

**LANCASTER PUBLIC SESSION (12/8/09) NOTES FOR:
“NEW DRAFT STATE PARKS TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT &
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT”**

1. The demographics that came out of the study are interesting, especially regarding the growth in usage. These projections can be used regionally.
2. The bar graph regarding the Park Fund net income, 1991-2009 shown in the PowerPoint presentation is much more effective visually than the line graph shown in the written plan.
3. State Parks should not be a money maker. It's not just about the revenue, it's about the stewardship. Look at other ways to make money.
4. Franconia Notch Parkway needs major rehabilitation, which NH Department of Transportation is looking into as part of their long-term CIP.
5. The Town of Dalton is looking into working with the Division at Forest Lake State Park.
6. This is a much better plan than the one released in June. There is some concern about missing or outdated information. The Division is working to put the information in final form.
7. Recommendation is to have a parking pass program, similar to what the White Mountain National Forest uses.
8. Better signage is needed for people to use the Iron Rangers. They need to know why their donation is important. The plan has no emphasis on trails. The Division will work with the Statewide Trails Advisory Council. Look into hiring young people; the US Government is looking at 21st century Civilian Conservation Corp program.
9. The Division did not receive any stimulus money directly, but did receive more Student Conservation Association (SCA) assistance. SCA was able to provide more work crews to help with the ice storm clean up.
10. None of the parks have been classified as an “Enterprise”, “Classic” or “Natural” park yet. Classifying parks is a concept in the strategic plan, and the Division seeks feedback on this operational model. The idea is to improve efficiencies at “enterprise” parks whose revenues can be used to more adequately cover expenses at those parks without revenue.
11. This is a thorough and honest analysis to return the park system to what the public expects it to be. There is forward thinking on funding and management in this plan. We applaud the improvements at Milan Hill State Park. We support the plan and are willing to form or participate in a Friends of Milan Hill.
12. The Division has 76 affiliates, including Friends Groups. The Division will work to develop an infrastructure and process for such groups and to develop MOA's with them. There is approval for a Volunteer Coordinator and that person would work to achieve this goal.
13. Forest Lake Association would be a great mechanism for a new Friends group and will work with the Division and the Town of Dalton.
14. Franconia Notch State Park has over 650 advocates, and they would make great volunteers. The Division needs to report out on its charitable contributions and comps. Developing a Parks Foundation is a great idea. State Parks and tourism is an essential economic driver for the North Country.

15. Concerned about the multi-use trails in Franconia Notch, specifically regarding user conflicts between snowmobilers and other trail users.
16. The State agencies need more inter-agency collaboration to pool resources.
17. Advocacy for state parks is important. Sunsetting committees, such as the Cannon Mountain Advisory Commission and Mount Washington Commission, regardless of an agency's recommendation, is the wrong direction.
18. Logging to preserve scenic views, such as at the Frankenstein Trestle in Crawford Notch State Park, should be looked at.
19. Donations can be accepted and allocated for specific parks, regardless of the amount.
20. We appreciate the Division coming to Lancaster to hold its public session.