

Chapter 2 Forest-Wide Management Direction



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Cover

Smarts Brook Falls (WMNF Photo by John Williams)

Standards and Guidelines

Standards and guidelines are the specific, technical direction for managing resources. A *standard* is a course of action that must be followed, or a level of attainment that must be reached, to achieve management goals and objectives, and can only be changed through an amendment to the Plan. A *guideline* also is a required course of action or level of attainment, but permits operational flexibility to respond to variations in conditions. Guidelines can be modified or not implemented, but the rationale for doing so must be documented in a project-level analysis and signed decision.

All Resources and Management Areas

General

- S-1 The White Mountain National Forest must follow all applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, rules, and direction established in the Forest Service Manual.
- S-2 To protect forest resources when hazardous materials are present, mitigations will be put in place at the appropriate level, depending on the amount and type of material.
- S-3 [Motorized administrative use](#) will be allowed consistent with WMNF/ state agreements.
- G-1 Motorized administrative use should be consistent with the management area direction. There are fewer restrictions on emergency motorized administrative use than for project-related administrative motorized use.
- G-2 To make sure goals of the various agencies are considered in any management decisions, the Forest Service should work cooperatively with the states of New Hampshire and Maine to manage adjacent National Forest and State lands.

Closures

- G-1 [Forest Supervisor's Orders](#) or other means may be used to restrict or close activities, uses, or areas in order to prevent, mitigate, or correct existing or potential resource impacts, trail development, health and safety issues, user conflicts, or other [management concerns](#).

Firewood

- S-1 A commercial permit is required for cutting live trees or vegetation.
- S-2 Where campfires are allowed, firewood collection must be limited to dead and down wood.
- G-1 Firewood permits should be issued for dead and down wood only.

Accessibility

Accessibility standards and guidelines apply to all management areas.

- S-1 All Forest programs, publications, facilities, and outdoor recreation areas including trails, must meet all federal and Forest Service

accessibility guidelines (and any future revisions and policies) regarding accessibility requirements.

- S-2 The Forest Service will provide opportunities in which all people can participate in the most independent and integrated way possible that does not fundamentally alter the program, and is in accordance with the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.
- S-3 Wheelchairs are allowed on all of our Forest Service roads and trails, and wilderness areas. The signs that state “Foot Traffic Welcome” also apply to devices that meet the definition of a wheelchair.
- G-1 The Forest Service should maintain transition plans identifying areas that do not meet current guidelines, and identify steps that may be taken to improve the facility during scheduled maintenance or restoration activities.

Air Quality

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

- G-1 Air Quality Related Values (AQRVs), such as aquatic biota, vegetation, and water quality should be protected to the extent possible from adverse impacts related to air quality within the White Mountain National Forest.

Conservation Education

- G-1 Signage, other educational tools, and Forest Supervisor’s Orders may be used to inform and educate visitors about occurrences of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, heritage resources, and other management concerns.
- G-2 Management actions should emphasize education over law enforcement.
- G-3 Education messages should emphasize programs such as “[hikeSafe](#)” and “[Leave No Trace](#)” to foster personal responsibility for safety and to promote low-impact backcountry travel, day-use activities, and commercial operations.
- G-4 Public education efforts emphasizing the Forest Service mission and management, natural resource protection, safety, and personal responsibility should be encouraged.

Geologic and Mineral Resources

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

Leasable (Commercial) Minerals

- S-1 [Surface disturbance](#) for mineral resources is prohibited in public water supply watersheds, developed recreation and administrative sites, and where there are natural features such as open water, streams, riparian areas, floodplains, wetlands, and sensitive soil types.

- S-2 Reclamation provisions and environmental protection measures of operating plans and surface use plans of operation must be adequate to reclaim the site.
- S-3 Reasons for closing an area to surface-disturbing mineral exploration must be documented.
- S-4 All practical means of minimizing resource impacts including best available technology must be used when surface disturbance is allowed.
- G-1 Where [prospecting](#) and exploration activities are allowed, the existing access infrastructure should be used.
- G-2 Surface disturbance related to the development of federal minerals should not occur within the seen area of National Forest System trails or roads.

Mineral Materials (Common Variety)

- S-1 Except for administrative use, there must be no new surface disturbance activity for the development of common variety minerals in:
 - a. Public water supply watersheds.
 - b. The visual [foreground](#) of roads and National Forest System trails.
- S-2 Sites must be stabilized between periods of use.
- S-3 Sites must be stabilized and, if needed, revegetated when closed.
- G-1 Except for administrative use, there should be no new development of common variety minerals sites.

Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting

- S-1 The collection of mineral specimens for [personal use](#) is allowed without a permit, as long as there is no surface disturbance, except within officially designated fee collecting areas, closure areas, and other restricted areas.
- S-2 Collection of recreational minerals on, in, or near cultural/historic features is prohibited unless specifically allowed through designation.
- S-3 Recreational mineral activities for personal use that involve limited surface disturbance are allowed through a permit, provided that the activities comply with Forest standards and guidelines.
- S-4 When surface-disturbing collection activities are allowed through a permit, the following are required:
 - a. Only hand tools are permitted. The use of power, mechanized equipment, or explosives for recreational collecting of geologic resources, including gold recovery activities, is prohibited. This includes sluice boxes, rocker boxes, and dredges.
 - b. Maximum excavation at any one site must not exceed one cubic yard. Only one site may be disturbed at a time.

- c. Excavated holes must not be dug deeper than three feet as measured from the bottom of the hole to a projected horizontal line drawn between the bases of trees or plants adjoining the hole. In areas where the entire site is already disturbed and the original ground level is heavily altered, an estimated projection will be made of the earth's surface for the purposes of monitoring or enforcement.
 - d. Prior to leaving the site, disturbed areas must be restored to as near original condition as possible.
 - e. No surface disturbance is allowed within developed recreation areas immediately adjacent to roads, trails, other facilities, streambanks, or in other areas where such activity may adversely affect other resources or activities.
 - f. Gold panning for recreational purposes may be allowed within active stream channels, provided due care is taken to protect water quality and aquatic habitat. Small trowels or similar digging tools for scooping sediment into the pan are allowed.
 - g. Where streams are disturbed for recreational mineral collecting such as gold panning, turbidity levels must not exceed water quality standards needed to maintain "outstanding resource waters" as defined by the water quality regulations of New Hampshire and Maine.
 - h. No surface disturbance is allowed on or near cultural/historic features.
 - i. Digging under trees or severing roots greater than ½ inch in diameter is not permitted.
 - j. Surface disturbance that creates or contributes to a safety hazard is not allowed.
 - k. Surface disturbance is not permitted on, in, or adjacent to existing safety hazards.
- S-5 Recreational mineral collecting activities at fee permit sites shall adhere to guidelines specific to that area as described on the fee permit. Small drills may be allowed when specifically authorized at designated fee permit sites.
- S-6 Sites may be restricted by closure or permit where there are safety or resource concerns.
- G-1 A permit system may be used to manage recreational collecting activities.

Heritage Resources

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

- S-1 Management of heritage resources must be coordinated with State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), appropriate Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), and Federally recognized Indian Tribes and their representatives. Any mitigation plans must include the above

consultation, with the addition of The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) when projects might affect resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Consulting parties may include local governments or other interested parties.

- S-2 Any proposed Federal or Federally assisted [undertaking](#) must, prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds or issuance of any license, take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended).

All proposed undertakings must consider the effect on any National Register listed, eligible, or un-evaluated heritage resource within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) prior to project implementation. The Forest Service must manage properties found to be eligible for National Register listing, or which remain un-evaluated, as if they were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

- S-3 Contracts, [leases](#), or permits must include appropriate clause(s) requiring protection of heritage resources.
- S-4 The nature and location of heritage resource sites must not be disclosed without line officer approval (36 CFR 296.18).
- S-5 Discoveries of human remains and associated objects must remain in place and protected if encountered. They must be reported immediately to USFS Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs), who will contact Forest Heritage Resource Specialists if appropriate. Work in the area of the discovery must cease until LEO and, if applicable, Heritage evaluation is completed.
- S-6 Vandalism, destruction, or unauthorized removal of Heritage resources must receive appropriate investigation under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act or 36 CFR 261 (Prohibitions).
- S-7 Non-Forest Service archaeological research initiatives must be authorized and/or permitted by the Forest Service prior to implementation.
- G-1 Heritage resources should be evaluated to determine their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Priority should be placed on situations where resources are most at risk or management options are limited. Examples include lands to be exchanged out of Federal management, lands with shallow soils where heritage resources are especially vulnerable to disturbance, and within project areas where sites may be impacted.
- G-2 The Forest Service should curate its heritage resource collections and associated records in accordance with Federal standards (36 CFR 79), and through consultation with SHPO, ACHP, and other interested parties.
- G-3 The White Mountain National Forest's *Heritage Resource Survey Strategy* should be followed in developing heritage surveys.

- G-4 Heritage inventories and resulting data should meet current national guidance and professional standards and should be maintained in the Forest Service's corporate database and mapping systems.

Lands

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

Land Status/Adjustments/Acquisition

- S-1 To ensure protection of state, county, town, private, and other federal agency rights and interests, a land ownership review using land status records must be performed during early project planning stages, prior to implementation of management activities.
- S-2 Acquisition of land by the United States must comply with New Hampshire and Maine state and local statutes concerning the consent to acquire lands.
- S-3 Lands on which only a partial interest is acquired must be managed as directed by the easement, or as agreed to in the specific acquisition documentation.
- S-4 The following procedure must be used in assigning management area prescriptions for newly-acquired National Forest System (NFS) lands:
1. The tract should have the same management area classification as the surrounding National Forest land (if it has similar attributes); or
 2. If the land has attributes that are unique or different than the surrounding land, the acquired tract will be evaluated by an integrated team to decide its management area designation.
- G-1 The following should be used to evaluate and track land adjustment activities. The *Forest Land Adjustment Plan* should be updated annually to reflect:
- a. Acquisition, exchange, or interests in lands which have been directed by Executive or Congressional action.
 - b. Acquisition, exchange, or conveyance of lands needed to reduce expenses of both the Forest Service and the public in administration and utilization, including the consolidation of split estates.
 - c. Acquisition, exchange, or interests in lands which
 - 1) will provide a significant recreational experience or opportunity;
 - 2) improve [riparian ecosystems](#) on water frontage such as lakes and major streams;
 - 3) provide critical habitat lands needed for the protection of federally-listed endangered, threatened, or sensitive fish, wildlife, or plant species;
 - 4) provide for the protection of significant historical or cultural resources when management may be enhanced by public ownership; and
 - 5) protect or enhance watersheds, and wetlands.

- d. Acquisition, exchange, or interests in lands needed to implement other scheduled management actions such as a campground expansion, road construction, or trail construction or reconstruction.
 - e. Acquisition, exchange, or interests in lands needed to enhance or protect facilities or programs surrounding National Forest System lands.
 - f. Acquisition, exchange, or interests in lands that will consolidate existing National Forest System lands, eliminate the need for right-of-way acquisition, provide access to existing NFS lands, or meet the goals and objectives of the management area surrounding the proposed acquisition or exchange.
 - g. Land conveyances or exchange of lands no longer needed or suitable to meet the goals and objectives of a management area, and serve a greater public need in state, county, town, or other federal agency ownership.
- G-2 Access should be acquired, exchanged, or granted with other federal agencies, states, counties, towns, and private interests to assure management objectives are met for all ownerships.

Survey/Landline/Title Claims

- S-1 Boundaries shall be surveyed, marked, and posted prior to implementing land-disturbing activities adjacent to Wilderness or private land.
- S-2 A professional, licensed surveyor shall supervise Forest Service personnel or administer the necessary contracts to locate and mark property boundaries.
- G-1 Care should be taken to avoid damaging or destroying evidence of town boundaries when planning and executing management activities near these boundaries.

Land Use Authorizations (Special Uses)

Also see the Recreation section for standards and guidelines pertaining specifically to recreation special uses.

- S-1 [Special uses](#) must be managed to best serve the public interest, in accordance with the following:
- a. Private uses of National Forest System land must not be authorized when such uses can be reasonably accommodated on other lands.
 - b. Special use requests must be reviewed for their compatibility with Forest-wide and management area direction, as well as consideration of environmental values, economic feasibility, and determination of social and economic benefits.
 - c. Upon renewal or transfer of a permit, or as soon as practical, existing uses that are not compatible with the Forest Plan must be brought into compliance.

- d. New landfill disposal sites or storage, or disposal of radioactive, or other hazardous substances are prohibited. Existing landfill disposal sites must be phased out and closed.
 - e. Permits must not be authorized that create an exclusive or perpetual right of use or occupancy that would in effect grant title to federal land to an authorization holder, or would create the appearance of granting such a right. Examples of such uses include, but are not limited to, cemeteries, monuments, memorials, or major capital improvements by municipal entities.
- S-2 Special use proposals that may affect heritage resources (e.g., ground disturbance or potential for discovery and displacement or removal of artifacts) must include an archeological/paleontological clause.
- S-3 To reduce the proliferation of separate rights-of-way, new transportation, utility, and [communication use](#) proposals shall be accommodated within existing [corridors](#) to the maximum extent feasible. Mitigation measures shall be determined by project level planning.
- S-4 Military training activities shall be authorized only after the Department of Defense has determined and substantiated that lands under its jurisdiction are either unsuitable or unavailable in accordance with the Master Agreement between the Department of Defense and the Department of Agriculture that governs the use of National Forest lands for these purposes. When local supplemental agreements with military agencies exist, consult such agreements for additional direction. Activities must be in conformance with management area objectives.
- S-5 All research permits shall include a requirement that the Forest Service receive a copy of the final report or analysis.
- S-6 Contracts, leases, or permits must include appropriate clause(s) requiring invasive species control plans to minimize spread to other areas.
- G-1 Special use applications may be denied if the authorizing officer determines that:
 - a. The proposed use would not be in the public interest.
 - b. The proposed use would otherwise be inconsistent with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and special orders that apply to the National Forests.
 - c. The proposed use may endanger public health or safety.
 - d. The proposed use conflicts or interferes with administrative use by the Forest Service, other authorized existing uses, or uses of adjacent non-federal lands.
 - e. The applicant does not or cannot demonstrate technical or financial capability.

- G-2 Applicants may conduct environmental analysis and supporting activities (e.g., cultural resource surveys, biological evaluations) and submit them to the responsible official for consideration in Forest Service decisions to the extent allowed by law, regulation, and policy.
- G-3 Research permits are generally authorized, but may be denied, or limited in structure to meet specific management area objectives, e.g., only non-manipulative research in Research Natural Areas, or requiring non-motorized, non-mechanized access and temporary sample area identification in Wilderness.
- G-4 Electrical utility lines of 33 kilovolts or less, communication lines, or pipelines should be installed by burying unless one or more of the following applies:
 - a. Visual quality objectives of the area can be met using an overhead line.
 - b. Burial is not feasible due to geological hazards or unfavorable geologic conditions.
 - c. Greater long-term site disturbance would result.
 - d. It is not technically feasible.

Native American Relationships

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

- S-1 Recognized tribes must be consulted early in the planning process regarding proposed management activities that may affect the tribes in order to identify and address tribal interests.
- G-1 Environmental documents should disclose potential effects on cultural resources, traditional uses, and tribal areas of special interest that include tribal cultural values, properties, uses, and species of special concern.

Non-native Invasive Species

The following direction generally applies to all Forest lands. However, see standards and guidelines in Management Areas 5.1, 8.4, 9.1, and 9.3 for exceptions.

- S-1 Non-native invasive species must not knowingly be brought onto the Forest for any project, landscaping, or other purpose.
- S-2 Forest projects or approvals must consider weed prevention measures to minimize the chances of new infestations occurring because of project activities. The intent is not to prohibit all ground disturbances or to require exhaustive mitigation measures for minor activities, but to take action where possible to minimize opportunities for invasive species to become established.
- S-3 In revegetation or rehabilitation efforts, native or non-persistent (annual, biannual, or sterile) species must be used.
- S-4 Gravel and fill must come from weed-free sources. The Forest Service will be available to work with owners of local gravel sources to identify

weed-free borrow material in their pits. The entire pit or fill area need not be identified as weed-free; material may be used that is not likely to contain invasive plants or seeds. If gravel or fill cannot be identified as weed-free, project monitoring must be conducted for three years following implementation to assure no new infestations occur. If infestations are found, eradication must occur within a suitable timeframe to prevent further spread.

- S-5 When sources of certified weed-free mulch and seed are available locally at reasonable cost, they must be used on erosion control projects requiring mulch and seed.
- S-6 Heavy equipment must be visibly free of seeds or plant material prior to entering the Forest for project work. In order to minimize the spread of existing invasive plants, heavy equipment must be cleaned to be visibly free of seeds or plant material when moving between project units if invasive plants exist in areas being vacated, or if units have not been surveyed for invasive plants. The Forest Service will work to educate heavy equipment operators regarding these standards prior to project implementation.
- S-7 Non-native invasive plants or their parts removed during eradication efforts must be disposed of in a manner that prevents new infestations elsewhere.
- G-1 Areas under existing permits should have on-site non-native invasive species control plans in place to minimize spread to other areas.

Recreation

- G-1 [Outfitter/guides](#) should be encouraged to have pack animals that are free of non-native invasive species when entering the Forest. The animals' feed should be weed-free while on the Forest
- G-2 The use of weed-free feed for animals used for pleasure riding on the Forest should be encouraged.
- G-3 Boaters and other recreationists should be encouraged to check equipment to prevent infestations in lakes and ponds.

Transportation System

- G-1 Roadside clearing widths should be minimized (without compromising safety standards) to retain shade for invasive plant suppression.
- G-2 If non-native invasive plants are present, roadside maintenance operations should be scheduled to minimize spread into new areas (e.g., prior to seed set).

Wildland Fire

- S-1 The risk of non-native invasive species establishment following fire suppression and prescribed fire efforts must be evaluated, and mitigation measures implemented if needed.

Rare and Unique Features

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

- S-1 All project sites must be investigated for the presence of TES species and/or habitat prior to beginning any authorized ground-disturbing activity at the site. TES plant surveys must be completed for all new ground-disturbing projects, unless biologists/botanists determine TES species occurrence is unlikely (e.g., no habitat exists).
- S-2 Unless conservation approaches have already been developed for a species, individual [site prescriptions](#) must be developed for each identified TES plant species occurrence to provide specific habitat conservation actions for those plant species. Individual site prescriptions must similarly be developed for all fixed TES wildlife habitat features (e.g., den sites, nest sites, or other features necessary for the reproductive success of the animal). Until conservation approaches or specific site prescriptions are developed, new management actions that would negatively alter habitat conditions necessary to support the species must not be allowed within 100 feet of the plant(s) or within one quarter mile of the wildlife habitat feature(s).
- S-3 Timber harvest is prohibited in [old growth forest](#).
- G-1 Outstanding natural communities should be conserved.
- G-2 TES habitat that is important to species conservation should be retained in public ownership unless an exchange results in a net gain or acquisition of higher quality habitat.
- G-3 Use restrictions and other mitigative measures may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. See individual management areas for additional direction.
- G-4 When feasible, standards and guidelines for the Alpine Zone MA (8.1) also should apply to alpine and subalpine communities outside MA 8.1.

Bald Eagle

- G-1 Winter roost habitat should be protected along major rivers and water bodies with known eagle activity.

Gray Wolf

- G-1 If wolves become reestablished on or near the Forest, suitable early successional habitat should be provided, especially for deer and moose.
- G-2 Known winter deeryards should be protected and deeryard conditions should be improved where possible.

Indiana Bat

- S-1 Standards for *wildlife reserve trees* in the Wildlife resource section apply.
- G-1 Guidelines for *wildlife reserve trees* in the Wildlife resource section apply.

Small Whorled Pogonia

- S-1 Known small whorled pogonia colonies must be protected from human disturbances that may be detrimental to the colony.
- S-2 Evaluate projects with ground-disturbing activities to determine the potential for small whorled pogonia habitat to occur within the influence of the project area.
- G-1 Known small whorled pogonia colonies should be evaluated to determine the potential for natural colonization of surrounding habitat that becomes functionally suitable over time. Actions may be taken that would benefit existing colonies or encourage additional colonization, e.g., removing trees to reduce canopy cover allowing more sunlight to reach the forest floor.

Canada Lynx

- S-1 Standards and guidelines for lynx apply only to lynx habitat within a Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU).
- S-2 LAUs shall not be adjusted without agreement between the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- S-3 Unless a broad-scale assessment of landscape patterns that compares historical and current ecological processes and vegetation patterns is developed, disturbance must be limited in the following manner:
 - a. If more than 30 percent of lynx habitat within a LAU is currently in unsuitable condition, no further reduction of suitable conditions shall occur because of vegetation management activities by federal agencies unless the activity is proposed specifically to improve future snowshoe hare habitat.
 - b. Vegetation management projects in lynx habitat should promote increases in suitable snowshoe hare habitat and retain/enhance habitat conditions for important alternate prey (particularly red squirrel) where possible. Overstory harvest treatments that retain or enhance existing softwood understories are allowed provided denning habitat within the LAU does not fall below 10 percent.
- S-4 Prior to any action that may affect lynx, lynx habitat within affected LAUs must be mapped, including potential foraging and denning habitat. Mapping should also include identification of topographic features that may be important for lynx movement (e.g. major ridge systems, prominent saddles, riparian corridors).
- S-5 Within an LAU, denning habitat in patches generally larger than five acres, comprising at least 10 percent of lynx habitat must be maintained. Where less than 10 percent denning habitat is currently present within an LAU, management actions that would delay development of denning habitat structure must be deferred. Projects may still move forward if other lynx habitat areas within the LAU can be identified that will not be treated (e.g., RNAs) and which will subsequently move into denning conditions at some future time.

- S-6 On-the-ground management actions must not change more than 15 percent of lynx habitat within an LAU to an unsuitable condition within a 10-year period.
- S-7 Existing and potential [diurnal security habitat](#) around highly disturbed recreation developments (e.g., ski areas) must be maintained.
- G-1 In lynx habitat, no net increase in groomed or designated over-the-snow routes and snowmobile play areas by LAU is allowed unless:
 - a. The designation serves to consolidate unregulated use and improves lynx habitat.
 - b. Existing snowmobile trails must be temporarily rerouted to avoid conflicts around active timber sales.
 - c. Preexisting trails or corridors on private land come into National Forest ownership.

Groomed or designated over-the-snow routes include the following: [designated winter route](#), [groomed winter route](#), and [authorized winter route/use area](#). Groomed or designated over-the-snow routes are generally compacted during the winter season, but do not include plowed roads or roads/trails accessing private land. Winter logging and alpine ski areas are not subject to this guideline. Nordic ski areas should have a “concentrated trail area” delineated by a Forest Service biologist within which existing trails are so networked that a competitive advantage for lynx does not likely exist. These “concentrated trail areas” are not subject to this guideline.

- G-2 For trails constructed primarily for summer use but which may also be used in winter (e.g., hiking trails), new construction should result in no net increase in trail mileage in lynx habitat by LAU. Designating or grooming these routes for winter use should include closures of other similar routes in lynx habitat so no net increase in routes occurs by LAU.
 - a. Exceptions to this guideline may be considered when an increase in over-the-snow routes would not increase the potential for competitors to gain access to an area, e.g., constructing a snowmobile trail that closely parallels an existing winter road. Exceptions may also be allowed in areas where snow depth or snow condition is insufficient to limit competing predators in winter, and consistent presence by competing predators off-trail is documented. Exceptions must be recommended by a Forest Service wildlife biologist.
- G-3 Following disturbances such as blow down, fire, or insects/pathogens resulting in mortality that could contribute to lynx denning habitat, [salvage harvest](#) should not occur when the affected area is smaller than five acres. Exceptions to this include:
 - a. Areas such as developed recreation sites or other areas of high human concentration; and

- b. LAUs where denning habitat has been mapped and field-validated (not simply modeled or estimated) and comprises more than 10% of lynx habitat within a LAU. In these cases, salvage harvest may occur, if at least the minimum amount of denning habitat is maintained in a well-distributed pattern.
 - c. Already active timber sales where removal of blowdown trees is necessary to ensure access, reduce safety hazards, or otherwise meet the project objectives.
- G-4 In lynx habitat, pre-commercial thinning may be allowed only when stands no longer provide snowshoe hare habitat (e.g., self-pruning processes have eliminated snowshoe hare cover and forage availability during winter conditions with average snowpack). However, timber stand improvement may be used in softwoods or mixed wood stands to enhance or maintain softwood regeneration. This practice would be acceptable in stands that have suitable stem density (greater than or equal to 7,000 stems per acre in softwoods or mixed woods) for snowshoe hare cover if that stem density is retained across most of the stand.
- G-5 Key linkage areas must be maintained to allow lynx movement. Native plant communities and patterns, and habitat for potential lynx prey, should be maintained or enhanced within identified key lynx linkage areas where feasible. Habitat connectivity (e.g. along large riparian zones and across major ridges, and prominent saddles) should be retained across the landscape to support lynx movement. Creation of permanent linear routes (e.g., roads, fuel breaks, trails) that could facilitate increased over-the-snow access by competitors should not be built on ridges and saddles or in riparian zones. Clearcuts should be placed near softwood cover where possible.
- G-6 Snow compaction off designated trails and roads should be minimized when authorizing and monitoring special uses in lynx habitat.
- G-7 New temporary roads constructed in lynx habitat should be closed to public use. The ability to implement effective closures should be provided in the initial road designs. Upon project completion these roads should be reclaimed or obliterated if not needed for other forest management objectives.
- G-8 Dirt and gravel roads (particularly those that could become highways) traversing lynx habitat should not be paved or otherwise upgraded (e.g., straightening of curves, widening of roadway) in a manner that is likely to lead to significant increases in traffic volumes, traffic speeds, or would contribute to development or increases in human activity in lynx habitat, unless road safety hazards exist.

Bicknell's Thrush

- S-1 Projects must not result in a net decrease of suitable Bicknell's thrush habitat.

Recreation

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

General

Recreation Management Approaches

- S-1 Use will be focused on trails or at backcountry facilities in the backcountry. Use will be focused on roads or developed sites in the [frontcountry](#).
- S-2 Current development levels in the backcountry will be maintained or lowered where appropriate.
- S-3 Current low use areas and facilities will be managed to meet visitor needs and resource requirements through education and management controls, where necessary.
- G-1 Current high use areas and facilities should be managed for high use to meet visitor needs. Appropriate mitigation should be provided to manage the effects of high use to ensure that they can be sustained over the long term. Use should not be allowed to increase indefinitely in high use areas.
- G-2 The Forest Service should collaborate with partner organizations to provide recreational opportunities, conservation education, and visitor information programs.

Developed Recreation

General

- S-1 In order to maintain a range of developed recreation opportunities, any construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation projects must be evaluated in terms of their effects on both the individual sites and on Forest-wide development levels.
- S-2 The Forest Service must determine the appropriate development levels for campgrounds, day use areas, and trailheads. To determine development levels, the Forest recreation management approaches, current and future public needs and use levels, and the role of the public sector in providing these opportunities must be considered.
- S-3 The Forest Service capital investment process must be guided by desired development levels.
- S-4 Capital investment construction or expansion to increase capacity must not be authorized unless it clearly provides for public need, addresses resource impacts and health and safety standards, and meets developed recreation goals.
- S-5 New campgrounds will not be constructed.
- G-1 The Forest Service should create architectural design standards for facilities and signs, consistent with the Built Environment Image Guide (USDA Forest Service, FS-710, September 2001), to maintain a consistent architectural character.

- G-2 Existing campgrounds and day use areas may be improved or expanded.

Driving for Pleasure

- G-1 Forest System roads are open to street-licensed registered motor vehicles except where closed. Open/closed roads may vary from year to year and season to season.

Roadside Camping

- G-1 Roadside camping is allowed along open Forest System roads unless closed to that use by Forest Supervisor's Order.
- G-2 The development level of roadside camping opportunities may vary, but Forest-wide the emphasis will be on lower levels of development.
- G-3 Roadside camping should include a range of opportunities from random roadside openings to specifically designated sites.

Trailheads

- G-1 Trailheads and trailhead parking lots serve as primary access to the trail system and backcountry sites. The Forest Service should determine the appropriate levels of development (e.g., paved or gravel, size, toilets provided/not provided) based on the objectives of the backcountry areas and the facilities served by the trails.
- G-2 Trailhead parking lots should not be constructed, improved, or expanded solely to accommodate increased recreation use.

Motorized Dispersed Recreation (Motorized Trails)

Winter Motorized Trails

- S-1 Motorized trail use and maintenance must be coordinated with the states of New Hampshire and Maine and must be consistent with state laws. All motor vehicles using Forest trails must be state registered.
- S-2 The White Mountain National Forest will remain closed unless designated open to snowmobile and all terrain vehicle (ATV) use.
- S-3 Motorized use is permitted on designated motorized trails only. Off-trail cross-country use is prohibited.
- G-1 Trails may be closed if conditions warrant.
- G-2 Special use permits for new competitive events should be prohibited.
- G-3 New Hampshire corridor trails and Maine ITS (Interconnected Trail System) trails should provide uninterrupted use. Corridor/ITS routes should be relocated, alternate locations determined, or dual use considered before management actions such as timber harvesting require temporary trail closure.
- G-4 New Hampshire non-corridor (primary and local trails) and Maine non-ITS trails may be closed or interrupted due to Forest operations.
- G-5 Snowmobile trails should be managed and maintained consistent with the respective state and White Mountain National Forest agreements for snowmobile trail operation and maintenance.

- G-6 New or relocated snowmobile trails should not be located on frozen waterbodies.

Summer Motorized Trails

- S-1 Summer motorized trail use is prohibited.

Non-Motorized Dispersed Recreation

General

- S-1 Concentrating use will be emphasized over dispersing use.
- G-1 To protect low- and moderate-use locations, management actions (e.g., authorization of special use permits, information and education efforts) should not disperse recreation use from high- to low-use areas.
- G-2 Use should be managed to prevent negative impacts to natural and cultural resources, and to the recreation experience.

Education

- G-1 Consistent with ROS objectives, education and information delivery:
1. Should be concentrated primarily at visitor centers, classrooms, and other off-Forest locations, or at trailhead and developed facilities when delivery can be effectively accomplished at those locations.
 2. To a lesser degree, may be conducted at backcountry locations when effective delivery cannot be accomplished at developed or frontcountry locations.
- G-2 Posted public safety messages and signs (other than directional trail signs) should be located primarily at trailheads and visitor centers. They may be used at backcountry locations in unusual or unique circumstances.
- G-3 Education messages should emphasize programs such as “hikeSafe” and “Leave No Trace” to foster personal responsibility for safety and to promote low impact in backcountry locations.
- G-4 Education messages should emphasize the objectives of the Forest recreation management approaches to ensure Forest visitors understand the impacts of specific use related issues and to ensure that recreationists are going to the appropriate area for the opportunities they seek.

Trails

- S-1 The [Forest Trail System](#) consists of the trails identified in the White Mountain National Forest trails database.
- S-2 Trailhead and interior identification and directional signs must conform to standards identified in FSH 2309.18 and EM 7100-15.
- G-1 Existing trails should be removed from the Forest Trail System and closed if continued use causes unacceptable impacts that cannot be mitigated, or if the trail does not meet overall objectives for the trail system.

- G-2 Trails should be maintained to standards described in FSH 2309.18, consistent with the ROS objectives of each management area.
- G-3 Incidental trails should be evaluated for potential removal or inclusion in the Forest trail system.
- G-4 No additional trails should be constructed or authorized unless clearly needed to: provide public access to the existing system, address resource impacts, resolve public safety issues, meet recreation management or accessibility goals, or best meet the recreation management approaches. New trails should be evaluated and prioritized consistent with supplemental direction in FSH 2309.18.

Overnight Facilities

- S-1 Overnight facilities (huts, shelters, tent platforms, and their related support structures such as toilets) and dispersed campsites must be managed as components of an overall system of backcountry opportunities.
- S-2 Existing overnight facilities must be managed to minimize inconsistencies with desired ROS class objectives.
- G-1 Forest Protection Areas (areas where restrictions such as limits on camping, use of wood or charcoal fires, and limits on party size are applied) should be established around all overnight facilities to prevent uncontrolled increases in use and size.
- G-2 Forest users should bear a share of management costs for overnight facilities and dispersed sites through continued use of volunteer programs, payment for services, recreation passes, and cooperative agreements.
- G-3 Overnight facilities may be provided to concentrate use. They should be designed and managed to absorb recreation impacts and prevent site deterioration, and to be consistent with ROS objectives.

Appalachian Mountain Club Huts

- S-1 Huts must be managed consistent with the Appalachian Mountain Club Special Use Permit mitigation requirements.
- S-2 The construction of additional huts is prohibited.
- S-3 Expanding hut capacity is prohibited.
- S-4 Except for health, safety, and resource impact concerns, expanding existing huts in physical structure is prohibited.
- G-1 Potable public water systems may be provided.

Shelters/Cabins/Tent Platforms

- S-1 If not clearly needed to protect natural resources, maintain a desired recreation use opportunity or pattern, or conform to the Forest recreation management approaches, shelters, cabins, and tent platforms must be removed.
- S-2 Shelters, cabins, and tent platforms that are retained must be maintained. Native materials should be emphasized for maintenance and repair activities. Non-native material may be used if native material is

is unavailable or impractical. Materials should be replaced in-kind. Any material used should be durable and blend closely with the natural surroundings.

- S-3 Reconstruction of shelters, cabins, and tent platforms determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places must conform to required standards in *Standards for Upkeep and Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings*.
- G-1 Shelters, cabins, and tent platforms that currently control and mitigate recreation impacts that are unlikely to be successfully mitigated through other appropriate strategies should be retained.
- G-2 Human waste disposal facilities should be provided consistent with appropriate backcountry waste management technology.
- G-3 Where fires are allowed, they should be confined to designated fire rings.
- G-4 Additional shelters, cabins, and tent platforms should not be constructed unless unacceptable resource or social conditions exist that cannot be otherwise mitigated. New shelters, cabins, or tent platforms must be consistent with the Forest recreation management approaches.
- G-5 New shelter and tent platform sites should be located 100 feet or more from any main trail, water body, or riparian area, and should not be located within two miles of an existing road open to motor vehicles.
- G-6 Reconstruction and relocation of cabins, shelters, and tent platforms may include expansion of facilities, but should allow only the minimum expansion needed to better manage existing recreation use of the site and the surrounding area.

Dispersed Campsites

- S-1 Dispersed campsites causing unacceptable impacts that cannot be reasonably mitigated must be removed.
- G-1 Dispersed campsites may be designated with limited signing, as needed, to better manage recreation use.
- G-2 Human waste disposal facilities and water systems should not be provided at dispersed campsites.
- G-3 Consistent with management area direction, dispersed campsites may be allowed or relocated to manage existing recreation use.

Cross-Country Skiing

- G-1 Forest Service-maintained cross-country ski trails should provide a lower level of development and services than cross-country areas under special use permit.

Mountain Biking

- S-1 Except for designated Wilderness and the Appalachian Trail corridor, which are closed, Forest development trails will be open unless closed to mountain bike use.

- S-2 Mountain biking is allowed on travel corridors unless closed to that use.
- S-3 Cross-country mountain bike travel outside the open system of Forest trails and open [travel corridors](#) is prohibited.
- G-1 Existing travel corridors should be reviewed systematically, with public involvement, with the goal of establishing a designated Forest trail system.

Rock and Ice Climbing

- S-1 The White Mountain National Forest is open unless designated closed to rock, ice, and [mixed climbing](#).
- S-2 Except in Wilderness (see MA 5.1) where it is prohibited, storing (caching) equipment, including fixed ropes is permitted for no more than 14 days.
- S-3 Chipping to create foot and hand holds, gluing to stabilize features, and attaching permanent artificial handholds is prohibited.
- S-4 Route cleaning is prohibited where federally-listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive species occur.
- S-5 To protect natural features, the use of mechanical or motorized devices, explosives, or chemicals for cleaning or developing climbing routes is prohibited. Hand drills and power drills are permitted for the installation of bolt protection, except in Wilderness where power drills are prohibited.
- G-1 Specific areas should be closed or limitations placed on use, including group size, if recreational climbing creates unacceptable social or natural resource impacts. This may result in temporary or permanent closures or limits on number of outfitter/guide permits authorized.
- G-2 To minimize social and environmental impacts, climbing party size should be limited to 12 persons, except in Wilderness, where group size is limited to 10.
- G-3 Removing, altering, or manipulating vegetation, soils, or other natural features at the cliff edge, [talus slope](#), or cliff base should be avoided.
- G-4 Climbing or new route development may be restricted to protect federally listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.
- G-5 Climbing should be restricted where there is potential to impact heritage resources.
- G-6 When issues are no longer effectively addressed by application of standards and guidelines, climbing plans for specific areas should be developed to minimize environmental and social impacts.
- G-7 Removable traditional protection should be used. [Fixed protection](#) may be considered when the use of [removable protection](#) is impossible, impractical, or causes increased or ongoing unacceptable resource impact. If installation of fixed protection for a new route, or the replacement of fixed protection on an existing route, is required, the following guidelines should be used:

- a. 3/8" expansion bolts with hangers (or other acceptable industry standard that has the same or less impact) should be used. Ring hangers should be used for rappel stations. Webbing should not be used on new bolt anchors.
 - b. Replacement bolts should use the existing holes when possible.
 - c. Natural-colored webbing should be used on tree anchors.
 - d. All bolt hangers should be painted to blend with the color of the cliff face.
 - e. Hand drills, battery powered rock drills (except in Wilderness), hammers, crowbars, and wrenches are recognized as standard tools for fixed anchor installation and maintenance.
- G-8 Reasonable cleaning of a route is allowed (except per S-4). Hand tools such as wire brushes, hand brooms, and toothbrushes are recognized as standard tools.

Rock and Ice Climbing Special Use Permits

- S-1 To minimize social and environmental impacts from commercial group use, rock and ice climbing outfitter/guide group size must be limited to 12 persons. In Wilderness, the group size limit is 10 persons.
- G-1 Rock and ice climbing [recreation events permits](#) should limit group size to 12 persons.
- G-2 Numbers of permits per cliff for outfitter/guide and recreation events may be limited to protect natural resources or the recreation experience.

Special Uses — Recreation Specific

- S-1 Special uses apply to all kinds of [commercial use](#) on the Forest and must be managed to best serve the public interest, in accordance with FSM 2700. Standards and guidelines pertaining to any type of special use are stated in “Land Use Authorizations (Special Uses)” in the Lands section of this chapter. These must be followed, in addition to the recreation-specific requirements, below.
- S-2 Outfitters/guides must submit operating plans and itineraries as part of their annual permit process.
- S-3 Permits for recreation events and services with off-trail use are prohibited with the following exceptions: 1) water-based activities, 2) activities in the alpine zone on two or more feet of snow, 3) established climbing routes (as restricted by Rock and Ice Climbing standards and guidelines), 4) existing sporting dog field trial permits in the Kilkenny area, and 5) hunting.
- S-4 Recreation special uses must not be dispersed from high-use to low-use areas, as identified in the current *Trail Use Inventory*.
- S-5 Recreation Special Uses must be managed to protect the characteristics of low-use areas as identified by current [trail use levels](#).
- G-1 Recreation Special Use proposals should be denied if not consistent with the Forest recreation management approaches.

- G-2 Recreation Special Use proposals may be denied when applications are not received in a timely manner.
- G-3 If monitoring and analysis determines that recreation Special Use capacity (either social or resource) is being reached, an allocation study should be considered to determine need for user day limits. If applicable, results of the allocation study will be used to set and implement user day limits.
- G-4 Group size may be limited when necessary to provide for safety and resource protection, or to minimize the impact large groups have on others.
- G-5 In general, Special Use Permits for cross-country ski areas should provide more developed opportunities, including highly groomed trails and patrols, than Forest trails.

Wildlife Related Recreation

- S-1 The White Mountain National Forest is open unless designated closed to hunting, fishing, and trapping.

Riparian and Aquatic Habitats

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

- S-1 All appropriate state and federal permits must be acquired prior to implementing management activities within wetlands, floodplains, streams, or ponds.
- S-2 Projects requiring the use of heavy machinery within the wetted area of a stream or pond must have hazardous material spill kits on site.
- S-3 Crossing of perennial streams with motorized vehicles for recreational and commercial purposes must be done at designated locations.
- S-4 Acceptable stream flow must be maintained during construction on all fish bearing streams.
- G-1 Tree cutting and harvest should not occur within 25 feet of the bank of mapped perennial streams, the high water mark of a pond, or a identified natural vernal pool, unless prescribed to benefit hydrological or ecological function of the associated stream, pond, or riparian area. Exceptions to this include tree removals needed to clear a designated stream crossing, maintaining an existing road or previously cleared skid road that cannot be relocated, or protecting human safety or infrastructure. Trees (greater than 4 inch DBH) cut or moved in this zone should be placed in a fashion that benefits riparian functions or aquatic habitats when possible.
- G-2 Uneven-aged silvicultural practices should be used within the Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) along all perennial streams, lakes, ponds, and vernal pools. Cuts should be designed to maintain a relatively continuous forest canopy for the protection and maintenance of water quality, dead wood recruitment, hydrologic function, wildlife habitat, and scenic values. Regeneration group cuts should be limited to less than one acre in size. Exceptions may apply in areas deemed important

important for maintaining beaver colonies. In the absence of on-the-ground riparian mapping, width of RMZs should be defined as in Table 2-01.

Table 2-01. Width of RMZ for Specific Aquatic Features

Aquatic Feature	Width of RMZ* (feet)
1 st and 2 nd order streams	75'
3 rd order streams	275'
4 th and larger order streams	575'
Lakes, ponds, and vernal pools	75'

* These widths may vary on the ground and may be modified at the project level if a hydrologist or biologist maps the actual riparian zone.

- G-3 Treatments of riparian vegetation to enhance beaver forage should occur only in riparian types 30 or 35. If areas are not typed, treatments should occur on streams with less than 2 percent gradient, bankfull channel widths less than 25 feet, and valley widths greater than 150 feet.
- G-4 Treetops and [slash](#) from commercial timber harvesting operations should not remain in any perennial stream, pond, lake, wetland, or vernal pool.
- G-5 New skid roads, classified roads, trails, and walk-in campsites should not be located within the stream or pond management zone, which is a minimum of 50 feet in width. The width of the zone increases 20 feet in width with each increase of 10 percent in side slope. If any of the above need to be located within the zone, additional measures to minimize sedimentation should be taken.
- G-6 New timber log landings, developed campsites, and permanent facilities should not be located within 100 feet of a perennial stream or the high water mark of a pond. If they need to be located within 100 feet, additional measures to prevent direct runoff into surface waters and to minimize sedimentation should be taken.
- G-7 Existing roads, facilities, campsites, or trails within 100 feet of perennial streams or ponds should be considered for relocation as part of normal project planning, except when doing so would result in greater overall impact to the land or water resource.
- G-8 Known [springs](#) should be protected from human impact.
- G-9 Specific protection measures will be prescribed on a site-by-site basis for [intermittent](#) and [ephemeral](#) streams. These streams should not be permanently filled or relocated because of skidding operations. Sites where temporary water diversions or channel fill is necessary will be functionally restored after project completion.
- G-10 Naturally occurring downed wood should not be removed from streams, floodplains, wetlands, ponds, or vernal pools unless needed

to protect culverts, bridge crossings, existing infrastructure, or human safety.

- G-11 Naturally occurring vernal pools identified during project planning should not be altered as a result of skidding or construction activities.
- G-12 Management activities should avoid soil rutting that could lead to amphibian migration barriers between uplands and vernal pools.
- G-13 Restoration or enhancement of streams should occur where aquatic habitats are considered to be below their [ecological potential](#).
- G-14 Stream restoration efforts or habitat enhancement projects prescribed to increase habitat diversity (pool habitat, fish cover, nutrient and sediment storage, etc.) should harmonize with the surrounding visual setting and be consistent with ecological conditions and floodplain characteristics. The use of native materials (boulders, trees) should be emphasized.
- G-15 Trees that directly provide structure to the streambanks and channels of intermittent streams should be retained.
- G-16 Permitted construction activities in streams identified as having a fisheries value should not occur during the egg incubation period of October through April in areas where potential sedimentation would be detrimental to egg survival.

Scenery Management

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

- S-1 [Scenic Integrity Objectives](#) provide an indication of the alteration or disturbance allowed in the viewed landscape. They are defined in terms of [Very High](#), [High](#), [Moderate](#), and [Low](#). Scenic Integrity Objectives are assigned based on [Scenic Classes](#) and Management Areas. Scenic Integrity Objective assignments for the Forest are shown in [Table 2-02a](#) and [Table 2-02b](#).
- S-2 Scenic Integrity Objectives will be met by
 - a. Applying the technical principles and guidelines outlined in the *National Forest Landscape Management Handbook* series, specifically for timber, roads, utilities, recreation and ski areas (See FSM 2380.61 – Current Publications).
 - b. Following examples of Scenic Integrity Objectives found in Appendix H of *Landscape Aesthetics – A Handbook for Scenery Management*.
 - c. Following current and/or future guidelines developed specifically for the White Mountain National Forest to achieve Scenic Integrity Objectives within individual management areas.
- G-1 All management activities should meet or exceed Scenic Integrity Objectives established for the Forest through the Scenery Management System (SMS) outlined in *Agriculture Handbook 701, Landscape Aesthetics – A Handbook for Scenery Management*.

Table 2-02a. Management Areas with Multiple Scenic Integrity Objectives.

Scenic Class	Management Area		
	2.1	8.2	6.1, 6.2, 6.3
1	High	High	High
2	Moderate	Moderate	High
3	Moderate	Low	Moderate
4	Moderate	Low	Moderate
5	Low	Low	Moderate
6	Low	Low	Moderate
7	Low	Low	Moderate

Table 2-02b. Management Areas with a Single Scenic Integrity Objective.

Management Area	Scenic Integrity Objective
5.1	Very High
7.1	Low
8.1	High
8.3	High – Very High
8.4	High
8.5	See specific Scenic Area
8.6	High
9.1	Very High
9.2	Low
9.3	High
9.5	High

Transportation System

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

Road Location, Design, and Construction

- S-1 Roads and related facilities (e.g. parking lots, trailheads) must be located, designed, and constructed to the appropriate standard necessary to meet management objectives for the area served.
- S-2 Road and related facility standards shall be determined by the needs of all resources, including consideration of safety, costs of transportation, and effects upon lands and resources.
- S-3 Road location must consider soil erosion and slope stability risks.
- S-4 Temporary erosion control devices must be installed and maintained until disturbed ground has been stabilized.

- S-5 Roads subject to the Highway Safety Act, that do not meet two-lane standards, must 1) be increased to a full two lanes or 2) reduced to a single lane with intervisible turnouts when they are reconstructed.
- G-1 New through roads should not be constructed.
- G-2 Roads and related facilities should be located outside of riparian areas, wetlands, deer wintering areas and vernal pools.
- G-3 Road construction on the small breakland Ecological Land Types (ELTs) should be avoided.
- G-4 Where abutments are required for resource protection, permanent abutments should be considered on temporary bridges that will be utilized on classified roads scheduled for future recurrent use.
- G-5 Excess materials generated during construction activities should be removed from construction sites and properly disposed of.
- G-6 Appropriate control and management of storm water runoff should be considered in parking lot design.
- G-7 When roads subject to the Highway Safety Act, along with their related facilities, are reconstructed, they should be brought into compliance with the Highway Safety Act standards.

Road Management

- S-1 Roads are open to non-motorized uses unless specifically closed.
- S-2 Temporary roads must be decommissioned upon completion of the activity for which they were authorized.
- S-3 Private landowners and other government agencies shall be required to obtain an access permit from the Forest Service to construct a new road which connects onto an existing [National Forest System road](#) to ensure public safety and resource protection.
- G-1 New roads constructed for resource management purposes should be open to public highway vehicle traffic when the following guidelines are met, otherwise they should be closed to public highway vehicle use:
 - a. The road provides access to ongoing multi-resource activities;
 - b. Specific public benefit(s) and time are identified in the road management objectives (RMO);
 - c. The road adequately supports the expected use, and no significant public safety or resource hazards exist; or
 - d. The road meets recreation management goals and objectives.
- G-2 Seasonal road restrictions should be considered when:
 - a. Use would cause unacceptable damage to roadbed or soil and water resources;
 - b. Use causes unacceptable wildlife conflict or habitat degradation;
 - c. Use results in unsafe conditions;
 - d. A seasonal public or administration need is served;

- e. The area accessed has seasonal need for protection or non-use; or
- f. It is necessary to resolve conflicts between users.
- G-3 Administrative use of closed or restricted roads should not occur when such use would cause damage to roads or resources.
- G-4 Roads may be open to winter motorized, non-highway vehicle use (e.g., snowmobiles) when they are part of an official trail system designed, maintained, and signed for that use.
- G-5 [Objective maintenance Level](#) I (intermittent stored service) roads should have temporary drainage structures removed, be stabilized, and have entrances blocked during the period they are closed to vehicles.
- G-6 Existing roads should be considered for decommissioning
 - a. When there is no longer any need for the road.
 - b. When alternative routes may be available.
 - c. To protect natural and cultural resources or to meet other resource needs.

Road Maintenance

- S-1 Commercial users must be responsible for all winter and summer maintenance associated with their activities.
- S-2 Roads and related facilities maintained for winter use must be designed and maintained to protect investment, resources, and to ensure public safety.
- G-1 National Forest System roads and related facilities will not normally be maintained (i.e. plowed) for winter highway vehicle use by the public unless specifically designated to support winter use.

Vegetation Management

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

- S-1 The maximum size of temporary openings created by even-aged management is limited to 30 acres.
- S-2 Whole tree removal is limited to soils with sufficient nutrient concentration and nutrient replenishment capacity to support the new or residual [stand](#) of vegetation, maintain soil productivity, and meet other resource objectives.
- S-3 All tops and limbs from harvested trees must be scattered and left on-site when harvesting on outwash sands or soils shallow to ledge.
- S-4 State of Maine and State of New Hampshire *Best Management Practices* must be met or exceeded.
- G-1 No more than 15 percent of the area of watersheds of first and second order perennial streams should be treated with even-age regeneration methods in a five year period.
- G-2 Timber [management prescriptions](#) adjacent to trail corridors should be modified to protect trail- and recreation-related values (e.g., uncut

zones, slash disposal, trail relocation, and/or use of uneven-aged management).

- G-3 Timber stand improvement prescriptions may be implemented to influence stand composition and development in order to attain desired vegetative conditions. Practices should be consistent with currently approved silvicultural guides.
- G-4 New even-aged regeneration harvest should not be made adjacent to previous regeneration areas until the average height of the first harvest area is at least 15 feet, unless the combined acreage of the regeneration areas is less than 30 acres.
- G-5 Where exposure of mineral soil is expected, skid roads should generally be located on grades of less than 20 percent, with only short steeper pitches.
- G-6 When even-aged regeneration harvests are separated by a forested stand, that stand should be at least 10 acres in size.
- G-7 Harvesting in hardwood stands adjoining deer wintering areas should occur during the winter when needed to provide browse.
- G-8 Logging slash within 50 feet of a maintenance level 3 road, a trail, or private property should be treated or removed. Slash may be treated or removed at a greater distances when necessary to protect resource values.
- G-9 Wood residues from harvest activities should be made available for firewood permittees when consistent with management area objectives.

Water Resources

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

Soil and Water Conservation Practices

- S-1 Soil and Water Conservation Practices (FSH 2509.22) must be developed and documented for activities that could affect water and soil resources.
- S-2 Water quality must be maintained and protected, except that some discharges may be allowed if they are of limited extent and duration and result in no more than temporary and short term changes in water quality. Such activities shall not permanently degrade water quality or result at any time in water quality lower than that necessary to protect the existing and designated uses. Such temporary and short term degradation is only allowed when all practical and appropriate Soil and Water Conservation Practices are used to reduce impacts to water quality.
- S-3 Effective, proven methods (e.g., silt fencing) to reduce concentrated runoff and erosion from construction activities must be used.
- S-4 Where used, sediment traps must be maintained until disturbed sites and/or cut and fill slopes are stabilized.

- S-5 Permanent stream crossings must be designed to pass the bankfull discharge unimpeded.
- S-6 Fords must not be used on perennial streams, except on a temporary basis during construction, unless approved for administrative use at designated locations with appropriate mitigations.
- G-1 New or reconstructed features (e.g., ditches and water bars) intended to capture runoff water should be designed to drain into areas suitable for trapping sediment and not directly into streams, wetlands, and vernal pools.
- G-2 To minimize turbidity where construction activity occurs in intermittent or perennial watercourses, such activity should be isolated from the streamflow or carried out during low flow periods.
- G-3 Cross drainage on roads and skid trails should use the spacing in the appropriate state Best Management Practices.

Stream Crossings

- G-1 Stream crossings of watercourses and riparian strips should be located as close to perpendicular, and as straight, as is compatible with the topography on either side.
- G-2 Permanent stream crossings should cross at stream segments with Riparian Types 12, 15, and 17.
- G-3 All permanent new, redesigned, or reconstructed stream crossings and other instream structures must be designed and constructed to pass bank full flows, withstand expected flood flows, provide for the passage of sediment, bedload, and woody material, and allow free movement of resident aquatic life.
- G-4 *(Deleted per administrative correction dated 1 July 2009.)*
- G-5 Temporary stream crossings on perennial streams should be designed to withstand at least a 25-year flood and pass bankfull flows.
- G-6 *(Deleted per administrative correction dated 1 July 2009.)*
- G-7 *(Deleted per administrative correction dated 1 July 2009.)*
- G-8 Stream crossings should be installed using techniques to keep streambeds and banks intact.

Floodplains and Wetlands

- S-1 New facilities or structures within the 100-year floodplain must be designed to protect public safety and preserve the beneficial values of floodplains.
- G-1 New campgrounds and facilities should be located outside the 100-year floodplain and wetlands.

- G-2 Ensure, as much as possible, that natural drainage patterns are not altered by management activities that negatively impact wetlands.
- G-3 When implementing ground disturbing activities adjacent to or in wetlands and floodplains, all practical mitigations should be used.
- G-4 Fragmentation of floodplains and wetlands should be avoided when planning corridors (e.g., for power lines, roads, or trails).
- G-5 Wetlands should be managed across the Forest for “no net loss.”

Water Uses

- S-1 Projects that withdraw water from surface water features or ground-water must ensure that water is maintained at levels that will protect management uses and Forest resources, including aquatic species, their habitats, and water quality.
- S-2 A site-specific assessment and/or consultation with appropriate agencies must be done to determine instream flow requirements and/or water withdrawal limits.
- S-3 Existing and designated instream water uses, and the level of water quality necessary to protect those uses, must be maintained or improved and protected.
- S-4 State Best Management Practices (BMPs) for well drilling and ground-water protection must be met or exceeded.
- S-5 All well drilling operations must have the site contained during and after well installation until the site stabilizes. This could include such measures as a containment pit, adding a temporary well cap, installing hay bales and silt fencing, and pumping overflow off-site or to a poly-lined dumpster when necessary.
- S-6 All wells must be constructed outside of wetlands and surface waters.
- S-7 Well drilling materials and by-products must be contained and prevented from moving into wetlands and surface waters.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

- S-1 Manage eligible rivers to maintain their classification and eligibility until Congress designates the segments or decides not to designate them (see Appendix C).

Wildland Fire

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

- S-1 Wildland fire use (WFO) implementation criteria must be described in the *Fire Management Plan* before fire is managed under WFO. Wildland fires that do not meet the established criteria will be managed using the full range of suppression options available to confine, contain, and control the fire.

- S-2 All ignitions must receive an appropriate management response (suppression or wildland fire use) according to the *Fire Management Plan*.
- G-1 Fire planning should be integrated into all resource management plans to ensure treatment objectives utilize fire in an appropriate manner from both ecological and resource protection standpoints.
- G-2 Fire suppression and prescribed fire impacts should be minimized by implementing Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics as described in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations*.
- G-3 Existing standing dead, and dead-and-down, woody material should be retained and not damaged during fuel reduction activities unless they are considered a safety hazard. This applies especially to large (greater than or equal to eighteen inches DBH) hollow or rotten logs and rotten stumps.
- G-4 Best available smoke management practices should be used to assure that prescribed fire will not result in adverse effects on public health and safety, or visibility in Class I airsheds.

Wildlife

Also see Chapter 3 for required management area-specific direction.

Wildlife Habitat Management

- S-1 Habitat management objectives must be developed for an individual [Habitat Management Unit](#) (HMU) prior to implementation of vegetative management in that HMU. These objectives must be based on land capability, current condition in the HMU, and landscape needs to meet management area objectives.
- S-2 The Forest Service shall not introduce non-indigenous species except as biological controls for invasive species.
- S-3 Known [active raptor nest](#) areas must be protected. Extent of the protection should be based on proposed management activities, human activities existing before nest establishment, species, topography, vegetative cover, and other factors. A [no-disturbance buffer](#) of at least 66 feet is required around nest sites from nest-site selection to fledging (generally March through July); exceptions may occur for some management activities when animals are adapted to human activity. At many sites, conditions will result in the need for a larger buffer to provide adequate protection.
- G-1 Habitat should be managed according to guidance provided in the Forest's *Terrestrial Habitat Management* reference document.
- G-2 Oak-pine and hemlock habitats should be retained on the landscape, but not all existing stands need to be maintained.
- G-3 Maintain or enhance tree species diversity within stands, except when a stand is converted to aspen-birch, which reduces tree species diversity in the stand but provides a key habitat on the landscape. This includes retaining components of yellow birch and other minor species, and

retaining at least a few softwoods in hardwood stands and a few hardwoods in softwood stands where possible.

- G-4 Even-aged regeneration harvest in spruce-fir and [mixedwood habitats](#) should occur only where softwood regeneration would be expected based on ecological land type or other conditions. Exceptions include when trying to create or maintain [aspen-birch habitat](#), or when salvage harvesting after a large-scale disturbance.
- G-5 Patches of [regeneration forest habitat](#) less than five acres in size should be created only in close proximity to other patches of regeneration habitat; grouping makes small habitat patches suitable for a number of species associated with regeneration forest habitat. Larger patches may be grouped or spread out within an HMU, depending on project objectives, forest type distribution, accessibility, and other resource concerns.
- G-6 [Group selection](#) harvest should be emphasized in deer wintering areas (deeryards). Other management methods that would retain dense cover while providing pockets of browse can also be used if group selection is not appropriate.
- G-7 Roads, trails, and new facilities should be located outside of deer wintering areas.
- G-8 Gated roads may be opened seasonally to allow access to hunting or fishing areas, if resource concerns permit and if consistent with Forest Plan direction.
- G-9 Multi-year surveys of air space used by birds and bats should be conducted prior to permitting [wind tower](#) applications.
- G-10 When structures that exceed the height of the adjacent canopy (e.g., cell towers) are proposed, mitigation measures to deter collisions by birds, bats, and other wildlife species should be implemented.
- G-11 Protection of sensitive habitats, such as wetlands, and den and nest sites for key species, should be considered for protection at the project-level.

Nuisance Wildlife

- S-1 All dumpsters, garbage cans, and recycling bins at developed recreation sites must be wildlife-resistant.
- S-2 At developed and backcountry sites with known problems, actions must be taken to alleviate the [wildlife-human conflict](#). If these measures do not work, trapping or other measures may be used to remove the problem animal in coordination with state agencies. A process for addressing conflicts and recommended preventative measures are documented in the *White Mountain National Forest Protocol to Avoid Wildlife-Human Conflicts*.
- G-1 Preventative measures and education should be used to minimize wildlife-human conflicts.

- G-2 To the degree feasible, campers, hikers, and day-use visitors should be advised when there is a known nuisance wildlife problem in developed or backcountry areas near where they are recreating.
- G-3 Information about proper food storage should be available to campers and recreationists at recreation sites.
- G-4 When education and deterrents do not eliminate wildlife-human conflicts, or when necessary to maintain public safety, dispersed or developed recreation sites may be closed by Forest Supervisor's Order.

Wildlife Openings

- S-1 The value of [wildlife trees](#), snags, and down logs must be considered during development of burn plans for wildlife openings.
- G-1 Alternate uses of wildlife openings should be limited, and should be designed and timed to reduce impacts to the habitat value of the opening.
 - a. When a wildlife opening is used for other purposes, such as a helicopter site, it must be restored to the condition it was in prior to that use.
 - b. Special uses and events are not allowed in a wildlife opening if they alter the habitat value of the opening.
 - c. Camping in wildlife openings should be discouraged.

Wildlife Reserve Trees

- S-1 When harvest reduces the [basal area](#) of a stand below thirty square feet per acre, uncut patches totaling five percent of the harvested area must be retained, with each at least one quarter acre in size.
- S-2 When timber harvest will leave basal area above thirty square feet per acre, at least six cavity and/or snag trees per acre must be retained. These leave trees should include at least one wildlife tree and three trees exceeding twelve inches DBH per acre when feasible. In areas lacking such cavity trees and snags, trees of the largest available diameters with defects likely to lead to cavity formation should be retained.
- G-1 Uncut patches retained under S-1 should be located to encompass as many wildlife trees, snags greater than or equal to nine inches DBH, other trees with cavities or broken tops, and bear-clawed beech as possible. A wildlife tree or snag greater than eighteen inch DBH may be used as a nucleus. In areas lacking suitable cavity trees and snags, trees of the largest available diameters with defects likely to lead to cavity formation should be retained.
- G-2 When possible, uncut patches retained under S-1 and leave trees retained under S-2 should be placed within three hundred feet of open wetlands, ponds, riparian areas, or wildlife openings greater than five acres in size.

- G-3 Existing standing dead, and dead-and-down woody material, should be retained and not damaged during Forest management activities unless they are considered a safety hazard or the area is being permanently removed from a forest condition (for example, parking lot construction). This applies especially to large (greater than or equal to eighteen inches DBH) hollow or rotten logs and rotten stumps,
- G-4 Cull material from harvested trees, especially hollow logs, should be left in the woods.

Forestry pioneers studying five-year-old slash on the northwest slope of Mt. Carrigain, 1919, in what is now the Pemigewasset Wilderness. From left: Henry S. Graves, then Chief of the U.S. Forest Service; J.J. Fritz, WMNF Forest Supervisor, 1918-1923; Franklin Reed, District Forester; Philip W. Ayres, SPNHF Forester; Allen Chamberlain of the Boston Transcript, SPNHF officer; and District Ranger C.B. Shiffer. (WMNF photo)

