

# White Mountain National Forest

## Chapter 1 Goals and Objectives



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*Cover*

*Ice Climber (WMNF Photo by John Williams)*

## Goals of the White Mountain National Forest

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The role of the White Mountain National Forest is expressed through goals that align with the legal context and social and ecological setting of the Forest.

### Forest Plan Goals

We will manage to sustain a healthy forest and use the latest scientific knowledge to restore the land and forest where needed. Rather than focus on individual species, we will manage for ecosystem viability within the context of New England.

The White Mountain National Forest will provide recreation and other opportunities, experiences, and benefits, some of which are not readily available elsewhere.

Management will recognize the Forest's support to local economies while realizing the importance to society of a natural appearing landscape distinct from the human altered environments otherwise dominant in the East.

### Accessibility

#### *Goals*

The Forest will provide a variety of recreation opportunities for people with disabilities (without fundamentally altering the non-motorized policy), and will continue to improve accessibility to recreation sites and programs through specific capital investment proposals as sites are reconstructed or rehabilitated. Priority will be given to developed sites (camp and picnic grounds), but accessibility is also considered each time a trail or more remote site is maintained or reconstructed. The goal of the Forest is to provide as many recreational opportunities as possible, in as many varying degrees of difficulty as possible, that are barrier free.

Public use of ATVs ([all-terrain vehicles](#), sometimes referred to as OHVs) on the Forest is prohibited except in the winter on snow cover. This restricted use applies equally to people with disabilities and to the general public. Individuals who use an assistive device for mobility purposes may use their device as long as it meets the definition of a [wheelchair](#) in the Glossary. Motorized wheelchairs are also allowed in Wilderness and in other areas signed as "[Foot Travel Only](#)."

Whenever possible, the Forest Service will continue to strive towards creating experiences that are a higher standard than the minimums required by law.

### Air Quality

#### *Goals*

Forest ecosystems are not adversely affected by air pollution, and Forest management activities are conducted to protect or maintain air quality.

The White Mountain National Forest is involved with, and provides input to, local, regional, and national air quality groups where possible.

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National Forest management activities, including permitted activities, are conducted in a manner that meets 1) National Ambient Air Quality Standards and 2) applicable provisions in the State Implementation Plan.

### *Objectives*

1. The White Mountain National Forest assesses major new sources of air pollution to determine if they would have an adverse affect on Air Quality Related Values (AQRVs) in [Class I airsheds](#) and advises the Regional Forester and appropriate air quality regulators.
2. The Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) or similar substitute technology site at Camp Dodge is maintained to monitor air quality in Class I airsheds.

## Alpine Ski Areas

### *Goals*

The White Mountain National Forest will maintain and provide quality alpine skiing and related opportunities on the Forest through partnerships with the private sector.

### *Objectives*

1. Loon Mountain, Waterville Valley, Attitash/Bear Peak, and Wildcat ski areas will continue to be operated by the private sector under special use permit authority, consistent with permit language and the Forest Plan.
2. The Forest retains the areas identified in the current Plan, as amended by the approved Loon Mountain Ski Resort Development and Expansion EIS, for potential ski area expansion (MA 9.2). This includes land adjacent to Loon Mountain, Attitash/Bear Peak, and Snows Mountain in Waterville Valley, as well as the former Mittersill Ski Area adjacent to Cannon Mountain Ski Area.
3. The Forest Service does not consider developing any new alpine ski areas.

## Conservation Education

### *Goals*

The White Mountain National Forest will continue to work internally and externally with partners and volunteers to connect people to the land by providing the public with the tools, experiences, training, and information they need to understand, appreciate, and enjoy their National Forest, and to participate effectively in sustaining natural and cultural resources.

The Forest Service will continue to interact with educators, researchers, partners, visitors, and urban audiences to learn and share information about the social, ecological, and economic factors that bind people to natural communities. Materials will correlate with state education standards and provide information that can be effectively incorporated into curricula and public programs.

The Conservation Education program will involve all Forest employees and incorporate national recreation and education programs that emphasize the dynamic nature of ecosystems, the role of humans in those systems, and the consequences of human actions.

### *Objectives*

1. Promote the Forest Service mission and program objectives through personal interactions and educational materials.
2. Incorporate all available technologies and methods into the Conservation Education program, including on-line information sharing, school and public presentations, publication in local and partner magazines, displays at local visitor centers, etc.
3. Establish citizen science projects to get local schools and residents active in learning about our natural and cultural resources.
4. Integrate relevant and recent information from Forest Service Research and State and Private Forestry programs into educational materials and trainings.
5. Meet annually with partners and educators to help identify ways to improve conservation education efforts and coordinate education and interpretation efforts across groups and agencies.

## Geologic and Mineral Resources

### **General**

#### *Goals*

The White Mountain National Forest will contribute toward satisfying demand for geologic and mineral resources through environmentally sound development.

#### *Objectives*

1. The Forest Service will administer its geology and minerals program to provide resources for current and future generations commensurate with the need to sustain the long-term health and biological diversity of ecosystems.
2. The Forest Service will coordinate with other federal and state agencies having authority and expertise in mineral-related activities, and will collaborate with interested public, industry, and community representatives.

### **Leasable (Commercial) Minerals**

#### *Goals*

The Forest Service will manage the commercial mineral resources of the National Forest to ensure sustained ecosystems and maintain healthy watersheds.

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### Objectives

1. Lands disturbed by mineral and energy activities, both past and present, will be reclaimed using the best scientific knowledge and principles, and returned to other productive uses.
2. [Exploration](#), development, and production of mineral and energy resources will be conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner and will be integrated with the management of other resources using the principles of ecosystem management.

### Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting

#### Goals

The Forest Service will contribute toward satisfying demand for hobby collecting of minerals through environmentally sound development on National Forest System Lands.

#### Objectives

1. The Forest Service will administer and maintain recreational mineral collecting areas.
2. Sites no longer needed for rock and mineral activities will be stabilized.
3. The potential for a recreational mineral collecting site meeting [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA) standards will be assessed and, if feasible, constructed.

## Heritage Resources

### Goals

The White Mountain National Forest will identify, evaluate, preserve, protect, stabilize, interpret, and when necessary, mitigate for loss of heritage resources at a Forest-wide and project level. The Forest Service will develop the heritage program utilizing guidance provided in the USFS *National Heritage Strategy*.

### Objectives

1. The Forest Service will develop partnerships with local historical societies, colleges, and universities to accomplish program goals.

## Lands

### Goals

National Forest System lands will be accessible for public use.

National Forest System lands will be consolidated through acquisition and exchange to facilitate restoration, protection, enhancement of public benefits, and improved management effectiveness.

Special uses will be administered to provide a consistent, fair, and comprehensive application of regulations and policies to all users.

Any new or expired use of public lands will be examined to determine if the use is consistent with goals, objectives, and management area direction.

### *Objectives*

1. Determine annually any needs for right-of-way acquisition (roads and trails) or grants necessary to meet resource management objectives.
2. Complete an annual update of the *Forest Land Adjustment Plan* with any additions or changes showing funding sources, priorities, lands proposed for acquisition, exchanges or donations, and right-of-way needs.
3. Renew permits when appropriate in a timely manner.
4. Show continuous improvement with the percentage of permits managed to standard.
5. Develop and accomplish a land corner and property line maintenance program to ensure high visibility of property lines to prevent encroachments and the need for costly resurveys.
6. Mark property lines on newly acquired tracts within a two-year period after the date of acquisition, or sooner if funds are available.

## Native American Relationships

### *Goals*

The White Mountain National Forest will maintain a government-to-government relationship with Federally-recognized Native American tribes to honor the unique legal relationship the United States has with Indian tribal governments as set forth in the Constitution of the United States, statutes, Executive Orders, and court decisions.

## Non-Native Invasive Species

### *Goals*

The Forest will remain as free of non-native [invasive species](#) (NNIS) as reasonably possible. A [weed-free](#) user's ethic will be encouraged in all resource area programs with potential to spread NNIS. While some NNIS may occasionally be found on the Forest, occurrences will not be so widespread as to cause negative impacts to native communities. Prevention is the most economical and environmentally desirable method to minimize NNIS occurrence, and planning for all activities will consider NNIS prevention and mitigation of possible effects. The Forest Service will cooperate with adjacent landowners, towns, state agencies, and private organizations to prevent NNIS from being established on the Forest. Eradication efforts will be effective and cause minimal negative effects to other resources.

The Forest Service will emphasize prevention and eradication in Research Natural Areas, Scenic Areas, Alpine, Wilderness, and [wetlands](#) to protect unique, limited, or particularly threatened ecological communities. Prevention and eradication efforts will also emphasize [roads](#), managed

## White Mountain National Forest — Land and Resource Management Plan

upland openings, and other disturbed sites as potential routes of invasive species spread.

### Objectives

1. Prevent non-native invasive species (NNIS) not currently on the Forest from becoming established.
2. Eradicate new species infestations as quickly as possible. This may include, but is not limited to, [physical/mechanical](#), [biological](#), or [chemical](#) treatments.
3. For NNIS already occurring on the Forest:
  - a. Prevent new infestations.
  - b. [Eradicate](#) species that are known to be invasive and persistent throughout all or most of New England. These can spread into, and persist in, native communities and displace [native species](#), thereby demonstrating a threat to the integrity of the natural ecosystem and communities. Prioritize scheduling of species whose dispersal mechanisms typically result in rapid spread of individuals over widespread areas (e.g., wind dispersed) or which are especially difficult to eradicate.
  - c. [Suppress](#) species suspected or known to be invasive in limited areas of New England. These species will typically persist in the environment for long periods once established, and may become invasive under favorable conditions.
  - d. [Contain](#) species about which some concern has been raised regarding their potential to become a management problem. These species have been shown to be invasive under special environmental conditions.

## Rare and Unique Features

### [TES Species](#) — General

#### Goals

The White Mountain National Forest will provide sufficient habitat and protection to preclude the need for species listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act due to National Forest habitat conditions or effects of activities.

For species currently listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act or designated Regional Forester's sensitive species, the Forest Service will contribute to conservation and recovery of species and their habitats.

#### Objectives

1. Within five years of listing, develop conservation approaches for all sensitive species. Biological diversity will be conserved by maintaining viable reproducing populations for all native plant and animal species. For species where the Forest alone cannot support a viable population,

species persistence will be maintained, and the Forest Service will contribute to maintaining or improving viability where possible.

**Goals**

Outstanding natural communities will be conserved.

**Objectives**

1. Continue to develop a Forest-wide natural community inventory based on botanical, geologic and landscape considerations.

**Goals**

Alpine communities, including areas of alpine and subalpine habitat outside the Alpine Zone management area, will be conserved.

Maintain the successful recovery of dwarf cinquefoil (*Potentilla robbinsianna*).

**Bald Eagle**

**Goals**

Contribute to bald eagle recovery efforts.

**Gray Wolf**

**Goals**

Maintain habitat opportunities for wolf colonization on the Forest.

**Indiana Bat**

**Goals**

Maintain suitable conditions for roosting and foraging.

**Objectives**

1. Work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and research partners to understand the role of the White Mountain National Forest in Indiana bat recovery.

**Small Whorled Pogonia**

**Goals**

Maintain or enhance habitat conditions around known occurrences, including consideration of vegetation management to increase light levels if needed.

**Canada Lynx**

**Goals**

In [Lynx Analysis Units](#), provide suitable [lynx habitat](#), with an emphasis on high quality [foraging habitat](#) in proximity to [denning habitat](#), in sufficient amounts that neither is limiting to lynx.

Plan and manage activities and special uses to protect the integrity of lynx habitat.

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Maintain the natural competitive advantage of lynx by providing a landscape with large, interconnected blocks of foraging habitat where snow-compacting activities are minimized.

Maintain sufficient [habitat connectivity](#) across forested landscapes and across [highway](#) rights-of-way to allow dispersal of lynx between Lynx Analysis Units and lynx population sources.

### Objectives

1. Concentrate recreational activities within existing developed areas rather than developing new recreational areas in lynx habitat.
2. Cooperate with state and other federal agencies to identify and prioritize highway crossing sites to reduce highway impacts.

### Dwarf Cinquefoil

#### Goals

Maintain the successful recovery of dwarf cinquefoil (*Potentilla robbinsiana*).

### Bicknell's Thrush

#### Goals

Maintain or enhance suitable breeding habitat for Bicknell's thrush.

### Objectives

1. During the planning period, determine if human activity levels result in reduced breeding success.

## Recreation

### Goals

The White Mountain National Forest will provide a range of quality recreation activities and opportunities.

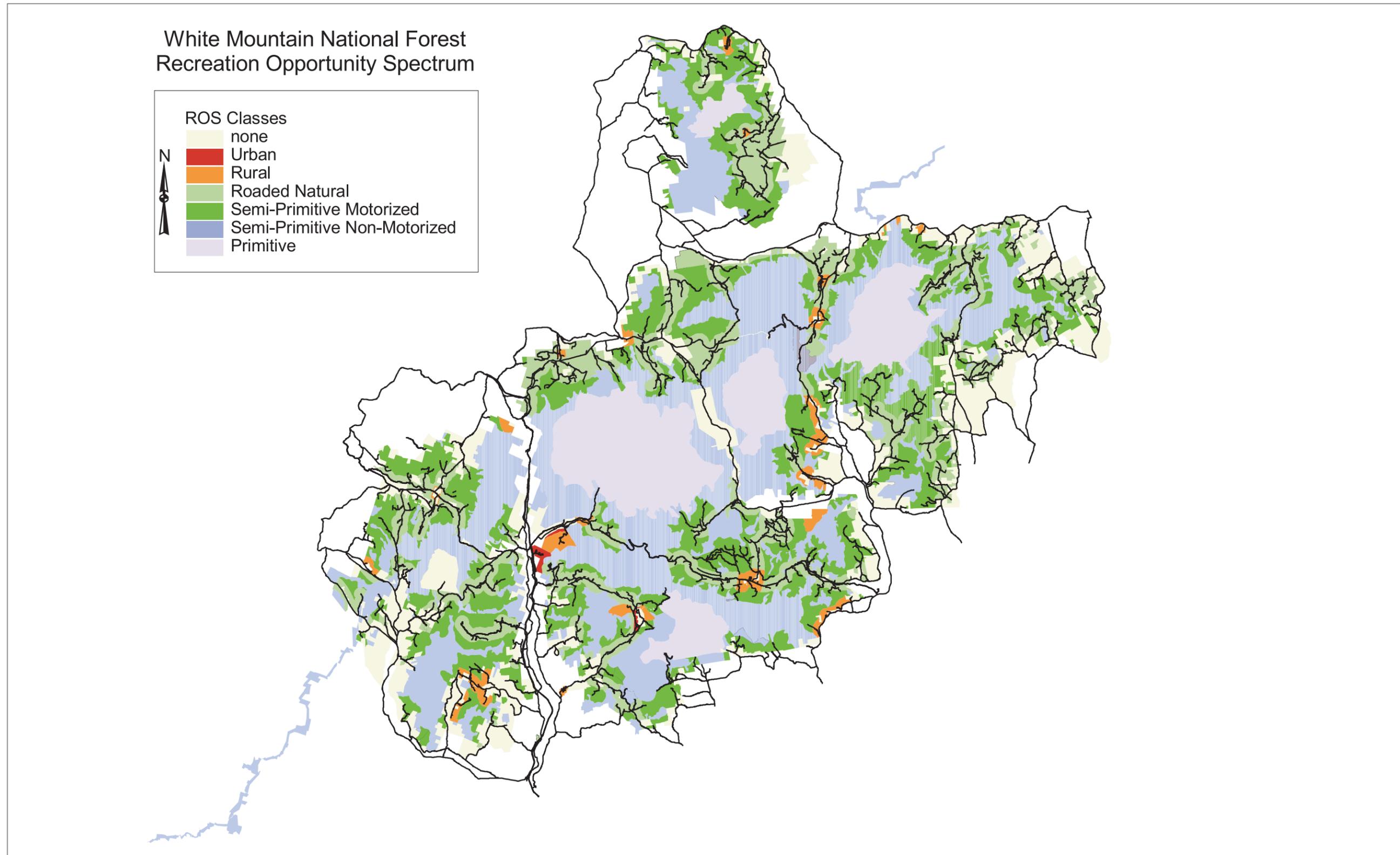
### Objectives

1. Manage the Forest recreation program consistent with the [Recreation Opportunity Spectrum \(ROS\)](#) framework. (See [Map 1-01](#))
2. Maintain existing ROS objectives and do not increase the number of inconsistencies.
3. Develop approaches to outline limits of acceptable change to maintain or improve the quality of the recreation opportunity.

### Goals

The Forest Service will implement recreation management approaches to provide Forest recreation managers a more complete framework within which to consider management actions. Their purpose is to minimize increased development levels in the [backcountry](#) and to protect and manage both high and low use areas and facilities. The overall effect of these approaches will be to guide, and seek public support for, agency actions in response to changing or increasing use.

Map 1-01. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Class Allocations on the White Mountain National Forest.





### *Objectives*

1. The Forest Service will emphasize concentrating use at specific sites or locations rather than dispersing use within the area or to other areas.
2. Forest management actions will not disperse use from high to low use areas.
3. Current development levels in the backcountry will be maintained or lowered where appropriate.
4. Current low use areas and facilities will be managed to meet visitor needs and resource requirements through education and management controls, where necessary.
5. High use areas and facilities will be managed for high use to meet visitor needs, while ensuring that they can be sustained over the long term. Appropriate mitigation will be provided to manage the effects of high use. Use will not be allowed to increase indefinitely in high use areas.
6. The Forest Service and partner organizations will collaborate to provide recreational opportunities, [conservation education](#), and visitor information programs.

### **Developed Recreation**

#### *Goals*

Developed recreation will provide a variety of quality campground, day use, and other roadside recreation opportunities where the natural forest setting is an important part of the visitor's experience, while ensuring the balanced protection of social and natural resources.

#### *Objectives*

1. Campgrounds and picnic areas will have lower site densities than private facilities, with ample screening between sites and more immediate access to other Forest recreational activities.

#### *Goals*

The Forest Service will provide a range of opportunities from large, more developed campgrounds and [day use areas](#) to smaller, less developed campgrounds and day use areas. These sites will generally relate to the variety of locations, design, and construction standards offered by road systems throughout the Forest.

#### *Objectives*

1. Allow for a net increase of up to 32 new campground sites.

### **Winter Motorized Dispersed Recreation**

#### *Goals*

The Forest Service will provide for [snowmobile use](#) on designated trails in certain areas. The importance of the natural setting will be emphasized.

*Objectives*

1. Allow for a net increase of up to 20 miles of new snowmobile trails.

*Goals*

The White Mountain National Forest will maintain its role as part of the statewide and regional snowmobile trail network.

*Objectives*

1. The winter motorized trail system will be managed cooperatively with the states of New Hampshire and Maine.

**Non-Motorized Dispersed Recreation**

*Goals*

The Forest Service will provide a range of dispersed recreation experiences that most visitors will perceive as rustic, wild, and undeveloped. Inconsistencies with ROS objectives will be minimized. Management actions will emphasize protecting unmodified, undeveloped areas and maintaining a low development level at backcountry facilities in order to ensure the continued opportunity for this experience. Personal responsibility, risk, and challenge will be recognized as an integral part of the backcountry experience.

*Objectives*

1. Allow for a net increase of up to 25 miles of new non-motorized trails, not including trails at ski areas operating under a Special Use Permit.
2. Conduct site-specific reviews of travel corridors for inclusion into the trail system. These reviews will be guided by the recreation management approaches listed on page 2-17. Following appropriate analysis, corridors will be designated part of the Forest Trail System or closed to mountain bike use. Travel corridors designated as part of the forest Trail System are not considered in the 25 mile non-motorized trail constraint.
3. Allow for a net increase in the capacity of shelters, cabins, or tent platforms by up to 40 people at one time.

**Rock and Ice Climbing**

*Goals*

The White Mountain National Forest has both traditional and sport climbing areas. The Forest Service will recognize the value of both types of climbing areas and will continue to provide a range of climbing opportunities while protecting natural and cultural resources. It will emphasize traditional climbing over sport climbing.

*Objectives*

1. The Forest Service will work closely with the climbing community to locate new and developing rock climbing areas in order to address

emerging issues in a cooperative manner, track new areas, and prevent [route](#) development that will affect Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) species.

### Special Uses – Recreation Specific

#### Goals

The Forest Service will work with the private sector through Special Use permits to provide recreation opportunities (areas, facilities, services, and events) that the Forest Service alone is not able to offer, and that are consistent with the Desired Future Condition.

#### Wildlife Related Recreation

#### Goals

The White Mountain National Forest will provide hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities consistent with federal and state law.

## Riparian and Aquatic Habitats

### Riparian

#### Goals

Protect, restore, or improve [riparian area](#) conditions to benefit riparian dependent resources and values.

Manage riparian areas to provide for coldwater, coolwater, and warmwater aquatic communities within the ecological capability of the landscape.

### Fisheries

#### Goals

Restore and improve self-sustaining populations of indigenous fish and other aquatic species and their habitats.

Provide a range of recreational fishing opportunities (stocked put-and-take fisheries to non-stocked wild fisheries) in a manner that will protect self-sustaining populations of indigenous fish species.

Minimize the spread of non-indigenous stocked fish species or other aquatic invasive species through cooperative management and environmental education.

#### Objectives

Increase Atlantic salmon populations in streams through stocking and spawning activities, in cooperation with both the Merrimack River Anadromous Fish Restoration Program and the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, as identified in either current or updated strategic plans for both river basins.

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Restore or improve 5-10 miles of in-stream habitat per year over the planning period with emphasis on 6<sup>th</sup> level watersheds best suited for managing self-sustaining wild brook trout populations and their associated coldwater aquatic communities.

Maintain existing impoundment structures constructed for fish and wildlife management every 1-5 years to insure their long term structural integrity and prevent downstream resource damage. Decommission structures when funds are not available for proper long-term maintenance.

### Scenery Management

#### *Goals*

The White Mountain National Forest will conduct all management activities to be consistent with assigned [Scenic Integrity Objectives](#), realizing the importance to local communities and Forest users of a natural-appearing landscape, distinct from the human-made environments dominant in the East.

### Soil Resources

#### *Goals*

The Forest Service will work closely with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and research entities to protect the long-term sustainability of the soil resource with an emphasis on maintaining appropriate soil nutrients.

#### *Objectives*

1. Further establish and document a network of permanent soil quality monitoring sites to measure long-term change in soil base saturation.
2. Cooperate in further development of a till source model, land use history evaluation, and soil inventory specifically to support large-scale analysis of factors affecting soil quality.
3. Cooperate in re-measurement of long-term Forest plots at Bartlett Experimental Forest.

#### *Goals*

The Forest Service will ensure soils are stabilized around management activities.

#### *Objectives*

1. Implement measures to minimize off-site movement of soil on Forest projects.

### Transportation System

#### *Goals*

The [Forest Roads](#) Program will provide a safe, efficient, and seamless transportation and parking network that allows for current, continued, and projected management, use, and enjoyment of the Forest with a variety of

challenge levels. The Forest Service will continue to maintain and update the Forest road inventory and index as management decisions are made, and through monitoring and field verification. The Forest Service will also continue to look for and analyze alternative transportation opportunities to deal with projected increases in traffic and parking volumes. The White Mountain National Forest will work cooperatively with state, town, and county officials.

### *Objectives*

1. Construct only those roads necessary to meet the management objectives of the Forest Plan.
2. Decommission all [classified](#) and [unclassified roads](#) not necessary to meet the management objectives of the Forest Plan as funding is available.
3. Maintain the classified road network to meet the requirements of the Highway Transportation Safety Act with available funding.
4. Explore opportunities for alternative transportation methods and clean fuels that would reduce resource impacts.

## Vegetation Management

### *Goals*

The White Mountain National Forest will manage vegetation using an ecological approach to provide both healthy ecosystems and a sustainable yield of high quality forest products, with special emphasis on [sawtimber](#) and veneer.

### *Objectives*

1. Manage for commercial products using well-integrated prescriptions that protect biotic and abiotic resources and are compatible with the high level of recreational use on the Forest.

### *Goals*

The Forest [timber](#) harvest program will function as an outdoor classroom, permitting visitors to see the benefits of sound stewardship implemented through well-executed, integrated resource management.

The Forest Service will ensure that products harvested on National Forest lands are fully accounted for, and that fair value is received for all products sold.

The Forest Service will use timber harvesting as a tool to attain wildlife habitat and other resource objectives.

## Water Resources

### *Goals*

Surface waters on the White Mountain National Forest are considered “outstanding resource waters,” and water quality is maintained or improved

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to protect existing and designated instream water uses such as aquatic life. The Forest Service will use watershed assessments to help guide planning and management activities.

The Forest Service will manage streams at [proper functioning condition \(PFC\)](#) 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.

The Forest Service will work cooperatively with communities within [public water supplies](#) to maintain high quality drinking water. Management activities may occur in these watersheds consistent with management area objectives.

### *Objectives*

1. Improve watershed and soil condition on at least 25 acres per year.

## Wild and Scenic Rivers

### *Goals*

The Forest Service will protect the wild, scenic, and recreational values of eligible rivers to maintain their potential for Wild and Scenic River designation.

Wildcat River will be cooperatively managed through the Comprehensive River Management Plan to maintain its scenic and recreation nature.

## Wildland Fire

### *Goals*

Firefighter and public safety will be the first priority in every fire management activity. Other priorities are 1) protecting human communities and community infrastructure, 2) other property and improvements, and 3) natural and cultural resources, based on the values to be protected and the costs of protection. Once people have been committed to an incident, these human resources become the highest value to be protected.

Cooperative wildland fire-related activities will be developed and maintained with other groups and agencies in the New England/New York area. Other Federal and state agencies, volunteer fire departments, and non-governmental organizations will be included as appropriate. [Prescribed fire](#) and natural ignitions will be used as tools to enhance ecosystem resiliency and to maintain desired fuel levels. Fire will play its natural role in the ecosystem, but will be actively suppressed where necessary to protect life, investments, and resources. Effects of wildland fire will be acceptable, and fire will occur within historical fire regimes appropriate to the vegetation type.

The Forest Service will use the full spectrum of fire management actions — from prompt suppression of unwanted fires to managing naturally-ignited fires — to realize and accomplish specific resource management objectives. The vast majority of wildland fires on the Forest will continue to receive a suppression-oriented response. Preparedness capabilities will meet the needs for appropriate management responses, included those needed for the wildland/urban interface areas in and around the Forest.

The Forest Service will use fire as a tool to meet management objectives, including but not limited to:

- Reducing hazardous fuel loading.
- Creating, maintaining, or improving wildlife habitat.
- Preparing sites for restoration of species (e.g., oak, pine, birch and aspen).
- Creating, maintaining, or improving plant community composition by influencing the scale and pattern of vegetation across the landscape, including changing successional patterns.
- Managing insect and disease.
- Enhancing blueberry production.
- Creating or maintaining scenic vistas.

[Prescribed fire](#) may be used in the management areas shown in [Table 1-01](#).

The Forest Service will maintain fuels in proportion to the levels of hazards, risks, and values to be protected, and to address resource management objectives both outside and within the Wildland Urban Interface.

*Table 1-01. Management Areas Where Prescribed Fire May Be Used.*

MA	Description	MA	Description
2.1	General Forest Management	7.1	Alpine Ski Area
6.1	Semi-Primitive Recreation (to maintain the viability of fire-adapted communities such as pine, oak, and mixed oak-pine types)	8.2	Experimental Forests
6.2	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation (to maintain the viability of fire-adapted communities such as pine, oak, and mixed oak-pine types)	9.2	Alpine Ski Area Expansion
6.3	Semi-Primitive Winter-Motorized Recreation (to maintain the viability of fire-adapted communities such as pine, oak, and mixed oak-pine types)		

The goal of [wildland fire use \(WFU\)](#) implementation will be to allow lightning-ignited fires to function as a natural ecosystem process within a maximum allowable area within the management areas indicated in [Table 1-02](#).

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Table 1-02. Management Areas Allowing Wildland Fire Use.

MA	Description	MA	Description
5.1	Wilderness	8.3	Appalachian Trail (only when adjacent MA allows WFU)
6.1	Semi-Primitive Recreation	8.4	Research Natural Areas
6.2	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation	9.1	Recommended Wilderness
6.3	Semi-Primitive Winter-Motorized Recreation	9.3	Candidate Research Natural Areas
8.1	Alpine Zone		

Lightning-ignited fires will be managed within these areas as wildland fire use, under conditions and criteria that constitute low risk to firefighter and public safety.

### Objectives

1. Use prescribed fire and mechanical methods to treat approximately 80-300 acres annually to meet a wide range of Forest objectives.
2. Within the next 10-year period, manage an estimated 4 to 8 lightning-ignited fires under wildland fire use.

## Wildlife

### Habitat Management

#### Goals

The White Mountain National Forest will use sustainable ecosystem [management practices](#) to provide a diversity of habitats across the Forest, including various forest types, [age classes](#), and non-forested habitats.

#### Objectives

1. Manage forest composition for the broad habitat types of [northern hardwood](#), mixed hardwood-softwood, and [spruce-fir forest](#), consistent with [ecological land type](#) capability.
2. Maintain less common habitat types, such as aspen-birch and oak-pine, where ecologically feasible and desirable to provide for native and desired non-native wildlife and plant species.
3. Maintain high quality [mature forest](#) and [old forest habitats](#) on a majority of the Forest.
4. Provide regeneration age forest and open habitats to sustain biological diversity and support species that prefer those habitats.

#### MA 2.1 Habitat Composition Objectives

These objectives reflect [land capability](#), with adjustments to maintain aspen-birch and [wildlife opening](#) habitats in the management area at existing levels. Forest composition changes naturally over time as the trees in the overstory die and other species grow up to take their place. Management can speed

can speed this conversion by removing trees of one type (e.g., hardwoods) and leaving trees of the desired type (e.g., spruce or fir) to continue growing. Even with management, habitat conversion takes time. Therefore, where the current condition does not match the objective, meeting these composition objectives may take decades or even centuries (Table 1-03).

**Table 1-03. Habitat Composition Objectives.**

Habitat Type	Current Composition (% of MA 2.1)	Composition Objective (% of MA 2.1)
Northern Hardwood	54	45
Mixedwood	21	11
Spruce-Fir	12	32
Aspen-Birch	5	5
Wildlife Opening	<1	1
Other*	7	6

\*Hemlock Forest, oak-pine forest, wetlands, and non-vegetated habitats.

### MA 2.1 Age Class Objectives

Age class objectives are proposed primarily to provide a variety of habitat conditions for wildlife. Management Indicator Species have been identified to represent both vegetative composition objectives and the age class objectives presented in Table 1-04 (see also Chapter 3, Wildlife section).

**Table 1-04. Age Class Objectives.**

Habitat Type	% in Regen Age Class	% in Young Age Class	% in Mature Age Class	Land Unsuitable for Harvest (%)
Northern Hardwood	3-4	15-20	61-67	15
Mixedwood	1	5	73	21
Spruce-Fir	1-2	3-6	66-70	26
Aspen-Birch	12-15	36-45	18-30	22

The regeneration age class can be created immediately through even-aged harvest, making this a short-term objective that should be met during the first decade of implementation. The young age class objective results when regeneration habitat ages. The mature age class includes a majority of the land in this MA. It is a result of even- or uneven-aged management. After even-aged regeneration harvest, it takes 40 to 70 years for mature forest to develop, so this is a long-term objective, particularly in some habitats. Land unsuitable for harvest is not available for timber harvest, so should continue aging for the long-term.

### Goals

The Forest Service will maintain the health and integrity of all habitats by protecting and enhancing within-habitat features and processes, such as snags and downed logs, minor tree species, vegetative layers, and nutrient cycling.

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The Forest Service will protect sensitive habitats, such as wetlands, den and nest sites for key species, and rare communities.

### Recreation-Wildlife

#### Goals

The Forest Service will gain an improved understanding of how recreation use may affect wildlife populations and will manage recreation use and wildlife habitat to minimize negative impacts on wildlife.

The Forest Service will recognize that visitor safety and the well-being of wildlife are both important components of National Forest management. Recreation sites will be managed to allow for wildlife viewing, where appropriate, while minimizing the potential for human-wildlife conflicts.

### A Note on Wilderness

Wilderness is a management area and its goals and objectives are described under “Purpose” and “Desired Condition of the Land” in the introduction to MA 5.1 (Wilderness) in Chapter 3.

*Lookout towers on Mt. Carrigain, ca. 1926. Original wood platform built by NH Timberland Owners Association in 1910. Seated at left is Col. William Greeley, third Chief of the US Forest Service (1920-1928), on a visit to the WMNF. At right is a Mr. Kneipp. Mssrs. Reed, Davis, and Belas sit at the base of a replacement tower. (WMNF photo; historical information from I.W. Baird and C. Haartz, A Field Guide to New Hampshire Firetowers)*

