Namely; hunting, hiking, snowmobiling and ski touring.

These nature-oriented recreational activities are already taking place to a certain extent in the project site, and are most appropriate for the rural quality and scenic beauty of the area. Furthermore, the new project will help to meet the increasing open-space needs of Fairlee and environs.

B. Outline for Management Plan

1. Trails
2. Access Routes
3. Parking Facilities
4. Forest Management
5. Signs
6. Finances
7. Administration
8. Comments

C. Policy and Implementation

1. Trails

The 770 acres of the HCRS grant are divided into three parcels which almost enclose the old Town Forest of 700 acres to form a continuous tract for trails. There is an

exception of 150 acres in a central rectangle belonging to Calvin Ackerman but he is agreeable to having trails run through his property.

The land in HCRS grant already has approximately 6 miles of trails (old logging roads) which are indicated on the accompanying map.

New trails will be developed primarily in connection with logging operations which will be under the supervision of a forester and consistent with our efforts to upgrade the forest (see below). We will plan logging operations, wherever possible, so that new trails will connect with old ones and form loop trips of different lengths. Trails will also connect with those in the Town Forest, with access routes and with other trails in the vicinity, such as those of the Hulbert Outdoor Center at the northern end of Lake Morey. It will also be possible to connect with other trails and unplowed roads of neighboring towns, as snowmobilers are already doing. A total of about 20 miles of maintained trails in the HCRS land proper will probably be adequate for optional use at the present time.

All trails will be maintained for safety and convenience and to prevent soil erosion. Most of these trails are rather precipitious for skiers, but the forest areas are closely connected by unplowed roads with two golf courses, one at each end of Lake Morey, where flat terrain and small hills are excellent for beginners.

2. Access Routes

Numerous access routes of one kind or another are available on three sides of the combined 1500 acres of the recreation area. These can be activated as the need advises but for the present we feel that three will be sufficient.

a. The first and central one taken off from the Baldtop Road which winds from the Rutledge Inn up to the corner where parcel 1 meets the Town Forest. At this point a logging trail branches off to the left into parcel 1 and another logging trail leads thru Town Forest to Baldtop and parcel 2.

b. An access route to the north enters the central area of parcel 3 by way of a 50 foot ROW from Brushwood Road.

c. A third access route to the south runs from Town Road # 14 by way of an unplowed road to the southeastern area of parcel 1 (past the Verne Batchelder property.)

These access routes are not plowed in winter, but will be marked and also indicated on a map. They are known at this time to snowmobilers and a few skiers and hikers.

3. Parking

Parking space for 1-3 cars will be provided (after consultation and approval of Selectmen and Road Commissioners) at a widened area on the nearest maintained town road to the 3 access routes. These will be (a) on the plowed section of Baldtop Road, (b) at the foot of Brushwood Road near the Hulbert Outdoor Center and (c) on town road # 14.

There are at present three large parking lots in the vicinity of the recreation forest where we can obtain extra parking for special events and for the future, should the demand increase sufficiently. However, we believe that we should expand parking facilities cautiously since limitation of parking is one good method of controlling excessive use.

The large parking areas include (a) the Fishing Access parking lot on Lake Morey near where Glens Falls Brook enters the Lake, (b) The Hulbert Outdoor Center to the North, and (c) the Fairlee Town Beach at the southern end of Lake Morey.

4. Signs

Appropriate signs will mark the three access areas and important trails within the recreation property.

5. Forest Management

The MCRS land will be under the supervision of the County Forrester *, Russell Barrett, as the Town Forest has been for the past year or more. Mr. Barrett with several assistants spent considerable time cruising the Town forest in order to prepare a detailed long-term plan to upgrade the forest and promote steady yield of timber. The plan divides the 700 acres into 15 sections (see map.) according to type of soil and tree growth. It adds recommendations for each

* He represents the State at the present time.

section as to need for thinning or girdling, watershed protection, improvement of deer parks and browse, the presence of fuelwood and sawtimber, etc. We start selective cutting of fuelwood this spring and have a contract with a logger who does not use large machinery. Inspection will be done after each cutting before the logger moves onto another marked section.

A similar type of analysis and careful planning will be done for the HCRS property with the purpose of enhancing and expanding the aforementioned recreational activities. In addition, before any cutting, we will also consult with the Vermont Fish and Game Department for their advice on protecting and improving wild life habitats.

Finally, it should be noted that our Fairlee snowmobile club has always taken great care to route their trails around deer yards.

6. Finances

Any funds accruing from logging or other operations will be expended on:

- a. expanding, upgrading and maintaining trails and access routes.
- b. blazing and painting boundaries.
- c. establishing and maintaining signs.
- d. hiring necessary professional and other assistance.
- e. printing a brochure with map, describing recreational facilities in Fairlee.
- f. eventually, for improving and expanding other recreational activities in Fairlee.

Accumulation of funds will be managed under the supervision of the Board of Trustees. (see below.)

7. Administration

Within the next year the interim Kce Committee will hand over management of the HCRS project to a permanent Board of Trustees of at least 5 members serving for a term of 5 years and elected by the town. They will be responsible for planning and managing all activities pertaining to the HCRS program. This included monitoring use of the facility, establishing controls to prevent abuse and overuse, considering all suggestions and complaints, developing long-range plans to meet increasing and / or changing needs, obtaining professional services as required, coordination of recreational activities with those of other agencies and towns, cooperation with Town Recreational Council and the Town Planning Commission, and managing all financial matters with legal advice as required. All activities and decisions shall be in accord with the Statutes of the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

8. Comments

Present plans are tentative, subject to study and change. At present no picnic grounds, shelters, toilets, entrance fees, etc., are contemplated.

FOREST MANAGEMENT ON FAIRLEE HCRS PROJECT

Forest land on the proposed HCRS project will be managed under a multiple use management plan developed by the Orange County Forester.

The plan will incorporate sound forestry practices with the primary purpose of enhancing the four types of recreation activities planned for the land, namely:

Hunting, Hiking, Snowmobiling, and Ski Touring

1. Hunting

The primary species hunted in Vermont are white tailed deer, snowshoe hare and ruffed grouse. All three species need a diversification of habitat. Timber cutting on the HCRS project will maintain, and where necessary, create this diversification of habitat. Before cutting, the forester will consult with the Vermont Fish and Game Department.

2. Hiking, Snowmobiling, and Ski Touring

As mentioned earlier in the plan, new trails will be created in connection with logging operations. Through proper planning, a continuous network of roads and trails will accommodate all levels of hikers, snowmobilers, and skiers. The forester will consult with the Vermont Dept. of Forest, Parks, & Recreation for assistance in laying out these trails and roads.