

## WMNF Administrative Correction 6

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Administrative corrections, as defined at 36 CFR 219.31(b), may be made at any time, are not plan amendments or revisions, and do not require public notice or the preparation of an environmental document under Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures. Administrative corrections include the following:

- Corrections and updates of data and maps,
- Updates to activity lists and schedules as required by 219.30(d)(1)-(6).
- Corrections of typographical errors or other non-substantive changes, and
- Changes in the monitoring methods other than those required in a monitoring strategy (§219.11(c)).

### Background

The Recreation goals and objectives in the Forest Plan (pages 1-10 to 1-14) recognized the need to limit additions to our infrastructure in order to maintain the overall recreation experience, minimize resource effects from the trail system, and manage the cost of maintaining the system over time. Trails guideline G-4 (Plan page 2-20) was intended help determine when new trails are appropriate. Efforts to use this guideline to evaluate possible trail projects have identified inconsistencies in interpretation of some aspects of the guideline.

Wording related to protection of public safety needs to be changed to clarify that all public safety concerns need to be addressed, whether or not they are clearly tied to a health and safety standard.

Conformance with management area direction is a requirement of the Forest Plan for all actions. It is not a reason unto itself for development of new trails, and is confusing as part of the guideline.

The Forest recreation management approaches (Plan page 2-17) are not always helpful in determining whether a new trail is appropriate. Several recreation and accessibility goals (Plan pages 1-3 and 1-14) relate directly to trails and should guide when new trails are appropriate. This correction is a non-substantive change to clarify the meaning of this guideline.

To bring clarity and consistency to the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Forest trail system, including application of guideline G-4, a White Mountain National Forest supplement to the Forest Service trails handbook (FSH 2309.18) has been developed. The supplement

documents the process to be used for prioritizing new trail proposals and tracking changes in trail mileage to ensure Forest Plan objectives are met.

## Corrections

Page 2-20, Trails, Guideline G-4:

- Currently reads:

No additional trails should be constructed or authorized unless clearly needed to provide public access to the existing system, address resource impacts, meet health and safety standards, conform to management area direction, or meet the Forest recreation management approaches.

- Corrected to read:

No additional trails should be constructed or authorized unless clearly needed to: provide public access to the existing system, address resource impacts, resolve public safety issues, meet recreation management or accessibility goals, or best meet the recreation management approaches. New trails should be evaluated and prioritized consistent with supplemental direction in FSH 2309.18.

Corrected pages are attached.

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

#### **Overnight Facilities**

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

#### **Appalachian Mountain Club Huts**

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

#### **Shelters/Cabins/Tent Platforms**

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