

NUBBLE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT

APPENDIX B – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Appendix B includes:

- A. A discussion of Scoping that was conducted for the project;
- B. Comments other than significant issues received during Scoping;
- C. Cooperating agencies.

A. SCOPING

Scoping is the process of gathering comments about a site-specific proposed federal action to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and to identify the unresolved issues, which are related to a proposed action (40 CFR 1501.7).

The Nubble interdisciplinary team conducted an analysis of this project area to determine how to best implement the White Mountain Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest plan). During this analysis process, resource specialists from various disciplines inventoried and analyzed information concerning the project area. Opportunities and needs that would move the area from the “existing condition” toward the “desired condition” called for in the Forest Plan were identified through this analysis process.

The proposal was listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions beginning 12/01.

A scoping letter was mailed to approximately 270 interested parties on February 25, 2002.

Five (5) individuals (√) commented on the proposed action during the formal scoping process. Comments were used to define unresolved (significant) issues, to develop alternatives, and to analyze effects.

A.1 LIST OF PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTED

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Don Johnson, W. Ossipee, NH
Don Wilson, Concord, NH,
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Gene Chandler, NH House of Rep., Concord, NH
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George Burt, Conway, NH
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James St. Pierre, Hallowell, ME
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 Terry Frost, Concord, NH
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 Theodore Reeves, DSM Environmental Services,
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 Thomas Caughey, Wildcat Ski Area, Jackson, NH
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 Thomas LaPointe, Hookset, NH
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 Wayne Kellner, Carlisle, MA
 Wdgar Nutt, Benton, NH
 Wilfred Bishop, Lincoln, NH
 William Carney, Bow, NH
 William Robin, Freyberg, ME
 William Zeliff, Jackson, NH
 Wm. Adam, Woodville, NH

B. OTHER SCOPING COMMENTS

The majority of the comments were in favor of the project. The complete list of comments can be found in the project file. Below are some specific comments and how they are addressed in the analysis.

B.1 Meeting Forest plan goals for an “Ideal HMU”

What are the “diversity” goals in an “ideal” HMU, how does the existing condition in the project compare, and how close to that “ideal” would the results of the project be?. What will be the “before” and “after” percentages of old-growth forests and other habitat maturity types.

The habitat community/age class goals for an “ideal” HMU are found in the White Mountain National Forest Management Plan, p. III-13. A comparison of the existing condition to the Forest Plan “ideal” can be found in Appendix E of this EA.

B.2 Logging Equipment

Oil spills from logging equipment could adversely affect municipal water supplies in the project area.

See §3.1.2 Water Resources for a discussion of the Littleton Municipal Water Supply and its relationship to the activities proposed in the Nubble Project.

Logging equipment is not allowed to operate in streams or riparian areas except for approved crossings. If an oil spill were to occur, it would be on dry land and would be cleaned up before oil could migrate to a stream.

Oil spills have not been a problem in past sales.

What type of logging machinery (widths, weights, function, etc.) will be used?

There are two kinds of equipment restrictions. One is seasonal, winter, summer, and fall. The

seasons available for operations depends on soil capability and vulnerability of tree trunks top injury.

The other restrictions are the type or size of equipment. This can be controlled in the contract or when the purchaser seeks approval for his temporary development and skidding plans. In the Nubble project skidding in single tree selection or thinning units is restricted to equipment no wider than 9.5 feet and only after mid summer. Also a forwarder (skidding type machine that carries the logs on wheels rather than dragging the ends on the ground) will be required for stands 45,46 and 57 of compartment 19, it will be restricted to the winter season.

The timber sales are subdivided into units. Before a purchaser is allowed to operate in a unit they must give the sale administrator a plan of how and where they will operate. The type of equipment they intend to use is consider along with the locations they request to operate on. For example, the purchaser my plan to use a mechanical harvester to fell the trees. These usually require more operating room, which may necessitate marking additional trees. These harvesters however usually do less damage to the residual trees left in the stand. The administrator must consider all these factors before approving the plan.

Wildlife

What are the cumulative effects of logging and recreation on wildlife?

See §3.2.2, in the EA for a discussion on the cumulative effects of logging and recreation on wildlife.

Is anything being done in the project for partridge and rabbit habitat?

Not specifically, but both species will benefit from the creation of early-successional habitat in Alternatives 2 and 3. See the Terrestrial Wildlife Resources section of the EA (3.2.1).

B. 3 Buffer Zone

Although the area supports a “good deal of human activity”, this wooded area should not be treated as a “lost cause.” As much as possible the area should be protected to act as a “buffer zone for more sensitive areas.”

The Nubble project area is in Management Areas 2.1 and 3.1. See Appendix C for a list of Forest Plan goals and objectives for these management areas. Activities (wildlife habitat and timber management) proposed in this project are appropriate to these management area desired conditions (roaded natural and semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities).

The purpose of this project is to implement the Forest Plan on this piece of ground. Specific needs identified to implement the Forest plan in this area are to increase habitat community age-class diversity, maintain an adequate transportation for the activities that are appropriate for these management areas, and provide wood for the public. Managing the Nubble project area as a “buffer zone for more sensitive areas” is outside the stated purpose and need for this project.

B.4 Sale Layout

How much sale layout has been done (before during, and after scoping and the decision notice) and have the trees been painted.

Prior to scoping fieldwork was accomplished to identify, map and mark with ribbon, sensitive areas and other factors that would limit operations. Also ground conditions were surveyed to insure that the proposed stands were suitable for harvesting operations. Field trips were conducted by I D team members to further define the proposed action, and develop data or support needs for the analysis.

After scoping, treatment boundaries were defined in detail then painted. Then individual trees within these units were marked according

to the proposed action prescription. These activities do not constitute the implementation of a decision on the ground. However, they allow the Forest Service to utilize resources that would otherwise be idle. If a decision to implement an alternative other than the proposed action were to be made, appropriate steps would be taken to reflect the decision on the ground (remarking).

C. COOPERATING AGENCIES

C.1 Federal – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Forest Service works in close cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). On 23 September 1999, the White Mountain National Forest entered into formal consultation with the USFWS regarding the potential effects to federally-listed threatened and endangered species from continued implementation of the WMNF Forest Plan. Formal consultation was concluded in 2000, when the USFWS issued their Biological Opinion (BO). The Forest Plan was amended in 2001 to include the terms and conditions of the BO. Management activities proposed under the Nubble Vegetation Management project are subject to the terms and conditions of the BO.

D.2 State of New Hampshire Historic Preservation Office

The Forest Service has received concurrence from the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer concerning the cultural sites in the Nubble project area pertaining to the protection of identified historic sites, and that the undertaking, as proposed, will have ‘no adverse effect,’ pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.5, on any properties or districts that are listed in or may be eligible for the National Register, nor properties of known or potential architectural, historical, archaeological or cultural significance, if the work is done as discussed (CRRR# 01-01-114, 02/28/03; CRRR# 02-01-115, 08/29/02).