

Chapters Working with District Coordinators



The purpose of this document is to outline the best way to synchronize the ambitions of VMBA chapters with FPR's long-range management plans. A transparent and trusting relationship between all chapters and FPR will lead to sustainable trail mileage that is carefully integrated into long-range management plans with sensitivity to a wide scope of demands on public land. In doing so, VMBA chapters will find tremendous support and growing access to both funding and trail mileage.

VMBA recently reached out to a number of FPR representatives to seek how the agency prefers the association to share building and maintenance plans. The balance of this document outlines this process. It is the request of VMBA that all chapters pay close attention to the dates incorporated – timing is everything. Lastly, it should be understood that sharing information with district coordinators will lead to more support and mileage. Our collective ability to exercise an appreciation for the demands on public land and learn how mountain biking fits into the overall management plan will lead to every rider enjoying access in perpetuity.

Q: By which date do coordinators want to learn of building plans for the following year?

A: For construction projects being submitted for RTP funding (which means they are for existing trails or if new trails, they have already been reviewed and approved by the District): November 1. For all other construction projects: December 1.

Q: Which elements do coordinators like to see incorporated into all building maintenance plans each year?

- Written general description of the work to be performed and method of execution (volunteers, trail crew, excavating equipment, etc)
 - Location of the trail (map)
 - Location of other recreational trails (public and private) in the area and an explanation of how any new trail fits into that network
 - Project site plan showing (preferably using GPS technology) the trail, its relation to nearby streams and wetlands, all water crossings, all specific structures being installed (such as water bars, bridges, rolling grade dips, cribbing, stone work, etc), all trail relocations and elevation of work sites
 - Name and contact information for project lead person
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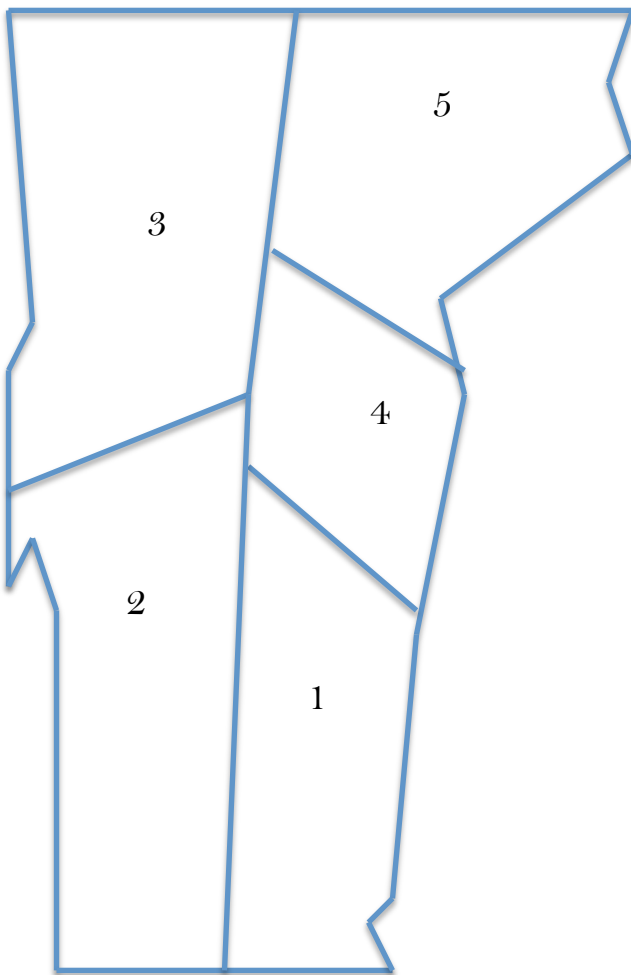
Q: Do coordinators wish to meet with me each year to discuss trail expansion and maintenance plans?

A: Certainly. A meeting(s) in the fall to review the previous season's work and to discuss the next year would be helpful. Preferably these would take place well before the project plan submission deadlines mentioned above.

Q: What other factors are important while establishing meetings and building/maintenance plans with coordinators?

A: It is critically important that VMBA chapters understand and value how FPR must manage public lands, how and why we plan for that management, and how mountain biking trails must fit into the complex balancing act. Experience shows that understanding, patience, persistence and flexibility are all qualities that make for a successful partnership. Building new trails has the greatest potential for resource impact so they are the most complex and require the most work up front. At the other end of the spectrum, routine trail maintenance (the responsibility of VMBA) is usually straightforward and requires little to no oversight by FPR. If work requires FPR approval, never start the project prior to that approval.

Who should you contact? Shown here are the districts in Vermont and a list of the Stewardship Foresters that would like to hear from you soon.



DISTRICT 1 – Tim Morton
802.885.8825

- STAB
- Upper Valley
- Hoot Toot & Whistle
- Grafton Ponds
- West Hill Shop
- RASTA

DISTRICT 2 – Lisa Thornton
802.786.3870

- Bennington Bike Club
- Manchester
- Pine Hill Partnership
- Green Mountain Trails

DISTRICT 3 – Gary Sawyer
802.879.5602

- Franklin County
- Fellowship of the Wheel
- Brewster River Bike Club
- Middlebury Bike Club

DISTRICT 4 – Diana Frederick
802.476.0174

- Melo Velo
- Stowe Bike Club
- Plainfield
- MAMBA
- Mad River Riders
- Millstone Trail Association

DISTRICT 5 – Lou Bushey
802.751.0136

- Grateful Treads
- Kingdom Trails