

## NOTES

### CONVERGENCE 2014 Forest Society of Maine Discussion Group

**Goal of the Discussion:** to discuss FSM agenda (strategic plan) for the next 10-20 years. What do we want North woods to look like in 10-20 years?

**Four questions: This is where you live and work and the area that we are committed to conserve in a variety of ways.....**

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE UNCHANGED:** looking 10 plus years into the future what do you hope will remain unchanged in the DE Region relative to today?

- *Would like to see old growth identified and conserved*
- *This is the only part of NE that is conserved and it would be a shame to lose it*
- *Public access to private lands, accessible, keep the land available*
- *An East west highway is not needed.*
- *Traditional uses such as hunting, etc*
- *Keeping our natural resources economical viable, provide a prosperous rural community, Keeping rural communities economically viable. There are 2/3 the number of professional foresters today than there was 20-25 years ago. Rural prosperity. Educators need to develop tools for people to stay in natural resource economies.*
- *Air and water quality and access*
- *The sense of personal contact to the land that we have here.*
- *We want to keep the dark skies – less light and less development*
- *We have a strong sense of place*
- *Some species such as Bicknell Thrush need specific forest type and we don't want to lose that*

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE DIFFERENT:** What in your vision for the future of the region is different?

- *Thriving rural communities*
- *A place where there are more families and kids in schools.*
- *Need high speed internet and other electronic infrastructure in order keep communities sustainable.*
- *International line should be irrelevant in terms of ecosystem management.*
- *Better development zoning and planning.*
- *Consequences of generational poverty and access to get out of poverty*
- *People need a better understanding of the role that the forests play: global warming, carbon sink, environmental services.*
- *Connectivity btwn forest and out to sea.*
- *More economic opportunities beyond natural resources.*
- *Cluster housing instead of sprawl*
- *Better forest management*
- *Use of technology to understand fisheries*
- *More connectivity and corridors*
- *Need to become better integrated and get the information and science into the schools.*

#### WHAT ARE YOU MOST WORRIED About?

- *Drainage of young from local towns*
- *The limited capacity that local people have for making decisions about the region*
- *Jobs vs the environment argument is short-sighted*
- *The coffee shop attitude. Grousing instead of doing things*
- *Unfragmented and uncontrolled sprawl - this is going to explode very soon. New Building in the region is already increasing dramatically.*
- *Concern about the level of outside ownership*
- *We don't have the right people in the room – we need loggers and fishermen, etc*

#### WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER COLLABORATION AMONG LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS (AND BETWEEN LOCAL ORGS AND STATEWIDE ORGS LIKE FSM) FOR ADDRESSING SHARED CONCERNS AND GOALS. Where is there opportunity?

- *A lot for the state and fed agencies have resources and NGOs have their perspective*
- *Need more people out in the woods so they understand and more ecotourism.*
- *Ecotourism.. you're not going to reach tons of people. But they were eager to learn. And folks did ask how they could help.*