



## Forest Plan Advisory Team Meeting

**April 15, 2014**

Sutton Room, 55 Zina Street, Orangeville

Mike Downing attended in place of Sue Downing

Regrets: Larry Miller, Drew Gulyas, Sarah Earley, Bruce Newman, Anne Marie Roussy

The following are notes of what was stated by the various representatives in reference to the draft management plan and draft recreation policy.

- important to respect abutting landowners in rec policy
- mention snowshoeing in rec policy
- groups: 20 OR 25
- consider promoting Forest outside of Dufferin in adjoining areas that are close to forest tracts; targeting stakeholder groups such as snowmobilers and mountain bikers
- sharing trails as well as separate trails for horseback riders and mountain bikers; courtesy signs developed by OTRA
- work together, use of trails, sharing
- rec policy: no major concerns regarding areas where mountain biking not permitted
- scientific literature re: mountain biking impact versus walkers/hikers; consider this as part of making mountain biking one of the low impact activities
- list of requirements for groups is good except perhaps for assistance with enforcement – National Mountain Bike Patrol Program: education rather than enforcement
- reporting of observed issues to land manager (monitoring and reporting) – example of Guelph mountain bike club
- history of ORM as related to Dufferin County Forest
- noticeable absence of motorized use
- ORM rider demographics have changed quite a bit over the last 20 years – more responsible, fewer “yahoos”
- limited trail use: geographically, time wise, or just for events
- past concerns with environmental impact – past presentations to Council
- noise argument – what is acceptable? – electric motorcycles coming
- scientific or emotional decision
- current standards are 94dB at half throttle at 1 m/3 feet
- physical demands of ORM riding
- lawnmower around 85dB
- suggested noise level just under what labour recommends you wear hearing protection
- work being done on lowering the dB levels – but without compromising performance
- certification and labeling of permitted motorcycles – set dB levels
- workforce of local club to help with trail stewardship – hit hard early in the season with OPP/by-law enforcement

- good to separate recreation policy and management plan
- plan very informative
- requirement to be an OFAH member to be able to hunt in the County Forest – good idea due to personal liability coverage and increased credibility (Simcoe County example)
- directional signs would be beneficial
- tighten 20 or 25 people in a group event
- support for ORM to have some access to the Forest

#### General Discussion:

- communication between user groups – equestrians, ORM, mountain bikers – odd run-ins with ORMs (Terra Nova Enduro)
- communications ongoing regarding events happening
- start event-based or with geographic parameters
- off-road and dual sport – dual sport is growing fastest
- for dual sport, could be part of a broader “trail network”
- permit cost of around \$10/person, base permitting on that
- horseback riders - \$60/ride day for vets, meal, OCTRA fees
- set a definite number of people that qualifies as an event
- advance notification of dates wanted for event permit – allows planning for all parties involved
- adjust numbers requiring a permit based on type of activity and tract being used
- something promoted as an “event” versus an informal gathering where a number of people show up
- look to other models for the minimum number of participants required to make an event
- “giving back” events are excluded from having an event permit (trail maintenance etc.) – have all stakeholder groups involved
- communication of events, clean up days etc through County Forest website well in advance
- mountain bike insurance covers non-member individuals doing maintenance if they sign a waiver
- OFTR events are separately insured
- mountain bike events separately insured only if timed i.e. competitive
- educational workshops for users – Trail Care Crew Program – through affiliated IMBA clubs
- about 100dB at full throttle for average dirt bike
- if events are permitted, how do you control the use in the in-between time?
- working through ORM dealers to educate the users
- stewardship through local club/education
- communication forum for stakeholders