

ACF Draft Management Plan (MP2) — RCC Feedback Summary

Where RCC Landed

- **RCC discussed the MP2 at length on 6/23 and was largely in agreement that it represents a strong, workable compromise plan.**
- General sentiment: the plan effectively balances public access with ecological protection, and further gains would require trade-offs the commission isn't willing to make.
- Recommended path forward: approve with a short list of conditional suggestions, rather than holding up approval for line-by-line edits.

Key Themes for Discussion (from 6/23 feedback)

- **Ecological completeness & scientific rigor**
 - Add a short glossary/definition sheet for technical terms (e.g., "duff"); link out to fact sheets for legitimacy without bloating the main text.
 - Better summarize why certain species matter (e.g., mast-producing trees) rather than relegating this to appendices.
- **Forestry, species threats & climate adaptation**
 - Add a paragraph on climate change/resiliency at the end of the ecology section.
 - Address invasive species and pest monitoring (e.g., EAB, beech/ash decline) more explicitly.
- **Welcoming tone & accessibility**
 - Carry the FAQ's more approachable tone into the MP2 itself, especially the introduction.
 - Add a vision statement and an earlier map to orient readers.
- **Governance clarity**
 - Clarify the ACFC/Selectboard relationship and the process for "authorized" trail work.
- **Trail standards & buffers**
 - Explain the rationale behind buffer distances (why 300 ft in some areas, smaller elsewhere) and note that vernal pools lack the same state protection as wetlands.
 - Pull relevant FAQ answers into the sections they support.

Open Item (Not a Blocker)

- Abenaki inclusion/acknowledgement: language is largely unchanged since 2022; ACFC looked for a Richmond-resident Abenaki community member but couldn't find one. Legal/process questions (land acknowledgment, ritual/foraging use) still need Selectboard input — flagged for follow-up, not proposed as a condition of approval.

Suggested Motion Language

"I move that the Richmond Conservation Commission recommend approval of the Andrews Community Forest Draft Management Plan (MP2), with the following suggested additions for ACFC's consideration: (1) a brief climate change/resiliency paragraph in the ecology section; (2) a short glossary of technical terms; (3) more welcoming, accessible language carried through from the FAQ document, including a vision statement; and (4) a clearer explanation of buffer-width rationale. RCC further recommends that ACFC continue to work with the Selectboard on outstanding questions regarding Abenaki acknowledgement and land-use protocols."

Second: _____ **Vote:** _____