

**PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC SESSION (12/1/09) NOTES FOR:  
“NEW DRAFT STATE PARKS TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT &  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT”**

**PORTSMOUTH SESSION**

1. The \$75 million needed over the 10 year period are for capital projects to stabilize, overcome deferred maintenance, replace and newly develop needed facilities.
2. An example of the Division’s other needs, include staffing for interpretive programming.
3. The Division can “grow” the park system through new development to capture new users and new recreational interests.
4. Over time, the Division will identify all user and Friends groups. We know of 70-plus entities. Conservation groups and other new groups will be contacted through the Division’s planned “Friend-raising” efforts.
5. The Division will consider ways to more effectively capture revenues. Suggestions include car decals as season passes for access to all or specific parks which provide convenience and reduce the rigors of cash management.
6. The need for “immediate stabilization” includes repair or restoration of foundations, stairways and mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. The Division understands the need to balance its needs with its legislative purpose, and that it must prioritize new development, and improved or additional access to the park system (“stop the bleeding, recover then pursue growth”).
7. All of the parks needs have been identified in the capital improvement database report in Appendix 18. The report lists the condition of facilities, but does not prioritize the work. Such prioritization will occur once the Strategic Plan has been adopted as the right strategy for the Division. An annual operating plan will guide annual implementation of the Strategic Plan.
8. The Division is collaborating with the national volunteer organization AmeriCorp, through the young adult-based Student Conservation Corp. SCA is housed at Bear Brook State Park and were instrumental, among other things, in the 2008 ice storm cleanup.
9. The Division does not propose the selling or disposal of state park property. The Strategic Plan looks to address the Division’s stewardship responsibilities in balance with maximizing revenue appropriately. There is no recommendation to sell the state’s ski areas.
10. The CIP report suggests transferring some park lands to the administration of Division of Forests and Lands (e.g., Annette Wayside and Pisgah). However, such properties remain under DRED jurisdiction. The Division of Forests and Lands administers approximately 167,000 acres of which 9,000 are zoned state park lands, and are under the management of the Division of Parks and Recreation.
11. The Division recognizes the need to address non-motorized trail use, and will work with the Bureau of Trails and the Statewide Trails Advisory Committee to improve collaboration.
12. The Department’s administrative rules apply to all DRED properties, whether under the administration and management of F&L or P&R.

13. The Division will set out to tell its story to generate support for needed changes, including legislation and funding. It will continue to work through the State Park System Advisory Council.
14. The Division applied for federal stimulus funds, but was not awarded. However, the Division benefited from SCA receiving funds under the temporary employment program, and SCA committed additional work crews and hours toward state park projects.
15. The terms MOU and MOA are interchangeable and both are legally binding contracts between the Division and another entity. The Division looks to developing a more consistent and accountable program, with guidelines for when an MOA is appropriate.
16. The Division is considering ways to improve revenue collection. Pay stations at trailheads and other areas were suggested.
17. The Division needs to follow up with permittees on post-event cleanup as part of its stewardship responsibilities.
18. The Division should encourage public comment on the assignment of park-specific attributes, the prioritization of park-specific projects and the classification of parks as “enterprise,” “classic,” and “natural.” The Division will seek public input as an operating plan is developed for each park.
19. Although the Division has improved revenue collection at many parks by installing new tollbooths and using “iron rangers” and self-pay stations for camping, the Division must consider whether it is an efficient use of funds in an attempt to capture the last 10% of potential revenue (there is point of diminishing returns) . It is suggested that the Division consider capturing more revenue from winter users.
20. Key legislators to address the funding and legislative efforts include the Speaker of the House, Senate President, legislative leadership, RR&D, Ways & Means, and Finance Committees. SPSAC is an advocate. A SPSAC member states that it is good business to invest in state parks. For the \$6.5M in park operations, \$45M in State revenues is generated.