

## CONCORD PUBLIC SESSION (12/2/09) NOTES FOR:

### “NEW DRAFT STATE PARKS TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT”

1. The Division will develop a program and a process to collaborate with host communities. A volunteer coordinator position has been approved and is currently being developed to act as liaison between the Division and its partners, including host communities and Friends Groups. The Division looks toward developing a more consistent program, and improved process for special use permits.
2. Statutes related to the Division may be found on the General Court website: <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/> Most of the Division’s statutes are located in RSA Title XIX, Public Recreation: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-XIX.htm> as well as Chapter 12-A, DRED: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-I-12-A.htm> Chapter Laws related to the Division and not codified in statute (RSA) can be viewed at the State Library, or any other repository that possesses Chapter Law books.
3. From a member of the NH Horse Council: Several of her questions will be submitted in writing. Many of their members travel out of NH to ride. There is little return for horse riders from the Division and Bureau of Trails. More parks need to be open to equestrian use and the historical use of horses. Equestrians are a potential volunteer resource. Youths are another resource to tap in to through jobs and schools. Consider the collection of fees from all user groups. For example, a portion of membership fees can go to State Parks. And attendees mentioned that RTP grants are available for non-motorized trail projects.
4. Lake Francis staff and Regional Supervisor Sandy Young were commended. However, the low lake level (seasonal draw down as flood control measure) is damaging both vehicles (tires) and boats when putting in or taking out. He has talked to F&G. Water levels impact visitation. Could there be better inter-agency coordination (lake level conducive to recreational use while still accommodating water draw-down prior to freezing?)
5. The Division needs better advertising of its campgrounds, including promoting visitation during less busy days.
6. The Division needs to review the Strategic Plan documents and appendices for accuracy, consistency, and formatting.
7. The date for releasing the final Strategic Plan is January 4, 2010.
8. The 6 million visits generating \$500M to the NH economy is important to the Division’s story. Non-fee areas can be better addressed.
9. The Division’s identifies “enterprise” parks are those parks that have facilities and amenities that drive high visitation and generate accompanying revenue. The Division will consider strategies of its offerings within the competitive marketplace; the return on time, money and effort; and retail operations. There are challenges regarding user conflicts and balancing development with user experience. Also with establishing the user mindset (e.g., recycling).
10. The Division will look at improving its tracing of visitation, and identify potential under-represented users and how to efficiently capture additional and new users.
11. The kiosks at Bear Brook State Park are much better. Year-round camping and parking pay & display programs should be considered.