

Green Mountain National Forest

Forest Plan Amendment #1 April 28, 2011

Reallocation of Wilderness Study Areas, Remote Backcountry Forest, and Candidate Research Natural Areas Management Area Remnants resulting from the New England Wilderness Act

Introduction

Land and Resource Management Plans are mandated under the authority of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). The Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) was completed and approved in February 2006 as required by NFMA and provides direction for all management activities on the GMNF. This amendment to the Forest Plan was developed under implementing regulations at 36 CFR 219 published in the Federal Register (47 FR 43037 dated September 30, 1982) as allowed by 36 CFR 219.35(b) of the 2000 planning rule (65 FR 67514 dated November 9, 2000), as reinstated and technically amended by the 2009 final rule (74 FR 67059 dated December 18, 2009).

This amendment only makes minor adjustments to the Forest Plan based on new information and changed circumstances resulting from the passage of the New England Wilderness Act in 2006. It did not change the overall goals, objectives, or desired conditions as provided for in the Forest Plan. The changes in management area designation, and standards and guidelines are relatively small and the effects of these changes are minor in scope as demonstrated in the Forest Plan Amendment #1 Environmental Assessment (Chapter 3, pages 18 to 71), and associated Decision Notice signed on April 28, 2011.

This amendment includes the following changes to the 2006 GMNF Forest Plan:

1. Reallocate Lands to Different Management Areas: The 2,417.3 acres of Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), Remote Backcountry Forest (RBF), and Candidate Research Natural Areas (cRNA) MA remnant areas resulting from the NEWA, are reallocated as indicated here and summarized in Table 1.

WSA MA (956.5 acres)

- 809.8 acres are reallocated to the Diverse Forest Use (DFU) MA
- 114.1 are reallocated to the Diverse Backcountry (DB) MA
- 32.8 acres are reallocated to the Remote Wildlife Habitat (RWH) MA

RBF MA (1,437 acres)

- 321.2 acres remain allocated to the RBF MA
- 285.9 acres are reallocated to the DFU MA
- 100.6 acres are reallocated to the DB MA
- 729.5 acres are reallocated to the Moosalamoo Recreation and Education (MREA) MA

cRNA MA (23.8 acres)

- 7.4 acres are reallocated to the Long National Recreation Trail (LT) MA
- 16.4 acres are reallocated to the RBF MA

Table 1: Summary of Management Area Reallocations			
Management Area	Acres	Management Area	Acres (% of total reallocated)
WSA	956.5	DFU	809.8 (85)
		DB	114.1 (12)
		RWH	32.8 (03)
		RBF	0
Subtotal*			956.7 (100)
RBF	1,437.0	DFU	285.9 (20)
		DB	100.6 (07)
		RBF	321.2 (22)
		MREA	729.5 (51)
Subtotal*			1,437.2 (100)
cRNA	23.8	LT	7.4 (31)
		RBF	16.4 (69)
Subtotal*			23.8 (100)
GRAND TOTAL*	2,417.3	DFU	1095.7 (45)
		DB	214.7 (09)
		RBF	337.6 (14)
		RWH	32.8 (01)
		MREA	729.5 (30)
		LT	7.4 (<1)
*Difference in totals due to rounding			

Forest Plan, Chapter 3, pages 110 to 112

Remove All Wilderness Study Areas Management Area direction.

Forest Plan, Chapter 3, page 50**Standards and Guidelines for Wilderness 5.1**

Add:

Ecological Special Areas and Mount Horrid

Standard:

S-1: Ecological special areas and the Mount Horrid candidate Research Natural Area contained within Wilderness shall be managed to protect their special ecological values.

Guideline:

G-1: Recreation and other activities may be restricted or prohibited through area closures to protect the special ecological values of these areas.

Forest Plan, Appendix F MAPS, page F-1

Forest Plan Appendix F MAPS Management Area Allocations Table F-1 states:

Table F-1. Management Area Allocations		
Management Area (MA)	Acres	% GMNF
Diverse Forest Use	117,467	29%
Diverse Backcountry	62,577	15%
Remote Wildlife Habitat	30,672	8%
Escarpment	11,461	3%
Remote Backcountry	17,805	4%
Wilderness	101,074	25%
Wilderness Study Areas	957	<1%
Robert T Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area	22,610	6%
Appalachian National Scenic Trail ¹	14,456	4%
Long National Recreation Trail	1,816	<1%
Recreation Special Areas	137	<1%
Moosalamoo National Recreation Area	15,862	4%
Alpine Ski Areas	2,840	1%
Alpine Ski Area Expansion	506	<1%
Research and Candidate Research Natural Areas	380	<1%
Ecological Special Areas	3,641	1%
Alpine/Subalpine Special Area	712	<1%
Eligible Wild, Scenic, or Recreational Rivers ²	24,743	6%
Total National Forest System Acres		404,973
¹ Lands not owned 'in fee' (1,184 acres) are included for management purposes because of the 'corridor lands' specific management direction. ² Management Area applies to stream corridors (1/4 mile each side of stream) which overlay and run through all other management areas. Management Areas acres were determined using the Automated Lands Project's GIS layer dated 04/23/2007.		

Table F-1 is replaced with:

Table F-1. Management Area Allocations		
Management Area (MA)	Acres	% GMNF
Diverse Forest Use	119,438	29%
Diverse Backcountry	63,763	16%
Remote Wildlife Habitat	31,134	8%
Escarpment	14,536	4%
Remote Backcountry	16,957	4%
Wilderness	101,039	25%
Robert T Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area	22,624	6%
Appalachian National Scenic Trail ¹	14,806	4%
Long National Recreation Trail	1,821	<1%
Recreation Special Areas	190	<1%
Moosalamoo Recreation and Education Area ²	13,090	3%
Alpine Ski Areas	2,840	1%
Alpine Ski Area Expansion	506	<1%
Existing and Candidate Research Natural Areas	356	<1%
Ecological Special Areas	3,994	1%
Alpine/Subalpine Special Area	711	<1%
Eligible Wild, Scenic, or Recreational Rivers ³	24,743	6%
Total National Forest System Acres		407,500
¹ Lands not owned 'in fee' (1,184 acres) are included for management purposes because of the 'corridor lands' specific management direction.		
² Acres for the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area are 15,862 and include acres in other Management areas.		
³ Management Area applies to stream corridors (1/4 mile each side of stream) which overlay and run through all other management areas.		
Management Areas acres were determined using the Automated Lands Project's GIS layer dated 10/4/2012.		