

WONALANCET OUT DOOR CLUB

MAY 1981

Dear Club Member,

Because Club President, Ralph Weymouth, is away for a time, I must write to you in my capacity as acting chief administrative officer of WODC, in addition to my report as past Trails Chairman.

May I underscore for you the points made by Trails Chairman, Eugene Koch? This has been a disaster year for our trails, and we are in urgent need of your help. If you can help physically, in the Adopt-A-Trail program and/or in the May Trail Day, that would be wonderful. In any case your financial help will be of great use in fulfilling our needs. Thank you for whatever you can provide.

I also think it's not too early to plan for next summer. Some ideas of the moment are these: (1) Two meetings with Forest Service, one on the then existing state of formulating the Forest Plan and the other on Forest Service research in recreational needs and patterns of use. (2) A series of three general interest meetings open to the public, possibly serving as Club fund-raisers. To be called the Wonalancet Forum, they will feature interviews (2 a night) of local people of interest covering their lives and their areas of experience and expertise. There are many famous people in our area; I should think there might be interest in such programs. (3) A series of hikes in the area serving as social functions, good exercise, and learning experiences. We would hope to have people knowledgeable in botany, geology, biology, and the like, serving as leaders, and we thought of having a cookout or pot-luck supper to cap the day. (4) A concert or two comparable to last year's immensely successful recital by Maeda Freeman.

This ambitious a program is obviously too much, but I'm in favor of setting a high goal; we can cut back more easily than we can expand if we start with low aspirations. I mention them also to get your views on which of these activities you favor, or your feelings about what our programing priorities should be. If there are dates that are especially good or bad for you, letting me know will be helpful in making decisions.

Thus this is a requesting letter from me. There is first, a request for volunteering personally or for contributing funds to the trails program. Second is a request for your thoughts and wishes regarding WODC programs and dates. Third is something I haven't mentioned yet, namely to please try to get your dues up-to-date. ~~(If you are in arrears, please note below what the arrearage is. It will have been noted by hand.)~~ Fourth is my asking you to write to the Forest Service in support of the WODC position as outlined in our letter to them. (Or if you disagree with our position, please indicate that to the Forest Service. In any case, if you can send me one I should appreciate a copy of your letter, Thank you.) Finally, please think about getting some WODC T-shirts, for yourselves and your families, and also for gifts. There is a coupon which you can use to order the shirts.

Thank you for your attentiveness to this long letter and newsletter and thank you in advance for whatever contribution you can make to the Club.

Sincerely yours

Ted Sidley,  
Vice-President, WODC

NTS/rm

## TRAILS REPORT

The White Mountains experienced severe wind conditions in early December - Mt. Washington recorded winds of 175 MPH at the time. As you walk the trails at lower elevations the damage done is very evident. Many blowdowns, particularly the conifers with shallow root systems, are blocking trails, and off the paths are areas where whole stands of trees are laid flat. It was quite a windy couple of days!

I talked to Steve Parsons at the Kancamangas headquarters for the White Mountain National Forest, and he said that, judging from aerial surveys taken after the storm, the damage was much worse at lower elevations - how it is on our trails remains to be seen, as I haven't been high up lately, nor have I heard any reports from hikers who have. Any information on trail conditions would be greatly appreciated, so that we can get a better picture of the situation. Just drop a postcard to me in Wonalancet. This information we can then pass on to Steve Parsons who is checking into possible disaster funds to be used for trail clearing. He said that he wouldn't know until spring if any money is available, or if a crew is needed in our sector of the forest, but that any information on trail conditions would help our case.

In the meantime, we have a lot of work ahead of us in the spring. Some work has already begun; favored cross country and snowmobiling trails have been cleared. In fact, Red Path has been cleared almost to McCrillis Path by one erstwhile snowmobiler. Our thanks to all those who have been responsible. With all the work that needs to be done, the following steps are to be taken.

We would like members to Adopt-A-Trail. This is an idea that has been utilized by AMC, and which supposedly has been started in WODC. Club members adopt-a-trail, or section of trail, and agree to maintain it, excluding large or dangerous problems which would be referred to the Trails Chairman (who would naturally delegate someone else to look into it). Anyone interested in adopting please write, and also those who have adopted should write, so that some sort of formal list may be drawn up.

A trail clearing weekend in May appears to be in order. Anyone wishing to participate will meet at the Ferncroft parking lot of the WMNF, and after some pointers on the highly esoteric techniques of trail maintenance, various crews will proceed to ravage the countryside. ~~Memorial Day weekend, was considered, but too many of us will be getting our gardens in, so~~ <sup>It will be</sup> ~~How about May 28 and 29~~ <sup>How about May 28 and 29</sup> at 9:30 A.M.? We have a supply of tools, but you are welcome to bring your own as well. Hopefully, we will be able to scrounge up a picnic somewhere on Saturday or Sunday after work - either potluck or some barbecue items bought by funds weaseled from the coffers of Nat Steele. If terrible rains pour down, then we make it the 30th and 31st. In any case postcards will be sent out to verify the date.

Finally, Ted Sidley is looking into the remote chance of getting a work-study crew for the summer, and we hope that many of you will answer The Call for volunteers and contribute as many hours as possible toward our trail-clearing endeavors.

Eugene Koch  
Trails Chairman

May 1981

## FOREST PLANNING

In late December, 1980, the Forest Service released to the public a list of "issues" facing WMNF. Major issues identified are: minerals management, dispersed recreation, developed recreation, timber management, wilderness, alternative energy sources, visual quality, transportation systems, watersheds, and wildlife.

WODC was asked to submit comments on the "Preliminary Decision Criteria" which will be used by Forest Service in both the forest planning process and the decision making process. At a meeting in late December, your officers approved a response to the request. (A full copy of the response may be had by writing to George Zink). A brief review of the response follows:

1. Objectives of forest management in WMNF should be based on local needs, and the needs of those within easy driving distance (one day's drive). The WMNF is somewhat unique: Nationwide there are 154 National Forests. WMNF ranks 103rd in size (acres) but in the top 20 in total recreational use. There were over 5.5 million visitors in 1979.
2. The criteria used in planning should be based on optimum potentials, and not on greatest potentials. For example, dispersed recreation on the Forest should be optimized and not maximized; dispersed recreation is only one of many uses which should take place on the Forest. Wording of the decision criteria should be such that public opinion is not polarized.
3. Recreation facilities on the Forest should be provided only where and when the private sector cannot provide adequate facilities---e.g. campgrounds and ski lifts should not be built on WMNF unless it is demonstrated that private campgrounds and ski areas are unable to serve the public adequately.
4. Criteria with respect to road building must address both the miles of road as well as the standards of construction. (WODC has expressed concern at both extensive road systems and the high standards used.)
5. Mineral exploration on WMNF should be granted only after certain conditions are fulfilled. These conditions are:
  - a) an environmental impact statement must be submitted to the public which outlines the specific activities which will go on during exploration, the mode of access to sites, the nature of the equipment which will be used, a description of the impact of exploration on the Forest and a plan for restoring the Forest to its natural condition after exploration.
  - b) an agreement that a full description of exploratory findings will be filed with the Forest Service or the Bureau of Mines by the person, agency, or company which acquires exploratory rights.
  - c) an environmental impact statement which outlines how the minerals are to be removed should they be found in economic amounts and grade. How the area will be restored to its original state, and at whose expense.

Unless these minimum conditions are met, no mineral exploration should be permitted in the WMNF.

FOREST PLANNING (cont.)

6. Greater emphasis should be placed upon wildlife habitat restoration and/or protection than on wildlife species restoration.
7. A criterion should be included (none was in the original list of criteria) with respect to the number of acres which are to be classified as wilderness.

Two comments unrelated to planning criteria were made.

That "A working group" with representatives from various organizations and interests meet with Forest Officials to discuss the decision criteria. (Note: On January 13, 1981, a member of WODC was asked to participate in a "working group" to discuss decision criteria.)

The public should be informed of how the Forest Service deals with conflict internally, as well as how the public may seek redress when it is felt that the Forest Service is failing to act in the public interest.

Although the date for public comment on "Preliminary Decision Criteria" was January 1, 1981, your comments will be read and used by the Forest Planners even at this date. Write:

White Mountain National Forest  
P.O. Box 638  
Laconia, N.H. 03246

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N.B. Would you please send the following items to the following places:

Dues are \$5.00 per person - 18 years or older...\$10.00 per family

Dues and Contributions

Nat Steele  
Wonalancet, N.H. 03897

Offers of trail volunteer help:

Eugene Koch  
Wonalancet, N.H. 03897

Comments and suggestions about WODC  
summer programs

Ted Sidley  
2 Rogers Road  
Lexington, MA 02173

T-Shirt orders

John & Martha Chandler  
16 Orchard Street  
Laconia, N.H. 03246

Forest Plan Comments

White Mountain National Forest  
Box 638  
Laconia, N.H. 03246

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EDITOR'S NOTES

At last summer's annual meeting officers for the 1980-81 year were elected as follows:

President	Ralph Weymouth
Vice-President	Ted Sidley
Secretary	Denny Randall
Treasurer	Nat Steele
Trails Chairman	Eugene Koch
Inter-club liaison	George Zink
Newsletter Editor	Martha Chandler

A highly successful benefit concert was held last August featuring mezzo-soprano Maeda Freeman and accompanist Gale Freeman. Held at the Chapel. The concert featured art songs, folk songs and a Robert Frost reading.

The enthusiastic audience contributed over \$200 to the club's trail maintenance fund.

Spurred on by the entry of several members into nearby Old Home Day road races, a WODC group decided a club T-shirt ranked as a "must". The Chandlers were delegated to carry out the plan and at last the offer can be made. Be the first on your block to own one! The order blank can be found below.

A brief note from long-time club member Phyllida Willis of Frederick, Maryland states that she has received an AT 2000 mile patch, a 30 year project. She says her hiking interest dates back to Wonalancet Farm visits of the mid-1930's.

We'd be happy to hear from more of you.

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Club T-shirts are now available!!! Club logo and name printed in dark blue on light blue 100% cotton T-shirts. Orders may be placed through John and Martha Chandler, weekends and summers at Wonalancet, or by mail at their home, 16 Orchard Street, Laconia, New Hampshire 03246.

ADULT T-SHIRTS, \$6.00 each	small, medium, large and X-large
CHILD T-SHIRTS, \$5.50 each	small (6-8), medium (10-12), large (14-16) and X-large (18-20)

Orders may be made with this coupon.

Please send the following T-Shirts:

specify <u>Adult/Child</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Order</u>
			@ _____	
			@ _____	
			@ _____	
			@ _____	

On mail orders add \$1.00 per shirt:

Postage and handling \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
"Wonalancet Out Door Club"

Send shirts to: \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Street address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_