

Eaton Conservation Commission
January 12, 2015

1.Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois and Rick Young.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 12/8/14 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	19,712.78
Forest Management Fund	\$19,673.88
Land Acquisition Donations	<u>6,263.15</u>
	\$45,649.81

Willis Bean Road maintenance not yet billed.

4. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Peter Klose being away, no news.

5. BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT Paul described a very informative hour and a half discussion with Corey Eastman who manages berries on Teneriffe Mountain belonging to Steve Parish. He does burn, and has some fields with chemicals and some without. He believes sulfur to be cost effective. He would like to meet with us in March, might be willing to burn for us, and would like to give us a tour of his place.

6.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Changes for kiosk still in progress. Marnie and Judy will co-ordinate with David Norton, Dick Fortin and others.

7. EATON PLANNING BOARD There was a brief discussion of their Wetland Conservation District proposed zoning amendment.

8.OTHER BUSINESS None!

Next meeting: February 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Marnie Cobbs

Eaton Conservation Commission
March 9, 2015

1.Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Judy Fowler, Tom Head and Peter Klose.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 2/9/15 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$20,501.12
Forest Management Fund	19,674.20
Land Acquisition Donations	<u>6,263.15</u>
	\$46,438.47

It was unanimously voted to pay two bills: \$382 to Dan Stepanauskas for timber reconnaissance of the Bloise lot and Unit 3, and \$215 for dues to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. No bill yet from Stuart Heath for his work on Willis Bean Rd. (estimated \$4500), and no bill from Thorne Surveys as their work (estimated \$6000) will be completed in the spring or summer.

5.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP GMCG is concentrating on fixing up their new house on Huntress Rd.

6.FOSS MOUNTAIN A. Blueberry Management – Discussion re: whether to visit a blueberry operation in Milton managed by Corey Eastman or have him come here. Paul will call him about our visiting there first.

It is hoped to do brush cutting north of the old trail and Brooks Pasture this year. There was discussion of the timing of the burning and Paul will talk to Dave Yarborough of U. of Maine for advice. Paul talked with Stephen Kessler of Division of Forests and Lands, Bob Boyd's successor, who has a lot of fire experience.

Rick and Peter will talk with Ryan Bushnell re: burning, filling holes left from the rock popping and moving the removed rocks. Clean wood chips (no weeds) which is expensive will be needed for mulching and hole filling. Possibly sandy fill could be used for filling with chips for mulch.

Marnie will talk to Emilio of Horizon Forestry about when they can mow and also to Bill Lord and Olivia Saunders of UNH Cooperative Extension.

B. Blueberry Barrens Acreage - Paul came up with some new figures from studying aerial photos online which he shared. These indicate the following:

Foss Mt. north of old trail	8.6 acres
Foss Mt. south of old trail	8.2 “
Brooks Pasture	6.0 “
McKenzie acquisition	<u>6.3 “</u>
(All Blueberry Fields)	29.1 “

Foss Mt. <u>non-commercial</u>	<u>41.0 “</u>
(Plus Blueberry fields)	70.1 “

Foss Mt. north & south fields + open ridge + Brooks + woods	<u>74.3 “</u>
--	---------------

6.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Kiosk work still in progress.

7.WETLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT The amendment proposed as Article # 2 will be voted on at Town meeting tomorrow night.

8.FOREST MANAGEMENT A. Warrant article # 9 at Town Meeting will establish the Bloise lot (139 acres) as Town Forest.

B. Proposed timber cuts for 2015: Unit # 3, stands 33, 34, 35, 42 & 45; unit # 6 and Nelson lot to resume; and Bloise lot to begin pending approval of Article # 9.

9.CAMP WAUKEELA Camp has been sold to new owners who are proposing expansion from 130 campers to 230 - 250 campers. There may be an issue with the septic system. The status of the beach erosion project is still unknown. Owners are David and Michael Shabsels and director is Jayson Rubin.

10. TIN MOUNTAIN SCHOLARSHIPS It was unanimously approved to expend up to \$1000 for scholarships for Eaton children/grandchildren.

11.OTHER Marnie noted that there has been a lot of snowmobile activity on and around Foss Mt. this winter. This needs further discussion.

Next meeting: April 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
April 13, 2015

1.Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Judy Fowler, Tom Head and Peter Klose.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 3/18/15 meeting were unanimously accepted with two corrections in section 6: in Paragraph 2, replace “burn” with “do brush cutting” and paragraph 3 should begin with “Rick and Peter...”

3.TREASURER’S REPORT

Eaton conservation Fund	\$20,501.29
Forest Management Fund	19,731.70
Land Acquisition Donations	<u>6,263.15</u>
	\$ 46,496.14

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Peter reported that the annual meeting was successful with an excellent presentation on raptors.

5.FOSS MOUNTAIN Blueberries - A. Rick and Peter met with Ryan Bushnell who wants help with the maintenance schedule and wants mowing to be done by 4/30/15. Horizon Forestry may be able to brush cut prior to that time. Ryan needs to go back to NRCS for an extension on the rock-popping grant. There are still holes to be filled in Brooks Pasture but with the current schedule in Brooks these holes will not be filled until the fall of 2016.

More results are needed from the sulfur application. The plan is to take care of Brooks Pasture and the area north of the old trail before moving on to other areas.

B. Teneriffe Mountain – Paul talked with Corey Eastman who is burning his blueberry fields right now and encouraged ECC members to visit to observe this. He burns and also uses sulfur for weed control.

Stuart Heath will be moving the popped rocks.

6. FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Signage and kiosk work in process.

7.WETLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT Amendment passed at Town Meeting.

8.FOREST MANAGEMENT Dan is setting up timber cuts on the just added Bloise lot. A new name for this lot was discussed and Paul suggested, and all agreed, that it be named after an early or prominent owner of some local historical significance, perhaps after a family that actually settled on the land. He will search the chain of title and historical maps.

9.OTHER Rick reported on recent efforts to work with the state to lower the speed limits through the village.

Dick shared some articles: blueberry harvest in Maine in 2014 yielded 1,000,000 pounds and is expected to be higher this year. Spruce budworm is expected to be a problem in northern Maine in the next two to three years. The New England Wildflower Society is a good source of information about invasive and native plants.

Next meeting: May 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
May 11, 2015

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Judy Fowler, Peter Klose and Tom Head.

2. ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 4/13/15 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$17,956.47
Forestry Management fund	19,349.89
Land Acquisition Donations	<u>6,263.15</u>
	\$43,569.51

4. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP They will hold a seminar on septic systems 5/12/15, 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Runnells Hall. Peter and Dick began water quality testing at the outlet of Long Pond.

5. Mark McConkey, septic designer/installer asked to be heard re; a piece of land in Eaton where he has found it impossible to find a 125 foot setback for septic placement.

6. FOSS MOUNTAIN A. Blueberries - Horizon Forestry has not been able to meet our hoped for date of 4/30/15 for brush cutting in Brooks Pasture and along the ridge. Ryan contacted Mark Ford of Diesel Works who was to start mowing on 5/8/15 in Brooks and north of the old trail. Marnie will contact Horizon again to see when they can cut the ridge and it was unanimously voted to expend up to \$6000 for Horizon to brush cut on the 12.7 acres along the ridge. Marnie will contact Horizon re: rates for this work. Brush is now about five feet high up there.

Re: burning, Paul reported that Corey Eastman could not come to discuss his burning methods with us as hoped. He said the fall is a better time for him. He referred Paul to Robert Breudle but he is not available now. Paul then spoke with Steve Panish who has a portable truck-mounted burning unit (as does Corey Eastman) which he doesn't use much that may burn one to two acres an hour.

7. FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Kiosk work is still in progress.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT Dan Stepanauskas is lining up loggers for the Nelson lot and Unit Six. On the Bloise lot there is a contract and Intent to Cut ready for signature, timber is being marked and Dan is negotiating with the Audubon Society re: using some of their nearby old logging trails to access the Bloise lot.

Next meeting: June 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
June 8, 2015

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Peter Klose and Judy Fowler.

2. ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 5/11/15 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$17,956.61
Forest Management Fund	19,350.04
Land Acquisition Donations	<u>6,263.15</u>
	\$43,569.80

It was unanimously voted to pay a Thorne Surveys bill \$3,870 for survey work on Town land boundaries. (ECC paid them \$2092.50 on 5/12/14.) We need to know from Thorne Surveys just what boundary lines were done, especially in the Jackson Town Forest and the new Bloise Lot.

4. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP There will be a fundraiser 7/18/15 at their new building on Huntress Bridge Rd. in Effingham.

5. FOSS MOUNTAIN Blueberries - Marnie will check with Horizon Forestry as nothing has been heard from them. Mark Ford mowed and it looks good. Ryan feels the rock popping was helpful for the blueberries.

6. FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Marnie shared a rough map she created with information about where and where not to pick blueberries.

7. FOREST MANAGEMENT Dan continues work on confirming loggers for the Nelson Lot and Unit # 6. On the Bloise Lot, the contract and Intent to Cut await signature, timber is being marked and negotiations with Audubon Society continue.

8. CAMP WAUKEELA Seasonal erosion barriers at the Waukeela beach have been removed. Status of the beach erosion project is still unknown.

9. OTHER BUSINESS There is an ad in the paper for Peddlar's End blueberries.

Next meeting: July 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
July 13, 2015

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Tom Head, Peter Klose and Judy Fowler.

2. ADMINISTRATION The minutes of the 6/8/15 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$17,956.75
Forest Management Fund	15,480.19
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>6,263.15</u>
	\$39,700.09

One bill was paid to Thorne Surveys.

4. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP The fundraiser for renovation on their newly donated building will be Saturday, June 18 from 3:00 - 6:00 PM.

5. FOSS MOUNTAIN Blueberries – Marnie reported that horizon Forestry plans to cut in the fall.

Rick looked over the brush situation in the blueberry fields and noted that on the McKenzie piece and south of the old trail there are still clumps of trees that have been mowed around rather than removed. There was discussion about how much credit to allow Ryan for mowing and 85% was decided upon. The ECC also had decided not to rock pop the field south of the old trail and has asked Ryan to cancel that portion of the NRCS rock popping grant. The backfilling of holes already rock popped will happen when Ryan has finished picking. "No Picking" signs will be placed by the fields for this year's picking (McKenzie piece and south of the old trail.)

There was discussion of the future of the blueberry fields. Marnie will call Olivia Saunders on further results from sulfur applications. A more regular burning schedule would definitely be beneficial and Paul will continue dialog with Corey Eastman who does regular burning and will invite him to tour our blueberry fields.

6. FOREST MANAGEMENT There is a contract pending with the William Day Co. for timbering of the Bud Nelson Lot and Unit #6 (Tripp Farm.) Frank Perrault will begin on the Bloise Lot in early August. This lot will be renamed, possibly the South Eaton Lot?

7. CAMP WAUKEELA Nothing new.

Next meeting: August 10, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.

Eaton Conservation Commission
August 10, 2015

1.Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Dick Brisbois, Tom Head, Peter Klose and Judy Fowler.

2.ADMINISTRATION The minutes of the 7/13/15 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation fund	\$17,956.92
Forest management Fund	15,480.34
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>6,317.65</u>
	\$39,754.91

4.LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE Bill Petry and Tim Keith presented information about the Loon preservation program in Moultonborough. They have been observing and gathering information about the loon situation on Crystal Lake, Iona Lake and Pequawket Pond through talking with people familiar with those lakes. (There is a nesting pair on hatch Pond.) They asked whether the ECC would consider their posting signage next year near loon nests, and whether we would want to have loon man-made nest rafts that they can provide. The nest rafts have hard covers above to protect from eagles and chicken wire underneath to protect from muskrats and would go in just after ice-out. ECC members agreed with both ideas.

5.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP GMCG had a very successful fundraiser 6/18/15 at the new building, Heron House. A property next to the newly acquired GMCG property may be donated also.

6. FOSS MOUNTAIN A.Blueberries - Corey Eastman is tentatively scheduled for a visit in September re: blueberry management and burning of our fields.

B.Kiosks - Peter and Dick updated the trail kiosks including new plexiglass and a board to seal against bugs getting into the kiosks.

C.Nothing new re: rock removal.

7.FOREST MANAGEMENT Timbering on the Bud Nelson lot has been completed. Some of the maples by the landing for this cut had old taps in them. Clean up work for the Unit 6 lot may be done this coming week. On the South Eaton lot timbering is underway and will probably continue until November.

There is still no boundary survey estimate from Thorne Surveys.

8. CAMP WAUKEELA After discussion, it was agreed that Paul shall write a letter to the camp directors re: beach erosion issues.

9.OTHER BUSINESS Some washboarding was noted on Foss Mt. Rd.

Next meeting: September 14, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
September 14, 2015

1.Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Judy Fowler, Peter Klose and Tom Head. Olivia Saunders, Ed & Jean Reilly and Edith & Don Dashnau were present as guests.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 8/10/15 meeting were unanimously approved.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$17,049.05
Forest Management Fund	16,852.08
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>6,634.65</u>
	\$ 40,535.78

A rebate of \$217 was received from Tin Mountain Conservation Center for a child who did not attend a camp there. A check was received from Dan Stepanauskas for timber on three parcels of Town forest for \$8343.43.

4.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP They will have their "Loons and Tunes" fundraiser at Camp Calumet on 9/20/15.

5.FOSS MOUNTAIN A.Blueberries - Olivia Saunders of UNH Cooperative Extension presented findings on sulfur application to weeds in the blueberries including graphs of her findings. Findings included: sulfur application is eliminating some weeds; application directly to weed clumps was most effective; no negative impact on the blueberries from sulfur application. The treatments were to reduce pH levels from .5 down to .4 and we may need to go lower, applying more sulfur. She did notice among the blueberries quite a bit of bunchberry that can affect blueberry flavor. Marnie moved that ECC appropriate not more than \$1000 to apply sulfur, with volunteers, in Brooks pasture this fall. This was unanimously approved.

B.Brush cutting - Marnie reported that Horizon Forestry plans to brush cut on Foss end of September/beginning of October. They will cut the whole ridge and the blueberry fields that have brush.

C.Rock Removal – Rick will discuss with Stuart Heath.

D.Kiosks – Marnie and Judy finished organizing the various informational pieces for the kiosks. Marnie will talk to David Norton who will look at the kiosks to decide how best to set up the displays.

Many compliments have been heard about the new trail.

6.SNOWVILLE LAND Ed & Jean Reilly and Edith & Don Dashnau spoke about the 33 acres bought by the Reillys and the Parkers on Roberts Rd. in Snowville. They are interested in conserving this property where Snowville had its beginnings that includes a rock foundation and waterfalls probably used for powering the mill there. It was agreed that ECC members would make a field trip to the site.

Next meeting: October 12, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler

Eaton Conservation Commission
October 12, 2015

1.Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Peter Klose and Judy Fowler.

2.ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 9/14/15 meeting were unanimously accepted.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$17,266.22
Forest Management Fund	29,108.91
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>6,634.65</u>
	\$53,009.78

Some timbering receipts were deposited.

4.ROBERTS ROAD BRIDGE There is a permit delay from NH Dept. of Environmental Services re: the quantity of stream flow restricted by the new bridge. It does not seem that this flow will be restricted. NHDOT will put this job out to bid, hopefully prior to 2019.

5.GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Stream sampling by Peter and Dick at the outlet of Long Pond is over for this season with no problems found.

6.CRYSTAL LAKE MONITORING Dick and Frank Holmes finished monitoring on Crystal and found no invasive species.

7.FOSS MOUNTAIN Blueberries - Hopefully Corey Eastman will be able to meet with the ECC in late October.

Brush cutting was completed along the Foss ridge and in all blueberry fields on September 25 & 26. The brush must now be removed. It was unanimously approved to pay Horizon Forestry's bill of \$6960 for cutting 58 acres.

Rock removal is delayed.

Sulfur spreading for weed control can be done now. It will take one 50 lb. bag per acre so thirteen bags will be needed for Brooks Pasture and the McKenzie piece. Volunteers will be needed for spreading.

8.FOSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL Signage work is complete but needs printing, organizing and encapsulating before being placed in the kiosks. Marnie and Judy will do this.

There was some erosion from the recent very heavy rain at the top of the trail. Rick will check on this.

9.FOREST MANAGEMENT On the South Eaton lot Frank Perreault is about halfway done. A boundary estimate is delayed due to a title question.

10.CAMP WAUKEELA A barrier has been put up at the Waukeela beach by Brownfield Rd. but there has been no contact with ECC.

Next meeting: November 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.

Eaton Conservation Commission
November 9, 2015

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchick, Rick Young, Dick Brisbois, Judy Fowler, Peter Klose and Tom Head.

2. ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 10/12/15 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$17,266.35
Forest management Fund	32,283.33
Land Conservation Fund	<u>7,484.65</u>
	\$57,034.33

Payment of the Horizon Forestry bill of \$6,960 for cutting 29 acres @ \$145 and 29 acres @ \$95 was unanimously approved. Checks were received for timbering: \$3174.19 and 860.03.

4. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP There will be a presentation by elementary school students on their research on macroinvertebrates.

5. FOSS MOUNTAIN Corey Eastman will not be able to work with the ECC on blueberry field burning. There was discussion on whether the ECC should purchase its own burning machine.

Sulfur spreading in Brooks Pasture and brush piling along the ridge on Foss was accomplished 11/1/15 with an enthusiastic group of volunteers. There are still seven bags of sulfur to spread when available.

Washouts on the Foss trail were refurbished by Rick and Peter after recent heavy rains and two more water bars were added.

6. FOREST MANAGEMENT On the South Eaton lot Frank Perrault is still working.

Boundary marking - Dave Douglas needs Dave Douglas needs more information to prepare an estimate.

7. OTHER Rick stated that Paul Ellis has some chestnuts from some of his bred back chestnut trees that people are welcome to have. Rick will contact him.

8. CAMP WAUKEELA No information received on the beach issue.

Next meeting: December 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.

Eaton Conservation Commission
December 14, 2015

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Paul Savchivk, Rick Young, Marnie Cobbs, Dick Brisbois, Peter Klose, Tom Head and Judy Fowler.

2. ADMINISTRATION Minutes of the 11/9/15 meeting were unanimously accepted with the amendment in item # 6 re: boundary marking that should read "Dave Douglas needs more information to prepare an estimate."

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Eaton Conservation Fund	\$17,266.48
Forest Management Fund	33,144.62
Land Acquisition Fund	<u>7,484.65</u>
	\$57,895.75

Dick reported that the The Henney Fund had just reimbursed the ECC \$908 for camp scholarship funds expended this summer. From timbering in the South Eaton lot \$1310.19 was received. It was unanimously approved to reimburse Marnie \$388.78 for thirteen fifty pound bags of sulfur that was spread in Brooks Pasture.

4. GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP Peter reported that things there are status quo and they continue working on their donated building.

5. FOSS MOUNTAIN A. Blueberries – Peter and Rick met with Ryan Bushnell and all three agreed that Ryan has been overcompensated for mowing. The selectmen will terminate the Town contract with Ryan but all agreed that he continue picking.

- It was unanimously approved that Ryan will continue to pick and that all berries will be picked with proceeds paid to the Town, price to be adjusted annually. The 2016 price will be \$1.50 per quart.
- It was unanimously approved that the ECC will take over direct responsibility for management of the blueberry fields. This will include mowing of the fields and filling holes from the rock popping after blueberries are picked in the summer of 2016. (This is basically what the ECC has been doing.)
- It was unanimously approved to accept Ryan's check from his blueberry proceeds for \$1560 and then refund him \$535.50 after ECC's recalculation of the acreage of the south field from 6.3 acres to 8.2 acres.

B. Kiosks- Marnie and Judy finished the layout for the three kiosks and Dick put the material into the kiosks

C. Peddler's End has been sold.

6. FOREST MANAGEMENT A. The ECC felt it best to wait until for Frank Perrault to recover from his injuries to complete the timbering on the South Eaton lot.

B. Boundary Marking - Dave Douglas still needs more information to prepare an estimate.

7. OTHER BUSINESS There was an inquiry about widening the lower entrance to the new trail to allow some handicap access. The general feeling of ECC members was that the "No

Motorized Vehicle" policy for Town lands applies to the trail and that it was not built to be handicap accessible. Liability is also a concern.

Next meeting: January 11, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Fowler.