

## WMNF Administrative Correction 11

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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 Forest Plan includes several guidelines that apply to vernal pools (pages 2-24 to 2-26, 2-28, 2-31) because vernal pools are an important habitat for many wildlife species. Unfortunately identifying a vernal pool that provides quality habitat to those species is not as simple as looking for a pool of water in the spring. To help clarify which features are covered by the Forest Plan guidelines, there is a definition of vernal pool in the glossary of the Forest Plan (page 33).

Over the last four years, the glossary definition has been interpreted by some people more broadly than was intended. In particular, the phrase “and allow for successful breeding of certain amphibians and invertebrates” has caused confusion. Questions have arisen regarding what qualifies as “successful breeding” and which amphibian and invertebrate species were referred to in the definition.

This correction clarifies that successful breeding does not require validation that young survived to a certain point in development. Rather the intent was to confirm breeding activity in the vernal pool, for example by identifying mating frogs (in amplexus) or visually confirming reproductive materials, such as eggs.

There are five species that are consistently cited in publications and regulations (e.g., Tappan (1997), Kenney and Burne (2001), State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2007), New Hampshire Fish and Game Department et al. (2008)) as indicator species of vernal pools in New England: wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*), spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*), blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*), and fairy shrimp

(*Eubbranchipus* sp.). These species were identified in literature used during Forest Plan revision and known at the time the Record of Decision for the Forest Plan was signed, but were not included specifically in the definition. The proposed change constitutes a correction and not an amendment to the Forest Plan because the intent of the guidelines has not changed. Adding indicator species to the definition simply provides clarification in identifying what constitutes a vernal pool.

## Corrections

Forest Plan Glossary, Page 33:

- Currently reads:

**Vernal Pool:** Naturally occurring, depressional wetlands that temporarily hold water in the spring and early summer, drying up typically in mid to early summer. They are isolated without an inlet or outlet. They are fishless and allow for successful breeding of certain amphibians and invertebrates.

- Corrected to read:

**Vernal Pool:** Naturally occurring, depressional wetlands that temporarily hold water in the spring and early summer, drying up typically in mid to early summer. They are isolated without an inlet or outlet and are fishless. On the WMNF, identification of vernal pools may be confirmed by evidence of breeding activity (e.g., presence of eggs or spermatophores) by any of the following indicator species: wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*), spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*), or blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*). Presence of fairy shrimp (*Eubbranchipus* sp.) at any time may also be used to identify a vernal pool.

Corrected pages are attached.

**Uninterrupted Use Snowmobile Trail:** A trail that should not be closed by other management actions. Applied to NH Corridor trails and Maine ITS Trails. May require temporary relocation of the trail during management actions. In some cases alternative routes are established and snowmobile use cycles between the two as needed.

**Unsuitable Forest Land:** Forest land that is not managed for timber production because (a) the land has been withdrawn by Congress, the Secretary, or the Chief; (b) the land is not producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood; (c) technology is not available to prevent irreversible damage to soils, productivity, or watershed conditions; (d) there is no reasonable assurance that lands can be adequately restocked within 5 years after final harvest, based on existing technology and knowledge, as reflected in current research and experience; (e) there is at present, a lack of adequate information to respond to timber management activities; or (f) timber management is inconsistent with or not cost efficient in meeting the management requirements and multiple use objectives specified in the Forest Plan.

**Urban Forest:** By Forest Service definition, a National Forest located within 50 miles of populations greater than one million people, and demonstrating unique management challenges and opportunities.

**Use-Cycle Approach (Alpine Skiing):** In ski areas, periodically moving users between areas of glade skiing to enable regeneration in the unused areas and perpetuate uneven-aged stands of trees. See also Glade Skiing.

**Vegetation Management:** Manipulating vegetation to reach desired habitat or ecosystem goals. See also Timber Management.

**Vernal Pool:** Naturally occurring, depression wetlands that temporarily hold water in the spring and early summer, drying up typically in mid to early summer. They are isolated without an inlet or outlet and are fishless. On the WMNF, identification of vernal pools may be confirmed by evidence of breeding activity (e.g., presence of eggs or spermatophores) by any of the following indicator species: wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*), spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*), or blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*). Presence of fairy shrimp (*Eubrachyptis* sp.) at any time may also be used to identify a vernal pool.

**View, Viewshed:** See Scenery Management System, View.

**Weed-Free:** As free as possible of non-native invasive species plant materials, generally at least 98 percent.

**Wetlands:** Wetlands will be identified using jurisdictional criteria and/or through the use of the National Wetlands Inventory maps.

**Wheelchair or Mobility Device:** A device, including one that is battery-powered, that is designed solely for use by a mobility-impaired person for locomotion, and that is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area. A person whose disability requires use of a wheelchair or mobility device may use a wheelchair or mobility device that meets this definition anywhere foot travel is permitted. (Forest Service Manual 2353.05 and ADA Title V Section 507c)

## *Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Glossary*

“Designed solely for use by a mobility-impaired person” means that the original design and manufacture of the wheelchair was only for the purpose of mobility for a person who has a disability. This does not include after-market retrofit of a motorized unit to make it usable by a person who has a disability. “Suitable for indoor pedestrian use” means usable inside a home, mall, courthouse, etc.