

White Mountain National Forest

Appendix I U.S. Forest Service Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2004-2008

U.S. Forest Service Strategic Plan for FY 2004-2008

The Strategic Plan provides six goals that, in part, give focus to the most important issues facing the agency in the next five years. The White Mountain National Forest will respond to these goals through the implementation of program goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines as stated in the revised Plan.

Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire

Fire, both prescribed and wildland, will be used as a tool to enhance ecosystem resiliency and to maintain desired fuel levels. Fire will play its natural role where appropriate and desirable, but will be actively suppressed where necessary to protect life, investments, and resources. Effects of wildland fire will be acceptable, and fire will operate within historical fire regimes appropriate to the vegetation type. Firefighter and public safety will be the first priority in every fire management activity.

Goal 2: Reduce the impacts from invasive species

The Forest will remain as free of non-native invasive species as reasonably possible. A weed-free user's ethic will be encouraged in all resource area programs with potential to spread invasive species. While some invasive species may occasionally be found on the Forest, occurrences will not be so widespread as to cause negative impacts to native communities.

Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities

Forest recreation management will provide a range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities, protect low use developed and dispersed areas, emphasize concentrated dispersed use within high use corridors and destinations, and manage developed facilities to concentrate use within acceptable impacts and limits. The plan also initiates a policy that prohibits cross country off highway vehicle use.

Goal 4: Help meet energy resource needs

The revised Plan provides direction that allows for energy development within the capabilities and sensitivities of specific landscapes across the Forest. The Forest will protect, improve, or mitigate energy development impacts on watersheds, riparian and aquatic habitats, visual integrity, and threatened, endangered and sensitive species habitats.

Goal 5: Improve watershed condition

Forest watersheds, streams, water dependent resources, and designated uses will be protected and restored by implementing practices designed to maintain or improve conditions. Streams will be managed at proper functioning condition to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows, thereby decreasing erosion, reducing flood damage, and improving water quality. Watersheds will continue to provide high quality water for public water supplies, recreational activities, aquatic biota such as fish, and other purposes.

Goal 6: Mission related work that supports Forest Service Goals

The revised Plan was developed in response to comments from the public Regarding management of the White Mountain National Forest. The revised Plan provides for human uses of the environment as well as preserving much of the inherent wildness of some areas of the Forest. It also includes standards and guidelines to protect, improve, and/or mitigate impacts to watersheds, riparian and aquatic habitats, visual integrity, and threatened, endangered and sensitive species habitats. To improve the science associated with resource management, the revised Plan is based on adaptive management, using monitoring and evaluation to enhance our understanding of the resources. Monitoring and evaluation provide an avenue for incorporating and obtaining technical assistance on management problems.