

## WONALANCET OUT DOOR CLUB NEWSLETTER

As signs of Spring begin to appear even in the Wonalancet countryside, it is time for WODC to survey the landscape for trail work to be done after the winter storms, to lay plans for several extra projects, and to inform its members of a proposal received recently from the White Mountain National Forest regarding very extensive planned cuttings and thinnings of the forest in the Whiteface Intervale area and high onto the slopes of Whiteface, extending westward from the Blueberry Ledge Trail, crossing the McCrillis Trail, and into the Bennett Street vicinity.

Ralph Weymouth, WODC president, writes of the proposal as follows: The White Mountain National Forest has submitted for public comment an "Environmental Analysis and Report 1950-1" of proposed timber sales on the south slope of Whiteface and Flat Mountains as follows:

SALES NO.	SALES NAME	EST. ACRES	EST. VOLUME	FISCAL YR.	
1	Flat Mt. South	214	1.3 million B.F.	1981	
2	White Brook	351	2.7	1982	B.F. =
3	Tewsbury Br.	74	.53	1980	Board
4	Capt. Neal (Ranger)	28	.28	--	Feet

56% of these cuts are to be clearcut while the rest is partial cuts which would likely be completely removed in about 10 years. Sales 2,3 and 4 would all be highly visible from higher levels in the region and perhaps half of these would be quite pronounced to the eye in the first few years of regrowth from many roads and residential views. Permanent Roads to and into the Forest are proposed; one would lie along the McCrillis Trail to the top of Whiteface for a distance of about 1.5 miles.

The WODC officers are directing comment to the Forest Service along the following lines:

- \* Opposition to the proliferation of permanent roads in the Whiteface Intervale area and in the adjacent National Forest.
- \* Opposition to the close proximity of harvest areas, including partial cuts, which will extend the even agedness of this once highgraded area through another growing cycle. Two 40-acre clearcuts separated by a 200-yard strip of standing trees looks like an 80-acre clearcut. Adjacent clearcuts and shelterwood cuts will look like a single clearcut for over 15 years.
- \* Opposition to the large (40 Acres) clearcuts high on the mountainside; aesthetic considerations should govern these.
- \* The absence on the analysis of consideration of aesthetic design of the clear-cut boundaries; straight or nearly straight margins (such as the recent poorly designed cut on Wonalancet-Hibbard) are much to be avoided on slope harvests.

Copies of the Analysis are available from the WMNF Headquarters in Laconia N.H. 03246, P.O.Box 638. Comment on the sale proposal should be made to Ranger Verland Ohlson, Saco Ranger District, White Mountain National Forest, Conway, N.H. 03818, Telephone (603) 447-5448. Comments are due 17 May but should be made late if unable to get them in on time.

The first WODC event of the year is included in this invitation to work and socialize from Vice President and Trails Chairman Ted Sidley:

"We have decided to continue this year having a Trails Day. Everyone is invited to come and help with some aspect of trail maintenance. We will start in the morning, walk the trails in the system, doing whatever work we can, and, in any case, reporting the condition of each trail, noting where major efforts will be required. At the end of the day we will have a picnic supper.

The logical time for this effort is early in the season. Since many people are up for Memorial Day weekend, we have chosen Saturday, May 27th as Trail Day, with Sunday, the 28th as the fallback day in case of catastrophic weather. We know that everyone is especially busy then, but to get things done, we ask busy people!

The specifics are these: we meet at Sidley's house (white house with barn on Ferncroft Road opposite meadow) at 9A.M. (or as soon as possible thereafter. Someone will be there all day.) If you have trail clearing tools, such as heavy clippers, axes, pruning saws, bring them. The Club has some tools as well. We plan to spend the day on the trails working in teams. Bring your lunch, and at 5 o'clock we'll return for a picnic supper.

People who participated last year were of significant help, and they had fun, too. We hope many of you will help us out this year.

If you can come, please notify Ralph Weymouth at Wonalancet (323-8201.) If it's more convenient, call me at Lexington, Mass. (617-862-7645.)

I look forward to seeing you.

If you can't come on Trails Day, we will be grateful for any time you might be able to spend on the trails at any time later on. Just give me a call, and I'll let you know where work is needed."

At last summer's annual meeting officers elected for the year 1977-1978 were: ~~President Ralph Weymouth, Vice Prseident and Trails Chairman Ted Sidley, Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Sidley, Inter-Club Coordinator George Zink, and Newsletter editor Martha Chandler.~~

A successful session on Trail maintenance and standards was planned by George Zink with AMC assistance and held at Wonalancet with many of the trail cooperators represented. It was an excellent opportunity to meet kindred souls and discuss trail maintenance.

Last October saw the completion of repairs at Camp Rich which during the past two seasons has had a new toilet constructed and much reconstruction of the shelter itself. Next on the list of major projects is the replacement of the toilet facilities on Whiteface. Some of the materials are already there. Now it's a matter of waiting for the snows to melt and getting the lumber and other materials to the site for completion of the work.

The Unit Planning Process continues as a major activity of the WMNF. Several units have already been through the planning process including Kancamagus and Waterville. The Wonalancet Unit is still scheduled for the Forest Service's fiscal year 1980. Keep in mind or jot down any thoughts you may have concerning the long range plans you might have or think important for this area. Among items of concern are wildlife management, road building, recreation areas, off-highway vehicular traffic, wilderness areas, timber harvesting; if these are important to you, be prepared to send in or present to public meetings your thoughts when the time comes in 1980.

As always, your dues (\$3.00 per person and \$5.00 per family) are most welcome. They should be sent to Barbara Sidley, Treasurer, 2 Rogers Road, Lexington, Mass. Persons up to age 18 are included in their family's membership. Extra contributions are especially welcome. In the past couple of years, in addition to having some paid crew work on the more difficult trail work, we have faced great expenses in the reconstruction and repair of shelters and sanitary facilities. This has been financed by your extra contributions and by dipping into the Club's savings account. Enough said!