

# White Mountain National Forest

## Chapter 3 Management Area Direction



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### *Cover*

*Titus Brook Wildlife Opening (WMNF Photo by John Williams)*

## MA 2.1 – General Forest Management

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### Purpose

1. Provide high quality sawtimber and other timber products on a [sustained yield](#) basis.
2. Provide a balanced mix of habitats for wildlife species.
3. Provide opportunities for a full mix of recreation opportunities, from low-use hiking trails to highly developed campgrounds, and ROS objectives, varying from urban to semi-primitive motorized in different locations and sometimes varying by season or presence of management activities.
4. Manage high-use or highly developed recreation areas to acceptable social and ecological standards; manage to retain some low-use and less developed areas.

### Desired Condition of the Land

The Forest will be a mix of deciduous and coniferous forest stands of various types. The stands will vary in size, shape, height, and tree species. Both even-aged and uneven-aged harvest techniques will be used. As a result, two different conditions will occur among the stands: some stands will consist of trees of about the same age and size; the remaining stands will consist of a mix of tree sizes and ages ranging from seedlings to very large, mature trees.

Silvicultural practices will be used to meet timber, ecological, visual, and recreation objectives. Most stands will provide high quality sawtimber. Suitable habitat will be provided for a variety of wildlife and plant species. TES species and Outstanding Natural Communities will be conserved. Habitat at the landscape level will include a sustainable mix of young and mature forest. Permanent and temporary openings will occur across the landscape in shapes and sizes that are consistent with scenic objectives in an area. All communities that would naturally be present will be managed so that they are maintained or enhanced.

Along major road corridors, large diameter trees of different species with a variety of bark and foliage characteristics will predominate. Numerous views of broad, changing landscapes will be provided along roads and trails. Views, ecological processes, and management practices will be interpreted at stationary vista sites.

Recreation opportunities will be diverse, including activities such as hiking, mountain biking, driving for pleasure, snowmobiling, hunting and fishing, roadside camping, and [developed camping](#). Some roads and trails will receive limited use, while others will be heavily used at certain times. Campground development levels will vary among sites, with some offering limited facilities and others providing more amenities. The location of various types and levels of recreation development will be determined by the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) objective assigned to specific areas as well as by public demand and feasibility. ROS objectives will include



rural, roaded natural, semi-primitive motorized. Within these ROS objectives, there will be substantial non-motorized recreation opportunities. Noticeable human activity in these areas will differ from very evident to absent.

Permanent and temporary roads will provide access to meet land management objectives. Major road corridors will be open for public use. Other roads will be open occasionally to provide for activities such as firewood gathering or hunting access. Most roads will be closed to public vehicular traffic. Selected areas may have snowmobile trails.



*Log skidding then and now: horses drag logs at Waterville Valley ca. 1938; at right, a modern skidder at the Clear Brook timber sale. (WMNF photos by Bluford W. Muir, Forrest Seavey)*

## Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

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### General

- G-1 Emergency and project-related motorized administrative use may be allowed. Project-related motorized administrative use should consider potential impacts to social conditions and ecological resources in the area.

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### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Geologic and Mineral

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Heritage

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Lands

#### Special Uses

- S-1 [Designated communication sites](#) are prohibited.
- G-1 New communication use permits may be authorized on a case-by-case basis if they are attached to existing facilities and consistent with visual quality standards, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum requirements, and management area objectives.
- G-2 Wind towers may be considered.

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### Native American Relations

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Non-Native Invasive Species

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Rare and Unique Features

- G-1 Vegetative manipulation may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

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### Recreation

- G-1 Recreation management activities will match the ROS Class objectives

provided in this management area. Recreation management activities themselves should not drive the ROS Class from a less developed to a more developed Class. For example, a paved trail should not be constructed in an area with a semi-primitive motorized objective. ROS objectives in this management area include:

- a. Areas adjacent to, and within one half mile of, Interstate, state, town, and National Forest System roads open to public vehicular use should have recreation management activities consistent with urban, rural, or roaded natural ROS objectives. The specific ROS objective depends on the individual road classification and related development on National Forest or adjacent private lands.
- b. Areas adjacent and within one half-mile of National Forest System roads closed to public vehicular use should have recreation management activities consistent with the roaded natural ROS objective. During the winter months, some of these roads become part of the snowmobile trail system.
- c. Areas generally beyond one half-mile of roads open to public vehicular use should have recreation management activities consistent with the semi-primitive motorized ROS objective. During timber harvesting, some areas may temporarily appear roaded natural due to the presence of people, equipment, and reconstructed roads. But when timber activities are not present and during summer months when there is no motorized recreation, much of this management area will appear as SPNM.

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#### Riparian/Aquatic

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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#### Scenery Management

- G-1 In evaluating cumulative effects for viewed landscapes from established [concern level](#) 1, open, higher elevation viewpoints affording expansive or large scale views, no more than 9 percent of the acreage within the [view](#) should be treated with regeneration vegetation management activities within a 30 year period. Total area affected during any one entry period with new regeneration treatment should not exceed 4 percent of the acreage. Assessment may need to be made from multiple viewpoints (that view a common land base). The assessment will apply to each view separately.
- G-2 VisualFX or similar computer graphics/simulation software should be used to design and evaluate visibility of proposed regeneration cuts, especially when viewed from higher elevation or superior viewpoints.
- G-3 For areas with a “High” Scenic Integrity Objective, created openings should be minimally evident from trail, road, or use area vantage points. Maximum observed size should not exceed 4-5 acres. If openings occur, they should appear as natural occurrences and be well-distributed in the viewed landscape.





*The General Forest Management area (MA 2.1) offers a broad range of recreational activities. Dogsledding (WMNF photo by Terry Miller); Bowhunting (WMNF photo by Forrest Seavey); Canoeing on Long Pond (WMNF photo by Kathie Fife); Backpacking on the Zealand Trail (WMNF photo by Forrest Seavey); RV and tent camping at Hancock Campground (WMNF photos by Forrest Seavey)*

- G-4 For areas with a “Moderate” Scenic Integrity Objective, and viewed from superior viewpoints, clearcuts and other noticeable openings should be informal in distribution and designed to be in scale with the observed landscape.
- G-5 Observed opening acreages will vary under different situations and in relationship to the viewing position. As a starting point, observed acreages of approximately 10 acres normally achieve a Moderate Scenic Integrity Objective.
- G-6 In general, larger-sized openings relate better to existing landscape character when placed at lower elevations (Valley Bottom Land Type Association).
- G-7 For projects where group cutting is the preferred prescription, and views from a superior viewpoint are a concern, groups should be laid out in an informal distribution pattern and varied in size.

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Transportation  
System

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*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Vegetation  
Management

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- G-1 Harvest restrictions, such as time of day, day of the week, or season, should be considered in high-use recreation areas or other sensitive areas, such as private residences, on a case-by-case basis.
- G-2 The use of chemicals for Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) or site preparation may be allowed as per label specifications and in accordance with appropriate Forest Service handbook and manual direction. Proper mitigation procedures for resource protection will be utilized.
- G-3 When artificial regeneration is prescribed it should be initiated within two years of the harvest cut. Site preparation for planting may include manual, prescribed fire, chemical, or mechanical methods.
- G-4 Selection cuts should be made on a 15- to 20-year entry interval, depending on individual site conditions.

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Water Resources

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*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Wild and Scenic  
Rivers

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*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Wildland Fire

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- S-1 Wildland fire use (WFO) is prohibited.
- G-1 Prescribed fire may be used.

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Wildlife

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*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*



## MA 5.1 – Wilderness

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### Purpose

1. Manage as part of the National Wilderness Preservation system in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Eastern Wilderness Act and individual Wilderness enabling legislations.
2. Provide a range of Wilderness values including social, scientific, ecological, and recreational.
3. Recognize the particular importance of maintaining Wilderness character within the northeast, including the character of an untrammeled landscape, where population pressures are intense and the overall landscape has been heavily modified.
4. Allow natural ecological events to progress without modification or manipulation where feasible.

### Desired Condition of the Land

Management Area 5.1 will be composed of Congressionally-designated Wilderness. While Eastern Wilderness includes lands that have been modified through logging and other human actions over hundreds of years, the current natural ecological processes will be allowed to take place. The forest will be a product of natural succession. Large- and small-scale change will occur through natural events, such as wind disturbance or ice storms. In addition to natural processes within terrestrial and [aquatic ecosystems](#), those Wildernesses that contain Class I airsheds (Great Gulf and Presidential Range/Dry River) will be managed to recognize air quality as integral to ecosystem health.

The Forest objective for Wilderness is to manage the areas to standard in accordance with the Wilderness Management Plan and national direction. In order to provide a range of Wilderness recreation opportunities and to protect low-use areas, Wildernesses will be divided into four zones labeled A (generally the lowest-use zone), B, C, and D (generally the highest-use zone). Each zone will be managed for its unique attributes, with goals and thresholds in place to prevent degradation of Wilderness character. Wilderness zones with high recreation use will be managed to maintain their values as sources of inspiration for the large surrounding populations, while having standards preventing unacceptable social or ecological impacts. Low-use Wilderness zones will be managed to maintain their low use; use will not be dispersed from high- to low-use areas by management actions. Interaction between users will vary by Wilderness, by specific places within each Wilderness, and by season of use. In general, use will be concentrated around trail corridors. Away from trails and in low use Wilderness zones, evidence of, and interaction with, other users will be low. Facilities and designated campsites may be present, when necessary, to protect Wilderness character, but natural processes will take precedence over recreation objectives.

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

Managerial controls will be kept to a minimum, and used only as necessary to protect ecological and social values. Wilderness will be accessible by foot or other non-motorized, non-mechanized means.

*Entering the Presidential Range/Dry River Wilderness (WMNF photo by Terry Miller)*



## Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

### General

- S-1 Management direction for both the Appalachian Trail (MA 8.3) and Wilderness (MA 5.1) must apply where the AT crosses through Wilderness. Where direction differs, the more restrictive standards and guidelines must apply.
- S-2 Management direction for both the Alpine Zone (MA 8.1) and Wilderness (MA 5.1) must apply where Wilderness contains portions of the Alpine Zone. Where direction differs, the more restrictive standards and guidelines must apply.
- S-3 Group size is limited to 10 people.
- S-4 Consistent with Wilderness designation, only non-motorized activities are allowed.
- S-5 Line officers may authorize motorized administrative use for emergencies as indicated in [Table 3-01](#).

*Table 3-01. Motorized Administrative Use Approvals by Activity*

Motorized Use Request	Approval Authority
Chainsaws and portable pumps	Forest Supervisor
Helicopter use and landing sites	Forest Supervisor
Fire retardant drops from aircraft	Forest Supervisor
All Terrain vehicles	Forest Supervisor
Bulldozers, excavators, and similar heavy equipment	Regional Forester

- S-6 The [minimum tool concept](#) must be used to guide management actions, including motorized administrative use in non-emergency situations.
- G-1 Nonconforming structures should be evaluated for their historical and cultural values. They may be retained if 1) they do not threaten public safety or resource protection, 2) their cultural value is integral to that of Wilderness, or 3) they reflect Wilderness character.
- G-2 Permission should not be given for helicopter flights over Wilderness, except for emergency use or when demonstrated to be the minimum tool necessary to meet Wilderness goals and objectives.
- G-3 Wilderness management and recreation management should follow the White Mountain National Forest *Wilderness Management Plan*, including implementation of a zoned management strategy using Zones A-D (see Appendix E).



### **Education and Interpretation**

- S-1 Management must emphasize the education messages outlined in the *Wilderness Management Plan*, including targeting the appropriate Leave No Trace and hikeSafe messages.
- G-1 Posted public safety messages and signs (other than directional trail signs) or focused interpretive programs should be provided outside of Wilderness. Posted public safety messages may be used in Wilderness to mitigate an unusual or extraordinary public safety hazard.
- G-2 Public education about Class I Airsheds should be encouraged.

### **Public Health and Pollution Control**

- G-1 Public potable water systems should not be provided.
- G-2 Human waste disposal facilities should be provided only at existing overnight facilities. If concentrations of dispersed campsites threaten water quality, they should be removed.
- G-3 When provided, human waste disposal facilities should be consistent with current backcountry waste management technology and Wilderness values.

### **Wilderness Restoration**

- G-1 Restoration efforts should be site-specific and small scale, such as rehabilitating campsites or other sites impacted by recreation.
- G-2 Ecosystem restoration should be considered only if the need is causally linked to human-induced changes, and if those changes pose a significant threat to resources outside of Wilderness.

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## **Accessibility**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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## **Air Quality**

- G-1 The Great Gulf and Presidential Range/Dry River Wilderness Class I Airsheds should be managed to protect air quality related values (AQRVs) such as visibility, vegetation, and water quality.
- G-2 The IMPROVE (Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments) site at Camp Dodge, or similar substitute technology, should be maintained to monitor air quality in Class I Wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest.

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## **Geologic and Mineral**

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

- S-1 These lands are withdrawn from mineral extraction activities.

### **Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

- S-1 Development of common variety mineral sites is prohibited.

**Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

S-1 Surface-disturbing recreational rock and mineral collecting is prohibited.

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**Heritage**

G-1 Historic sites and artifacts, even if considered nonconforming structures, should be undisturbed except where they threaten public safety or resource protection.

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**Lands**

**Special Uses**

S-1 New Special Use facilities are prohibited except as allowed for by any provisions in Congressional designation of any specific Wilderness.

S-2 On-the-ground military exercises are prohibited in Wilderness.

S-3 The Forest will work cooperatively with the military and the public in reducing the impacts of low-level military training flights.

G-1 Research permits may be allowed if 1) research can be done without compromising Wilderness character, or 2) research is Wilderness-dependent.

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**Native American Relations**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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**Non-Native Invasive Species**

S-1 Manual control must be considered as the first choice of eradication.

G-1 Chemical control methods, if deemed necessary, should be used through direct application. Broadcast application of herbicides or pesticides should be used only if direct application is not working.

G-2 Biological controls should be used only when the effectiveness of other control methods will not achieve site-specific eradication objectives.

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**Rare and Unique Features**

S-1 Vegetation manipulation to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species is prohibited.

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**Recreation**

S-1 Management actions, such as dispersing use or increasing developments, must not result in a change along the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum or Wilderness Management zone scale from less- to more-developed. For example, management actions must not change a zone from A to B, B to C, or C to D.

S-2 [Geocaching](#) is prohibited.

### **Use Administration**

- S-1 Signs are permitted only for resource protection and public safety according to zone direction.
- G-1 Numbers of users may be limited to provide opportunities for solitude and low to moderate contact with other groups or individuals.
- G-2 Visitor use may be managed by informing visitors of alternative opportunities outside of Wilderness, restricting access to the Wilderness, limiting length of stay, limiting group size, and/or instituting a permit system.
- G-3 Camping is permitted in all areas consistent with zone designations, unless restricted by a Forest Supervisor's Order.
- G-4 The use of wood or charcoal fires may be limited as necessary to protect Wilderness character.
- G-5 Only those improvements needed to protect and manage the Wilderness resource, or that address an unusual and extraordinary public safety hazard, should be constructed. The improvements must be consistent with zone designations.
- G-6 The number and type of improvements, such as trails, footbridges, and signs, should be kept to a minimum and be consistent with zone designations.

### **Overnight Facilities**

- S-1 Construction of new overnight facilities is prohibited.
- S-2 Existing facilities must be assessed to determine whether recreation impacts, or historical or cultural significance, warrants retention or removal.
- S-3 Existing overnight facilities that are not identified in area-enabling legislation must be removed if they can no longer meet health and safety standards without full replacement, and if they are not needed for resource protection.
- S-4 An existing facility determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places must be retained if this is the only way to adequately preserve and protect its historical or cultural significance.
- S-5 Shelters identified for retention must be maintained. Native materials are to be used, if possible, for maintenance and repair. Non-native materials may be used only if native material is unavailable or impractical. Materials are to be replaced in-kind. Any materials used should be durable, and should blend closely with the natural surroundings.
- S-6 Facilities must not exist outside Zone D.
- G-1 Overnight facilities identified in the area-enabling legislation should be retained.
- G-2 Overnight facilities not identified in area-enabling legislation should be retained if removal would increase recreation impacts on an area



where those impacts are currently well mitigated by the shelter, and those impacts are unlikely to be successfully mitigated through other appropriate strategies.

- G-3 Shelters not meeting historic or resource protection needs should be removed.
- G-4 For shelters that will be retained, every practical effort should be made to minimize the presence of the shelter and its impact on the surrounding area.

### **Rock and Ice Climbing**

- S-1 Wilderness is open unless closed to rock, ice, and mixed climbing.
- S-2 The use of power drills is prohibited.
- S-3 Storing equipment, including fixed ropes, is prohibited.
- S-4 Installation of fixed protection, including webbing, bolts, or pitons, is prohibited on new climbing routes.
- G-1 Existing fixed protection on established climbing routes may be replaced consistent with Forest-wide standards and guidelines, as necessary to preserve known routes and to protect visitor safety.

### **Special Uses—Recreation Specific**

- S-1 Outfitter/guide permits will be issued only where they are consistent with Wilderness zone descriptions, as described below.
  - a. Because Zone A should have the lowest levels of recreation use and the fewest recreation-related impacts, outfitter/guide use is prohibited in Zone A.
  - b. Because Zone B requires the highest level of primitive camping skills, permits will be issued only to those applicants whose trip leaders have documented certification as Leave No Trace masters or trainers. Since the density of use is low in this zone, the fewest number of permits will be issued.
  - c. To prevent proliferation of campsites beyond established standards, outfitter/guide permits for overnight use in Zone C will be limited to designated or established campsites. Permits for day use will be issued only if that use is consistent with zone standards. To keep use within expected levels, this zone should have the next fewest permits issued.
  - d. To protect adjacent areas and to minimize proliferation of campsites beyond established standards, permits for overnight use in Zone D will be limited to designated or established campsites. Permits for day use will be issued only if that use is consistent with zone standards. Because this zone has the greatest concentration of campsites and can accommodate the highest number of users, this zone should have the highest number of outfitter/guide permits.
- S-2 Use in any zone must not be allowed to increase beyond a level that can be accommodated within established standards.

- S-3 Outfitter/guide permits must not disperse use from high- to low-use areas.
- S-4 Permits for competitive or recreation events are prohibited.
- S-5 Permits for new recreation facilities are prohibited.

#### **Trail Construction, Reconstruction, and Maintenance**

- S-1 Zone A has no trails. Trails are prohibited.
- S-2 Zone B must be managed according to FSH Level I standards and according to primitive ROS standards.
- S-3 Zones C and D must be managed according to FSH Level II standards and according to semi-primitive ROS standards.
- S-4 Consistent with zone descriptions, fords must be used for drainage crossing, except where public health and safety or resource protection requires a bridge.
- G-1 Trail construction, reconstruction, and maintenance should be consistent with the appropriate Wilderness zone management direction.
- G-2 Bridge materials should be native or natural in appearance to minimize contrast with the natural setting. Non-native materials such as dimensional lumber, bolts, cables, or steel stringers may be allowed when necessary.

#### **Trail Management and Operation**

- S-1 Signs must be used consistent with zone descriptions. Trail signs must indicate only the trail name, direction of travel, destination, maintaining organization (if applicable), and USFS.
- S-2 Cairns, limited scree walls, blazing, and directional arrow signs must be used only when the summer trail tread is not easily discernible, for resource protection, or to mitigate an unusual or extraordinary public safety hazard. Cairns and limited scree walls should be used in preference to blazing.
- G-1 Trails may be added or eliminated to protect Wilderness character.

#### ***Appalachian Trail***

- S-1 Management direction contained in Management Area 8.3, Appalachian Trail, and MA 5.1, Wilderness, applies. Where there is a conflict, the stricter standards must be followed.

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#### **Riparian/Aquatic**

- S-1 Fish stocking is prohibited, unless prescribed in an interagency plan to reintroduce indigenous strains of fish.

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#### **Scenery Management**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Transportation  
System

- S-1 Roads are prohibited.
- G-1 Parking lots for trails that access Wilderness should not be expanded or constructed solely to accommodate increased recreation use.

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Vegetation  
Management

- S-1 Timber management is prohibited.

**Insects and Disease**

- G-1 The natural process of native insect and disease outbreaks in Wilderness should be controlled only when justified by predicted loss of resource values on bordering private or public lands.
- G-2 Pesticide use may be allowed after a “minimum tool” analysis has been conducted and when deemed necessary to prevent significant losses to resource values on bordering private or public lands, or to control non-native invasive species.

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Water Resources

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Wild and Scenic  
Rivers

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Wildland Fire

- S-1 The Wilderness Fire Management Plan must recognize natural fire as a natural ecological process. Lightning-ignited fires will be managed as wildland fire use, as described in the Fire Management Plan, under conditions and criteria that constitute low risk to firefighter and public safety.
- S-2 An appropriate management response to human-caused fires must follow the Wilderness Fire Management Plan, which includes careful consideration of suppression strategies to minimize impacts to Wilderness.
- S-3 Prescribed fire is prohibited.
- G-1 A [resource advisor](#) should be used for all fires in Wilderness.

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Wildlife

- S-1 Since habitat must be a result of natural process only, wildlife habitat improvement projects are prohibited.





*Above. Former Mt Osceola fire lookout tower, ca. 1954. Right. Fire lookout on Mt Hale in 1939 uses an alidade to help triangulate a fire location. The use of fire lookout towers ended on the White Mountain National Forest about 1969. (WMNF photos, above unknown, at right by B.W. Muir)*

## MA 6.1 – Semi-Primitive Recreation

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### Purpose

1. Emphasize hiking, backpacking, and related foot trail use.
2. Provide for motorized trail use in winter.

### Desired Condition of the Land

Lands will be accessible by foot and other non-motorized means, such as skis, snowshoes, or mountain bikes. In the winter, access by snowmobile and ATV may be allowed on designated trails. Recreation facilities such as cabins and tent platforms may be present, but will complement the desired recreation experience. Facilities such as utility corridors and other special uses will be permitted, provided they are compatible with the semi-primitive character of the area.

Recreation impacts will be managed with the minimum managerial controls necessary to protect natural resources such as water quality and threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants or wildlife, and to maintain the desired recreation experiences.

Motorized trail use is limited to the winter months, and will be confined to trail corridors and at occasional recreation facilities. The number of people present will vary by location. Portions of this management area may show evidence of high use while other locations will exhibit low use. Use is concentrated on trail corridors. In winter, there will be obvious evidence of trail signs, grooming, and snowmobiles on motorized trails. Some evidence of motorized use, such as sound, may go beyond trail corridors. Away from trails, the presence of other people will generally be low.

The landscape will be natural appearing. Extensive stands of northern hardwoods and conifers will dominate. These stands will contain a mix of tree sizes and ages, visually dominated by mature trees. There will also be signs of naturally appearing disturbances and openings. Signs of human use will be confined largely to trail corridors and areas around recreation facilities.

Although permanent roads are generally prohibited, there are several places where roads are present and accepted as a non-conforming use.

## Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

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### General

- G-1 Project-related and emergency motorized administrative use may be allowed. This use should consider potential impacts to social conditions and ecological resources in the area. Where applicable, project-related motorized administrative use will be timed to minimize social and ecological impacts.

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### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Geologic and Mineral

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

- S-1. Surface disturbing activities are prohibited.

#### **Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

- S-1. New development of [common variety minerals](#) is prohibited.

#### **Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Heritage

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Lands

#### **Special Uses**

- S-1. Designated communication sites are prohibited.
- S-2. All communication use permits not attached to existing facilities are prohibited.
- S-3. Wind towers are prohibited.
- G-1. New communication use permits may be authorized on a case-by-case basis if they are attached to existing facilities and consistent with visual quality standards, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum requirements, and management area objectives.

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### Native American Relations

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Non-Native  
Invasive Species

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*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Rare and Unique  
Features

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- G-1 Vegetation manipulation may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, but is limited to small-scale activities. Vegetation manipulation to promote Bicknell's thrush habitat may be allowed to compensate for loss of habitat caused by other resource activities or as part of a limited research project designed to evaluate the effectiveness of artificially improving habitat.

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Recreation

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- G-1 Snowmobile trail use should be managed for the SPM ROS objective. This is an accepted inconsistency to the SPNM ROS objective of this management area.
- G-2 Route 112, Jefferson Notch Road, Route 16, and the East Side road, where they pass through this management area, are recognized as inconsistencies to the ROS Class objective. They are acceptable, but where feasible will be managed to minimize impacts on the SPNM experience.

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Riparian/Aquatic

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- S-1 Non-motorized transportation must be used for stocking, except for stocking from the air.
- S-2 Atlantic salmon restoration will be accomplished within cooperative agreement standards.
- S-3 Fish habitat structures, if used, must be created from materials that blend with the surrounding area and do not detract from the natural landscape.
- G-1 Stocking of indigenous species may be allowed consistent with Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

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Scenery  
Management

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*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Transportation  
System

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- S-1 No new roads, other than temporary roads, will be constructed .

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Vegetation  
Management

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- S-1. Scheduled commercial timber harvest is prohibited. Forestlands in this management area are classified as "not suited for timber production."



S-2. Timber harvesting activities for salvage operations and other management actions for insect and disease control is allowed.

S-3. Where salvage operations do occur, timber management practices must be in accordance with Forest-wide standards and guidelines for Vegetation Management and Management Area 2.1

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**Water Resources**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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**Wild and Scenic  
Rivers**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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**Wildland Fire**

S-1. Wildland fire use (WFU) is allowed.

G-1. Prescribed fire may be used to maintain viability of fire-adapted communities such as pine, oak, and oak-pine.

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**Wildlife**

G-1. Habitat structures should not be constructed, but if used, must be created from materials that blend with the surrounding area and do not detract from the natural landscape.

*Mountain bikers at  
Snows Mtn,  
Waterville Valley  
(WMNF photo by  
Forrest Seavey)*



## MA 6.2 — Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation

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### Purpose

1. Emphasize hiking, backpacking, and related foot trail recreational opportunities, providing a relative sense of isolation and remoteness in a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment.
2. Manage for large expanses of relatively undisturbed landscapes.

### Desired Condition of the Land

Lands assigned to this management area will be accessible by foot and other non-motorized means, such as skis, snowshoes, or mountain bikes. Motorized trails will not be present. Recreation facilities, such as cabins, shelters, and tent platforms may be present, but must complement the desired recreation opportunities.

Recreation impacts will be managed to protect such natural resources as water quality and threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants or wildlife in order to minimize visual disturbance and to preserve a sense of isolation and remoteness. The minimum managerial controls necessary will be used to maintain these areas to acceptable social and ecological standards.

Non-motorized dispersed use is the focus of this management area. The number of people present will vary by location. Portions of this management area may show evidence of high use while other locations will exhibit low use. Use is concentrated in trail corridors, with low use found away from trails.

The landscape will be natural appearing. Natural process will predominate. Extensive stands of northern hardwoods and conifers will dominate. These stands will contain a mix of tree sizes and ages, visually dominated by mature trees. There will also be signs of naturally appearing disturbances and openings. Signs of human use will be confined largely to trail corridors and areas around recreation facilities.

This MA prohibits permanent roads, but there are several places where roads are present and accepted as inconsistencies.



*Hikers take a break in the Mahoosuc Range  
(WMNF photo by Ken Allen)*

## Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

---

### General

- G-1 Project-related and emergency motorized administrative use may be allowed. This use should consider potential impacts to social conditions and ecological resources in the area. Where applicable, project-related motorized administrative use will be timed to minimize social and ecological impacts.

---

### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Geologic and Mineral

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

- S-1 These lands are administratively unavailable for mineral extraction activities.

#### **Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

- S-1 New development of common variety minerals is prohibited.

#### **Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Heritage

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Lands

#### **Special Uses**

- S-1 Designated communication sites are prohibited.
- S-2 Wind towers are prohibited.
- S-3 All communication use permits not attached to existing facilities are prohibited.
- G-1 New communication use permits may be authorized on a case-by-case basis if they are attached to existing facilities and consistent with visual quality standards, ROS requirements, and management area objectives.

---

### Native American Relations

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Non-Native  
Invasive Species

---

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Rare and Unique  
Features

---

G-1 Vegetation manipulation may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, but is limited to small-scale activities.

---

Recreation

---

S-1 Motorized trails are prohibited.

G-1 A semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunity is the dominant objective. Some areas may be managed for primitive recreation experience opportunities. Appalachian Mountain Club Huts are recognized as acceptable inconsistencies in the semi-primitive Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class. They will be managed to minimize the inconsistency.

G-2 Route 118, Route 113, and Route 16, where they pass through this management area, are recognized as inconsistencies to the ROS Class objective. They are acceptable, but where feasible will be managed to minimize impacts on the SPNM experience. Route 302, where it passes through this management area, is recognized as an acceptable RN inconsistency that will be managed as RN.

---

Riparian/Aquatic

---

S-1 Non-motorized transportation must be used for stocking, except for stocking from the air.

S-2 Atlantic salmon restoration will be accomplished within cooperative agreement standards.

S-3 Habitat structures, if used, must be created from materials that blend with the surrounding area and do not detract from the natural landscape.

G-1 Stocking of indigenous species may be allowed consistent with Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

---

Scenery  
Management

---

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Transportation  
System

---

S-1 Roads are prohibited. Existing roads under Forest Service jurisdiction must be closed and revegetated.



---

**Vegetation  
Management**

- S-1 Scheduled commercial timber harvest is prohibited. Forestlands in this management area are classified as “not suited for timber production.”
- S-2 Timber harvesting activities for salvage operations, unless for non-native invasive species (NNIS) treatment, are prohibited. Alternate control of non-native insect and disease should be considered first if consistent with management area goals and objectives.
- G-1 The natural process of native insect and disease outbreaks should be controlled only when justified by predicted loss of resource values on bordering private or public lands. See additional direction under NNIS for those species.

---

**Water Resources**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Wild and Scenic  
Rivers**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Wildland Fire**

- S-1 Wildland fire use (WFU) is allowed.
- G-1 Prescribed fire may be used to maintain viability of fire-adapted communities such as pine, oak, oak-pine.

---

**Wildlife**

- S-1 Creating or maintaining wildlife openings is prohibited.
- G-1 Habitat structures should not be constructed, but if used, must be created from materials that blend with the surrounding area and do not detract from the natural landscape.

## MA 6.3 — Semi-Primitive Winter Motorized Recreation

---

### Purpose

1. Emphasize motorized trail recreation opportunities in the winter.
2. Recognize the Forest's role in the statewide snowmobile systems.

### Desired Condition of the Land

There will be motorized trail use in the winter, confined to designated trail corridors and at occasional recreation facilities. There will be obvious evidence of trail signs, grooming, and snowmobiles on motorized trails in the winter. Some evidence of motorized use, such as sound, may go beyond trail corridors.

Use will be managed to prevent unacceptable impacts to other resources, such as threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants and wildlife.

The landscape will be natural appearing. Natural processes will predominate. Extensive stands of northern hardwoods and conifers will dominate. These stands will contain a mix of tree sizes and ages, visually dominated by mature trees. There will also be signs of naturally appearing disturbances and openings.

*Snowmobiling in  
Canaan; Mt. Cube  
in the distance  
(WMNF photo by  
Kathie Fife)*



## Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

---

### General

- G-1 Project-related and emergency motorized administrative use may be allowed. This use should consider potential impacts to social conditions and ecological resources in the area. Where applicable, project-related motorized administrative use will be timed to minimize social and ecological impacts.

---

### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Geologic and Mineral

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

- S-1 Surface disturbing activities are prohibited.

#### **Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

- S-1 New development of common variety minerals is prohibited.

#### **Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Heritage

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Lands

#### **Special Uses**

- S-1 Designated communication sites are prohibited.
- S-2 All communication use permits not attached to existing facilities are prohibited.
- S-3 Wind towers are prohibited.
- G-1 New communication use permits may be authorized on a case-by-case basis if they are attached to existing facilities and consistent with visual quality standards, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) requirements, and management area objectives.

---

### Native American Relations

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Non-native  
Invasive Species**

---

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Rare and Unique  
Features**

---

- G-1 Vegetation manipulation may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, but is limited to small-scale activities.

---

**Recreation**

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- S-1 Semi-primitive non-motorized opportunities will be available year-round as the predominant ROS objective. Primitive recreation experience opportunities may be available in specific locations and at particular times of the year.
- G-1 Use on snowmobile trails should be managed for the SPM ROS objective as an accepted inconsistency to the SPNM ROS objective of this management area.

---

**Riparian/Aquatic**

---

- S-1 Non-motorized transportation must be used for stocking, except for stocking from the air.
- S-2 Atlantic salmon restoration will be accomplished within cooperative agreement standards.
- S-3 Habitat structures, if used, must be created from materials that blend with the surrounding area and do not detract from the natural landscape.
- G-1 Stocking of indigenous species should be allowed, consistent with Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

---

**Scenery  
Management**

---

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Transportation  
System**

---

- S-1 Roads are prohibited. Existing roads under Forest Service jurisdiction must be closed and revegetated.

---

**Vegetation  
Management**

---

- S-1 Scheduled commercial timber harvest is prohibited. Forestlands in this management area are classified as “not suited for timber production.”
- S-2 Timber harvesting activities for salvage operations and for native insect and disease control are prohibited.
- G-1 Where fires are allowed, use of firewood is limited to on-site use of dead and down wood.



---

**Water Resources**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Wild and Scenic  
Rivers**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Wildland Fire**

S-1 Wildland fire use (WFU) is allowed.

G-1 Prescribed fire may be used to maintain the viability of fire-adapted communities such as oak, pine, and oak-pine.

---

**Wildlife**

S-1 Creating or maintaining wildlife openings is prohibited.

G-1 Habitat structures should not be constructed, but if used, must be created from materials that blend with the surrounding area and do not detract from the natural landscape.

*Alpine skiers at Wildcat Ski Area on the White Mountain National Forest enjoy a spectacular view of Tuckerman Ravine and the Presidential Range across Pinkham Notch. (WMNF photo by Joe Gill)*



## MA 7.1 – Alpine Ski Areas

---

### Purpose

Maintain the range of recreation opportunities by recognizing the potential for alpine skiing, snowboarding, and year-round recreation activities at the four alpine ski areas managed by the private sector under Special Use Permit authority. Recognize the importance of current facilities in concentrating use within small areas (less than 0.05 percent of total acreage) of the National Forest.

### Desired Condition of the Land

These areas will be highly developed. Loon Mountain, Attitash/Bear Peak, and Waterville Valley Ski Areas are in close proximity to substantially developed environments on adjacent private lands. Wildcat Ski Area, surrounded by National Forest land, will not have this high level of neighboring development. Large numbers of users may be present, sights and sounds of human activity will be readily evident, and the interaction between users will be moderate to high. Facilities are designed for use by a large number of people. Facilities including parking lots, structures, and utilities will be evident, and are designed to be compatible with the values that make the area attractive to the users.

Management and operating practices are aimed at enhancing permitted recreation activities at the area while protecting the natural resources and visual characteristics.

Vegetation will be managed to meet the objectives of the alpine ski areas.

Each of these alpine ski areas is authorized by Special Use permit. The permit is a legal document that defines the area, describes management of the full range of recreation activities provided by the area, and incorporates resource protection requirements. Special use permits must be consistent with Forest Plan standards and guidelines, goals and objectives, and management area direction.

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail Management Area (MA 8.3) and the Alpine Ski Areas Management Area (MA 7.1) will not overlap.

## Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

---

### General

#### Soil

- S-1 All alpine ski area permit holders must have an approved erosion control, drainage, and revegetation plan.
- S-2 The Forest Engineer will approve dams for impoundments and snowmaking ponds, which will be inspected and monitored consistent with Federal and State regulations.
- S-3 Design and engineering of facilities such as dams or impoundments in geologic hazard zones (such as liquefaction subsoils) shall be subject to the review and approval of a Forest Service engineer.
- G-1 No more than approximately 600 total slope feet of contiguous exposed mineral soil (equal to an area no greater than two acres, taking into account slope and terrain) should occur on any ski trail, pipeline corridor, or other utility.
- G-2 Emergency and project-related motorized administrative use may be allowed.

---

### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Geologic and Mineral

#### Leasable (Commercial) Minerals

- S-1 Subject to valid existing rights, all lands within the boundaries of ski area permits are withdrawn from disposition under all mineral laws. (Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 Title VII Sect. 107(j)).

#### Mineral Materials (Common Variety)

- S-1 Common variety minerals obtained from the permit area may be used only within the permit area.

#### Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting

- S-1 Surface-disturbing recreational rock and mineral collecting is prohibited.

---

### Heritage

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Lands

**Special Uses**

- G-1 Designated communication sites may be allowed.
- G-2 Wind towers may be considered when their installation and operation is compatible with existing and reasonably foreseeable ski area operations.
- G-3 New communication use permits may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

---

Native American Relations

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Non-Native Invasive Species

- G-1 Mowing or clearing of trails and trail edges should not occur between May 1st and July 15th, except where the mowing is used as part of a program to control invasive species.

---

Rare and Unique Features

- G-1 Vegetation manipulation may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

**Canada Lynx**

- G-2 To maintain snowshoe hare habitat when designing ski area expansions, adequately sized coniferous intertrail islands with coarse woody material retained should be included.
- G-3 Ski operations in expanded or newly developed areas should be evaluated and adjusted, in a manner consistent with operation needs, to provide nocturnal foraging opportunities for lynx.

---

Recreation

- G-1 A rural ROS experience opportunity is the dominant objective. In some cases, adjacent private land development can be significantly urbanized. Facilities should be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained consistent with the ROS Class objective. Year-round recreation use that is appropriate on National Forest lands is desirable and encouraged at winter sports sites.

**Trail Management and Administration**

*Appalachian Trail*

- S-1 The recreation values of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail that runs along the upper boundary of the Wildcat Ski Area must be considered in management actions in the Wildcat Ski Area management area.



---

Riparian/Aquatic

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Scenery  
Management

- G-1 *Agriculture Handbook 617, National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 2, (Chapter 7, Ski Areas)* should be used for direction on how landscape management techniques and principles can be used in the planning, designing, and building processes to achieve and maintain desired visual conditions.

---

Transportation  
System

- S-1 Permittees must develop an on-mountain transportation plan for roads and parking to be approved by the Forest Engineer and line officer.

---

Vegetation  
Management

- S-1 Vegetation may be intensively managed for purposes including ski area development and management, visual enhancement, and safety.
- S-2 There will be no scheduled commercial timber harvest, but commercial sales may be used to implement vegetation management activities used to meet ski area objectives.
- S-3 Vegetation management will be implemented within the requirements of the Special Use permit and in accordance with operation, safety, and development plans.

---

Water Resources

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Wild and Scenic  
Rivers

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Wildland Fire

- S-1 Wildland fire use (WFO) is prohibited.
- G-1 Prescribed fire may be used.

---

Wildlife

- S-1 To promote forest regeneration in areas designated for tree skiing ([glade skiing](#)), the [use-cycle approach](#) must be used, and protective measures implemented, as described in a vegetation management plan. Regeneration areas must be protected with strong and visible barriers.

## MA 8.1 – Alpine Zone

---

### Purpose

Recognize, conserve, and interpret the alpine and subalpine zone in the Presidential Range and on Franconia Ridge for biological, aesthetic, recreational, cultural, research, and monitoring values.

### Desired Condition of the Land

The White Mountains have long been recognized as home to the largest and most diverse alpine area east of the Rocky Mountains. The high elevations and open conditions support a variety of alpine and subalpine communities and attract countless visitors to enjoy the views or unique recreation opportunities. While many species found in this alpine zone also occur in the Canadian arctic, the White Mountains contain several plant and animal species that are found in few, if any, other places. The Presidential Range and Franconia Ridge are the largest blocks of alpine and subalpine habitat on the Forest, and so are afforded special recognition and protection as the Alpine Zone MA. Smaller alpine and subalpine areas also should be protected, but they are not part of this management area because of their small size and scattered distribution across the Forest.

These areas will continue to be dominated by low-growing alpine and subalpine plants mixed with bedrock, talus, or gravel. Broad vegetative groupings include heath barrens, snowbank communities, bogs, dwarf shrub/sedge-rush tundra, heath-krummholz, and kampfzone communities. Most of this area occurs above 4,000 foot elevation. Changes to vegetation will be primarily the result of natural processes.

Evidence of recent human activity will be limited primarily to hiking trails and occasional recreational facilities, such as huts. Private inholdings, such as the Mt. Washington Auto Road and Cog Railway, will remain visible. There will be no roads on the Forest in this area. Natural processes will predominate.

Emphasis will be placed on increasing awareness and stewardship of the alpine resource (including those areas outside the mapped Alpine Zone Management Area) through increased education and interpretation of this special environment. The focus should be on alpine wildlife, plants, and communities in the White Mountain National Forest, and human behaviors that will minimize impacts to the alpine zone. An alpine ethic should be emphasized that minimizes human impacts, including protecting plants, proper disposal of trash and human waste, and staying on established trails.

The alpine zone will be managed for its unique recreation attributes with goals and thresholds in place to prevent degradation of its unique biological, cultural and aesthetic values. Areas of the alpine zone with high recreation use will be managed to recognize their value as sources of inspiration for the large surrounding populations, while also having standards to mitigate social, biological, cultural, and aesthetic impacts. Low-use areas of the alpine zone and low-use seasons will be managed to maintain their low use. Use

will not be dispersed from high- to low-use areas. In general, use will be concentrated around trail corridors and facilities. Away from trails and facilities and in the winter season, evidence of and interaction with other users will be low.

The primary recreational uses will be hiking and winter mountaineering, and efforts will be made to confine use to designated trails or use areas. A semi-primitive non-motorized experience is the dominant ROS Class objective. Some areas will be managed for primitive recreation opportunities.

*Hikers in the Alpine Zone (WMNF photo by Ken Allen)*



## Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

---

### General

- S-1 If monitoring indicates declines in alpine communities because of human use, mitigation actions must be taken.
- S-2 Management direction for both the Appalachian Trail (MA 8.3) and Alpine Zone (MA 8.1) must apply where the AT crosses through the Alpine Zone. Where direction differs, the more restrictive standards and guidelines must apply.
- S-3 Management direction for both the Wilderness (MA 5.1) and Alpine Zone (MA 8.1) must apply where Wilderness contains portions of the Alpine Zone. Where direction differs, the more restrictive standards and guidelines must apply.
- G-1 Signing for resource protection or public safety may occur within the alpine zone but should be minimized.
- G-2 The emphasis for interpretive and educational signing should be at trailhead kiosks and inside existing facilities.
- G-3 The Forest should coordinate with volunteer, government, and non-government groups on alpine education.
- G-4 The Forest should emphasize the use of volunteer and Forest Service alpine stewards to provide education and interpretation.
- G-5 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-6 Project-related motorized administrative use should not be allowed except for management of existing Special Use permits. The Forest Supervisor may authorize motorized administrative use for emergencies.

---

### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Geologic and  
Mineral

**Leasable (Commercial) Minerals**

S-1 These lands are administratively unavailable for mineral extraction activities.

**Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

S-1 Common variety mineral extraction is prohibited.

**Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

S-1 All recreational rock and mineral collecting activities are prohibited.

---

Heritage

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Lands

**Special Uses**

S-1 Designated communication sites are prohibited.

S-2 Wind towers are prohibited.

S-3 All communication use permits not attached to existing facilities are prohibited.

G-1 New communication use permits may be authorized on a case-by-case basis if they are attached to existing facilities and consistent with visual quality standards, ROS requirements, and alpine zone objectives.

G-2 Permits for research activities should have restrictions necessary to protect the unique resources in the Alpine Zone.

---

Native American  
Relations

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Non-Native  
Invasive Species

G-1 High priority should be given to invasive species prevention and eradication to maintain the unique intrinsic values of the native alpine communities.

---

Rare and Unique  
Features

G-1 Vegetation manipulation may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, but is limited to small-scale activities.

---

Recreation

**General**

S-1 A semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experience opportunity is



the dominant ROS class objective. Some areas will be managed for primitive recreation experience opportunities.

**Use Administration**

- S-1 Geocaching is prohibited.
- S-2 Wood or charcoal fires are prohibited year-round.
- S-3 Helicopter landing zones and drop zones must be approved in advance except in emergencies, and should be placed to minimize ecological impacts.
- S-4 Camping is prohibited unless on two feet or more of snow cover.
- S-5 Camping on frozen lakes is prohibited.
- G-1 Hikers and their pets should be encouraged to stay on trails.
- G-2 The Forest may close areas or limit use, including camping, skiing, and hiking, as necessary to protect species and communities of concern.

**Facilities**

- S-1 Additional backcountry facilities (huts, cabins, shelters, tent platforms, and associated structures) on National Forest lands in the alpine zone are prohibited.
- S-2 Existing facilities and trails will be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained consistent with the ROS class.
- S-3 Appalachian Mountain Club huts in the alpine zone must be managed consistent with the Special Use permit to minimize impacts of their inconsistency with the designated ROS class. Also see Appalachian Mountain Club Huts under Forest-wide direction (Chapter 2).
- S-4 Expanding the capacity of existing backcountry facilities is prohibited.
- S-5 Except for health, safety, and resource impact concerns, expanding the physical structure of existing backcountry facilities is prohibited.

**Trail Construction**

- S-1 Trail construction is prohibited.
- S-2 Trail reconstruction in the alpine zone must follow White Mountain National Forest Supplement 2309.18-2000-1, Chapter 2 Section 2.31, addressing construction standards for trails in the alpine zone.
- G-1 Reconstruction and relocation of existing trails are allowed only when unacceptable resource impact exists that cannot be mitigated in any other way.

**Trail Maintenance and Operation**

- S-1 Trail maintenance and operation in the alpine zone must follow White Mountain National Forest Supplement 2309.18-2001-3, Chapter 4 Section 4.29a, and addressing operation and maintenance standards for trails in the alpine zone.
- G-1 Maintenance Level 2 should be the general objective in the management area (FSH 2309.18).

### Special Uses — Recreation Specific

- G-1 Recreation permits, including alpine flower walks, may be limited in number or contain restrictions (such as group size limitations) as necessary to protect species and communities of concern.
- G-2 Recreation permits should not be authorized for off-trail use except on two or more feet of snow.

---

#### Riparian/Aquatic

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

#### Scenery Management

- S-1 Impacts caused by Huts to the Scenic Integrity Objective of “Very High” must be minimized.

---

#### Transportation System

- S-1 Roads are prohibited.

---

#### Vegetation Management

- S-1 Timber management is prohibited.

---

#### Water Resources

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

#### Wild and Scenic Rivers

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

#### Wildland Fire

- S-1 Wildland fires must be managed in accordance with Alpine Zone fire management requirements included in the *Fire Management Plan*.
- S-2 Wildland fire use (WFU) is allowed to recognize natural fire as a part of natural ecological process.
- S-3 An appropriate management response to human-caused fires must follow the Alpine Zone fire management requirements, which includes careful consideration of suppression strategies to minimize impacts to the alpine zone.
- S-4 Prescribed fire is prohibited.
- G-1 A resource advisor should be used on all fire suppression activities in the Alpine Zone.

---

#### Wildlife

- G-1 Changes in habitat should result primarily from natural processes.
- G-2 Habitat structures should not be constructed, but if used, must be created from materials that blend with the surrounding area and do not detract from the natural landscape.

## MA 8.2 – Experimental Forests

---

### Purpose

1. Provide areas of National Forest System lands that are dedicated to continuous, long-term research in cooperation with the Northeast Research Experiment Station.
2. Improve understanding of fundamental ecological processes and the effects of land management practices on these processes, and provide new information for science-based land management.

### Desired Condition of the Land

Research will be a mix of long- and short-term activities. Long-term monitoring will be a significant research activity. There will be forest openings of various sizes interspersed with stands of trees. Evidence of human activity will include roads, trails, weirs, cultural sites and experimental apparatus. Evidence of human activity will work toward harmony with a natural-appearing environment. Research will be guided by periodically updated project plans. Non-research activities will be limited. Research activities will be coordinated with White Mountain National Forest, as necessary.

Bartlett Experimental Forest will generally focus on [silviculture](#), wildlife, and [forest productivity](#) measurements. Hubbard Brook will generally focus on water quality, quantity, and nutrient cycling.

### Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

---

#### General

- S-1 Firewood collection permits shall not be issued.
- G-1 Buildings and structures should be provided only to meet research objectives.
- G-2 Emergency and project-related motorized administrative use may be allowed. Project-related administrative use should consider potential impacts to social conditions and ecological resources in the area.

---

#### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

#### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Geologic and  
Mineral

**Leasable (Commercial) Minerals**

- S-1 These lands are administratively unavailable for mineral extraction activities.

**Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

- S-1 Common variety mineral activity is prohibited in Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest.
- G-1 Common variety mineral activity is permitted at Bartlett Experimental Forest to meet research objectives for the area.

**Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

- S-1 Recreational mineral activity is prohibited.

---

Heritage

- G-1 National Register determination of eligibility should be undertaken for standing structures within Experimental Forests.

---

Lands

**Special Uses**

- S-1 Only special uses not affecting the purpose of the management area will be authorized.
- S-2 Designated communication sites are prohibited.
- S-3 All communication use permits not attached to facilities are prohibited.
- S-4 Wind towers are prohibited.

---

Native American  
Relations

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Non-native  
Invasive Species

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Rare and Unique  
Features

- G-1 Vegetation manipulation may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

---

Recreation

- S-1 Recreation activities must be compatible with research activities. There may be temporary or permanent closures to recreation activities when there is actual or potential impact to research activities.

---

Riparian/Aquatic

- S-1 Habitat management is prohibited unless approved by managers to meet the research objectives of the management area.

---

Scenery  
Management

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Transportation  
System

- S-1 Roads are allowed when necessary to achieve the purposes of Experimental Forests.

---

Vegetation  
Management

- G-1 Forest vegetation may be manipulated only to meet research objectives.

---

Water Resources

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Wild and Scenic  
Rivers

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Wildland Fire

- S-1 Wildland fire use (WFU) is prohibited.  
S-2 Prescribed fire is permitted to meet research objectives.

---

Wildlife

- S-1 Habitat management may occur only to meet research objectives.



*Hiker on the AT in the Mahoosucs (WMNF photo by Ken Allen)*



## MA 8.3 – Appalachian National Scenic Trail

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### Introduction

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) includes all trails designated by the National Trails System Act, as amended (P.L. 90-543), that occur on federal lands managed by the White Mountain National Forest. The AT includes spur trails to shelters, overnight-use sites, viewpoints, and water sources. Within the Proclamation Boundary, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail management area is the land designated as 0.5 miles either side of the trail. Outside the Proclamation Boundary, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail management area includes all the lands acquired by the National Park Service for the AT in the state of New Hampshire and administratively transferred to the USDA Forest Service under a Memorandum of Agreement. They are managed as part of the White Mountain National Forest “... for the protection and enhancement of the Appalachian Trail and also in accordance with this agreement.” They are “... subject to the National Trails System Act and laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System.” These NPS-acquired lands are commonly referred to as either “corridor lands” or “[transfer lands](#).”

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is administered by the Secretary of Interior in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, and managed as a partnership between the National Park Service AT Park Office, USDA Forest Service, local Appalachian Trail Clubs, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC, formerly named the Appalachian Trail Conference).

### Purpose

1. Manage the segment of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail on Federal lands that traverses the state of New Hampshire and the White Mountain National Forest.
2. Provide for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural qualities of the land through which the trail passes.
3. Provide opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation experiences, including a sense of remoteness and solitude.
4. Recognize and strengthen the level of partnership, cooperation and volunteer efforts integral to AT management.

### Desired Condition of the Land

The AT will be accessible only by foot and other non-motorized, pedestrian means, such as skis or snowshoes. Roads and motorized trails are not present except at designated crossings. Limited recreation facilities such as huts, cabins, shelters, and tent platforms may be present but will complement the desired recreation opportunities. Development levels and levels of use will vary by location, but the management area will emphasize a remote backcountry recreation experience in a predominantly natural or natural-appearing landscape.

Although new roads are prohibited, there are locations where roads currently exist in this management area.

Recreation impacts will be managed to protect cultural and natural resources and to minimize visual disturbance. The minimum managerial controls necessary will be used to maintain acceptable social and ecological standards.

There are extensive stands of northern hardwoods and conifers in the AT management area. These stands will contain a mix of tree sizes and ages, visually dominated by mature trees. This management area also includes part of the alpine/subalpine area, offering a rare landscape with high open areas for outstanding views.



*Lakes of the Clouds Hut, with Mt. Washington in the background, is a popular stop for AT hikers and other alpine visitors (WMNF photo by Forrest Seavey)*





## Standards and Guidelines

See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.

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### General

- S-1 Management of the AT must follow the National Trails System Act, as amended (P.L. 90-543). This Act is implemented according to:
  - a) The Comprehensive Plan for the Protection, Management, Development, and Use of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.
  - b) Various Memoranda of Agreement, Memoranda of Understanding, and policy statements between the USDA Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Appalachian Trail Conference (now Appalachian Trail Conservancy).
  - c) Forest Service Direction (FSM, FSH, and supplements).
- S-2 Consistent with existing agreements, the White Mountain National Forest will consult with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and Dartmouth Outing Club (local Appalachian Trail clubs) on management actions that affect AT values.
- S-3 Management direction for both the Appalachian Trail (MA 8.3) and Wilderness (MA 5.1) must apply where the AT crosses through Wilderness. Where direction differs, the more restrictive standards and guidelines must apply.
- S-4 Management direction for both the Appalachian Trail (MA 8.3) and Alpine Zone (MA 8.1) must apply where the AT crosses through the Alpine Zone. Where direction differs, the more restrictive standards and guidelines must apply.
- S-5 Corridor lands with easements or outstanding rights will be managed consistent with deed transfer language.
- S-6 Motorized use is allowed only for administrative purposes.
- G-1 The Forest should consult with the State of New Hampshire on actions in the AT management area adjacent to the AT on New Hampshire state lands.
- G-2 Management is guided by the following documents. When these documents are amended, they will provide updated guidance and as such will not require Forest Plan amendments.
  - Appalachian Trail Conference. *Appalachian Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance* (ATC Stewardship Manual, second edition, 2000).
  - Appalachian Trail Conference. *Overnight-Use Management Principles*.
  - Appalachian Trail Conference. *Local Management Planning Guide*.
  - Appalachian Trail Conference. *Checklist for the Location, Construction and Maintenance of Campsites and Shelters on the Appalachian Trail*.
  - Local Management Plans for the Appalachian Trail.

- G-3 The Forest Service should report law enforcement incidents on the AT to the National Park Service AT Park Office, the ATC, and local AT clubs.
- G-4 The Forest should develop and distribute information about the Appalachian Trail and appropriate use of the trail in cooperation with the ATC and local AT clubs.
- G-5 Consistent with ROS objectives, education and information delivery:
- 1 Should be concentrated primarily at visitor centers, classrooms, and other off-Forest locations, or at trailheads 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-6 Printed public safety messages and signs (other than directional trail signs, or signs at overnight facilities) should be located primarily at trailheads or visitor centers. They may be used at backcountry locations in unusual or unique circumstances.

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Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Geologic and Mineral

**Leasable (Commercial) Minerals**

- S-1 These lands are administratively unavailable for mineral extraction activities.

**Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

- S-1 Common variety mineral extraction is prohibited.

**Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

- S-1 Recreational rock and mineral collecting is prohibited.

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Heritage

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Lands

**Special Uses**

- S-1 Designated communication sites are prohibited.
- S-2 Wind towers are prohibited.
- S-3 New utility lines or rights-of-way are prohibited unless they represent the only feasible and prudent alternative to meet an overriding public need.



- S-4 Impacts to the AT from new utility corridors must be sufficiently mitigated to protect trail values.
- G-1 Agricultural special use permits are permitted only when used to maintain existing fields and vistas, and only if consistent with wildlife habitat requirements, cultural needs, and scenery management objectives.
- G-2 New communication use permits may be authorized on a case-by-case basis if they are attached to existing facilities and are consistent with visual quality standards, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum objectives, and other management area requirements.
- G-3 Authorizations for research activities may be allowed if operated consistent with AT objectives.
- G-4 New approved utility lines or rights-of-way should be co-located within existing rights-of-way (roads, utility lines, etc.) where practical, and should be limited to a single crossing of the AT.

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#### Native American Relations

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*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

#### Non-native Invasive Species

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*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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#### Rare and Unique Features

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- G-1 Vegetation manipulation may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

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#### Recreation

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##### General

- S-1 Dispersed camping is allowed unless restricted to address social or resource concerns. Implementation of closures will be through Forest Supervisors Orders. Closures will be coordinated with the ATC and local AT clubs.
- S-2 Management of the AT experience must be compatible with the prescribed recreation experience opportunity class. Lands within this management area should be managed under the semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class. There are situations where the AT crosses or follows [public roads](#) and snowmobile trails, and where developed facilities are present. Current inconsistencies in this ROS Class, such as Appalachian Mountain Club huts, are acceptable but are managed to minimize impacts on the SPNM experience.
- S-3 There are cases where sections of the AT retain a greater sense of the wild (primitive ROS class). These areas will be managed with special concern for these values.

- G-1 Route 16, where it passes through this MA in the Pinkham Notch area, is recognized as an acceptable inconsistency to the ROS Class objective.
- G-2 Length of stay limits may be implemented as needed.
- G-3 On sections of the AT where use is high, follow the strategy of concentrating use at specific sites rather than dispersing use along the trail. Management activities should not disperse recreation use from high- to low-use sections.
- G-4 Overnight camping and recreation use should be managed to recognize different levels of use and desired recreation opportunities consistent with overall AT goals.
- G-5 Areas may be closed, new campsites may be designated or built, or the use regulated to address social or resource issues.
- G-6 Open surface water sources may be identified in Forest, ATC, and AT trail club information, including guidebooks, trailhead signs, or on blue blazed side trails.
- G-7 Open surface water sources may be improved only to the minimum necessary to allow for collection of water.
- G-8 AT hikers should be responsible for the potability of their own drinking water.

#### **Facilities**

- G-1 Backcountry facilities include huts, shelters, tent platforms, and associated amenities such as toilets, spring boxes, registers, and other facilities agreed to by the Forest, ATC, and local AT clubs. Dispersed campsites without overnight amenities are allowed and should be managed to maintain appropriate recreation opportunities or to minimize impacts on natural resources.
- G-2 Design and management of the backcountry facility system should consider the needs of both long distance hikers (places to eat and sleep after a day of walking) and for hikers of all distances.
- G-3 New shelters, tent platforms, and dispersed campsites may be considered where there is a demonstrated need. If constructed, they should be located 100 feet or more from the main trail and should not be located within two miles of an existing road open to motor vehicles.

#### **Horse, Pack Stock, and Mountain Bike Use**

- S-1 On all National Park Service (NPS) acquired corridor lands, horse, pack stock, and mountain bike use are prohibited except at designated crossings.
- S-2 Horse, pack stock, and mountain bike use is prohibited on the AT footpath and within 500 feet of the trail except where it crosses or is located on Forest system, state or county (town) roads, or designated snowmobile trails.
- G-1 New mountain bike crossings should be discouraged, except as mutually agreed on by the Forest, ATC, and local AT clubs.

- G-2 Trail users should be informed and educated about closures and guidelines for using the trail, especially regarding horses, pack stock, and bicycles.

#### **Motorized Use**

- S-1 Motorized use is limited to portions where the AT crosses or is located on Forest System, state, county, or town roads, or during the snow season on designated snowmobile trails.
- S-2 Motorized use on other segments of the AT footpath is prohibited.
- S-3 New motorized trails are prohibited except at crossings.
- G-1 New snowmobile or motorized crossings should be discouraged, except as mutually agreed on by the Forest, ATC, and local AT clubs.
- G-2 Trail users should be informed and educated about closures and guidelines for using the trail, especially regarding motorized use.

#### **Operation and Maintenance**

- S-1 Management actions such as trail locations, improvements, or increasing developments must not result in a change along the ROS scale from less to more developed. For example, management actions must not change an ROS class from primitive to semi-primitive. Changes from more developed to less developed are allowed.
- S-2 The Optimal Location Review process must be used to initiate the decision-making process for trail relocations.
- G-1 Consistent with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) standards, sufficient signing should be provided to inform hikers of significant features and distances to major road crossings.
- G-2 Where the trail is located on decommissioned roads, the tread should be allowed to revegetate to normal Appalachian Trail tread widths.
- G-3 Use of trail structures such as steps, cribbing, and bridges should be minimized. Where necessary, the simplest rustic design, with the least disturbance, should be used. Trail structures should be consistent with ROS class.

#### **Special Uses — Recreation Specific**

- S-1 The Forest Service must manage [recreation special use permits](#) on the AT in cooperation with the ATC and the AT clubs.
- S-2 Recreation special uses must not be dispersed from high use to low use areas of the AT, as identified in the current *Trail Use Inventory*.
- S-3 Competitive events permits are prohibited.
- S-4 The recreation special use permit program along the AT must be managed to protect the characteristics of low use areas.
- G-1 Outfitter/guide permits are allowed but may be restricted to address social and environmental concerns.

	<p>G-2 Recreation Special Use permits on the AT should be denied when social or resource conditions warrant (for example, if crowding or overuse negatively affects natural resources or a specific experience objective).</p> <p>G-3 If monitoring and analysis of social and resource conditions determines that recreation special use capacity along the AT has been reached, a process should be developed to assign user days.</p> <p>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.</p>
Riparian/Aquatic	<p>G-1 Artificial habitat structures should not be used. If used, they must be created from materials that blend with the site and do not detract from the natural landscape.</p>
Scenery Management	<p>S-1 The AT is a Concern Level 1 Travelway, and <a href="#">middleground</a> and <a href="#">background</a> areas on National Forest lands seen from the AT must be managed for scenery in accordance with Scenic Integrity Objectives identified through the <a href="#">Scenery Management System</a>.</p> <p>S-2 All management activities will meet a Scenic Integrity Objective of High or Very High.</p>
Transportation System	<p>G-1 To maintain a discrete trail experience, trailhead parking facilities should be located where the Appalachian Trail can be accessed by a short spur trail rather than locations where the trail footpath crosses a road.</p> <p>G-2 New roads should not be allowed within this management area. New roads may be allowed if they are the only feasible and prudent alternative, and after impacts have been mitigated to the extent practical.</p> <p>G-3 Where the AT follows Forest Service system roads, road maintenance may be done as needed on drainage structures, closure devices, and the roadbed. Grass may be allowed to grow in <a href="#">local roads</a> (maintenance levels I or II).</p> <p>G-4 Roads crossings should be at right angles wherever possible.</p>
Vegetation Management	<p>S-1 On all National Park Service (NPS) acquired corridor lands, commercial timber management and salvage operations are prohibited.</p> <p>S-2 Commercial timber management is prohibited where the AT management area is adjacent to any MA other than MA 2.1.</p>

- S-3 Salvage operations are prohibited where the AT management area is adjacent to any MA other than MAs 2.1 and 6.1.
- G-1 Where the AT management area adjoins MA 2.1, commercial timber management and salvage operations are allowed in that portion of the Appalachian Trail MA between the trail footpath and the 2.1 Management Area, but only outside the foreground area as defined in the Scenery Management System (SMS). The foreground zone is determined by site-specific analysis of the area as seen from the AT. Everywhere else in the AT management area, commercial timber management and [salvage sales](#) are prohibited.
- G-2 Maintaining existing fields and vistas should be allowed.

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#### Water Resources

*Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines apply.*

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#### Wildland Fire

- S-1 Wildland fire use (WFO) is allowed only where permitted in the adjacent management area.
- S-2 Prescribed fire is prohibited.

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#### Wildlife

- S-1 Creation of regeneration forest habitat must occur only through [natural disturbance](#) events, except for areas adjacent to Management Area 2.1, in that portion of the Appalachian Trail MA between the trail footpath and the 2.1 Management Area outside the foreground zone.



*Scott Bailey, geologist at Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest (left), and Professor Charlie Cogbill, Sterling College, at the trailhead for Dicey Mill Trail, accessing The Bowl Research Natural Area (WMNF photo by Kathie Fife)*



## MA 8.4 — Research Natural Areas

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### *Alpine Garden*

#### Purpose

1. Preserve a wide spectrum of pristine representative forest, alpine, and geologic areas having scientific interest.
2. Preserve and maintain genetic diversity.
3. Provide reference areas for the study of ecological processes.
4. Provide areas to serve as a baseline for measuring long-term ecological changes.

#### Desired Condition of the Land

Natural processes will predominate. Recreation use within the RNA generally will be incidental and will not be encouraged. However, there is considerable recreation use adjacent to the Alpine Garden RNA, especially on the Alpine Garden Trail (which splits the RNA into two pieces) and the nearby Huntington Ravine and Lions Head trails. There are no trails within the RNA itself. Camping is prohibited. Research is designed to be non-manipulative. Roads are absent. This area provides excellent opportunities for long-term monitoring of many kinds.

#### Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide and Alpine Zone (MA 8.1) standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

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##### General

- S-1 Management direction for both the Alpine Garden RNA and the Alpine Zone (MA 8.1) applies. Where direction differs, the more restrictive standards and guidelines apply.
- S-2 All research activities shall be coordinated between the White Mountain National Forest and the USFS Northeast Research Station, Durham, New Hampshire.
- S-3 Structures are prohibited, except that permanent structures or markers for research purposes may be allowed when they serve to achieve the approved research objectives.
- G-1 Motorized administrative use is prohibited.

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##### Accessibility

*Forest-wide and Alpine Zone standards and guidelines apply.*

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##### Air Quality

*Forest-wide and Alpine Zone standards and guidelines apply.*

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Geologic and  
Mineral

**Leasable (Commercial) Minerals**

S-1 These lands are administratively unavailable for mineral extraction activities.

**Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

S-1 Common variety mineral extraction is prohibited.

**Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

S-1 Recreational rock and mineral collecting is prohibited.

---

Heritage

S-1 Archaeological excavations may be permitted under condition that they will not have long-term impacts or diminish the purpose of Research Natural Areas.

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Lands

**Special Uses**

S-1 Only special uses not affecting the purpose of the RNA will be authorized.

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Native American  
Relations

*Forest-wide and Alpine Zone standards and guidelines apply.*

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Non-Native  
Invasive Species

S-1 Manual control must be the first choice of eradication.

G-1 Chemical control methods, if deemed necessary, should be used through direct application. Broadcast application of herbicides or pesticides should be used only if direct application is not working.

G-2 Biological controls should be used only when the effectiveness of other control methods will not achieve site-specific eradication objectives.

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Rare and Unique  
Features

S-1 Vegetation manipulation implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species is prohibited.

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Recreation

S-1 Wood or charcoal fires are prohibited year-round.

S-2 Management action likely to introduce new or additional recreation use is prohibited.

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Riparian/Aquatic

- S-1 Habitat management is prohibited unless approved by managers to meet the purpose of the management area.

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Scenery  
Management

*Forest-wide and Alpine Zone standards and guidelines apply.*

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Transportation  
System

*Forest-wide and Alpine Zone standards and guidelines apply.*

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Vegetation  
Management

**Insects and Disease**

- G-1 The natural process of insect and disease outbreaks should be controlled only when justified by predicted loss of resource values outside the Research Natural Area.
- G-2 Pesticide use may be allowed after a minimum tool analysis has been conducted and when deemed necessary to prevent significant losses to resource values on bordering public or private lands.

---

Water Resources

*Forest-wide and Alpine Zone standards and guidelines apply.*

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Wild and Scenic  
Rivers

*Forest-wide and Alpine Zone standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Wildland Fire

- S-1 Wildland fire use (WFU) is allowed.
- S-2 Prescribed fire is prohibited.

---

Wildlife

- S-1 Habitat management is prohibited unless approved by managers to meet purpose of the management area.

*The Bowl, Nancy Brook*

## Purpose

1. Preserve a wide spectrum of pristine representative forest and geologic areas having scientific interest.
2. Preserve and maintain genetic diversity.
3. Provide reference areas for the study of ecological processes.
4. Provide areas to serve as a baseline for measuring long-term ecological changes.

## Desired Condition of the Land

Natural processes will predominate. Recreation use generally will be incidental and will not be encouraged. Hiking trails will not be added. Camping will be by individual site designation. Campfires will not be permitted. Research is designed to be non-manipulative. Roads are absent. These areas provide excellent opportunities for long-term monitoring of many kinds.

## Standards and Guidelines

*Also see Chapter 2 for Forest-wide standards and guidelines that must be considered along with this Management Area-specific direction.*

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### General

- S-1 All research activities shall be coordinated between the White Mountain National Forest and the USFS Northeast Research Station, Durham, New Hampshire.
- S-2 Structures are prohibited, except that permanent structures or markers for research purposes may be allowed when they serve to achieve the approved research objectives.
- G-1 Project-related motorized administrative use may be allowed, but only on existing trails. The Forest Supervisor may authorize motorized use for emergencies.

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### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Geologic and Mineral

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

- S-1 These lands are administratively unavailable for mineral extraction activities.



**Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

S-1 Common variety mineral extraction is prohibited.

**Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

S-1 Recreational rock and mineral collecting is prohibited.

---

**Heritage**

S-1 Archaeological excavations may be permitted under condition that they will not have long-term impacts or diminish the purposes of Research Natural Areas.

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**Lands**

**Special Uses**

S-1 Only special uses not affecting the purpose of the RNA will be authorized.

S-2 Designated communication sites are prohibited.

S-3 Wind towers are prohibited.

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**Native American Relations**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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**Non-Native Invasive Species**

S-1 Manual control must be the first choice of eradication.

G-1 Chemical control methods, if deemed necessary, should be used through direct application. Broadcast application of herbicides or pesticides should be used only if direct application is not working.

G-2 Biological controls should be used only when the effectiveness of other control methods will not achieve site-specific eradication objectives.

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**Rare and Unique Features**

S-1 Vegetation manipulation implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species is prohibited.

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**Recreation**

S-1 Wood or charcoal fires are prohibited year-round.

S-2 Management action likely to introduce new or additional recreation use is prohibited.

S-3 Motorized trail use is prohibited.

S-4 New trails are prohibited.

G-1 Existing trails should be maintained at Level I and II.

G-2 Where allowed, camping will be only at designated sites.

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Riparian/Aquatic

- S-1 Habitat management is prohibited unless approved by managers to meet the purpose of the management area.

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Scenery  
Management

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Transportation  
System

- S-1 [New road construction](#) is prohibited.

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Vegetation  
Management

- S-1 Timber management is prohibited.

**Insects and Disease**

- G-1 The natural process of insect and disease outbreaks should be controlled only when justified by predicted loss of resource values outside the Research Natural Area.

- G-2 Pesticide use may be allowed after a minimum tool analysis has been conducted and when deemed necessary to prevent significant losses to resource values on bordering public or private lands.

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Water Resources

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Wild and Scenic  
Rivers

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Wildland Fire

- S-1 Wildland fire use (WFO) is allowed.  
S-2 Prescribed fire is prohibited.

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Wildlife

- S-1 Habitat management is prohibited unless approved by managers to meet the purpose of the management area.

## MA 8.5 — Scenic Areas

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*Gibbs Brook, Greeley Ponds, Lafayette Brook, Lincoln Woods, Mount Chocorua, Pinkham Notch, Rocky Gorge, Sawyer Pond, Snyder Brook*

### Purpose

1. Manage these areas for their outstanding natural beauty.
2. Manage each Scenic Area consistent with the specific objectives and guidelines identified in the order designating each area.
3. Manage the Pinkham Notch Scenic Area to recognize its unique recreation opportunities while preserving its scenic integrity.
4. Recognize the particular importance the current facilities at Pinkham Notch serve in concentrating use within a heavily used area.
5. Manage Pinkham Notch Scenic Area to serve as a base for the Mount Washington Avalanche Center operations.

### Desired Condition of the Land

The Scenic Areas will meet the objectives for which each has been designated. Most have been recognized as having “outstanding natural beauty.” They will exhibit late successional vegetation with related wildlife species. Others have been identified for their recreation potential. As a result, evidence of human activity will range from substantially unnoticeable to very evident, and road networks vary from none to high density.

The Pinkham Notch Scenic Area will appear much as it does now. Unique recreation activities with high use will remain available, and management actions that disperse this use to other locations, and in other seasons, will be minimized. The Harvard Mountain Club cabin permit will continue to provide overnight shelter in winter.

*AMC base station at Pinkham Notch ca. 1938; currently the location of the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center (WMNF photo)*



## Standards and Guidelines

*Also see Chapter 2 for Forest-wide standards and guidelines that must be considered along with this Management Area-specific direction.*

---

### General

- S-1 Management direction for both the Scenic Areas and the Alpine Zone apply where they overlap. Where direction differs, the more restrictive standards and guidelines must apply.
- S-2 The recreation values of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail that runs within the Pinkham Notch Scenic Area must be considered in management actions within that management area.
- S-3 Administrative motorized use on trails in the Pinkham Notch Scenic Area is limited to the Sherburne Trail, Tuckerman Ravine Trail, and Huntington Ravine Winter Access Trail and their associated cutoffs and spurs.
- S-4 Motorized trail standards specifically for snow tractor access apply to administrative use in the Pinkham Notch Scenic Area.
- S-5 Administrative facilities are prohibited in all areas except Pinkham Notch and Rocky Gorge Scenic Areas.
- G-1 Project-related and emergency motorized administrative use may be allowed. Project-related motorized administrative use should consider potential impacts to social conditions and ecological resources in the area. Where applicable, project-related administrative use will be timed to minimize social and ecological impacts.
- G-2 Buildings and structures may be provided to support developed recreation management objectives in the Rocky Gorge Scenic Area.
- G-3 Facilities, where allowed, should be provided for public health and safety and maintained to prevent site deterioration.

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### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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### Geologic and Mineral

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

- S-1 Surface-disturbing activities are prohibited.

#### **Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

- S-1 New development of common variety minerals is prohibited.

#### **Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

- S-1 Surface-disturbing recreational collection activities are prohibited.

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Heritage

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Lands

**Special Uses**

- S-1 New facility permits are prohibited in the Pinkham Notch Scenic Area.
- S-2 The overall area impacted by facilities for existing permits must not increase, though the size or number of buildings may change.
- S-3 Designated communication sites are prohibited.
- S-4 Wind towers are prohibited.

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Native American Relations

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Non-Native Invasive Species

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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Rare and Unique Features

- G-1 Vegetation manipulation may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, but is limited to small-scale activities.

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Recreation

**Alpine Skiing**

- S-1 Access to Tuckerman Ravine for spring skiing must be by foot. Access from private or state lands on Mt. Washington by any motorized means, such as helicopter, the Auto Road, or the Cog Railway, is prohibited.
- S-2 The Forest Service will operate the Mount Washington Avalanche Center in accordance with yearly operating plans to enhance public, volunteer, and employee safety by increasing backcountry avalanche awareness.
- S-3 The Mount Washington Avalanche Center will issue seasonal avalanche and safety advisories.
- S-4 Consistent with an agreement with the State of New Hampshire, the Forest Service has the lead search and rescue responsibility in the Cutler River drainage from December 1 through May 31.
- S-5 Ski lifts and tows are prohibited.

**Developed Recreation**

- S-1 Glen Ellis Falls day use area must be managed to protect its social and resource characteristics. Trail improvements made by the Civilian Conservation Corps are a significant heritage resource to be protected and interpreted. Sanitation facilities may be provided for visitor safety.



- S-2 Rocky Gorge day use area must be managed for the unique characteristics of the Gorge and the adjacent Falls Pond that is hidden from the gorge area.

### **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum**

#### *Pinkham Notch*

- S-1 The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class will be predominantly semi-primitive non-motorized. There are some primitive opportunities at some times of the year, particularly in winter. These primitive recreation opportunities will be protected. Route 16 in the Pinkham Notch area, where it passes through this management area, is recognized as a Roaded Natural inconsistency to the ROS Class objective of the Appalachian Trail management area. It is acceptable, but where feasible will be managed to minimize impacts on the SPNM experience.

#### *Rocky Gorge*

- S-2 The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class will be roaded natural.

#### *Gibbs Brook, Greeley Ponds, Lafayette Brook, Lincoln Woods, Mount Chocorua, Sawyer Pond*

- S-3 The ROS class will be semi-primitive non-motorized.

#### *Snyder Brook*

- S-4 The ROS class will be roaded natural.

### **Overnight Facilities**

- S-1 Increasing the capacity or development level of current facilities at Pinkham Notch is prohibited.
- S-2 Pinkham Notch Visitor Center facilities will be managed consistent with the requirements in the Appalachian Mountain Club Special Use Permit.
- S-3. Construction of new facilities is prohibited in all scenic areas except Pinkham Notch and Rocky Gorge.
- G-1 Current facilities at Pinkham Notch should be managed to concentrate use while minimizing their impact on the unique attraction and scenic integrity of the area.
- G-2 For the Pinkham Notch Scenic Area, additional facilities and trails should not be allowed in order to limit development of the area.
- G-3 All existing backcountry camping facilities (shelters, tent platforms, cabins, and toilets) should be maintained to provide for public health and safety and to prevent site deterioration.
- G-4 Reconstruction and relocation of cabins, shelters, and tent platforms is allowed to better manage existing recreation use of the site and surrounding area.

### **Trail Maintenance and Operation**

- G-1 New trails should not be constructed.

- G-2 Trail reconstruction should be consistent with the desired recreation experience opportunity.
- G-3 Trail maintenance generally should be Levels I and II (White Mountain National Forest supplement to FSH 2309.18). The Tuckerman Ravine, Sherburne, and Huntington Ravine Winter Access trails should have a Maintenance Level IV or V.

#### **Use Administration**

- S-1 Swimming and diving in the Rocky Gorge Scenic Area are prohibited.
- S-2 Dispersed camping is prohibited in the Rocky Gorge Scenic Area.
- S-3 In Sawyer Pond, camping within 1/4 mile of the trails and pond is prohibited except at designated sites such as tent platforms and the shelter.
- G-1 Camping is permitted at backcountry facilities and dispersed campsites if not prohibited by a Forest Supervisor's Order.
- G-2 Access and use may be regulated to address social or environmental concerns in the Pinkham Notch Scenic Area.
- G-3 Non-motorized boating is permitted on Sawyer Pond. It is also permitted on Falls Pond, but access and launch facilities should not be provided.

#### **Motorized Trails**

- S-1 For all areas except the Pinkham Notch Scenic Area, motorized trails and use are prohibited except for administrative purposes and except for use on the Bolles and Liberty designated snowmobile trails.



*Mount Chocorua  
(WMNF photo by  
Richard Alan Dow)*

**Special Uses — Recreation Specific**

- S-1 Permits for new facilities will not be authorized at the Pinkham Notch Scenic Area.
- G-1 Recreation Special Use permits should not be authorized in the Rock Gorge or the Falls Pond areas.

---

**Riparian/Aquatic**

- G-1 Artificial habitat structures should be minimized, but if used must be created from materials that blend with the surrounding area and do not detract from the natural environment.
- G-2 Stocking of indigenous species may be allowed consistent with Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

---

**Scenery  
Management**

- G-1 The Scenic Integrity Objective at Pinkham Notch for land along Route 16 is "Moderate." Land beyond one half-mile of Route 16 is "High."
- G-2 Rocky Gorge, Gibbs Brook, Greeley Ponds, Mount Chocorua, Sawyer Pond, Snyder Brook, Lafayette Brook have a Scenic Integrity Objective of "High."
- G-3 *Lincoln Woods* has a Scenic Integrity Objective of "Very High."

---

**Transportation  
System**

- S-1 Roads are prohibited in all but Pinkham Notch and Rocky Gorge Scenic Areas.
- G-1 Reconstruction of the parking lot at the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center Special Use Permit area is allowed consistent with permit requirements.
- G-2 Construction of overflow parking in the vicinity of Pinkham Notch
- G-3 For the Rocky Gorge Scenic Area, Forest System roads should be limited to roads and parking areas maintained as part of the Rocky Gorge development.
- G-4 Temporary roads may be allowed in the Rocky Gorge Scenic Area. Visitor Center is allowed. Overflow parking must be strictly designed and managed to address specific overflow-parking needs during certain times of the year. It must not be solely to accommodate increased use.

---

**Vegetation  
Management**

- S-1 Timber management is prohibited.
- G-2 Vegetation management for salvage operations and for insect and disease control is allowed only within one-half mile of roadside areas.

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**Water Resources**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

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**Wild and Scenic  
Rivers**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Wildland Fire**

S-1 Wildland fire use is prohibited.

S-2 Prescribed fire is prohibited.

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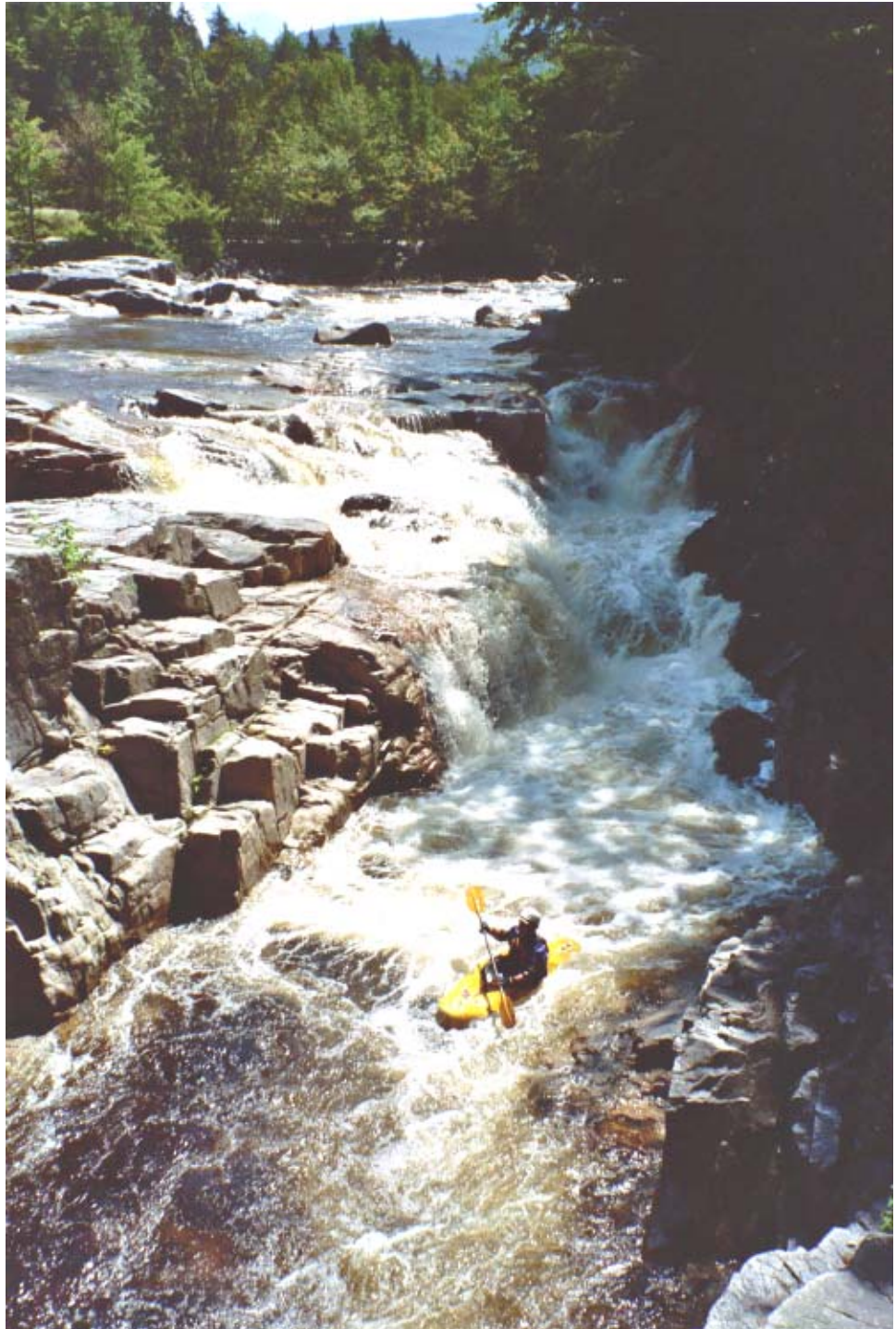
**Wildlife**

S-1 Wildlife openings must not be maintained or created.

S-2 Existing openings shall remain open only through natural processes.



*Kayaker on the Swift River at Rocky Gorge Scenic Area (WMNF photo by Ken Allen)*





## MA 8.6 – Wildcat Wild and Scenic River

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### Purpose

1. Maintain, enhance, and protect the free-flowing character and outstandingly remarkable values of the designated rivers included in the National Wild and Scenic River System.
2. Manage the designated river segments of the Wildcat River and tributaries according to the Wild and Scenic River Act (Public Law 90-542) and legislation designating the Wildcat River a Wild and Scenic River (Public Law 100-554).
3. Manage those segments of the designated Wildcat Wild and Scenic River off National Forest System land in accordance with requirements in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and Public Law 100-554, which designated the Wildcat Wild and Scenic River.
4. As directed by Public Law 100-554, the White Mountain National Forest will be the river-administering agency for the Wildcat River system and will jointly manage the segments located off National Forest System land through a cooperative agreement with the Selectmen of the Town of Jackson and the State of New Hampshire, consistent with the Wildcat Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP).
5. The designated river segments of the Wildcat River and tributaries according to the Wild and Scenic rivers Act are:

River Segment	River Name	Classification	Length (miles)
Headwater	Wildcat River	Scenic	4.45
	Wildcat Brook	Scenic	2.83
	Bog Brook	Scenic	1.58
Intervale	Wildcat River	Scenic	3.79
	Great Brook	Scenic	1.05
Jackson Falls	Wildcat River	Recreational	0.81

### Desired Condition of the Land

The river area on National Forest System land is heavily forested and predominantly in a natural or natural appearing condition. Vegetation within the riparian zone appears unaltered and near pristine. Vegetation outside the riparian area, although altered by vegetation management, is natural appearing and provides a variety of plant species and age groups. High altitude areas of the river remain in natural condition.

Existing roads and hiking trails are low density, provide access to the river area, and allow occasional views of the river and drainages.

Traditional non-motorized recreation uses are predominant. Use is light to moderate and evidence of human activity is substantially unnoticeable and subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

Privately owned land surrounding this management area is predominantly forested and reminiscent of a 19<sup>th</sup> century pastoral landscape. There is noticeable human activity resulting from occasional homes and seasonally used cabins. Evidence of use is usually in harmony with the natural-appearing environment and consistent with good resource management.

## Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

### Headwaters Segment

The following management direction was brought forward from the CRMP for the Wildcat Scenic River.

---

#### Visual Quality

- S-1 The scenery and the natural appearing character of the river area will be protected and enhanced.
- S-2 On WMNF lands, the visual quality standards and guidelines, described in the Wildcat Comprehensive River Management Plan will be used as guidance for enhancing the views and [landscape character](#) seen from the trails. Management activities needed to preserve or create vistas will be considered.
- S-3 Following the scenery management system, the Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO), within the foreground area of the river and trails, will be “High.” In the middle and background areas, the SIO will be “Moderate.”

---

#### Water Quality

- S-1 Water quality will be monitored and protected in accordance with Forest-wide standards and Guidelines as well as federal and state water quality guidelines.
- S-2 All shelters, toilets, and primitive camps will be located in such a way that they cannot pollute drinking water sources.
- S-3 Users will be educated on low-impact camping methods that protect drinking waters. On the Forest, backcountry rangers, signs, and handouts will be used to inform visitors about low-impact use.

---

#### Fish and Wildlife

- S-1 Artificial habitat structures, if used, must be created from materials that blend with the site, do not detract from the natural landscape, and do not adversely affect the river’s free-flowing condition and the values for which it was designated.

---

#### Vegetation Management

- S-1 Vegetation within the river corridor will be allowed to evolve through natural processes, except when it is manipulated for the following reasons:

- Maintenance of critical habitat for threatened or endangered wildlife species;
- Correction of severe damage caused by fire, wind, ice, insect/disease, or other natural catastrophes;
- To screen developments to meet visual integrity objectives;
- Management of vegetation for critical wildlife situations outside the seen area;
- Performance of minor work to enhance wildlife habitat, create vistas and meet trail construction and maintenance needs.

S-2 Silvicultural prescriptions will be used that contribute to restoration of ecological function and natural appearance of riparian influence zones.

G-1 Unique and visually attractive stands (e.g. white birch) may be managed to enhance their health and allow viewing within hiking trail corridors.

---

**Areas of Cultural  
Significance**

S-1 On National Forest land, surveys will be conducted prior to all earth-disturbing activities. All activities will be designed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects upon any known cultural or historic resources.

S-2 National Register sites and non-eligible sites chosen for enhancement and interpretation will be afforded protection as necessary by Town of Jackson Zoning Ordinances.\*

G-1 Where appropriate, cultural and historical sites may be interpreted through maps, guidebooks, and signs.

---

**Recreation  
Improvements to  
Infrastructure**

**Recreation**

S-1 Existing trail shelters and hut at Carter Notch will be managed in accordance with the Appalachian Club Special Use Permit.

G-1 Improvements for recreational development may occur as appropriate and/or necessary including, but not limited to privies, spring boxes, trails, river crossings, trailheads and informational signs.

G-2 To protect low and moderate use locations, recreation use should not be dispersed from high to low use areas.

G-3 Existing dispersed camping is allowed, where suitable, but recreational facilities will not be constructed within 100 feet of the river or trail, except when the only feasible location is within the 100 foot buffer.

---

\* See CRMP, Appendix L, Existing Regulations Affecting Riparian Lands in the Town of Jackson, NH.

G-4 Overnight facilities (huts and shelters) should be managed in order to concentrate use, absorb recreation impacts, and prevent site deterioration.

G-5 Rehabilitation measures may be considered at damaged existing sites.

#### **Fishing Access**

S-1 Access will be provided at public landings and through hiking trail corridors.

#### **Hiking and Cross-Country Ski Trails**

S-1 Hiking trails will be constructed and maintained to standards described in FSH 2309.18.\*

---

#### **Visitor and Use Management**

S-1 Management of the river area on the National Forest will strive to provide a recreation experience consistent with the semi-primitive non-motorized ROS Objective.\*\*

S-2 Existing traditional recreational uses consistent with protecting river values and the semi-primitive non-motorized ROS Objective will be maintained. Current levels and types of recreation use are generally considered appropriate.

*Early postcard view of two girls on the Wildcat Wild and Scenic River; date and photographer unknown (WMNF photo)*



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\* See Forest Service Handbook 2309.18 (Trails Management), WMNF Supplement.

\*\* See Appendix H of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for a description of Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) objectives.

## Management Area Direction

The following management direction was developed during Forest Plan revision for MA 8.6.

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### General

- S-1 Those segments of the designated Wildcat Wild and Scenic River on National Forest System lands must be managed consistent with direction in the Wildcat Comprehensive River Management Plan.
- S-2 Management direction for both the Wild and Scenic River (MA 8.6) and Appalachian Trail (MA 8.3) must apply where MA 8.3 contains portions of the Wild and Scenic River MA. Where direction differs, the more restrictive standards and guidelines must apply.
- G-1 Project-related and emergency motorized administrative use may be allowed. Project-related motorized administrative use should consider potential impacts to social conditions and ecological resources in the area. Where applicable, project-related administrative use will be timed to minimize social and ecological impacts.

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### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Geologic and Mineral

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

- S-1 These lands are withdrawn from mineral extraction activities within one-quarter mile of the river bank.

#### **Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

- S-1 New development of common variety minerals is prohibited.

#### **Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

- S-1 Surface disturbing rock and mineral collecting is prohibited.

---

### Heritage

*See Headwaters Segment standards and guidelines for “Areas of Special Significance.”*

---

### Lands

- S-1 Designated communication sites are prohibited.
- S-2 Wind towers are prohibited.

---

### Native American Relations

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*



---

Non-native  
Invasive Species

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*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Rare and Unique  
Features

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G-1 Vegetation manipulation may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, but is limited to small-scale activities.

---

Recreation

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*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

*See also Headwaters Segment standards and guidelines for “Recreation Improvements to Infrastructure” and “Visitor and Use Management.”*

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Riparian/Aquatic

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*See Headwaters Segment standards and guidelines for “Fish and Wildlife.”*

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Scenery  
Management

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*See Headwaters Segment standards and guidelines for “Visual Quality.”*

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Transportation  
System

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*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Vegetation  
Management

---

*See Headwaters Segment standards and guidelines for “Vegetation Management.”*

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Water Resources

---

*See Headwaters Segment standards and guidelines for “Water Quality.”*

---

Wildland Fire

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S-1 Wildland fire use is prohibited.

S-2 Prescribed fire is prohibited.

---

Wildlife

---

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

## MA 9.1 — Recommended Wilderness

---

### Purpose

1. Recognize the areas currently recommended for Wilderness.
2. Manage the land to protect Wilderness values to protect eligibility for the Wilderness Preservation System.

### Desired Condition of the Land

In Recommended Wilderness, natural ecological processes will be allowed to take place. These areas will be generally 5,000 acres or larger. The Forest will be a product of natural succession; large and small-scale change will occur through natural events such as wind disturbance or ice storms.

Each Recommended Wilderness will be managed for its unique attributes, with goals and thresholds in place to prevent degradation of its Wilderness values. Areas with high recreation use will be managed to recognize their value as sources of inspiration for the large surrounding populations, while also having standards to prevent unacceptable social or ecological impacts. Low use areas will be managed to maintain their low use; use will not be dispersed from high to low use areas. Interaction between users will vary by location and by season of use. In general, use will be concentrated around trail corridors.

Managerial controls will be kept to a minimum, and used only as necessary to protect ecological and social values. Recommended Wilderness will be accessible by foot or other non-motorized means.

Facilities may be present.



*Marsh in Wild River drainage; angled lines are moose tracks (WMNF photo by Ken Allen)*

## Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

---

### General

- S-1 Management direction for both the Appalachian Trail (MA 8.3) and Recommended Wilderness (MA 9.1) must apply. Where there is a conflict, the more restrictive standards must apply.
- G-1 Restoration efforts should be site-specific and small scale, such as rehabilitating campsites or other sites impacted by recreation.
- G-2 Ecosystem restoration should be considered only if the need is causally linked to human-induced changes and if those changes pose a significant threat to resources outside this management area.
- G-3 Project-related and emergency motorized administrative use may be allowed. Project-related motorized administrative use should consider potential impacts to social conditions and ecological resources in the area. Where applicable, project-related administrative use will be timed to minimize social and ecological impacts.

---

### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Geologic and Mineral

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

- S-1 Surface-disturbing activities are prohibited.

#### **Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

- S-1 Development of common variety mineral sites is prohibited.

#### **Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

- S-1 Surface disturbing rock and mineral collecting is prohibited.

---

### Heritage

- G-1 Historic sites and artifacts, even if considered nonconforming structures, should be undisturbed except where they threaten public safety or resource protection.

---

### Lands

- S-1 Designated communication sites are prohibited.
- S-2 Wind towers are prohibited.
- S-3 All communication use permits not attached to existing facilities are prohibited.

---

**Native American  
Relations**

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*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Non-native  
Invasive Species**

---

- S-1 Manual control must be considered as the first choice of eradication.
- G-1 Chemical control methods, if deemed necessary, should be used through direct application. Broadcast application of herbicides or pesticides should be used only if direct application is not working.
- G-2 Biological controls should be used only when the effectiveness of other control methods will not achieve site-specific eradication objectives.

---

**Rare and Unique  
Features**

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- G-1 Vegetation manipulation may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, but is limited to small-scale activities.

---

**Recreation**

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- S-1 Management actions, such as dispersing use or increasing developments, must not result in a change along the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) scale from less- to more-developed. For example, management actions must not change an ROS class from primitive to semi-primitive.
- S-2 Motorized trails are prohibited. The responsible official may authorize motorized use for emergencies such as search and rescue and fire suppression.
- S-3 Trails designed specifically for mountain bike use are prohibited.
- S-4 Mountain bike use on existing trails is allowed consistent with Forest-wide direction.
- G-1 Natural processes should take precedence over recreation objectives.
- G-2 The number and type of structures such as trails, footbridges, and signs should be kept to a minimum.
- G-3 Public potable water systems should not be provided.
- G-4 Where provided, human waste disposal facilities should be consistent with current backcountry waste management technology and Wilderness values.

**Rock and Ice Climbing**

- S-1 The development of new rock, ice, and mixed climbs is allowed as long as they do not require installation of fixed protection, including webbing, bolts and pitons. New climbing routes requiring fixed protection are prohibited
- S-2 Replacement of existing fixed protection and anchors is allowed to preserve known climbing routes and promote safe climbing.

**Special Uses — Recreation Specific**

- S-1 Special use facility development is prohibited until a decision is made on Wilderness designation.

---

**Riparian/Aquatic**

- S-1 Fish stocking is prohibited except for the Atlantic salmon restoration program, which will be accomplished within cooperative agreement standards.

---

**Scenery  
Management**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Transportation  
System**

- S-1 Roads are prohibited.
- G-1 Parking lots for trails that access Recommended Wilderness should not be expanded or constructed solely to accommodate increased recreation use.

---

**Vegetation  
Management**

- S-1 Timber management practices are prohibited.

**Insects and Disease**

- G-1 The natural process of insect and disease outbreaks should be controlled only when justified by predicted loss of resource values outside of the management area.
- G-2 Pesticide use may be allowed after a minimum tool analysis has been conducted and when deemed necessary to prevent significant losses to resource values on bordering private or public lands or for control of non-native invasive species.

---

**Water Resources**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Wild and Scenic  
Rivers**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Wildland Fire**

- S-1 Wildland fire use (WFO) is allowed.
- S-2 Prescribed fire is prohibited.
- G-1 Resource Advisors should be used for all fires in Recommended Wilderness.

---

**Wildlife**

- S-1 Since habitat must be a result of natural process only, wildlife habitat improvement projects are prohibited.



## MA 9.2 – Alpine Ski Area Expansion

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### Purpose

1. Recognize the potential need for ski area expansion, and manage the lands so as not to preclude future ski area development.

### Desired Condition of the Land

Although adjacent to heavily developed alpine ski areas, these lands generally appear natural, with little evidence of management. Existing roads and trails may provide access.

These lands are contiguous to existing ski areas, and range in size from 40 to 1,000 acres.

A variety of land characteristics will occur. In the lower and middle elevations, extensive stands of northern hardwoods dominate the landscape. Conifers, such as red and white spruce and balsam fir, will be mixed with hardwoods at mid- to lower- elevations and will dominate at higher elevations. These stands tend toward a mix of tree sizes and ages, visually dominated by large mature trees.

*Snowboarding at the Terrain Park, Loon Mountain Ski Area (WMNF photo by Joe Gill)*



## Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

---

### General

- G-1 Project-related and emergency motorized administrative use may be allowed. Project-related motorized administrative use should consider potential impacts to social conditions and ecological resources in the area. Where applicable, project-related administrative use will be timed to minimize social and ecological impacts.

---

### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Geologic and Mineral

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

- S-1 Surface-disturbing activities are prohibited.

#### **Mineral Materials (Common Variety)**

- S-1 New development of common variety minerals is prohibited.

#### **Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting**

- S-1 Surface disturbing rock and mineral collecting is prohibited.

---

### Heritage

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Lands

#### **Special Uses**

- S-1 Designated communication sites are prohibited.
- G-1 Wind towers may be considered when their installation and operation is compatible with existing and reasonably foreseeable future ski area operations.
- G-2 New communication use permits may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

---

### Native American Relations

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

### Non-Native Invasive Species

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Rare and Unique  
Features

- G-1 Vegetative manipulation may be implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

---

Recreation

- S-1 Construction of campgrounds and day use areas is prohibited.
- G-1 Dispersed recreation activities may occur within this management area as long as the activity is compatible with the overall purpose of potential alpine ski area expansion.
- G-2 Foot trails are generally inconsistent with the objectives of this management area. Existing foot trails may be maintained until actual development of the area.
- G-3 Motorized trails are generally inconsistent with the objectives of this management area. Existing winter motorized trails may be maintained until actual development of the area. No new motorized trail construction is allowed.

**Special Uses — Recreation Specific**

- S-1 Any special use facility development is prohibited until a decision is made on ski area expansion.
- G-1 Outfitter/guide permits may be allowed.

---

Riparian/Aquatic

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Scenery  
Management

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Transportation  
System

- S-1 Any roads constructed must be closed and revegetated upon completion of the project.
- G-1 Existing roads unnecessary for management area objectives should be closed and revegetated.

---

Vegetation  
Management

- S-1 Timber harvest activities may occur on suitable ground as long as the harvest activity is compatible with the overall purpose of potential ski area expansion. These may include, but are not limited to, salvage operations and other management actions related to insect and disease control.
- S-2 Where harvest operations occur, slash, visual, and other timber management requirements must be in accordance with those standards and guidelines stated under Management Area 2.1.

---

**Water Resources**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Wild and Scenic  
Rivers**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

**Wildland Fire**

S-1 Wildland fire use is prohibited.

G-1 Prescribed fire may be used.

---

**Wildlife**

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*



*Old growth stands at Gibbs  
Brook CRNA (WMNF  
photo by Lee Carbonneau)*

## MA 9.3 – Candidate Research Natural Areas

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### Purpose

1. Recognize the areas currently recommended for study as Research Natural Areas (RNAs).
2. Manage the land to protect eligibility for Research Natural Area status.
3. Coordinate with Research to review and document each recommended research natural area with an establishment record (see FSM 4063.37).

### Desired Condition of the Land

Natural processes will predominate. Recreation use will be incidental and will not be encouraged. Hiking trails will not be added. Camping will be by individual site designation. Campfires will not be permitted. Research is designed to be non-manipulative. Roads are absent. These areas provide excellent opportunities for long-term monitoring of many kinds.

### Standards and Guidelines

*See Chapter 2, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, for additional required direction in each program area.*

---

#### General

- S-1 All research activities shall be coordinated between the White Mountain National Forest and the USFS Northeast Research Station, Durham, NH.
- S-2 Structures are prohibited, except that permanent structures or markers for research purposes may be allowed when they serve to achieve the approved research objectives.
- G-1 Project-related motorized administrative use may be allowed, but only on existing trails. The Forest Supervisor may authorize motorized use for emergencies.

---

#### Accessibility

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

#### Air Quality

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

#### Geologic and Mineral

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

- S-1 Mineral activities that may alter the character, or diminish the potential, of an area for designation as a Research Natural Area are prohibited until study is complete and a decision has been made regarding designation.
- S-2 Surface disturbing activities are prohibited.



	<b>Mineral Materials (Common Variety)</b>
	S-1. New development of common variety minerals is prohibited.
	<b>Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting</b>
	S-1 Surface disturbing rock and mineral collecting is prohibited.
Heritage	
	S-1 Archaeological excavations are permitted under condition that they will not have long-term impacts, or diminish the potential of the area for designation as an RNA.
Lands	
	<b>Special Uses</b>
	S-1 Only special uses not affecting the potential for RNA designation will be authorized.
	S-2 Designated communication sites are prohibited.
	S-3 Wind towers are prohibited.
Native American Relations	
	<i>Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.</i>
Non-Native Invasive Species	
	S-1 Manual control must be the first choice of eradication.
	G-1 Chemical control methods, if deemed necessary, should be used through direct application. Broadcast application of herbicides or pesticides should be used only if direct application is not working.
	G-2 Biological controls should be used only when the effectiveness of other control methods will not achieve site-specific eradication objectives.
Rare and Unique Features	
	S-1 Vegetation manipulation implemented to protect or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species is prohibited.
Recreation	
	S-1 New trails are prohibited.
	S-2 Wood or charcoal fires are prohibited year-round.
	S-3 Management action likely to introduce new or additional recreation use is prohibited.
	S-4 Motorized trail use is prohibited.
	G-1 Existing trails should be maintained at Levels I and II.

---

Riparian/Aquatic

- S-1 Habitat management is prohibited unless approved by managers to meet the objectives of the area.

---

Scenery  
Management

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Transportation  
System

- S-1 New road construction is prohibited.

---

Vegetation  
Management

- S-1 Timber management is prohibited.

**Insects and Disease**

- G-1 The natural process of insect and disease outbreaks should be controlled only when justified by predicted loss of resource values outside of the Candidate RNA.
- G-2 Pesticide use may be allowed after a minimum tools analysis has been conducted and when deemed necessary to prevent significant losses to resource values on bordering private or public lands.

---

Water Resources

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Wild and Scenic  
Rivers

*Forest-wide standards and guidelines apply.*

---

Wildland Fire

- S-1 Wildland fire use (WFO) is allowed.
- S-2 Prescribed fire is prohibited.

---

Wildlife

- S-1 Habitat management is prohibited unless approved by managers to meet objectives of the area.



Map 3-01. Management Areas on the White Mountain National Forest.

