White Mountain National Forest

Appendix E
Wilderness
Management Plan

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1.0 Introduction

The many components of 1964 Wilderness Act created numerous challenges for land management. In addition to recognizing Wilderness as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man," the act provides for recreational access as well as consideration of ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, and historic values. These different values can lead to contradictory management objectives. This plan is aimed at managing the White Mountain National Forest Wildernesses in such a way that these somewhat incongruous values all receive proper attention. Thus, the plan sets forth an agenda and a program of work for WMNF Wilderness management that aims to assure we maintain a balance among primitive recreation, ecological integrity, and other values of a heavily used urban national forest.

There are currently six Wildernesses on the WMNF. They are:

The ***Great Gulf***, 5,500 acres, designated by the 1964 Wilderness Act.

The ***Presidential Range-Dry River***, 29,000 acres, designated by the 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act and expanded in the 1984 New Hampshire Wilderness Act.

The ***Pemigewasset***, 45,000 acres, designated by the 1984 New Hampshire Wilderness Act.

The ***Sandwich Range***, 35,800 acres, designated by the 1984 New Hampshire Wilderness Act.

The ***Caribou-Speckled Mountain***, 14,000 acres, designated by the 1990 Maine Wilderness Act.

The ***Wild River***, 23,700 acres, designated by the 2006 New England Wilderness Act.

These lands are managed to allow natural processes to continue with minimal impediment, to minimize the effects and impacts of human use, to provide primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities, to foster appreciation of the qualities of wilderness landscapes, to continue use for educational and scientific purposes, and to recognize their evolving roles in the history of the landscape.

This management plan describes processes and actions aimed toward further realizing these goals. Our intent is to provide strong, clear management, in order to maintain Wilderness character. These values include a balance of use and preservation, an understanding of and support for protection of these lands, and a perpetuation of Wildernesses' roles as representatives of landscapes minimally affected by the impacts of human use.

Further, this plan is written in part as a response to known threats to Wilderness and Wilderness character. Among these threats are ecological issues, such as: loss of or threats to biological/ecological processes and biodiversity; deterioration of water quality from increased erosion, unsuitable camping practices and improper disposal of human waste; and threats to native flora and fauna from the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species from sources outside Wilderness. Of equal concern are threats to

to crowding and loss of solitude, and a failure to perceive and integrate a human ecology/cultural history component of eastern Wilderness.

Managing to maintain Wilderness character implies many competing priorities. Recognizing the challenges of balancing these different priorities — that different areas have different levels of use, that all areas serve purposes, and that because of this all areas have different management needs — we have chosen a zoning approach to delineate where and to what extent activities and impacts will be acceptable within each Wilderness. We have defined audiences to target for specific Wilderness education messages, and itemized steps to be taken in reaching those audiences. This education effort informs all aspects of our management strategy.

We selected indicators for measuring Wilderness conditions and set clear standards, beyond which direct management action may become necessary. These management actions are described in this plan to outline and direct appropriate responses to impacts that exceed these standards.

This management document is tiered to the Land and Resources Management Plan for the White Mountain National Forest, and should be used in conjunction with specific Management Area direction and standards and guidelines for MA 5.1. It integrates concepts outlined in "Thinking Like a Mountain: A Wilderness Agenda" and the National Recreation Strategy, and follows a model of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process for maintaining Wilderness conditions. This plan should be used as a tool for defining an annual program of work within Wilderness, and ultimately toward realizing a vision of Wilderness stewardship.

2.0 Zoning

In order to reach the ideal of balancing use and preservation, we conducted an assessment of the current conditions and the requirements for effective future management. This assessment was aimed at realizing the overall goals of maintaining wilderness character, offering outstanding opportunities for solitude, and providing recreation access for enjoyment of the areas as Wilderness.

In our assessment, we used the following criteria to understand both distinctions and commonalities among different areas: use levels, facilities, campsites, vegetation/soils, managerial presence, and social conditions. It became clear that certain classes of areas exist, most significantly related to the level of use each area receives. To understand the spatial nature of this class distribution, we delineated four different Wilderness zones and mapped them across the individual Wildernesses. (These maps are located in Section 7.) The zones themselves each serve a purpose in the overall Wilderness management strategy. Each has unique characteristics in terms of ecological characteristics, social conditions, and management needs. The zones are labeled A,B,C, and D. Though use levels were not the determining factor in applying this zoning scheme, they can be helpful in understanding the distinctions among zones; the zones generally run from least (Zone A) to most heavily used (Zone D).

It is worth noting that these zones and the descriptions of them below typically represent the conditions during a particular area's peak use season or represent the highest development level within the zone. For example, some trails receive heavy use during the summer and fall months, but receive almost no use in the winter and spring. In these cases, the zones will reflect conditions during summer and fall. However, we will manage to maintain seasonal variation; that is, we will not manage to allow a trail that receives heavy use in the summer and low use in winter to become a year-round high use trail.

There are certain specific, known locations within Zone A where social or soil and vegetation conditions diverge from the general descriptions for that zone. Seasonally, during spring skiing in Oakes Gulf and on the Great Gulf headwall, it is possible to experience frequent encounters with other visitors — though usually only on a few sunny weekend days with good snow conditions. The access to Owl's Head and the route through Lost Pass - both of which pre-exist Wilderness designation - display soil compaction and vegetation loss. Certain areas within the Wild River Wilderness (designated in December, 2006 following the original development of this plan) are not within 500 feet of Forest system trails but do not meet the characteristics of Zone A. Traditional and ongoing recreation use that is inconsistent with the description of Zone A may exist that has not been identified by managers. Many of these areas provide recreation opportunities that are entirely consistent with Wilderness characteristics and values. For this plan, the known inconsistent areas within the Wild River Wilderness have been zoned to reflect the current conditions on the ground regardless of the presence of a system trail, and to allow long-established uses of the area to continue where those uses are appropriate for Wilderness. In the other Wildernesses, known inconsistencies have been recognized as exceptions to the peak-use, peak development rule, and offer acceptable and desirable Wilderness recreation opportunities within Zone A.

Additionally, it is important to recognize that where Wilderness zones abut one another, or where Wilderness boundaries adjoin areas such as private land or other Forest management areas, visitors may experience social or ecological conditions that are not entirely consistent with zone descriptions. Wilderness policy does not provide for limitations on uses outside Wilderness boundaries. Consequently, these inconsistencies must be recognized and in many cases accepted.

Monitoring and careful examination of individual issues will aid managers in assessing whether ongoing or future inconsistencies are appropriate or whether management action is necessary. In Section 3, which addresses monitoring issues, we present specific indicators presented to measure the consistency of conditions within each zone, and standards to ensure that conditions do not migrate toward the increasingly modified, impacted side of the scale. It is an important goal of this plan to assure that no area is allowed to move from a lower to a higher use zone.

2.1 Zone Descriptions

2.1.1 Zone A — Areas 500 feet or more from all trails

This zone includes the trailless areas of WMNF Wilderness, and represents the largest area of WMNF Wilderness. The landscape appears largely unmodified, supports no maintained trails or facilities, has few restrictions, has low managerial regulation, has little direct management activity, and has exceptional opportunities for visitors to experience both solitude and a very primitive and unconfined recreation.

Social Conditions

Encounters with other visitors or with management are non-existent to infrequent. The environment offers the highest degree of challenge, self-reliance, and risk. There is an outstanding opportunity for solitude, and visitors will experience primitive, unconfined recreation within this area.

Facilities/Infrastructure

No maintained or constructed facilities present. Very little or no obvious on-the-ground evidence of human presence or activity, except for occasional historical artifacts.

Campsites

Very low density of campsites. Campsite impacts are not visible from year to year; sites are difficult to discern and generally are rehabilitating naturally. Designated sites are not established.

Vegetation/Soils

The Forest vegetative composition may have been affected by pre-designation activities such as timber harvesting. There is very little or no vegetation loss, soil compaction, or lasting alteration of the duff and litter layer resulting from human use. Areas do not receive regular, recurring use. Any existing impacts in these areas are generally rehabilitating.

Managerial Presence

Management focuses on sustaining and protecting the natural ecosystem, allowing natural events and processes to occur with minimal or no management. Agency patrols are rare, primarily to monitor existing conditions. Efforts will be made to minimize regulations, but they may be utilized in specific areas for protection of Wilderness character. Signs will not be present except in rare instances for resource protection.

2.1.2 Zone B — Areas within 500 feet of low-use trails

This zone includes the lowest-use, least developed trails within WMNF Wilderness. It offers the greatest opportunity for solitude and/or an unconfined recreation experience along a maintained trail system.

With the exception of the developed trail system, the landscape appears largely unmodified, supports only these minimally maintained trails but no other facilities, and has regular opportunities for visitors to experience both solitude and a primitive recreation confined only by the presence of the trail system.

Social Conditions

Encounters with other visitors or with management are infrequent. The environment offers a high degree of challenge, self-reliance, and risk. There is a great opportunity for solitude, and visitors will generally experience primitive and unconfined recreation within this area.

Facilities/Infrastructure

The trail system is the primary infrastructure. Primitive trails and trail structures consistent with WMNF Level 1 trail specifications (FSH 2309.18) may be present. No other facilities will be constructed or maintained. Historical artifacts may be present and are sometimes concentrated and may be obvious. Other impacts will not be readily apparent.

Campsites

Very low density of campsites. Campsites may be discernable, but are generally rehabilitating and not receiving regular, recurring use. Designated sites are not established.

Vegetation/Soils

The Forest vegetative composition may have been affected by pre-designation activities such as timber harvesting. There is very little or no vegetation loss, soil compaction, or lasting alteration of the duff and litter layer resulting from human use except on trails. These trails are more primitive and receive less maintenance. Areas do not receive regular, recurring use outside the trail corridor. Any existing impacts in these areas are generally rehabilitating.

Managerial Presence

Management focuses on sustaining and protecting the natural ecosystem and providing primitive access for visitors. Agency patrol will be on a regular basis, primarily for monitoring and education. Efforts will be made to minimize a regulatory approach, however, regulations will be utilized for protection of Wilderness character. Signs may be present at trail junctions and in rare cases for resource protection.

2.1.3 Zone C — Areas within 500 feet of moderate-use trails

This zone includes the moderate-use, moderately developed trails within WMNF Wilderness. As outlined below, Zone C is in general more highly used and more highly developed than Zone B. Despite this, Zone C offers visitors an opportunity to experience escape from more highly developed landscapes while still being able to access a maintained trail system.

In most places, the landscape appears largely unmodified. Exceptions include the trail system and associated structures and lasting campsites, including some designated sites. Facilities such as bridges may exist, but shelters and toilets do not. The area is likely to have site-specific as well as blanket regulations, with generally frequent managerial presence. Direct management activity including enforcement of regulations occurs.

Social Conditions

Encounters with other visitors or with management are likely, especially along trails and at established campsites. There is a high degree of challenge and risk, and a lower degree of self-reliance than in Zones A and B. There is a generally moderate opportunity for solitude.

Facilities/Infrastructure

The trail system and associated structures are the primary evidence of past human presence and activity. Trails and associated structures are consistent with WMNF Level 2 trail specifications (FSH 2309.18). Bridges may exist for public safety or resource protection only. No other facilities will be maintained or constructed. Historical artifacts may be present and are sometimes concentrated and may be obvious. Other impacts will not be readily apparent.

Campsites

Campsite density is low to moderate. Within standards, there are sufficient sites to accommodate peak use without the creation of new sites. Bare mineral soil may exist on sites, and most sites will persist from year to year. Designated campsites may be present and exist for resource protection.

Vegetation/Soils

The Forest vegetative composition may have been affected by pre-designation activities such as timber harvesting. Moderate soil compaction and loss of vegetation, litter and duff is expected on many trails and campsites. User-created trails may be present, especially in destinations and camping areas. Minimal erosion may occur on a small percentage of the disturbed sites and may be mitigated to ensure resource protection. Riparian and lakeshore conditions may show signs of human impacts in localized areas, and these are expected to persist from year to year.

Managerial Presence

Management emphasizes sustaining and protecting natural conditions, while providing access for and accommodating a moderate level of human recreation use. Agency patrol will be on a regular basis, for monitoring, education, and enforcement purposes. Management actions will be necessary to protect Wilderness character, and may be indirect or direct. Overall management presence will be more noticeable to visitors. Site specific or blanket area regulations may be implemented, especially related to camping or campfires. Signs will be present at trail junctions and at designated campsites and will be used for resource protection.

2.1.4 Zone D — Areas within 1/4 mile of developed facilities or 500 feet of high use trails

This zone includes the most heavily used and most highly developed trails and areas within WMNF Wilderness. It represents the smallest area of WMNF Wilderness. The landscape within this zone is modified by the developed trail system and associated structures, and may include bridges, primitive shelters and/or toilets, designated campsites, and impacts resulting from recurring recreation use. However, in most places the landscape still appears largely unmodified.

To manage use and protect resource conditions the area likely has site-specific as well as blanket regulations, with frequent managerial presence. Direct management activity including enforcement of regulations occurs. This area has occasional opportunities for visitors to experience solitude as well as primitive and unconfined recreation bounded by the presence of the trail system, existing regulations, shelters, toilets, and campsites.

Social Conditions

Depending on the season, encounters with other visitors or with management are very likely, especially along trails and at established campsites. There is a moderate degree of challenge and risk, and a lower degree of self-reliance than in other zones. There is a moderate opportunity for solitude.

Facilities/Infrastructure

Bridges may exist for public safety or resource protection. Shelters and toilets may exist where identified in Wilderness enabling legislation or where consistent with standards described in this plan. The trail system and associated trail improvements are the primary evidence of past human presence and activity. Trails are managed consistent with WMNF Level 2 trail specifications (FSH 2309.18). Other evidence may include shelters and toilet structures. Historic artifacts may be present and are sometimes concentrated and may be obvious. Other impacts may be apparent.

Campsites

A moderate to high density of established sites may exist. Bare mineral soil may exist on sites, and impacts are recurring and will persist from year to year. Designated campsites may be present and exist for resource protection and to accommodate visitor use.

Vegetation/Soils

The Forest vegetative composition may have been affected by pre-designation activities such as timber harvesting. Moderate to high soil compaction and loss of vegetation, litter and duff is expected in localized areas on many trails and campsites. User-created trails may be present, especially in destinations and camping areas. Minimal erosion occurs on the disturbed sites and may be mitigated to ensure resource protection. Riparian and lakeshore conditions may show signs of human impacts in localized areas, and are expected to persist from year to year.

Managerial Presence

Management emphasizes sustaining and protecting natural conditions, while providing access for and accommodating a moderate to high level of human recreation use. Agency patrol occurs frequently for monitoring, education, and enforcement purposes. Management actions are necessary to protect Wilderness character, and may be indirect or direct. Overall management presence is noticeable to visitors.

Site specific or blanket area regulations may be implemented, especially related to camping or campfires. Signs are frequently present at trail junctions and at designated campsites and are used for resource protection.

3.0 Indicators and Standards

In the previous section, we outlined the zoning scheme that underlies the management activities entailed in this plan. Within each zone, we will utilize an LAC framework to guide our management decisions and actions.* The LAC framework as it is applied here is focused on indicators and standards. Indicators are markers of resource or social conditions. They are not necessarily direct measures of those conditions, however. Thus, an indicator of overuse in a campsite might be visitor counts, or a series of measurements of that campsite's area over time. The indicators we chose as central to assessing the quality of Wilderness and the recreation experience are listed below. Those indicators will feed directly into standards, which are thresholds on a given indicator, beyond which management action may be called for. In the example cited above, a standard could be a pre-established campsite size, beyond which revegetation or campsite closures might be enacted.

Monitoring is a critical component of this process. Through regular measurement of resource and social indicators and consistent comparison of those measurements to established standards, a reasonable understanding of the degree to which we are able to maintain Wilderness character can be achieved. Without monitoring, neither benchmarks nor trends can be evaluated. In the following sections, we outline our chosen wilderness indicators, the standards set for those indicators, and our plan for monitoring those indicators. Finally, we outline the ways in which we will gather for Forest-wide discussions of proper Wilderness management actions.

In the remainder of this section, we elaborate on each of the elements in the LAC process. We first provide narrative descriptions of the categories of indicators used to understand resource and social conditions within Wildernesses. From there we turn to descriptions of the specific indicators we will use within each category. These indicators and standards are summarized in Table E-01. Based on the information in Table E-01, we then provide a series of tables that give details of zone-specific standards, monitoring procedures, and possible management actions to be used in achieving the goals of this plan.

3.1 Wilderness Indicators

Based on the LAC framework outlined above, we chose four categories of indicators as significant identifiers of resource concerns. Those indicators fall into the categories of biophysical, social, aesthetic, and ecosystem process. Each is described below, along with a short excerpt from the Wilderness Act that served as the primary (though not entire) focus in determining the scope of that individual indicator. See Table E-01 for a summary of these indicators.

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* It's important to note that our monitoring activities are not completely driven by the LAC process. In some cases, our efforts will be aimed solely at monitoring wilderness conditions.

3.1.1 Biophysical Indicators

"…retaining its primeval character and influence…protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which…generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature" Wilderness Act, Section 1(c).

These are measures of the effects of human activity on the biological health and quality of the environment. They are typically large-scale and are often influenced most significantly by actions and events outside Wilderness. These indicators are categorized distinctly from others because the primary concern is for the health and quality of ecosystems and ecosystem components such as watersheds, air quality, wildlife and vegetative populations, rather than for the quality of the human experience. While recognizing that an unhealthy ecosystem has an effect on the human Wilderness experience, it seems that we should be concerned with polluted water, or acid rain, or endangered species for many reasons above and beyond the effect on human recreation experience. Individual as well as collective human-to-land impacts that cause concern primarily because of the effects on the land are categorized here.

3.1.2 Social Indicators

"…has outstanding opportunities for solitude or…unconfined type of recreation" Wilderness Act, Section 2(c).

These measures are immediate and local, involving direct contact among Wilderness users and between Wilderness users and agency personnel. These indicators are categorized distinct from others because they are strictly a measure of how people affect other people, and the primary concern is for the human experience in terms of type, quality, and frequency of interaction with others. These experiences may have a direct link to the quality of the ecosystem or the appearance of the surrounding landscape.

3.1.3 Aesthetic Indicators

"…without permanent improvements…with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable…has outstanding opportunities for…primitive…recreation" Wilderness Act, Section 2(c).

These are measures of how direct human effects on the immediate landscape affect the human experience of the area as Wilderness. They typically are local in scope, are constrained to an immediate area, and result primarily from recreation use.

These indicators are categorized distinctly because the primary concern is for the human experience as it derives from the health and quality of the immediate, local landscape. These are measures of both human-caused impacts to a biophysical resource and the resulting effects of those impacts on the Wilderness experience. However, these types of impacts are unlikely to have lasting, significant effects on the larger-scale health of ecosystem components. As such, the driving force to mitigate them stems from the human experience.

3.1.4 Ecosystem Process Indicators

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man…" Wilderness Act, Section 2(c).

These measures of process and change on the land occur separately from the direct influence of human action. They are usually broad scale and large in scope. These indicators are categorized distinct from others because in many cases there is no direct human involvement in the process affecting change on the land. However, in recognizing the need for baseline data to inform management decisions, these processes should be monitored closely to understand natural change in the area.

3.2 Application of the Wilderness Management Process

3.2.1 Biophysical Indicators

Indicators may include air quality, water quality, threatened and endangered species, invasive species, and indicator species* as identified in the Forest Monitoring Plan (see Table E-01).

Standards will be common to all zones within Wilderness.

Management Actions may not affect individual sites, depending on the scope and source of the exceeded standard.

Though in many cases the effects and actions available to manage and administer Wilderness in terms of these indicators are site-specific and within control of managers, they are sometimes beyond the manager's administrative scope (e.g., air quality issues). Standards are set, and methods to measure and ensure that these standards are met involve other federal or state laws, other federal and state agencies, and other disciplines.

3.2.2 Social Indicators

Indicators may include number of contacts per given segment of trail per survey period, number of contacts per given destination point per survey period, assessments of visitor experience quality, and perception of crowding at determined destination points (see Table E-01).

Standards are based on use trends as monitored at the same locations and the same times from year to year. A range of survey locations will be determined across zones. Standards differ by zone, and are more restrictive in lower use zones.

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* Though invasive species and indicator species concerns are often part of ecosystem processes (and are listed as such here), they will be treated in this plan as biophysical issues.

Management Actions triggered by exceeding standards will include a focused examination of management actions, policies, and general recreation trends that may underlie the specific issue. The level of tolerance and restriction represented by management actions may differ by zone.

There are tools available to manage and administer Wilderness in terms of these indicators, however they are sometimes judged to be ineffective. Because of their often seemingly arbitrary nature, numerical standards in these cases are extremely difficult to set and even more challenging to justify; visitors in some areas have indicated a greater acceptance of higher use levels than increased managerial regulation. Nevertheless, management actions may involve implementation of use restrictions or limitations.

3.2.3 Aesthetic Indicators

Indicators include campsite density, campsite size, and frequency of litter and exposed human waste (see Table E-01).

Standards are set for each indicator and often vary by zone.

Management Actions triggered by an excess of standards will often involve direct manipulation of campsites, an increase in managerial presence in the affected area, and may involve the implementation of use restrictions or use limitations.

We have many tools to manage and administer Wilderness in terms of these indicators. Furthermore, clear standards may be set based on the values used to determine current and desired resource conditions. Management actions to mitigate impacts in these areas are usually justifiable and commonly acceptable to visitors.

3.2.4 Ecosystem Process Indicators

Indicators may include ecological indicator species, natural fire, natural disturbance, and invasive species (see Table E-01).

Standards and **Management Actions** are largely dictated by the Forest Monitoring Plan, Standards and Guidelines, and Fire Plans.

Tools to monitor Wilderness in terms of these indicators are largely based in the natural sciences. These processes must be carefully monitored to increase understanding of Wilderness conditions.

3.3 Standards, Methods, and Management Actions

See Tables E-02 to E-07

Table E-01. Wilderness indicator framework.

	Wilderness Character	Indicators	Standards	Management Actions
Biophysical – Human effects on the land, primarily broad scale.	"… an area … retaining its primeval character and influence … protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions … generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature."	• Air Quality • Water Quality • Wildlife/TES • Invasive Species • Indicator Species	Standards are often defined by other legislation and measured by specialists other than Wilderness Managers.	Excess of standard may trigger action, but most likely will not greatly restrict Wilderness recreation opportunities.
Social – Direct and immediate human effects on other humans.	"… outstanding opportunities for solitude or … unconfined type of recreation."	• Visitor Use, Trail • Visitor Use, Destination • Experience Quality • Perception of Crowding	Standards are definable and measurable, but can be viewed as subjective and arbitrary.	Excess of standard triggers focused examination of management actions and policies. Data informs our decision-making and serves warning that use-related problems may increase.
Aesthetic – Human effect on the land that primarily affects the experience by other humans of an area as Wilderness.	"… without permanent improvements … with the imprint of mans work substantially unnoticeable … outstanding opportunities for … primitive … recreation."	• Campsite density • Campsite size • Litter and human waste	Standards are definable and measurable.	Excess of these standards triggers controlling actions on Wilderness visitors.
Ecosystem Process – Change and effects on the land not directly influenced by human action.	"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man."	• Presence of ecological indicator species • Absence of natur-al fire/ disturbance • Invasive species	Dictated by Forest Monitoring Plan.	• Dictated by Forest Monitoring Plan • Develop Wilderness Fire Plan

Table E-02. Standards, monitoring methods, and management actions for visitor trail use.

	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D
Standard	N/A	3 consecutive years showing an increase in total use.		
Method of Measure, Frequency	N/A	Select three sample locations, one per zone per Wilderness. Monitor use annually: Sample use on determined dates and times. Measure total number of users encountered during sampling period. Measure group sizes encountered during sampling period. Analyze data on 3-year intervals. Utilize same trail segments and sampling dates and times for duration of this plan.		
Manangement Action	N/A	1. Focused assessment of management actions including group-use policies, education message, and information delivery. 2. Survey of users.		

Table E-03. Standard, monitoring methods, and management actions for visitor destination use.

	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D
Standard	3 consecutive years showing an increase in total use.			
Method of Measure, Frequency	Select 1 destination area per zone per Wilderness. Measure total number of users encountered during sampling period. Measure group sizes encountered during sampling period. Measure maximum and minimum total users at any time during sample period. Monitor use annually. Analyze data on 3-year intervals. Utilize same destinations and sampling dates and times for duration of this plan.			
Management Action	1. Focused assessment of management actions including group-use policies, education message, and information delivery. 2. Survey of users.			

Table E-04. Standards, monitoring methods, and management actions for perceptions of crowding and experience quality.

	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D
Standard	N/A	Majority of visitors indicate perception of overcrowding.		
Method of Measure, Frequency	N/A	Survey once for baseline information and once halfway through the life of the Plan. Survey will focus on visitor perceptions of crowding at selected sites within Wilderness and quality of recreation experience. Survey will also assess whether information delivery and education messages are helping visitors find the appropriate recreation opportunity within or outside Wilderness.		
Management Action	N/A	Focused assessment of management actions including group-use policies, education message, and information delivery.		

Table E-05. Standards, monitoring methods, and management actions for campsite density.

	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D
Standard	0 lasting campsites with no visible impacts lasting more than 1 year.	0 sites within 500' of each other, 0 sites within 200' of trail.	0 sites within 200' of each other, maximum total of 2 sites within 500' of each other.	3 sites within 200' of each other, maximum total of 5 sites within 500' of each other.
Method of Measure, Frequency	Survey along 1 selected stream drainage within each Wilderness each year. Survey 1 trailless peak above 2,999 feet within each Wilderness each year, as appropriate.	Complete inventory once during the life of the Plan.		
Manangement Action	1. Active site revegetation. Written reminder to all VIS centers reinforcing the established education message for this zone. Examine management that may contribute to a change in use patterns. 2. Increase focused patrols in the affected area.If initial actions do not resolve issue, conduct focused management assessment to consider: 3. Enact closure order for affected area. 4. Consider implementation of limited overnight-use system.		1. Post revegetation signs. Written reminder to all VIS centers reinforcing the established education message for this zone. Examine management that may contribute to a change in use patterns. Analyze group-use policies and act accordingly. 2. Increase focused patrols in the affected area. 3. If initial actions do not resolve issue, conduct focused management assessment to consider: 4. Enact or expand closure order for affected area. 5. Consider implementation of limited overnight-use system.	

Table E-06. Standards, monitoring methods, and management actions for campsite size.

	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D
Standard	No net increase in size.			Up to 10% net increase in size over the planning period.
Method of Measure, Frequency	Survey along 1-2 selected stream drainages, each year. Survey of 1-2 trailless peaks above 2999 feet, each year.	Complete inventory once during the life of the Plan.	Complete inventory once during the life of the Plan. Select 10 sample sites. Measure campsite area at sample sites once during the life of the Plan. Monitor remaining campsites for area change. Utilize same sample sites for duration of this Plan.	
Manangement Action	1. Active site revegetation. Written reminder to all VIS centers reinforcing the established education message for this zone. Examine management that may contribute to a change in use patterns. 2. Increase focused patrols in the affected area.If initial actions do not resolve issue, conduct focused management assessment to consider: 3. Enact or expand closure order for affected area.	1. Active site revegetation. Written reminder to all VIS centers reinforcing the established education message for this zone. Examine management that may contribute to a change in use patterns. Analyze group-use policies and act accordingly. 2. Increase focused patrols in the affected area. — If initial actions do not resolve issue, conduct focused management assessment to consider: 3. Enact or expand existing closure order for affected area.		1. Post revegetation signs. Establish site boundaries and re-vegetate expanded area. Begin focused examination of all site dimensions within zone. Rehabilitate any expansion ex-ceeding standard. Examine manage-ment that may con-tribute to a change in use patterns. Analyze group-use policies and act accordingly. 2. Increase focused patrols in the affected area 3. Enact or expand existing closure order for affected area.

Table E-07. Standards, monitoring methods, and management actions for litter and human waste.

	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D
Standard	Inability for workforce to effectively control litter and human waste through basic operations and maintenance.			
Method of Measure, Frequency	As discovered and documented in incident reports.	As discovered on regularly scheduled patrols and documented in incident reports.		
Manangement Action	1. Focused intensive education effort at trailhead and other non-Wilderness locations. 2. Implementation of human waste pack-out system.	1. Focused intensive education effort at trailhead and other non-Wilderness locations. 2. Increased patrols in affected areas. 3. Implementation of human waste pack-out system.	1. Focused intensive education effort at trailhead and other non-Wilderness locations. 2. Increased patrols in affected areas. 3. Consider other management actions including closing or relocating designated sites. 4. Implementation of waste pack-out system.	

4.0 Wilderness Staffing

Proper staffing with Wilderness rangers is essential to ensure consistent education, monitoring and stewardship. Listed below is the recommended minimum staffing for the 5 Wildernesses at the time of Forest Plan Revision. The numbers are based on:

- A minimum starting point of 150 days of a Wilderness Ranger per Wilderness. This would allow for the presence of, on average, one Wilderness Ranger 7 days a week for the field season of May to October.
- Complexity (for example, size, number of campsites, miles of trail and visitation per acre of Wilderness), knowledge of the ground, and professional judgment on what it takes to adequately meet the needs of each Wilderness.

Wilderness	Acres	Baseline field Staffing Needs (days per field season)
Pemigewasset	45,000	430
Sandwich Range	25,000	180
Presidential Range/Dry River	29,000	150
Great Gulf	5,552	200
Caribou-Speckled Mountain	12,000	150
Wild River	23,700	150

In addition to the field-based staffing each Wilderness should have another 130 days of time for Wilderness Stewards. These positions would be used primarily to ensure that the Wilderness education, planning and monitoring requirements are met. This time should be staffed with permanent seasonal positions to facilitate consistency over time.

4.1 Summary of Conditions

Below is a summary of conditions within each Wilderness that justify more than 150 days of Wilderness ranger time:

Pemigewasset:

- Presence of a developed campsite at Thirteen Falls
- Large size Wilderness with many miles of trail
- High levels of use with complex use patterns

Sandwich Range:

- Intense human use issues and need for patrols at Black and Flat Mountain Ponds
- Close proximity to Mt. Chocorua and high levels of use
- Required mitigation commitments at former shelter sites

Great Gulf:

- Intense use per acre
- Proximity to Mt Washington and its attractions, associated issues
- High intensity use of designated sites

5.0 Education Plan

5.1 Introduction

Resource managers have come to recognize education as an effective management tool. As a device for affecting visitors' behaviors, it is aligned with and helps implement the 1964 Wilderness Act's idea of wilderness as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man."

The education piece of this wilderness plan is designed as a component of a tiered system which includes the National Wilderness Education Strategy (NWES). It addresses the broad directives of the NWES as they pertain to the unique situations the WMNF faces. Our overall goals in implementing the education component of this plan include:

- Creating a more educated public that will travel lightly in the wilderness and will support wilderness management efforts;
- Developing highly skilled Wilderness rangers;
- Educating Forest Service employees such that they understand the goals of wilderness stewardship;
- Providing consistent public information including signing and Visitor Information Services (VIS) materials; and
- Achieving better overall implementation of wilderness plan.

To reach these ends, we have identified current target audiences and specific initiatives that will be reexamined and adjusted as needed. It is important to note that this document will continue to evolve as differing use trends, needs, and impacts emerge.

Also underlying the goals and objectives in this education plan is coordination with the WMNF conservation education program in delivering the messages outlined below. Doing so will provide the opportunity for dissemination of broader and more consistent messages across the Forest.

5.1.1 Current Effort

The WMNF currently has many Wilderness education initiatives in place. Below are some examples of initiatives currently occurring on the Forest.

- Visitor Information Services and backcountry staff answer questions, provide guidance and model exemplary behaviors in Wilderness.
- Trailhead signs and kiosks are used widely to disseminate information to Forest visitors.

- The Brickett Place now has a thorough interpretive plan and has recently begun to be developed as a wilderness information center.
- As a portal for the Pemigewasset Wilderness, Lincoln Woods provides important interpretive and educational services.
- The ranger stations have been equipped with Wilderness Boxes that contain resources for interpretive displays.
- Formal programs and presentations have been implemented at our campgrounds as well as through venues such as Pinkham Notch Visitor Center's "Wednesday Night with a Ranger."

These initiatives generally lack a cohesive, Forest-wide effort. To date they have had little or no coordinated objective, message, or content. In some cases, the actual audiences have differed from the desired target audiences. These efforts must be reexamined to analyze their effectiveness at relaying the desired messages to proper audiences.

5.1.2 Future Efforts

To effectively protect and manage Wilderness we must have the support of our visitors and other affected publics. A primary mechanism for gaining the support of these visitors and publics is education. By giving individuals relevant messages regarding wilderness stewardship, those individuals will ideally come to understand how they relate to and perhaps benefit from Wilderness. While educational efforts are seldom completely successful, they are a preferred method of shaping beliefs, attitudes, and thus behaviors as they are the least invasive and heavy-handed of available approaches.

Through our educational efforts we hope to inform visitors and other affected individuals such that they change the beliefs and attitudes of those who affect, and benefit from Wilderness. To do so we must provide ample time to implement our plan and evaluate its effectiveness. It is not a short-term fix but a long-term investment.

5.2 Implementation

5.2.1 Target Audiences

1. Internal employees
   a. Wilderness/Backcountry staff
   b. Visitor Information Services staff
   c. Leadership (Forest Leadership Team, Supervisor's Office staff, etc.)
   d. Resource specialists
2. Outfitters and Guides
3. Cooperators
4. Area youth
5. Urban audience
6. Wilderness/Backcountry visitors

7. General Forest visitors
8. Elected representatives

5.2.2 Action Plan Items

1. Wilderness/Backcountry Staffing

Objective: To maintain a field presence in order to take advantage of teachable moments and to ensure compliance of Wilderness rules and regulations.

Field staff will interact with Forest visitors both in and outside of designated Wilderness. Informal education will be achieved daily, responsible practices will be modeled and compliance checks completed – *FY04 and ongoing*. (See Section **4.0 – Staffing** for further reference.)

2. Wilderness Skills Training for Internal Employees and Partners

Objective: To provide the information necessary for coordinated management efforts within the WMNF Wilderness Areas.

Efforts include:

- Hosting a Wilderness Ranger Day – *FY04 and annually thereafter*
- Backcountry wilderness field trip – *FY04 and annually thereafter*
- Other relevant skills training, such as primitive tool use and courses put on by the Carhart Center – *FY04 and as needed thereafter*
- Review of wilderness trail standards for internal and external trail crews – *FY05 and every three years thereafter*

3. Wilderness Training for Visitor Information Services Staff, Information Volunteers, Cooperators, Frontliners, etc.

Objective: Create and host a series of trainings to raise awareness among internal and external customer service personnel of what wilderness is, why it exists, and our responsibilities as wilderness stewards.

- Supply our information-providers with the correct information to be passed on to Forest visitors – *FY04 and ongoing*
- Tie in with VIS and Frontliner trainings to supply our information providers with information needed to understand and deliver to Forest visitors – *FY05 and at least annually thereafter*
- Along with the information from the WMNF Wilderness Management Plan, develop and present a seminar based on the Carhart Center's "Wilderness awareness training module: A framework to increase the understanding of Wilderness values, policies and stewardship among Forest Service employees." – *FY06 and every three years thereafter*
- Develop a regional wilderness ranger training seminar/school that might include the Green Mountain/Finger Lakes National Forest, Adirondack Park, and representatives of other regional land management agencies – *Begin planning FY06*

4. Outfitter/Guide Education

Objective: To provide outfitters and guides with the correct information to be passed on to their patrons and to reaffirm our expectations of their services.

The Outfitter/Guide program has the potential to be one of our most valuable channels for passing on the Wilderness messages that we would like disseminated to the public. Thousands of visitors take advantage of these services annually and look to their providers for modeling and direction. By educating outfitters and guides we can indirectly affect their clientele. Toward this end, we will:

- Assure that appropriate Wilderness information is included in the O/G packet – *FY05 and ongoing*
- Participate in meetings with permitted groups to assure proper Wilderness information is addressed among these groups – *FY05 and ongoing*

5. General Forest Visitor Programs

Objective: To educate visitors who may not otherwise have a chance to visit or learn about Wilderness character, threats, history, and management.

Work with the Conservation Education Specialist to develop wilderness programs to be offered at campgrounds, visitor centers and information centers. Other venues will be explored such as the Highland Center, state parks, local festivals and fairs, etc. – *FY06 and ongoing*

6. Development of Wilderness Information Centers

Objective: To further develop Wilderness Information Centers.

- Implement Brickett Place Wilderness Information Center Interpretive Plan – *FY06*
- Develop an interpretive plan for Lincoln Woods Visitor Center – *FY06*

7. Standardization of Wilderness signs across the WMNF

Objective: To create standard signs and entry points that are easily recognizable as specific to WMNF Wilderness Areas.

Across the WMNF this initiative has been a work in progress but is not yet complete. Further work by all Wilderness managers will be needed to achieve the objective. – *Begun in FY04; in FY05 come to agreement on standard entry signs; in FY06 implement as signs need replacing*

8. Development of a standardized "Why Wilderness" sign for kiosks

Objective: To deliver and/or reaffirm what visitors should expect when visiting Wilderness.

The creation of such a sign is a step toward informing visitors of the rationale behind management actions. It will tie to a larger evaluation of recreation kiosks and serve to inform visitors of what to expect and how to be a responsible visitor. – *FY06 and ongoing*

9. Creation of the Forest Supervisor's Wilderness Steward Award

Objective: To reward and encourage our employees and/or partners in Wilderness Stewardship.

This non-monetary award (large framed print or similar) will be given to an individual or organization that has exemplified Wilderness stewardship. The ability (not an obligation) to present this award will help the WMNF recognize our partners who go above and beyond in providing exemplary leadership in Wilderness stewardship. – *FY05 and ongoing*

10. Development of Wilderness Information Packet for elected representatives and media

Objective: Work with Public Affairs to create an educational packet of information to be sent to our representatives with an open invite for a field trip.

- Create a briefing packet – *FY06*
- Develop ideas for media and/or congressional field trips – *FY06 and ongoing*

11. Increase outreach in local school systems

Objective: To introduce local youth to Wilderness ethics and familiarize them with their local resources.

Coordination of the various in-place and possible future efforts in local schools must be a priority. An agreed upon message and curriculum will be chosen and implemented as part of the Forest Conservation Education Strategic Plan with assistance from the Conservation Education Coordinator. – *Begin in FY06 and ongoing*

12. Urban Audience Outreach

Objective: Work with the Conservation Education Program to develop a Wilderness component of the larger efforts to establish connection between the Forest and urban populations.

Several efforts paralleling the desired objective are currently in place. These initiatives must be examined for their message and cohesiveness. Together with the Conservation Education Program Specialist and Region 9 representatives, Wilderness managers will decide on an appropriate approach or curriculum. – *Begin in FY06 and ongoing*

5.3 Education Messages

5.3.1 Introduction to Established Education Messages for Wilderness

The following are the general proper use messages to be conveyed to the public by frontliners. Although each zone has distinguishing marks of character, management, and level of associated risk, they abut with unidentified boundaries and multiple zones may be encountered even when on a single trail day hike in Wilderness. Proper planning and knowledge of

each zone's defining attributes will lend to safer and more enjoyable visitor experiences while protecting the Wilderness resource.

Upon entering Wilderness there will be noticeable differences from the land left behind—the signs don't have as much information and are fewer in number, the trails may seem less distinct, there aren't large groups on the trail or at campsites. All of this is part of the Wilderness experience that the Forest Service has strived to maintain.

5.3.2 Education Messages for All Zones

Below is a summary of established education messages, following the principles of "Leave No Trace," and generalized for all Wilderness zones:

- Visitors should plan ahead and be well prepared for a range of recreation opportunities with varying levels of challenge and degrees of risk. Self-reliance and proficient navigation skills will make for a safer and more enjoyable visit especially when winter conditions are present and trails may be more difficult to follow.
- Group number should be kept to a minimum, never exceeding ten, while hiking or camping. Multiple unassociated parties may simultaneously occupy a site, designated or otherwise, as long as their total numbers do not exceed ten.
- Travel should be limited to durable surfaces such as trail treadway, rock, sand, or nonvegetated duff whenever possible. Avoid fragile areas such as those that are soft, wet, or lightly vegetated. When going off trail, members of a group should spread out to disperse the impact and avoid the creation of lasting trails.
- Where possible, only designated campsites or established campsites should be selected for use. Avoid lightly impacted campsites and the perimeters of existing sites. Established sites should be, and often must be, at least 200 feet away from trails, water sources, and any other campsites as well as ¼ mile from any tent platforms or designated campsites. Additional restrictions may be utilized in specific Forest Protection Areas. Always minimize impacts, alterations, and number of nights spent in one location.
- When no established campsites are present, only campsites showing no former human impacts should be selected for use. Sites should be at least 200 feet from trails and water sources. Always practice low impact techniques (no lasting alterations, well-planned layout, located in a naturally well-drained area, etc). Never occupy a pristine site for more than two nights. Upon departure, visitors should naturalize the site as best as possible.
- Always pack out all litter. Human waste should be disposed of in a responsible manner (i.e., catholes more than 200 feet from water sources or in outhouses where available).
- Leave all natural and cultural artifacts as they were found. Take away a picture and a lasting memory but leave nature's treasures for others

to enjoy. Humans have also had a hand in shaping the landscape, and human history is inseparably linked to White Mountain Wilderness. Even pieces of logging refuse more than 50 years old are relics that are best interpreted in context and not after being removed.

- Campfires are strongly discouraged and in many areas (e.g., Great Gulf Wilderness, alpine zone) prohibited. Use of a camp stove is preferable. If fires are built use only dead and down fuel and practice low-impact technique (i.e., mound, sheet, pan fires). Use existing fire rings where available. Always make sure fires are out cold before leaving and never burn trash.
- Respect wildlife and maintain adequate distance as not to disturb their natural behaviors. Proper storage of food and packing out of all food waste is vital.
- Show consideration for other visitors and their pursuit of solitude by maintaining distance when selecting sites for rest, camp, etc. Devices such as cellular phones, radios, etc. should be used with discretion, if at all, to avoid encroachment on others' experience.

5.3.3 Education Messages for Zone A

(Note: messages unique to each zone are in italics)

- Visitors should plan ahead and be well prepared for *the most challenging level of off-trail travel and recreation opportunities with the highest degree of risk. Only those comfortable in wilderness navigation should venture into this zone where self-reliance is essential.*
- Group number should be kept to a minimum, *preferably four or fewer people* but never more than ten.
- Whenever possible travel should avoid fragile areas such as those that are soft, wet, or lightly vegetated. Durable surfaces such as rock, sand, or nonvegetated duff are always better route choices. *Members of a group should spread out to disperse the impact and avoid the creation of lasting trails.*
- *Only campsites showing no former human impacts should be selected for use.* Sites should be at least 200 feet away from water sources. *Never occupy a site for more than two nights. Upon departure, visitors should naturalize the site as well as possible.*

5.3.4 Education Messages for Zone B

(Note: messages unique to each zone are in italics)

- Visitors should plan ahead and be well prepared for *challenging travel and primitive recreation opportunities with a high level of risk.* Self-reliance and proficient navigation skills may be needed to facilitate travel on *minimally maintained trails.* These paths may be exceptionally hard to follow under winter conditions.

- Group number should be kept to a minimum, *preferably six or fewer people* and never exceeding ten.
- Whenever possible travel should avoid fragile areas such as those that are soft, wet, or lightly vegetated. Durable surfaces such as trail treadway, rock, sand, or nonvegetated duff are always better route choices. If traveling off-trail, members of a group should spread out to disperse the impact and avoid the creation of lasting trails.
- *Only campsites showing no former human impacts should be selected for use.* Avoid lightly impacted campsites. Sites should be, and often must be, at least 200 feet away from trails and water sources, and *at least 500 feet from any other campsites currently being used by other visitors.* Practice low impact techniques (no lasting alterations, well-planned layout, located in a naturally well-drained area, etc). *Never occupy a site for more than two nights and upon departure, visitors should naturalize sites as well as possible.*
- Pack out all litter. Human waste should be disposed of in a responsible manner (i.e., catholes more than 200 feet from water sources).
- Leave all natural and cultural artifacts as they were found.
- Use of a campstove is preferable. Campfires are strongly discouraged and in many areas (e.g., Great Gulf Wilderness, alpine zone) prohibited. If fires are built use only dead and down fuel, practice low-impact technique (i.e., mound, sheet, pan fires) and conceal all traces of campfire before departure. Always make sure fires are out cold before leaving and never burn trash.
- Respect wildlife and maintain adequate distance as not to disturb their natural behaviors. Proper storage of food and packing out of all food waste is vital.
- Show consideration for other visitors and their pursuit of solitude by maintaining distance when selecting sites for rest, camp, etc. Devices such as cellular phones, radios, etc. should be used with discretion, if at all, as to avoid encroachment on others' experience.

5.3.5 Education Messages for Zone C

(Note: messages unique to each zone are in italics)

- Visitors should plan ahead and be well prepared for *challenging travel and semi-primitive recreation opportunities with a moderate level of risk.* Navigation skills will better facilitate travel on *moderately developed trails* especially under winter conditions.
- Group number should be kept to a minimum, *preferably six or fewer people* and never exceeding ten.
- Travel should be limited to durable surfaces such as trail treadway, rock, sand, or nonvegetated duff whenever possible. Avoid fragile areas such as those that are soft, wet, or lightly vegetated. When going off trail, members of a group should spread out to disperse the impact and avoid the creation of lasting trails.

- *Only designated campsites or established campsites should be selected for use.* Avoid lightly impacted campsites. Established sites should be, and often must be, at least 200 feet away from trails, water sources, and any other campsites as well as ¼ mile from any tent platforms. Additional restrictions may be utilized in specific Forest Protection Areas. Always minimize impacts, alterations, and number of nights spent in one location.
- Pack out all litter. Human waste should be disposed of in a responsible manner (i.e., catholes more than 200 feet from campsites, trails and water sources).
- Leave all natural and cultural artifacts as they were found.
- Use of a campstove is preferable. Campfires are strongly discouraged and in many areas (e.g., Great Gulf Wilderness, alpine zone) prohibited. If fires are built use only dead and down fuel, practice low-impact technique (i.e., mound, sheet, pan fires) and conceal all traces of campfire before departure. Use existing fire rings where available. Always make sure fires are out cold before leaving and never burn trash.
- Respect wildlife and maintain adequate distance as not to disturb their natural behaviors. Proper storage of food and packing out of all food waste is vital.
- Show consideration for other visitors and their pursuit of solitude by maintaining distance when selecting sites for rest, camp, etc. Devices such as cellular phones, radios, etc. should be used with discretion, if at all, as to avoid encroachment on others' experience.

5.3.6 Education Messages for Zone D

(Note: messages unique to each zone are in italics)

- Visitors should plan ahead and be well prepared for *challenging travel and semi-primitive recreation opportunities.* During winter conditions the level of risk will be elevated and navigation skills will better facilitate travel on *more developed trails.*
- Group number should be kept to a minimum, *preferably six or fewer people* and never exceeding ten.
- Travel should be limited to durable surfaces such as trail treadway, rock, sand, or nonvegetated duff whenever possible. Avoid fragile areas such as those that are soft, wet, or lightly vegetated. When going off trail, members of a group should spread out to disperse the impact and avoid the creation of lasting trails.
- *Only designated campsites or established campsites should be selected for use.* Avoid lightly impacted campsites. Established sites should be, and often must be, at least 200 feet away from trails, water sources, and any other campsites as well as ¼ mile from any tent platforms. Additional restrictions may be utilized in specific Forest Protection Areas. Always minimize impacts, alterations, and number of nights spent in one location.

- Pack out all litter. Human waste should be disposed of in a responsible manner (i.e., catholes more than 200 feet from water sources or in outhouses where available).
- Leave all natural and cultural artifacts as they were found.
- Use of a campstove is preferable. Campfires are strongly discouraged and in many areas (e.g., Great Gulf Wilderness, alpine zone) prohibited. If fires are built use only dead and down fuel and practice low-impact technique (i.e., mound, sheet, pan fires). Use existing fire rings where available. Always make sure fires are out cold before leaving and never burn trash.
- Respect wildlife and maintain adequate distance as not to disturb their natural behaviors. Proper storage of food and packing out of all food waste is vital.
- Show consideration for other visitors and their pursuit of solitude by maintaining distance when selecting sites for rest, camp, etc. Devices such as cellular phones, radios, etc. should be used with discretion, if at all, as to avoid encroachment on others' experience.

6.0 Summary

Along with forest plan goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, the elements laid out above set the course of Wilderness management on the WMNF. Zones are defined by resource and social criteria, and education messages are specified for a broad collection of audiences. Specific indicators, standards, and monitoring procedures will guide future management actions.

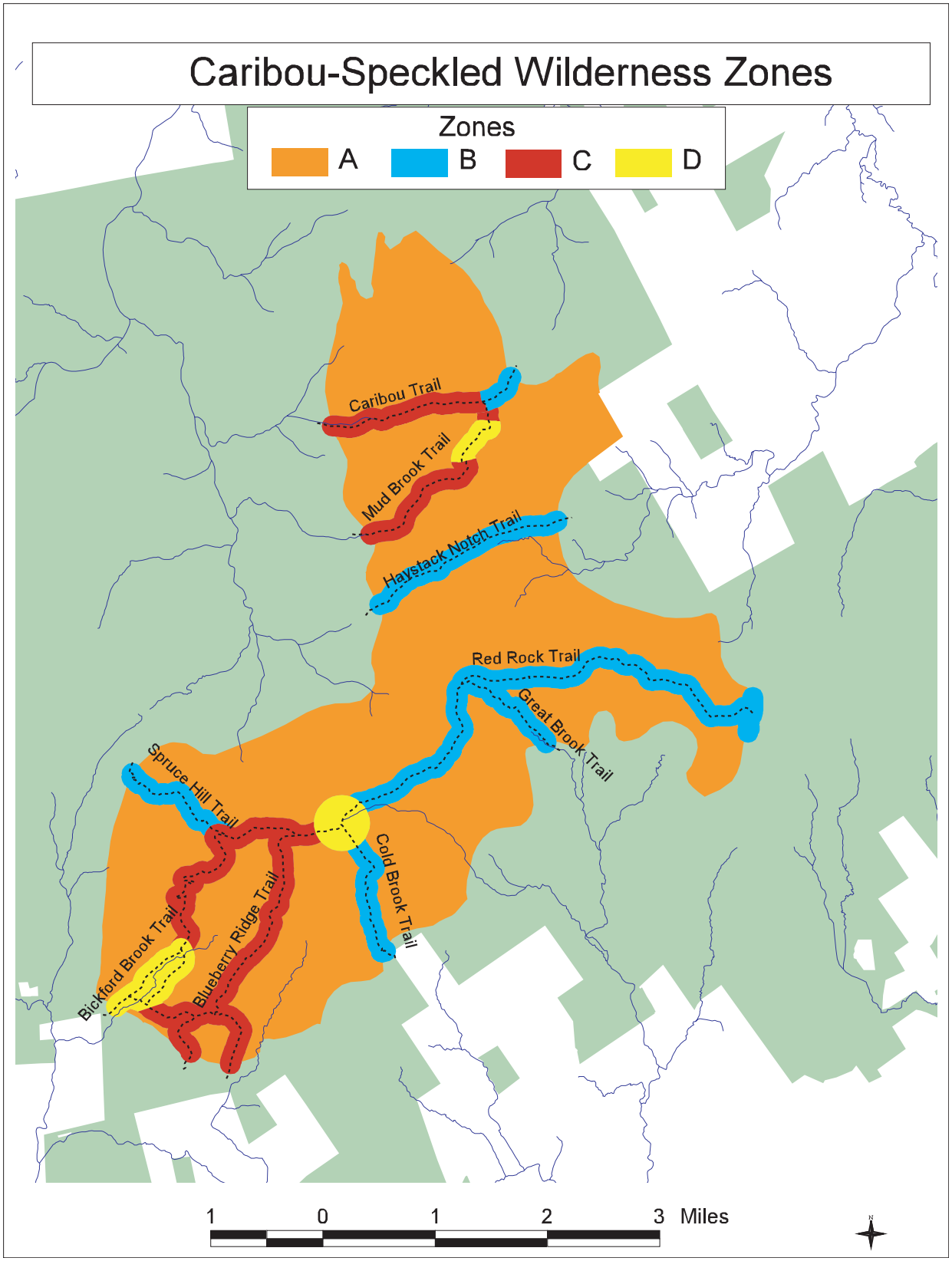
A key element in this management process is an annual meeting of WMNF Wilderness rangers and managers. In this annual meeting, at least the following will take place:

- A review of the previous year's monitoring results and field findings;
- Discussion and agreement on proper management actions needed to address identified problems;
- Discussion and validation of the contents and/or necessary editing of this plan;
- Development of a monitoring schedule and protocol for the following year;
- Discussion and agreement on consistent monitoring protocols; and
- Gathering of information for the annual WMNF State of the Wilderness Report.

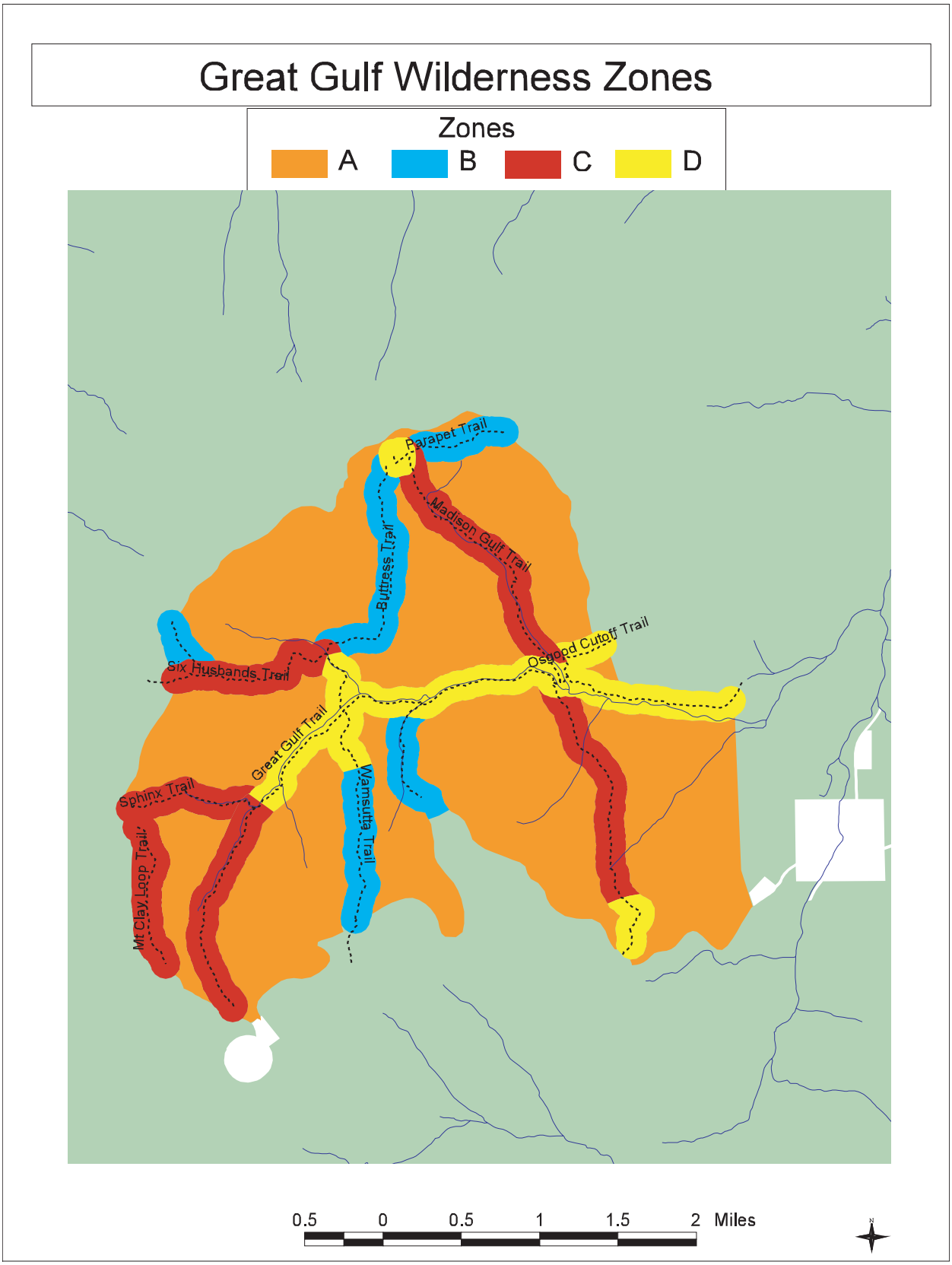
The annual meeting serves as a time to update and evaluate the larger Wilderness management approach, as well as a point at which much of the following year's program of work will be established. The State of the Wilderness Report will be completed in early spring, and will be used as a reference for monitoring, as well as to inform Forest management actions and policy changes. Through the simultaneous processes of maintaining wilderness trails and facilities, of implementing management actions, and of monitoring conditions laid out here, significant strides can be made toward reaching more consistent and immediately relevant management of WMNF Wildernesses.

7.0 Wilderness Zone Maps

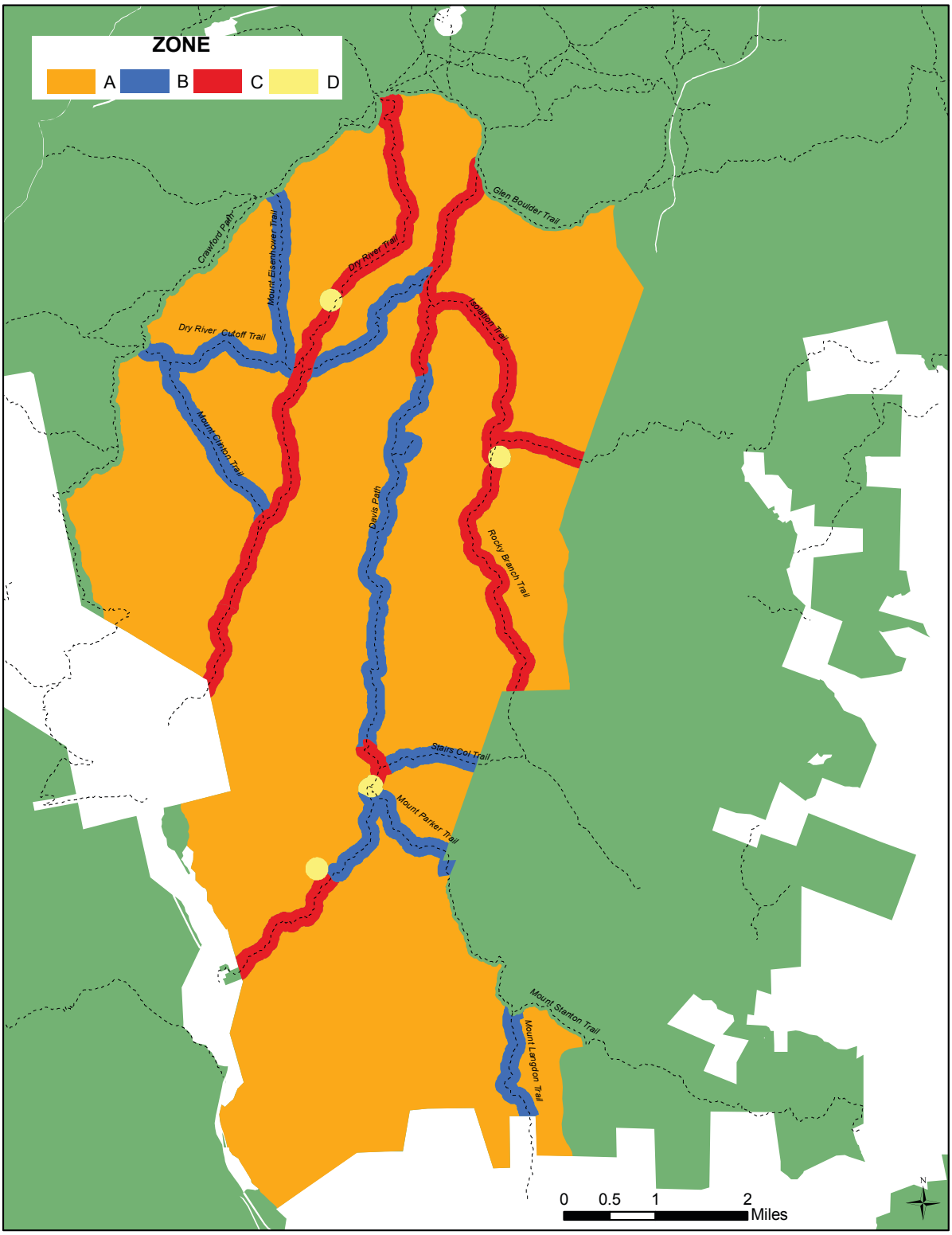
Map E-01. Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness Zones.



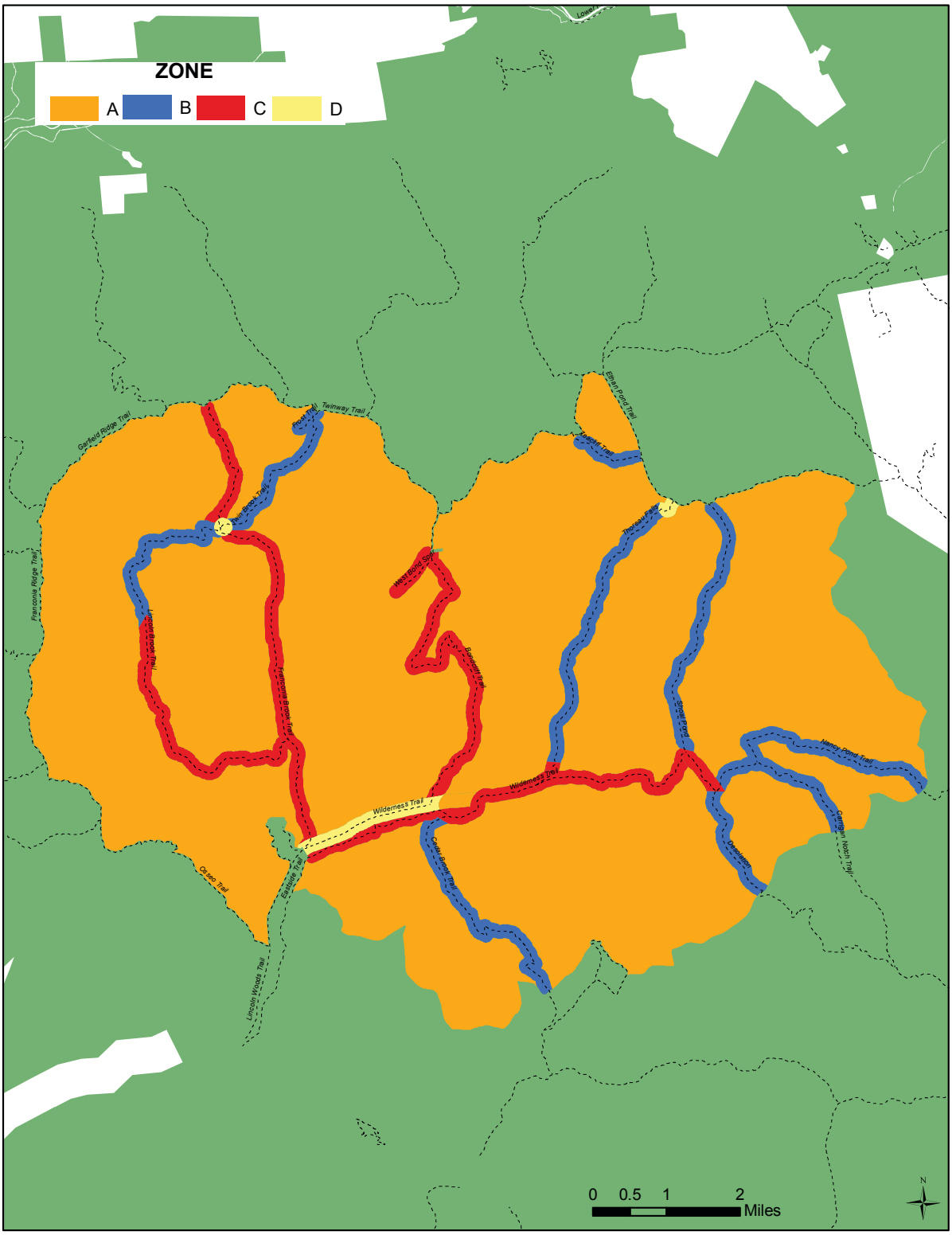
Map E-02. Great Gulf Wilderness Zones.



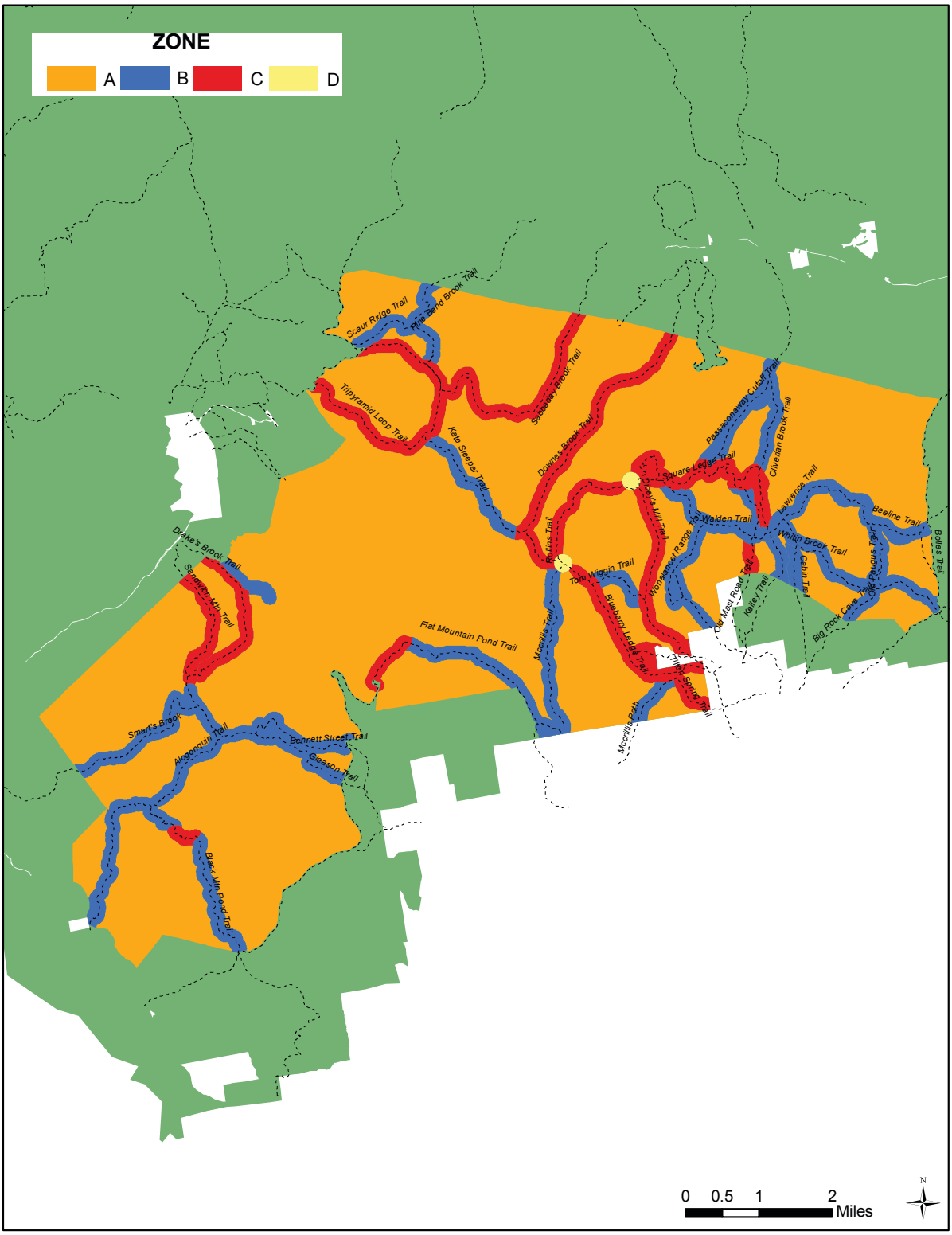
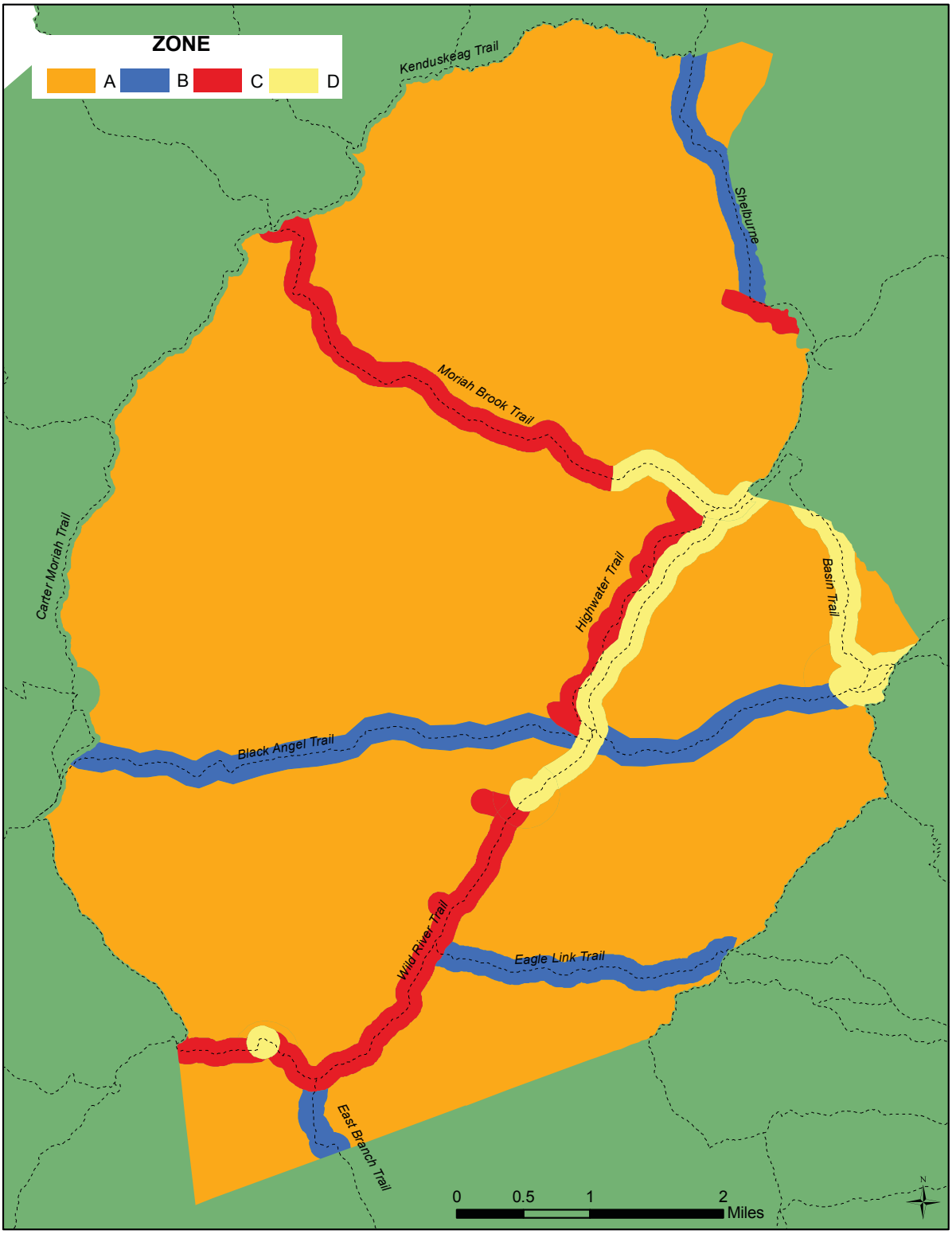
Map E-03. Presidential-Dry River Wilderness Zones



Map E-04. Pemigewasset Wilderness Zones.



Map E-05. Sandwich Range Wilderness Zones.



Map E-06. Wild River Wilderness Zones.