




State of Vermont  
Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation  
St. Johnsbury District Office  
374 Emerson Falls Road, Suite 4  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

[phone] 802-751-0110  
[fax] 802-748-6687

March 15, 2017

## Lyndon State Forest Long Range Management Plan Amendment

Prepared by: St. Johnsbury Stewardship Team and  
Kingdom Trails Association

Approved by:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Forests, Parks and Recreation Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The current Long Range Management Plan for Lyndon State Forest was developed in 1984 by the St. Johnsbury District Office, but does not address issues related to developing and managing recreational resources. With this document, the St. Johnsbury Stewardship Team is proposing **amending the LRMP to include the development of a multi-use trail network** and an associated trailhead.

This past summer FPR was approached by Kingdom Trails (KTA), our partner, with a proposal to build and maintain a network of multi-use trails throughout Lyndon State Forest. This network will include approximately 1 mile of "double-track" trail and approximately 4 miles of single-track trail. Both trail types will accommodate hikers, snowshoers, nordic skiers and mountain bikers, and will greatly increase the opportunity for outdoor recreation at this underutilized parcel. As described in their proposal, the double-track trail will utilize pre-existing skid trails while the single-track will be built by KTA volunteers and their professional trail crew.

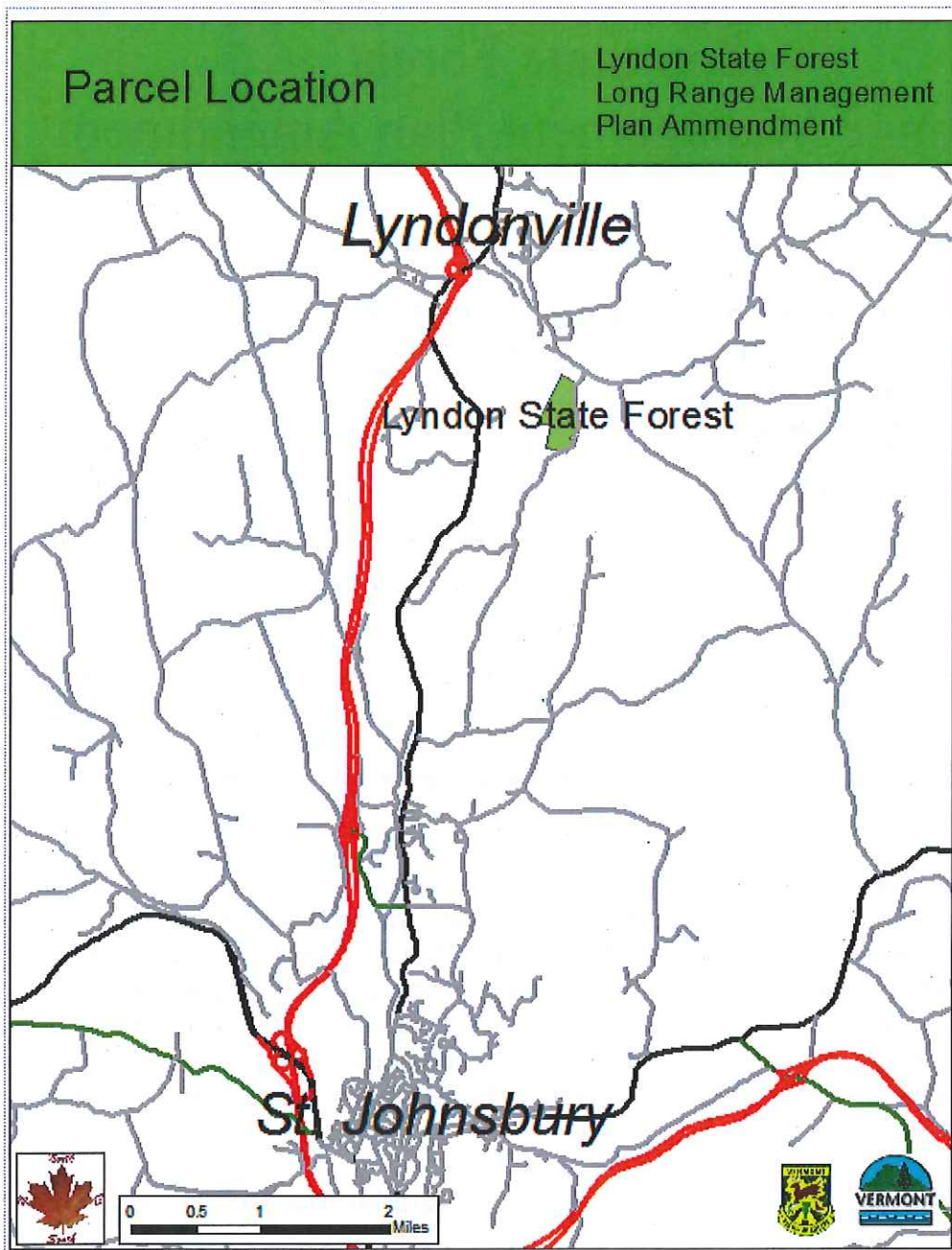
The proposal was reviewed by the St. Johnsbury District Stewardship Team which included an

office discussion and a project site visit. The Team reviewed the potential impacts to future management and to ecological resources, and concluded that this project is well-placed and should be implemented following a public meeting to discuss the KTA proposal.

KTA has been and will continue to be a helpful partner in designing, building and maintaining this trail system.

**Public involvement and community support:**

Several members of the St. Johnsbury Stewardship Team and KTA project leaders held a community meeting at the Lyndonville Public Safety Building (aka. Fire Station) which was well attended by community members. KTA reached out to the neighboring landowners on several occasions to get their input on their proposal and to invite them to attend the public meeting. A letter of support was received by the Lyndon Planning Commission and several local businesses expressed support for the project.

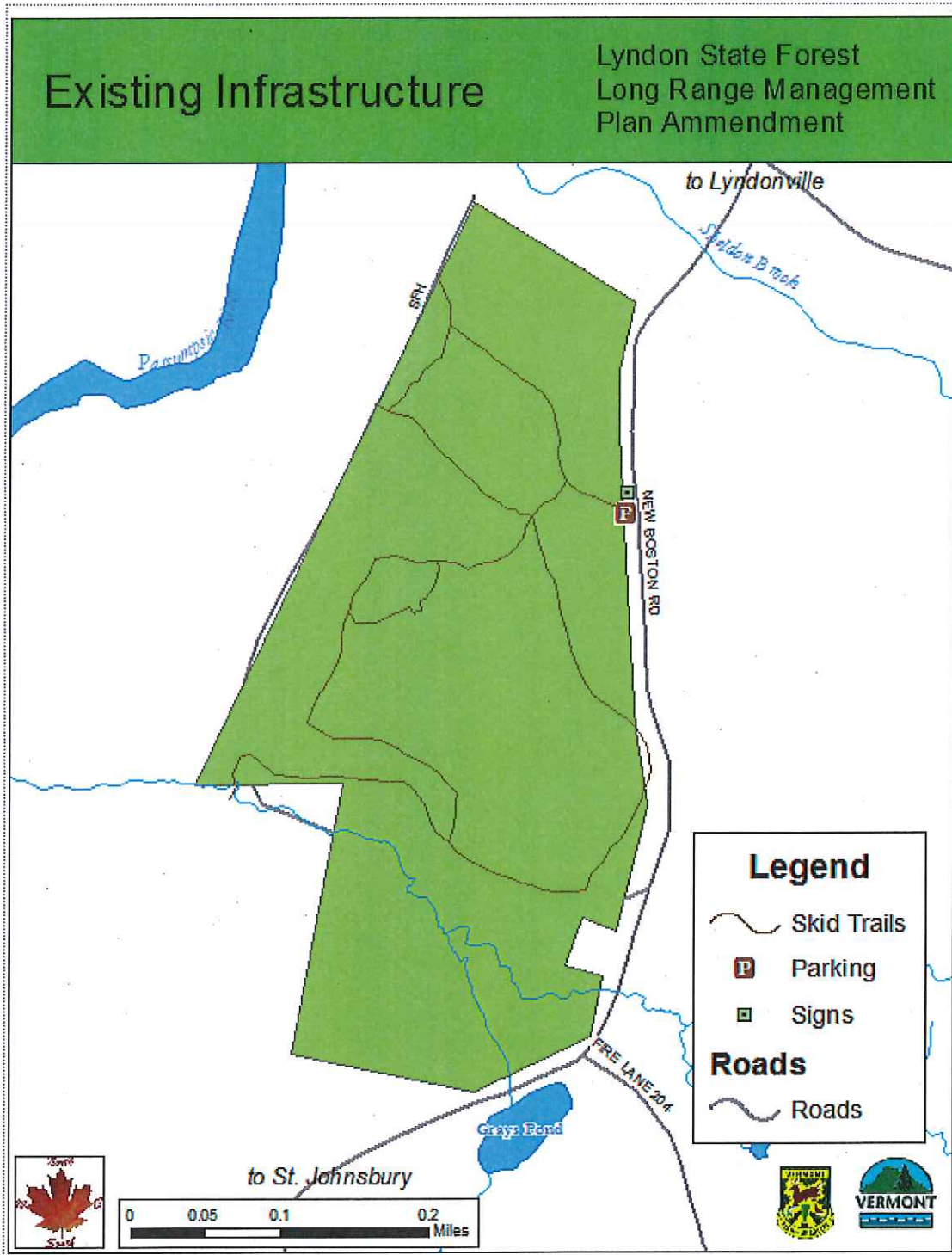




**Access:** Lyndon State Forest sits between the villages of Lyndonville and St. Johnsbury on the New Boston Road.

**Existing Infrastructure:**

This parcel currently has very limited parking and access infrastructure. The parking area in its current configuration can accommodate 2- 3 vehicles. The small size of the parking area creates a safety hazard: vehicles must back onto a busy road—New Boston Road—to exit the property. Utilizing this existing log landing parking will be expanded by moving rocks and precast concrete blocks which were placed to manage the level of illegal dumping that was occurring on the property. This access improvement was completed this spring as the timber harvest was completed.



**Trails: (see proposed Recreation Infrastructure map)**

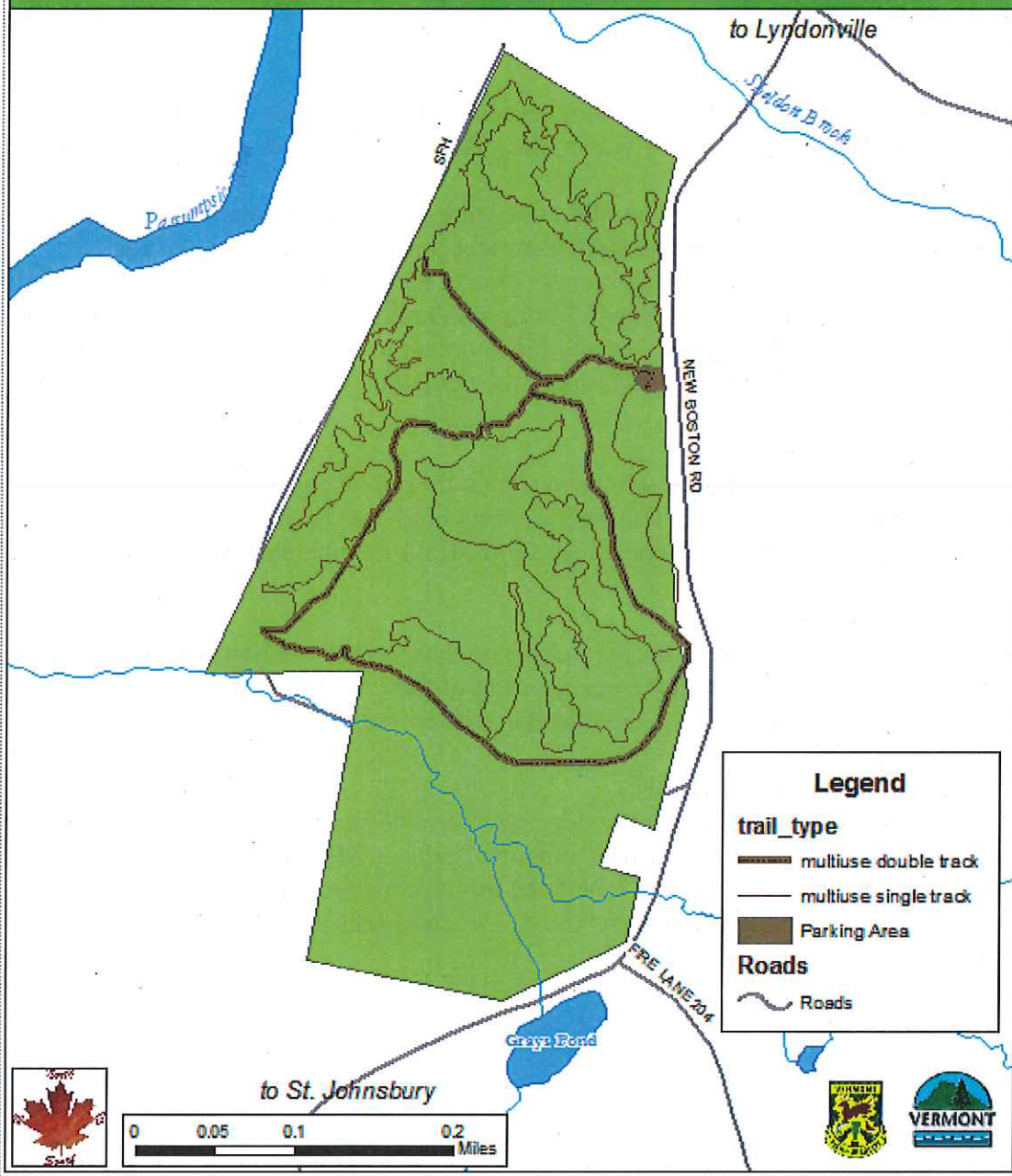
The KTA proposal calls for the establishment of two types of trails. The first trail type will be multiple use double track trails. Generally, these trails are wide enough to support two way travel without one user yielding to another and allow for side by side travel. The proposal has identified our primary skid trail network with a few side connector trails as multiple use double track trails. This proposal will designate approximately 1 mile of this trail type.

The second type of trail being proposed are multiple use single track trails. These generally are less than 24" in width and require users to yield to each other as they meet. This proposal will designate approximately 4 miles of this trail type.

Both types of trails are anticipated to be utilized by walkers and mountain bikers during the summer months. During the winter months, the use will likely shift to fat bikes, skiing and snowshoeing as the popularity of the trails grow.

# Proposed Recreation Infrastructure

## Lyndon State Forest Long Range Management Plan Ammendment



### Management Consideration

#### Expenses:

The current plan is for KTA staff and volunteers to conduct all field activities associated with the trail development, with ANR district staff approval. The soils and forest condition are very conducive to trail building and will be easily delineated and constructed with volunteers and hand tools. Maps and administrative support will be provided by the district office.

Parking area improvements will include the addition of gravel to improve the parking lot surface for use during the wetter times of the year. Rocks will also be required to delineate the parking area and to keep vehicles from driving on the double track trails.



Snow plowing for winter access will be donated by the Town of Lyndonville.

As needs are identified FPR will consider proposals for submittal for in-house RTP funds to support this trail system. Projects will be ranked against other district needs and funding is not guaranteed. FPR will provide letters of support to KTA seeking outside grant funding for the management of trails on public land.

**Signage and Trail Naming:**

Signage will be designed to be consistent with the current KTA trails signs throughout their trail network north of the village of Lyndonville. These will be produced by KTA and installed by volunteers.

Trail names will be approved by the FPR state lands staff prior to installing signage. Efforts will be made to recognize FPR and local historical figures, natural features, and regionally significant items to generate trail names. One of the suggested names for one of the double track trails is the Austin Hawes Loop (VT's first State Forester). Lyndon State Forest is very accessible to southern Caledonia county and it is our plan to use this as a recreational resource and an opportunity to educate guests about the numerous values of public land.

**Opening and closing of trails:**

The trails at Lyndon State Forest will be available for public enjoyment throughout the year with the exception of mud season. During the spring mud season the use of mountain bikes will be discouraged through outreach to local bike shops, KTA membership and signage.

**Fees and KTA membership:**

These trails will be available to the public free of charge. Information will be displayed that explains the role that KTA plays in the management of these trails and provides information about supporting that organization. KTA membership will not be required.

**Work Plans and Maintenance Activities:**

Annual trail construction and maintenance activities will be presented to and approved by FPR in an annual work plan. This plan will be submitted prior to Memorial Day of each year. This plan will include all activities that are scheduled for the construction season. The clearing of blowdown and repair of damage throughout the construction season will be approved on a case by case basis.

**Key Contact People:**

Steve Feltus – KTA Volunteer  
(802) 626-9516  
[Sfeltus802@gmail.com](mailto:Sfeltus802@gmail.com)

Tim Tierney –KTA Executive Director  
(802) 535-5662  
[tim@kingdomtrails.org](mailto:tim@kingdomtrails.org)