

# Camel's Hump Management Unit - Draft Long-Range Management Plan

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Why did the Agency of Natural Resources decide to create a new plan?*

The Camel's Hump Management Unit (CHMU) includes four properties- Camel's Hump State Park, Camel's Hump State Forest, Robbins Mtn. Wildlife Management Area, and Huntington Gap Wildlife Management Area. Previously, these four contiguous parcels of state lands had separate management plans. The last management plan created for the state park, which is the largest of the parcels, went into effect in 1991. Since then, the state has acquired more land adding to the size of the CHMU, developed new methods of resource assessments, and generally felt that the popularity and management complexity of this Unit warranted the creation of a new plan that would help guide management in a period of increasing pressure on public land.

### *Who wrote the draft plan?*

Long range management plans (LRMP) are written by the District Stewardship Teams (DST). The DST is a group of Agency of Natural Resources staff from across all three departments that is tasked with planning and implementation of all management activities in their respective districts. The team is made up of foresters, wildlife biologists, the Park Regional Manager, Forestry District Manager, State Lands Ecologist, recreation specialists, fisheries biologist, and watershed planner.

### *How were decisions made in writing this draft plan?*

ANR had two public scoping meetings in 2011 and distributed a survey to solicit feedback from the public on why they value the CHMU and what sort of activities they would like to see promoted on the property. The DST took that information, along with natural resource assessments, deed restrictions, conservation easements, legislation related to Camel's Hump, the Natural Area designation, feedback from partnering organizations, and local knowledge, and created goals, strategies and a Land Management Classification that dictates which activities will be promoted or restricted in specific parts of the Unit.

### *What are the management goals of the Unit?*

Put simply, the goals are natural and cultural resource protection and conservation, recreation, sustainable forest management, and wildlife habitat improvement (see p. 73).

### *How can ANR support all these goals in one area?*

For the most part, these goals are not mutually exclusive. However, in specific areas of the unit, it is often important to have some method of evaluating the relative priority of each goal. The *Land Management Classification* (LMC) helps do that (see p. 84). It identifies every acre as a specific management classification and details the importance of each area, and in some cases, activities that will be promoted and those that will be prohibited.

### *This plan is pretty long. Can you just summarize the major changes?*

Great question! It's impossible to summarize all the changes here or include every single thing that might be of interest to people, but we'll try to include what we think will be most important to the largest number of people. Here goes:

- The LRMP creates a "cliff reserve" that restricts climbing in a specific area (see LMC 1.1A on p. 84 and 1.8G on p. 88). The DST felt that these areas were important examples of undisturbed cliff habitat and that prohibiting climbing would keep them from becoming disturbed. Rock climbing is still allowed in every other part of the park and state forest.

- The plan identifies specific parts of the Natural Area where new trail development won't be allowed (see LMC 1.8H on p. 88).
- The plan considers a number of new recreational uses and trails. The plan stops short of saying: "these new trails will be approved". Instead, it says the following uses could be acceptable if we can mitigate natural resource concerns *and* we can find a willing partner to help build and maintain these new trails or uses:
  - Relocation of the Long Trail in Bolton
  - Additional x-country ski trails adjacent to the Camel's Hump Nordic Ski Area in Huntington
  - Re-routing and re-opening of the Callahan Trail in Duxbury to relieve pressure on the Monroe Trail
  - Glade management in the vicinity of the Callahan Trail and Bald Hill
  - Official designation of the Camel's Hump Challenge x-country ski trail
  - Relocation of the Catamount Trail in Huntington
  - New mountain bike trails in Phen Basin and Howe Block
- The forest management implementation plan includes 34 new silvicultural treatments covering approximately 3700 acres of the unit (see p. 48, 80, 102).
- The LRMP includes the first silvicultural treatments in Phen Basin since we acquired the property. These treatments are located *outside* of the Ecological Protection Zone as identified in the conservation easement (see p. 102).
- The LRMP creates a goal of maintaining 1-2% of areas accessible for silvicultural treatments in young forest habitat (see p. 83).
- There is potential for a new small parking area at the Stevens Block of Camel's Hump State Forest (see p. 92).
- The LRMP would improve access to the northeast end of Phen Basin Block by improving the road and parking area off Bassett Hill Road (see p. 96).

### *What about the parking areas for Burrows and Monroe Trailheads?*

The LRMP does not include specific plans for expanding these parking areas. However, it does identify the importance of evaluating the capacity of these parking areas and responding in kind. We are in the process of doing so. Survey work has been conducted at the Burrows parking area in Huntington, and we will be evaluating the feasibility of expanding parking capacity there. Any significant changes to the Burrows or Monroe Trailhead parking areas will be accompanied by additional public meetings and close coordination with town officials.

To view the draft LRMP, visit the following website:

[http://fpr.vermont.gov/state\\_lands/management\\_planning/documents/district\\_pages/district\\_3/camels\\_hump\\_mu](http://fpr.vermont.gov/state_lands/management_planning/documents/district_pages/district_3/camels_hump_mu)