



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

White Mountain National Forest  
Pemigewasset Ranger District

1171 NH Route 175  
Holderness, NH 03245-5031  
Comm: (603) 536-1315  
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File Code: 2630/2350  
Date: May 1, 2009

Dear Interested Citizen,

I invite you to comment on the attached Beaver Dam Reconstruction Project Scoping Report. In the past several years the concrete spillway at Beaver Pond has been steadily deteriorating and the water level is now one foot below the original height of the spillway. Foot traffic from the parking lot to the spillway has caused erosion and damaged vegetation in the area. The proposal for this project is to repair the spillway at Beaver Pond and create an accessible trail from the parking lot to the spillway.

This scoping period gives you the opportunity to provide meaningful input on this project and help to identify any issues or concerns with the proposal. This scoping report is also posted on the White Mountain National Forest web page:

[www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white\\_mountain/projects/projects](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white_mountain/projects/projects).

In order for your comments to be considered in the next phase of this analysis, please submit them by June 15, 2009. Details of how to comment are provided in the Scoping Report. For more information, you may contact Anna Johnston ([amjohnston@fs.fed.us](mailto:amjohnston@fs.fed.us), (603)447-5448 x119) or me at the address and phone number listed in the letterhead.

Thank you for your interest in the White Mountain National Forest.

Sincerely,

/S/ MOLLY FULLER

MOLLY FULLER  
District Ranger

cc: Clara Weloth, Tom J Giles



**This document is available in large print.  
Contact the White Mountain National Forest  
Supervisor's Office  
Phone: 603 528-8712  
TTY: 603 528-8722**

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# White Mountain National Forest



United States  
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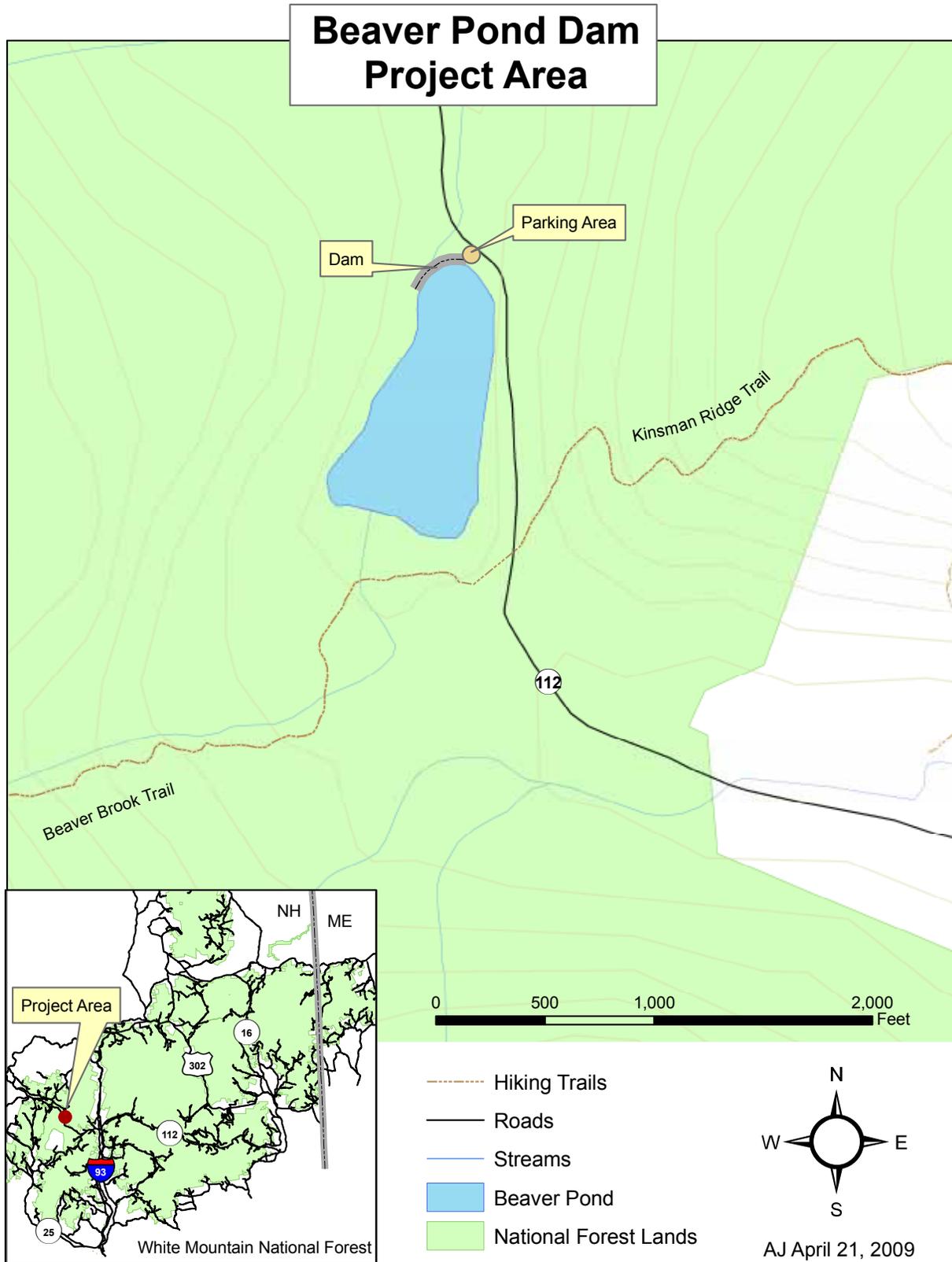
# Beaver Pond Dam Reconstruction Project

Scoping Report  
Town of Woodstock  
Grafton County, NH

Pemigewasset Ranger District  
May 2009



For Information Contact: Anna Johnston  
Biological Technician  
White Mountain National Forest  
Telephone: 603 447-5448 X119  
Email: [amjohnston@fs.fed.us](mailto:amjohnston@fs.fed.us)



## What are we Proposing?

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The Pemigewasset District of the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) is seeking public comments on a proposal to repair the dam at Beaver Pond in the Town of Woodstock, New Hampshire. This report includes the purpose and need for the project, a description of the proposed action, the decision to be made, and information on how you can submit comments to the US Forest Service. The map on the following page displays the location of the dam, the surrounding area, and the trails accessing the area.

## Background

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The Beaver Pond Dam is located in Kinsman Notch along Route 112 in Woodstock, New Hampshire. It dams Beaver Brook into a 9 acre pond. Near the pond are a paved parking area, and user-made incidental trails providing access to the dam and the edge of the pond. The pond's proximity to the highway allows drivers, cyclists, and bus tours a convenient rest spot with a view of the pond and surrounding mountains, as well as fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities. The pond is also available as an emergency water resource for wildfires.

According to information from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), the dam was built in 1927 and is periodically stocked with trout by New Hampshire Fish and Game. Over the past several years, the concrete spillway has been steadily deteriorating and the water level is now one foot below the original height of the spillway. Despite the current condition of the dam, the structure still holds water.

The user-created trails to the dam from the parking lot have caused erosion problems on the dam and in surrounding areas. Visitors do not always take the same route, which has resulted in a wide swath of damaged vegetation and multiple paths.

## Purpose and Need

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The concrete of the failed spillway at the Beaver Pond dam has been eroding for many years. If it is left in its current condition, the water level will continue to go down and eventually the pond itself could potentially drain. In a letter to the Forest Service, NHDES states that although the repairs to the dam “do not appear to be emergencies if they are allowed to continue to deteriorate they can become critical as evidenced by the partial failure of the concrete spillway.” NHDES has stressed that the deficiencies in the dam should be addressed as soon as funding becomes available. This project would attend to these concerns. In addition, it would return pond conditions to what they were when the dam was intact and protect downstream resources. It would restore a scenic pond and enhance fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities for visitors.

Foot traffic leading to the dam from the parking lot has caused erosion and damaged the vegetation in the area. Defining a trail would address the erosion issues and keep visitors off the vegetation. The trail construction effort would need only minor additional work to upgrade to, and adhere to, the Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines (FSTAG). In addition, it would provide a great

opportunity for those who enjoy accessible trails to get out of their car, enjoy the view, and go fishing in Beaver Pond.

Repairing the dam and making the trail from the parking lot accessible are consistent with the goals and objectives in the WMNF Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan):

- The WMNF will protect, restore or improve riparian area conditions to benefit riparian dependant resources and values (Forest Plan p 1-15).
- The WMNF will maintain existing impoundment structures constructed for fish and wildlife management ... to prevent downstream damage (Forest Plan p 1-15).
- The Forest will provide a variety of recreation opportunities for people with disabilities, and will continue to improve accessibility ... accessibility is also considered each time a trail or more remote site is maintained or reconstructed (Forest Plan p 1-3).

## Proposed Action

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The proposed action of the Beaver Pond Dam Reconstruction Project consists of the following work items:

1. Remove trees and brush from both sides of the embankment and from within 10 feet of the downstream embankment toe. This is necessary to ensure the embankment is structurally sound.
2. Perform any necessary erosion repair and grading to the earthen embankment. An excavator may be needed to maneuver material.
3. Remove the inoperable gate house section.
4. Repair the concrete spillway.
5. Install a toe drain system to intercept leakage.
6. Upgrade the incidental trail to FSTAG standards by adding and compacting crushed aggregate, repair the erosion problems, and add the trail to the Forest Service System.

## What Decision Will Be Made?

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An analysis will evaluate site-specific issues, consider possible alternatives to the proposed action, and analyze effects of the project on resources. Based on this analysis, comments from the public, and contributions from an interdisciplinary team, the deciding official will make the following decisions:

1. If the proposed action would best move the White Mountain National Forest toward the Desired Condition outlined in the Forest Plan.
2. If the proposed action would best address the purpose and need identified for this project.
3. If the proposed action adequately addresses relevant issues raised by the public and the interdisciplinary team.
4. What level of environmental analysis is appropriate for this project. This would include consideration of whether the proposed project meets criteria for a categorical exclusion from documentation in an environmental impact

statement or an environmental assessment, including an assessment of any extraordinary circumstances (as defined in 36 CFR 220.6).

5. If the project requires a Forest Plan amendment.

## How Are You Involved In The Decision?

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We are soliciting your comments to help define key issues associated with the project, to assess the need for alternatives to the proposed action, and to refine the analysis of effects. The results of our analysis for the Beaver Dam Reconstruction Project will be documented and a decision is expected in July 2009. If you wish to receive further information on this analysis, please respond to this scoping package or contact one of the following people:

Anna Johnston, Biological Technician

Phone: (603) 447-5448 x119 or email: amjohnston@fs.fed.us

Kori Marchowsky, Recreation Planner

Phone: (603) 536-1315 x 4011 or email kmarchowsky@fs.fed.us

### How Can You Comment?

Be aware that your name, address and comments will become part of the public record and may be available for public review. If this is a concern, please contact us at your earliest convenience. In order for your comments to be considered in the next stage of analysis, they should be received by June 15, 2009. Please address your comments to Molly Fuller, District Ranger, in one of the following ways:

#### *Written comments:*

**By letter:** Pemigewasset Ranger District

ATTN: Anna Johnston

1171 NH Rte 175, Holderness N.H. 03245

**By FAX:** 603 536-5147, ATTN: Anna Johnston

**By email:** <comments-eastern-white-mountain-ammo-pemi@fs.fed.us> or  
<amjohnston@fs.fed.us>

**Oral Comments**—Oral comments must be received in person at the Pemigewasset District Office or via telephone (603) 536-1315 (TTY (603) 536-3281), during normal business hours (8:00am – 4:30pm).

In your comments, please include the following information:

- Your name, address and telephone number.
- The project you are commenting on: Beaver Pond Dam Reconstruction Project.
- Site specific comments about the project, along with supporting information you believe will help identify issues, develop alternatives, or predict environmental effects of our proposal.

Information about this proposal is also available on our website at:

<[http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white\\_mountain/projects/projects/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white_mountain/projects/projects/)>

Thank you for your interest in the management of the White Mountain National Forest

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