



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

White Mountain  
National Forest

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File Code: 2630/5140

Date: January 20, 2009

Dear Interested Citizen,

Thank you for your comments on the Forest-wide Wildlife Opening Maintenance, Scenic Vista Maintenance, and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project. Enclosed you'll find a decision memo which provides a description of this project and maps for your reference. This document is also posted on our WMNF web page:

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

Additional site specific maps are available on the website. If you would like a copy of all 22 maps or selected maps of interest to you and you are unable to access the website, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are interested in a particular wildlife opening, town or county you can find the corresponding map number in Appendices A, B and C of this document.

You were sent this Decision Memo because you responded to the 30-day comment package for this project dated November 5, 2008 or the scoping report dated May 1, 2008. This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR Part 215. Only people or groups who commented during the 30-day comment period are eligible to appeal the decision. Appeals must be postmarked or received within 45 days of the publication of the legal notice in the newspapers of record, the *New Hampshire Union Leader* and the *Lewiston Sun Journal*.

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

Sincerely,

*/s/ Thomas G. Wagner*  
THOMAS G. WAGNER  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure



# White Mountain National Forest



United States  
Department  
of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Eastern  
Region



## Forest-wide Wildlife Opening Maintenance, Scenic Vista Maintenance, & Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Decision Memo  
January 2009



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**This document is available in large print.  
Contact the Supervisor's Office  
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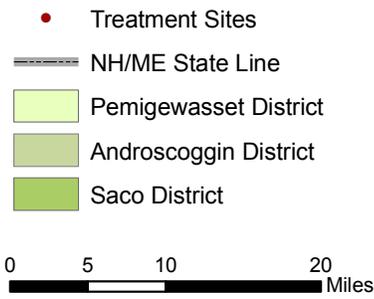
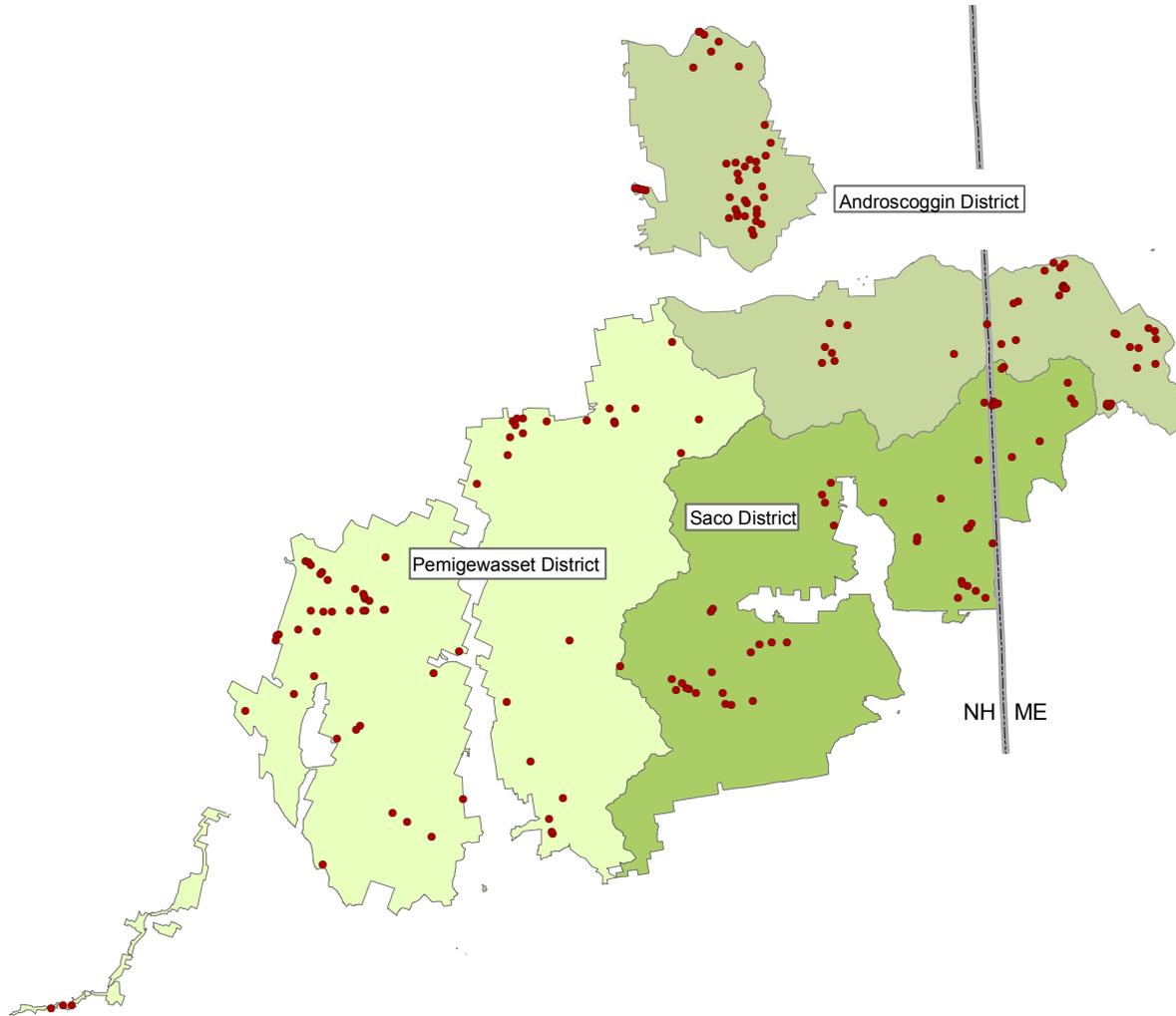
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# Map 1

## White Mountain National Forest Vicinity Map



**White Mountain National Forest**

October 6, 2008



## Decision

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### Project Area and Background

This White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) project covers Forest-wide wildlife opening maintenance, scenic vista maintenance, and hazardous fuels reduction on 189 different sites across the forest. In December of 2004, I signed a Decision Memo, with the same title, intent, and purpose, applying to many of the same openings and vistas. The 2004 project included 258 sites, covering 890 acres across the Forest. Of these sites, 184 were carried over into this decision and 5 sites were added due to vegetation management activities, newly acquired National Forest lands, or lack of coverage in the last NEPA analysis. The 2004 decision affected wildlife opening maintenance, scenic vista maintenance, and hazardous fuels reduction work on the WMNF over a 5-year period. To inform the public of the intent to continue this project, a scoping report was sent to over 750 interested and neighboring parties on May 1, 2008, and a draft decision memo was sent to commenters on November 5, 2008. The scoping report and draft decision memo detailed this project proposal, and provided background information on how and why the proposal was developed.

The intent and the methods of the work to be performed are the primary similarities of the activities planned for the 189 sites. We chose to combine these projects together in one analysis because they are all existing orchards or occur in openings on the Forest where existing vegetation consists of young trees, shrubs, or herbaceous plants such as grass. The methods planned to perform the work include a combination of mowing (tractor-pulled brush hog), mechanical treatment (chain saw, brush cutter, excavator-mounted brush hog), piling and burning of slash, and prescribed broadcast burning.

### Proposed Action

The WMNF will maintain wildlife openings and scenic vistas and reduce hazardous fuels on 189 different sites totaling 934 acres. To achieve these objectives, the Forest Service will use a combination of management tools such as mowing, brushing, piling and burning of slash, and prescribed broadcast burning.

Mowing of the openings will be accomplished with a tractor-pulled brush head mower. Some openings have uneven ground or obstacles such as stumps or rocks and require other mechanical means for maintenance, such as an excavator-mounted brush hog, chain saw, brush saw, or hand saw. Many openings will be maintained with a combination of methods.

The WMNF has conducted prescribed burning on an average of 120 acres per year from 2004 to 2008. A prescribed fire is “broadcast,” or intentionally ignited, and designed to spread at a set rate within a predetermined area. The boundaries of the area are established and maintained by a combination of mechanical equipment and hand crews. Prescribed burning under this project also means piling and burning of cuttings or slash from maintenance activities.

The 189 sites extend across the National Forest and primarily lie in Management Area (MA) 2.1 (General Forest Management). All the sites on the Androscoggin District lie on MA 2.1 lands. On the Saco District, there are two sites in MA 6.2 (Semi-primitive Non-motorized Recreation): S42 and S45. There are three sites in

MA 8.2 (Experimental Forest): S46, S47, and S48; and one site on MA 6.1 lands (Semi-primitive Recreation): S52. On the Pemigewasset District, there are 3 sites in MA 8.3 (Appalachian Trail): P100, P101, and P102. Table 1 displays how the number of sites and acres are distributed by Ranger District. Each site is listed, with more information in Appendices A, B, and C. Maps are in Appendix D.

**Table 1: Number of Treatment Sites and Total Acres, by Ranger District.**

Ranger District	Androscoggin	Pemigewasset	Saco	Forest Totals
<b>Treatment Sites</b>	76 sites 328 acres	63 sites 368 acres	50 sites 238 acres	189 sites 934 acres

Appendices A, B, and C list the planned treatment for each site. Some sites are clearly planned for prescribed burning, mowing, or mechanical treatment. These treatments have proven effective at these sites in the past, or the conditions at these sites lend themselves to a particular treatment. Sites that have more than one planned treatment will be managed with a combination of methods or just one or the other of the listed treatments. The treatment from this list that ends up being used to maintain each of these sites will be determined by factors such as weather, funding or available resources.

### Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Forest-wide wildlife opening maintenance, scenic vista maintenance, and hazardous fuels reduction project is to accomplish resource goals and objectives to meet the overall management direction of the WMNF as established in the Forest Plan. In particular, this project is focusing on the following actions to reach ecological and resource management objectives:

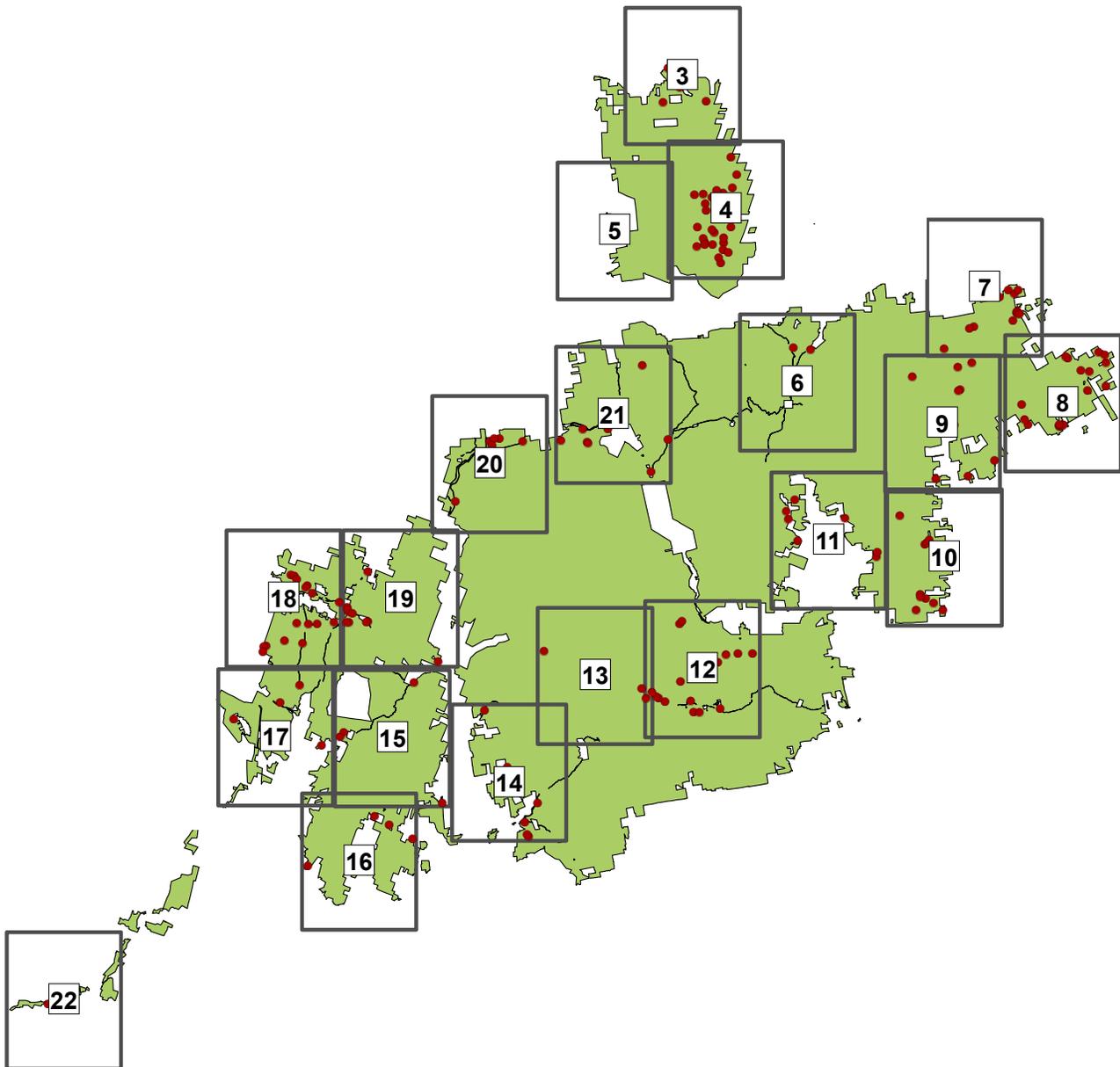
- 1) Maintain existing wildlife openings across the WMNF.
- 2) Maintain existing scenic vistas across the WMNF.
- 3) Reduce fuels in locations where the potential for wildfire presents a hazard to communities, adjacent landowners, or resource values on the WMNF.

#### **1) Maintain existing wildlife openings across the WMNF**

Many species that depend on forest openings or early successional habitats for at least part of their foraging, nesting, or cover opportunities are experiencing population declines (Litvaitis 2001). Some of the openings in this project support primarily grasses and forbs and provide high quality early foraging opportunities which may not be available elsewhere. Apple trees, found in several of the openings, supply an additional food source for wildlife. The dense growth of vegetation within some openings provides forage and cover for a variety of species, including bear, deer, and numerous bird species (DeGraaf and Yamasaki 2001). The wildlife openings on the WMNF are hosts to many plant species which are unique to forest openings. An ecological objective of this project is to help conserve plant and wildlife species that depend on forest openings by maintaining old fields and shrubby, early successional habitats. Although the treatment sites in the project are currently in an open condition or were recently in an open state, without frequent maintenance (every 1–5 years, depending on the site), the vegetation will return to a forested condition.

## Map 2

### Treatment Sites and Map Key



- Treatment Sites
- Area Maps
- National Forest Lands

0 5 10 20 Miles

White Mountain National Forest

October 6, 2008



Less than one percent (~0.1%) of the land on the WMNF is considered part of a permanent wildlife opening. This is below the objective (1%) outlined in the WMNF Forest Plan (USDA-Forest Service, 2005a, p 1-21). While this project will not create new openings, it will maintain current ones. This will retain a critical habitat and prevent the Forest from growing farther from its habitat goal.

The objective for all openings included in this project is to provide quality wildlife habitat unless the words “vista” or “overlook” are part of the site name, in which case they are being maintained as a vista. All openings in this project have an additional management objective of hazardous fuels reduction.

***2) Maintain scenic vistas across the National Forest.***

The scenic vistas covered in the project lie along roads with views of mountain peaks, valleys, or other unique features. Vistas are important to WMNF visitors, many of whom have the opportunity to only view the forest from their vehicle. Many sites in this project have resource values as scenic vistas, but if no maintenance is undertaken the sites will become overgrown and lose their open quality and scenic view. All openings listed in the appendices for this project with the words “vista” or “overlook” in the name (e.g., Bartlett Vista) have a primary objective of vista maintenance and a secondary objective of hazardous fuels reduction.

***3) Reduce fuels in locations where the potential for wildfire presents a hazard to communities, adjacent landowners, or resource values on the National Forest.***

The Forest Service strives to reduce hazardous fuel loads where conditions present a wildfire risk to National Forest resources or to adjacent private lands. There is also a need to reduce hazardous fuels where they present an impediment to the use of prescribed burning as a management tool. By reducing these fuels prior to burning, the prescribed fire can be better managed to achieve the desired objective.

Fuel loads in openings vary, but in general they have less woody material available to carry a fire than forested areas. After opening maintenance has occurred, there are often piles of brush and cuttings which, if left to cure in the opening, could provide fuel in the case of a wildfire. In these instances, pile burning may be used to decrease the fuel load in the opening after maintenance has occurred. Many of the openings lie along well traveled roads, resulting in an increased risk of accidental fire starts. In an effort to reduce the potential for a damaging wildfire, this project will keep the vegetation in a brush or grass condition. In addition, this project will help meet the Forest-wide goals and objectives for wildland fire (Forest Plan, p 1-18/19).

Prescribed burning is typically accomplished in the spring or the late summer and early fall. Opportunities for prescribed burning start in the spring when the snow cover has melted and usually end by mid-May. Some burns during the growing season may be appropriate to reduce competing hardwood stems. The late summer/early fall burning season typically begins around the end of August, and continues until weather or snow cover make burning difficult. Piles may be burned when there is snow on the ground. The report “Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast: Science, Impacts and Solutions” (Frumhoff, P.C., J.J. McCarthy, J.M. Melillo, S.C. Moser, and D.J. Wuebbles. 2007) provides models that project best and worst case scenarios of the effects of climate change in the Northeast. Using this report’s predictions as a guide, some effects of climate change on the WMNF that

**Prescribed burn  
on the White  
Mountain National  
Forest.**



would have bearing on this project include shifting burn windows due to changing precipitation amounts, changing soil moistures, and a rise in air temperatures.

### **Description and Reason for Decision**

After careful consideration of public input, the recommendations of an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists, and the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, I am proceeding with the wildlife opening maintenance, scenic vista maintenance and hazardous fuels reduction on 189 sites totaling 934 acres on the WMNF. Implementation of this project will accomplish resource goals and objectives and meet the overall management direction of the WMNF as established in the Forest Plan

This wildlife opening, scenic vista maintenance, and hazardous fuels reduction project will be applied over a ten year period to provide the WMNF with the flexibility to manage an annual prescribed burning program, and to modify or adjust site prescriptions depending on existing conditions and the success of any one treatment in achieving the desired results. This decision does not preclude the WMNF from proposing additional wildlife opening maintenance, scenic vista maintenance, or hazardous fuels reduction projects during the ten year implementation period for this project.

Treatments that will be used to achieve the objectives of wildlife opening maintenance, scenic vista maintenance, and hazardous fuels reduction include, but are not limited to, mowing (tractor-pulled brush mower), mechanical treatment (chain saw, brush cutter, excavator-mounted brush hog), piling and burning of slash, and prescribed broadcast burning. These treatments may be used independently or in combination on individual sites.

Location maps for the 189 selected sites are in Appendix D of this decision. A listing of individual sites, including location and planned treatment methods, are in Appendix A (Androscoggin District), Appendix B (Pemigewasset District), and Appendix C (Saco District). The acres listed for these sites have been rounded to the nearest whole unit.

In some cases, site preparation may be necessary prior to treatment. This may include digging a fuel break by hand around a burn unit or brushing and blading a skid trail for mower access to a site. Access to sites will be via existing Forest roads, trails, and skid trails and may, in some cases, require securing permission to use roads and trails across private lands.

### Mitigation Measures

All applicable Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, and Best Management Practices, will be employed during the execution of this project. In addition, the following mitigation measures will be taken during implementation:

- Known cultural sites will be clearly marked on burn plans and maps, and protected by a fuel break where necessary, prior to any prescribed burn.
- Workers clearing fire lines or mechanically treating a site will be directed to cease operations in a particular spot if they should uncover previously unknown cultural sites or artifacts, and to contact the District Paraprofessional Heritage Resource Specialist or Forest Archaeologist to evaluate the artifacts or sites and determine protection measures.
- Openings with known Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive (TES) plants sites will be mowed only, or these locations will be specifically protected from burning. Consultation with the Forest Botanist will occur prior to implementation on any of these openings to assure specific occurrences are not impacted.
- Adjacent landowners and local officials will be notified prior to a prescribed burn.

### Reasons for Categorically Excluding this Document

Decisions may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment when they are within one of the categories identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 7 CFR 1b or one of the categories identified in 36 CFR 220.6(d) and (e), and there are no extraordinary circumstances (36 CFR 220.6(b)).

#### *Category of the Exclusion*

This project is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement under Category 6 of 36 CFR 220.6(e). This category of exclusion states “Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction.” Pursuant to a 2005 court ruling (*Earth Island Institute v. Ruthenbeck*, CIV F-03-6386 JKS), projects using this categorical exclusion are subject to notice, comment, and appeal under the 36 CFR 215 rules.

The wildlife opening and scenic vista maintenance and hazardous fuels reduction activities to be implemented by this decision are intended to maintain existing forest openings by clearing encroaching brush and saplings from designated sites and promoting the growth of grasses and forbs. No road construction or reconstruction is required to implement this project. No herbicides will be used to implement this project.

Category 6 of 36 CFR 220.6(e) has been used by the WMNF for similar maintenance projects in the past. For example, in 1998 the Androscoggin Ranger District used this category for maintenance of 208 permanent wildlife openings on 468 acres to be implemented from 1998 through 2002. From 1999 to 2004, the WMNF used this category for maintenance of more than 30 permanent wildlife openings, totaling 350 acres, on the Ammo/Pemi and Saco Ranger Districts. Forest-wide maintenance of 280 permanent wildlife openings, under a 2004 Decision Memo, will continue into the spring of 2009.

## **Relationship to Extraordinary Circumstances**

### *Threatened and Endangered Species or Their Critical Habitat*

The Endangered Species Act requires that federal activities do not jeopardize the continued existence of any species federally listed or proposed as threatened or endangered, or result in adverse modification to such species' designated critical habitat. There is no designated critical habitat for any species on the WMNF. A Biological Evaluation analyzed and documented the potential effects of this decision on listed species and their habitat. Based on the Biological Evaluation, effects of this project on federally listed or proposed species are expected to be minor or non-existent.

### *Floodplains*

This decision includes management activities that may occur within floodplains. In all cases, Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and Best Management Practices will be used to assure that floodplain-related impacts are minimized. Therefore, the project effects to floodplains are expected to be minor or non-existent.

### *Wetlands*

The 189 project sites do not include delineated wetlands within their project boundaries. Some project sites are adjacent to delineated wetlands. In all cases, Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and Best Management Practices will be used to assure that wetlands-related impacts are minimized. Therefore, the project effects to wetlands are expected to be minor or non-existent.

### *Municipal Watersheds*

None of the Maine project sites occur within watersheds that service Maine Public Water Supplies. Some of the 189 project sites occur within watersheds that service New Hampshire Public Water Supplies:

- Within the Headwaters of the Gale River watershed, there are three public water supplies: Littleton Water & Light, Beaver Brook Wayside, and Bethlehem Village.

## *White Mountain National Forest*

- Within the Little River watershed, there is one public water supply: Carroll Water Works.
- Within the Zealand River watershed, there are two public water supplies: AMC Zealand Falls Hut and Bethlehem Village.
- Within the Berlin Reservoir watershed, there is one public water supply: Berlin.
- Within the Israel River watershed, there is one public water supply: Lancaster.
- Within the Albany Brook watershed, there is one public water supply: Bartlett Village.

Adherence to Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, as well as the use of Best Management Practices, will protect groundwater sources during the implementation of this project. The planned treatments maintain an existing condition and should not result in any long-term loss of vegetative cover. The project sites in proximity to public water supplies are distant enough to preclude overland effects. The nature and scale of the activity should not have subsurface effects to the public water supplies. Effects of this project are expected to be minor or non-existent on municipal watersheds.

### *Congressionally Designated Areas*

The 189 project sites are not located within Congressionally-designated Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, or National Recreation Areas. There are 3 openings (P100, P101, P102) that are in the management corridor associated with the Congressionally-designated Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Managing these 3 openings would have no effect on the Trail nor the federally-designated Appalachian Trail corridor. There would be no roads built or improved to access these sites, and the scenery from the trail would not be changed from its current condition. Effects of this project on Congressionally-designated areas are expected to be minor or non-existent.

### *Inventoried Roadless Areas*

There are no sites located within the boundaries of the Inventoried Roadless Areas that are part of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. There are 24 sites located within 2005 Forest Plan Revision Inventoried Roadless Areas. Please reference Appendices A, B, and C for the names of the specific sites, and Appendix D for their locations. No roads will be built or improved under this project. Implementation of this decision within Roadless Areas is consistent with the direction of the existing Forest Plan, will not result in an irreversible or irretrievable change in the condition of the lands, and will not result in National Forest lands being removed from the Inventoried Roadless Areas or preclude consideration of any Inventoried Roadless Area for potential Wilderness. Effects of this project on Inventoried Roadless Areas are expected to be minor or non-existent.

### *Research Natural Areas*

The 189 project sites are not located within nor adjacent to a Research Natural Area (RNA) or a candidate RNA (CRNA). Therefore, the effects on any RNA or CRNA are expected to be non-existent.

***American Indians and Alaska Native Religious or Cultural Sites and Archaeological Sites or Historic Properties or Areas:***

The 189 project sites have received survey coverage for Cultural Resources. No Native American sites are known to exist within or adjacent to the treatment areas and the project areas are not located in spots deemed to have high potential for Native American use. Historical Cultural sites do exist within or adjacent to some of the treatment areas and are listed in the Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Reports (CRRRs #09-4-1a, and 09-4-1b—one for NH and one for ME). These Cultural Sites have been marked on the ground and will be avoided and protected from project activities.

If, in the course of any project activity, previously unknown sites or artifacts were to be located, mitigation measures require that activities would stop immediately in that location. The Forest Archaeologist or District Heritage Paraprofessional would be called in to evaluate the finds and make recommendations on how to proceed.

Concurrence from the Maine State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was received on December 31, 2008 and concurrence from the NH State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was received on January 13, 2009. The four federally recognized tribes in Maine were sent a scoping letter concerning this project on May 1, 2008.

**Public Involvement**

On May 1, 2008, the WMNF mailed a scoping report describing this project to over 750 interested and neighboring parties. Sixteen comments were received, seven of which were generally positive, saying the project is “needed and well thought out.” Some of the positive comments mentioned that this project will improve habitat for many species and will maintain historical fields and orchards. Many commenters noted that this project will maintain the percentage of open habitat currently on the forest. Some would like the Forest to increase the amount of open habitat on the Forest to the 1% stated in the Forest Plan instead of maintaining the current amount (Forest Plan, p 1-21). Others noted that some of the openings have not been worked in recently and should be maintained more frequently.

Five comments on the scoping report expressed concerns about the project. Three of these were particularly wary of prescribed burning. Some expressed fears of escaped fires and damage to adjacent private land or to existing orchards. Some had reservations about air quality during a prescribed fire and effects of the burn on climate change (see pages 3, 5, 6, and 7 of this document for more information on prescribed burning). Other comments included a suggestion to analyze this project as an EA (see pages 7 and 8 of this document for more information on this categorical exclusion) and concern about activities in Roadless Areas (see page 9 of this document for more information on Inventoried Roadless Areas). One commenter has issues at the Forest Plan level, not the project level, and another felt this project isn’t worth the money.

Four of the comments were either not related directly to this project or provided information and history on some of the openings.

As a result of input from the public and interdisciplinary feedback, some changes to the project were made between the scoping letter and a 30-day comment package (draft decision memo) which was sent to interested parties on November 5, 2008.

Six people commented on the draft decision memo, and the substantive comments are listed in the Response to Comments section at the end of this document. No changes have been made in this project since the draft decision memo was sent to the public for comment on November 5, 2008.

### **Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations**

This project complies with all applicable laws and regulations.

### **Forest Plan Consistency**

The Forest Plan was reviewed in consideration of this project, and the project is consistent with all applicable management direction contained in the Forest Plan. This decision is responsive to the goals and objectives of the Plan, as summarized in the purpose and need section of this document.

## Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

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This decision is subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 215. A person has standing to file an appeal only if they submitted a comment or expressed interest during the 30-day comment period, in accordance with 36 CFR 215. A Notice of Appeal must be in writing and clearly state that it is a Notice of Appeal being filed pursuant to 36 CFR 215.7. Appeals must be filed within 45 days of the date of legal notice of this decision in the *New Hampshire Union Leader*, Manchester, New Hampshire, and the *Lewiston Sun Journal*, Lewiston, Maine, to: Kent Connaughton, Appeal Deciding Officer, USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region, ATTN: Appeals and Litigation, 626 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

The office hours for those submitting hand-delivered appeals to the regional office are: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm (Central Time), Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The Notice of Appeal may be faxed to 414 944-3963, Attn: Appeals Deciding Officer, Kent Connaughton, USDA Forest Service, Eastern Regional Office; or electronically mailed to <appeals-eastern-regional-office@fs.fed.us>. Electronic appeals must be submitted in plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Word (.doc) format.

It is the responsibility of appellants to ensure that their appeal is received in a timely manner. The 45-day time period is computed using calendar days, including Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays. When the time period expires on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, the time is extended to the end of the next federal working day. The day after the publication of the legal notice of the decision in the *New Hampshire Union Leader* and the *Lewiston Sun Journal* is the first day of the appeal filing period. The publication date of the legal notice of the decision in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Appellants should not rely on dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. If you do not have access to the *Union Leader* or the *Lewiston Sun Journal*, please call the Saco Ranger Station at 603-447-5448, ext. 119 (TTY 603-447-3121) for the published date. When there is a question about timely filing of an appeal, timeliness shall be determined by:

1. The date of the postmark, e-mail, fax, or other means of filing (for example, express delivery service) an appeal and any attachment.
2. The time and date imprint at the correct Appeal Deciding Officer's office on a hand-delivered appeal and any attachments.

When an appeal is electronically mailed, the appellant should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgment from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the appellant does not receive an automated acknowledgment of the receipt of the appeal, it is the appellant's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

Appeals must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14. At a minimum, an appeal must include the following:

1. Appellant's name and address, with a telephone number, if available;
2. Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the appeal);
3. When multiple names are listed on an appeal, identification of the lead appellant (§215.2) and verification of the identity of the lead appellant upon request;

4. The name of the project or activity for which the decision was made, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the date of the decision;
5. The regulation under which the appeal is being filed, when there is an option to appeal under either this part or part 251, subpart C (§215.11(d));
6. Any specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks and rationale for those changes;
7. Any portion(s) of the decision with which the appellant disagrees, and explanation for the disagreement;
8. Why the appellant believes the Responsible Official's decision failed to consider the substantive comments; and
9. How the appellant believes the decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy.

### **Responsible Official and Contacts**

The Responsible Official for the Forest-wide Wildlife Opening Maintenance, Scenic Vista Maintenance, and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is Thomas G. Wagner, Forest Supervisor for the White Mountain National Forest. For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact: Anna Johnston at email: <amjohnston@fs.fed.us>, or by phone at (603) 447-5448, x119, or by FAX (603) 447-8405.

## **References**

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- DeGraaf, R.M. and M. Yamasaki. 2001. *New England wildlife: habitat, natural history, and distribution*. University Press of New England, Hanover, NH 482 pp.
- Frumhoff, P.C., J.J. McCarthy, J.M. Melillo, S.C. Moser, and D.J. Wuebbles. 2007. *Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast: Science, Impacts and Solutions*, Ashville, NC
- Litvaitis, J.A. 2001. Importance of early successional habitats to mammals in eastern forests. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, 29 (2), pp 466-473.
- USDA-Forest Service, 2005a. *White Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan*. Laconia, NH.
- USDA-Forest Service, 2005b. *Final Environmental Impact Statement for White Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan*. Laconia, NH.
- USDA-Forest Service, 2005c. *White Mountain National Forest, Rationale Document for Wildlife*, 20pp.

## Response to Comments

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**Comment 1.1: Logging needs to be stopped**

**FS Response 1.1:** There are no plans to log National Forest Lands in this project.

**Comment 2.1: Based on my observations over the past eight or so years, the Forest Service personnel involved in these activities deserve a great deal of credit for their attention to detail, professionalism, and safe practices.... These activities have included some combination of mowing, mechanical, and prescribed burning in the Gregg Tract Units.**

**FS Response 2.1:** Thank you for your comment.

**Comment 2.2: ... the danger of wildfire developing and spreading is far greater due to dry fuels left on the ground than by the Forest Services' prescribed burn practices.**

**FS Response 2.2:** This project includes plans to burn piles of fuels left on the ground after maintenance to avoid the danger of wildfire mentioned in this comment.

**Comment 2.3: As for current conditions around here, Libby Road is beginning to close in from the sides, mostly due to cherry and alder growth. Also, several larger trees have fallen across the road as you get further in toward the orchard**

**FS Response 2.3:** We appreciate your information on conditions around the Gregg Tract openings and will keep it in mind when we plan future maintenance.

**Comment 3.1: Do not expand the Annis Field opening to include the 200 feet between the opening and the swift river.**

**FS Response 3.1:** This project does not propose to expand any openings.

**Comment 3.2: I am concerned that a broadcast burn would escape from Annis Field, burn the area between the opening and the river, jump the river and threaten our property.**

**FS Response 3.2:** This comment was addressed in person by the Forest Fire Planner. For more information on prescribed burning please see FS Response 6.1 and the proposed action and purpose and need sections of this Decision Memo.

**Comment 4.1: Any brush that is cut should be put in piles around the perimeter of the openings. They will work as a hiding place and sometimes homes for rabbits.**

**FS Response 4.1:** Brush piles will be left for 1 to 3 years after cutting, during which time they will make great habitat for many small mammal species. This project includes plans to burn the brush piles after this time to reduce hazardous fuels in the openings.

**Comment 4.2: Arrange for the areas around these openings to have bushes that provide berries for grouse.**

**FS Response 4.2:** The edges of the openings often support native brush, which occasionally have berries. It is not part of this project to plant bushes in the openings.

**Comment 4.3: Any wild apple trees will live longer if some pruning is done to limit growth.**

**FS Response 4.3:** We do plan to prune existing apple trees in the openings covered under this decision.

**Comment 5.1:** **Your goal is ambitious, to treat 1% of the acreage rather than the actual 0.1% proposed in the project but one must start somewhere.**

**FS Response 5.1:** We agree, the Forest Plan goal of 1% is ambitious (USDA-Forest Service, 2005a, page 1-21). While this project would not create new openings, it would maintain current ones. This would retain a critical habitat and prevent the Forest from growing farther from its habitat goal.

**Comment 5.2:** **NETRA recommends two-track “low standard” trails for 4 wheel emergency access in case of accident, flooding and especially fire.**

**FS Response 5.2:** Most of the permanent openings covered under this decision already have roads that access the sites. Building new trails or roads is not part of this project and would require additional analysis.

**Comment 5.3:** **NETRA is willing to assist with trail design and layout.**

**FS Response 5.3:** Thank you for your comment; we will keep it in mind for future projects.

**Comment 6.1:** **My writings are concerned mainly for the safety of the folks in Passaconaway and their property.... I can remember in the past a fire had been declared down and out, and yet a day or so later could be smelled. Crews had to go in and address the situation. With our homes close by this is always a concern and I trust you will keep this in mind.**

**FS Response 6.1:** We take the use of fire as a management tool very seriously and take precautions to assure the prescribed burn can be carried out safely for the public, the resource, the fire personnel and adjacent lands.

It is not unusual to smell smoke for a few days after a prescribed fire. Logs, stumps and heavier materials in the interior of a burn pose little risk of escape and are usually allowed to burn out naturally. The standard procedure on the WMNF is for crews return to a burn site daily to monitor the fire until it is completely extinguished.

**Comment 6.2:** **So many of the areas mentioned are quite small and I wonder just why these are included.**

**FS Response 6.2:** One of our goals through this project is to maintain existing openings in the forest, which is why even the small openings are being included in this project. We realize that larger openings offer more opportunities for wildlife habitat and foraging, but even small openings are used by many species. In the future, we hope to drop some of the smaller openings and create and maintain more openings that are large, but creating openings is outside the scope of this project.

**Comment 6.3:** **What was accomplished regarding the original intent years ago (referring to a previous opening maintenance decision) and does anyone know?**

**FS Response 6.3:** Previous projects covering wildlife opening maintenance and hazardous fuels reduction on the WMNF have been very effective. We have maintained hundreds of acres in an open state across the Forest and provided countless opportunities for nesting and foraging for wildlife.

**Comment 6.4:** Many feel that you can mow but once a year and all will be wonderful, but I do not feel this will be satisfactory in most cases. In several instances we see open areas not mowed for several seasons, even though it was originally planned to be mowed regularly.

**FS Response 6.4:** We plan to mow just once every few years to achieve our desired objectives and a shrub type habitat. In some cases, we may also be limited by the availability of resources or funds.

**Comment 6.5:** If not mowed frequently enough the trees and land are soon overrun with plants ... that may tend to be invasive.

**FS Response 6.5:** This is true, and is why we make every effort to maintain each of these openings as frequently as needed to meet our objectives. However we are limited by available resources, time and funds. If non-native invasive species are located in an opening an effort will be made to eradicate them under the Forest-wide Non-Native Invasive Plant Control Project Decision Notice signed 1/29/07.

**Comment 6.6:** ... on our last walk a year or so ago to visit this area (Annis Field) we had to abandon the walk as we were overrun with ticks, ... The tick presence is not necessarily a sign of neglectful care, but perhaps a sign that the birds and animals that might feed on the insects are not there.

**FS Response 6.6:** The increased number of ticks in openings is happening for two reasons. Wildlife that carry ticks are more abundant in openings as they use the grasses and shrubs for foraging. Increased visits by wildlife to an area means an increased number of ticks dropping off the animals and potentially available to latch onto human visitors. In addition, numbers of ticks have been increasing region wide as the population spreads northward. <[www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/124995.php](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/124995.php)>

**Comment 6.7:** The Mitigation Measures include adjacent land owners, but who does this include?

**FS Response 6.7:** The Mitigation Measures state: “adjacent landowners and local officials will be notified prior to a prescribed burn.” We will notify landowners who live immediately adjacent to the opening and those that have requested notification.

**Comment 6.8:** With regard to Municipal Watersheds, do not forget the fact that Passaconaway Valley Private parcels are dependant on the aquifer that lies in the ground about the areas of the Oliverian Brook, crossing with the Kanc.

**FS Response 6.8:** Thank you for your comment; we will keep this in mind as we proceed with the project.

Commenter Number	Commenter Name	City/State	Date Received
1	B. Sachau	Florham Park, NJ	11/05/08
2	Brian Ruth	Lancaster, NH	11/06/08
3	Jonas Von Hipple	MA	11/10/08
4	Lewis Parker	Fayette, ME	11/12/08
5	Ray C. Ellis	Berlin, MA	11/14/08
6	Henry Rotman	Milford, CT	12/03/08



## Appendix A: Androscoggin Ranger District

### Proposed Sites for the Wildlife Opening Maintenance, Scenic Vista Maintenance, and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

#### Planned Treatment

- Mow – Tractor-pulled brush head mower
- Mech – Mechanical-may include, but not limited to chain saw, brush cutter and/or excavator-mounted brush hog
- Mech/ Mow – May use Mechanical and/or Mowing treatments on the same site
- Rx Burn – Prescribed burn, including pile burns - may require preparations to contain the burn
- Mow/ Rx Burn– May use Mowing and/or Prescribed Burn treatments on the same site
- Mech/ Rx Burn – May use Mechanical and/or Prescribed Burn treatments on the same site
- Mech/ RX Burn/ Mow – May use Mechanical, Prescribed Burn and/or Mowing treatments on the same site

\* Indicates opening is in an Inventoried Roadless Area (2004)

Unit #	County	Town	Unit Name	Map #	Cmpt. #	Stand #	Acres	Last Mtce	Planned Treatment
A01	Coos	Stark	South Pond	3	1	8	3	2006	Mech/Rx Burn
A02	Coos	Stark	Prisoner of War field	3	1	28	4	2007	Mow/Mech
A03	Coos	Stark	Mill Brook	3	2	48	2	2008	Mech/Rx Burn/Mow
A04	Coos	Stark	Prisoner of War alder	3	1	27	2	2006	Mech/Rx Burn
A05	Coos	Stark	Percy	3	1	20	11	1991	Mech/Rx Burn
A07	Coos	Stark	North Pond	3	6	20	6	1994	Mech/Rx Burn
A09	Coos	Stark	Rocky Pond	3	7	33	14	2007	Mech/Rx Burn
A10	Coos	Milan	Fifefield Brook	4	10	67	6	2007	Mech/Rx Burn
A22	Coos	Berlin	P-Test	4	12	45	5	2005	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A23	Coos	Berlin	Blueberry Opening	4	13	11	5	2004	Mech/Rx Burn
A24	Coos	Berlin	Lonesome Ridge Softwood	4	13	22	4	2008	Mech/Rx Burn
A25	Coos	Berlin	Dog Trial1	4	13	26	2	1994	Mech/Rx burn
A26	Coos	Berlin	Softwood Opening	4	13	28	4	2008	Mech/Rx Burn
A27	Coos	Berlin	Berm Opening	4	13	52	2	2006	Mech/Rx Burn
A30	Coos	Berlin	Dog Trial2	4	13	59	1	1994	Mech/Rx Burn
A31	Coos	Berlin	Boulders	4	13	68	3	2006	Mech/Rx Burn

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Unit #	County	Town	Unit Name	Map #	Cmpt. #	Stand #	Acres	Last Mtce	Planned Treatment
A32	Coos	Berlin	Vista	4	13	69	2	2006	Mech/Rx Burn
A35	Coos	Berlin	Landing Camp Blueberry 1	4	14	22	1	2003	Mech/Rx Burn
A38	Coos	Berlin	Landing Camp Blueberry 2	4	14	28	1	2003	Mech/Rx Burn
A39	Coos	Berlin	Landing Camp 18	4	14	29	1	2003	Mech/Rx Burn
A40	Coos	Randolph	Meadow	4	14	49	5	2002	Mech/Rx Burn
A41	Coos	Randolph	Camp 19	4	14	50	6	2002	Mech/Rx Burn/Mow
A42	Coos	Berlin	Spruce Brook	4	14	74	3	2007	Mech/Rx Burn
A43	Coos	Berlin	Landing Camp by River	4	14	77	1	2001	Mech/Rx Burn
A44	Coos	Berlin	Bear Corner	4	15	32	5	2007	Mech/Rx Burn
A45	Coos	Randolph	Nuthatch	4	16	28	5	2005	Mech/Rx Burn
A46	Coos	Randolph	Pond Hill	4	17	23	5	1994	Mech/Rx Burn/Mow
A47	Coos	Randolph	Snowmobile Trail	4	17	29	2	2006	Mech/Rx Burn
A48	Coos	Randolph	Pond-of-Safety	4	17	34	8	2006	Mech/Rx Burn
A49	Coos	Berlin	Keenan Brook Grass	4	18	17	5	2003	Mech/Rx Burn/Mow
A50	Coos	Randolph	Upper Keenan Brook	4	18	36	12	2002	Mech/Rx Burn
A51	Coos	Berlin	South Fork	4	20	19	3	2003	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A52	Coos	Berlin	Hatchery	4	21	23	4	2004	Mech/Rx burn
A53	Coos	Berlin	Cottonwood	4	18	38	5	1998	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A55	Coos	Gorham	Spring Brook	6	33	86	9	2008	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A56	Coos	Greens Grant	Hayes Copp 43*	6	34	43	3	2008	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A57	Coos	Martins Location	Hayes Copp 45*	6	34	45	5	2005	Mech/Rx burn
A58	Coos	Martins Location	Bellows Farm*	6	39	25	3	2006	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A59	Coos	Greens Grant	Camp Dodge*	6	39	26	4	2006	Mech/RxBurn/Mow

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Unit #	County	Town	Unit Name	Map #	Cmpt. #	Stand #	Acres	Last Mtce	Planned Treatment
A60	Coos	Gorham	North Carter*	6	40	58	3	2008	Mech/Rx burn
A62	Coos	Lancaster	Gregg Tract Small Opening	5	46	3	3	2007	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A63	Coos	Lancaster	Gregg Tract Field	5	46	5	17	2007	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A64	Coos	Lancaster	Gregg Tract Orchard	5	46	7	3	2007	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A65	Coos	Lancaster	Gregg Tract Opening and Road	5	46	9	2	1999	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A66	Coos	Lancaster	Gregg Tract Homestead 4	5	46	11	4	2005	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A68	Oxford	Gilead	Wheeler Brook*	7	302	23	3	2008	Mech/Rx burn
A69	Oxford	Gilead	Twayblade	7	303	28	7	2007	Mech/Rx burn
A70	Oxford	Gilead	Bog Book Upper	7	303	29	6	2008	Mech/Rx burn
A71	Oxford	Gilead	Bog Brook Lower	7	303	30	2	2007	Mech/Rx burn
A72	Oxford	Mason	Bog Rd. WL Area	7	306	36	3	2008	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A73	Oxford	Mason	Tyler Notch*	7	307	19	3	2008	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A75	Oxford	Batchelders Grant	Roost*	7	308	58	9	2005	Mech/Rx burn
A77	Oxford	Batchelders Grant	Roost Area-Apple Trees	7	308	63	5	2006	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A78	Oxford	Batchelders Grant	Bull Brook Lower*	9	311	45	4	2006	Mech/Rx burn
A79	Oxford	Batchelders Grant	Bull Brook Upper*	9	311	50	5	2006	Mech/Rx burn
A81	Oxford	Albany	Mud City field	8	326	28	11	2006	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A82	Oxford	Albany	Mud City orchard	8	326	40	2	2006	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A83	Oxford	Albany	Pingree Fields	8	327	8	3	2003	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A85	Oxford	Albany	Sunken Pond	8	328	14	3	2004	Mech/Rx burn

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<b>Unit #</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Unit Name</b>	<b>Map #</b>	<b>Cmpt. #</b>	<b>Stand #</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Last Mtce</b>	<b>Planned Treatment</b>
A86	Oxford	Albany	Donahue Fields	8	328	35	9	2008	Mech/Rx Burn/Mow
A87	Oxford	Albany	Harriman Brook Spur	8	328	62	5	2008	Mech/Rx Burn
A89	Oxford	Albany	Harriman Brook Mica	8	328	110	2	2003	Mech/Rx Burn
A91	Oxford	Albany	Bell Mtn.	8	329	21	13	2005	Mech/Rx Burn
A92	Oxford	Albany	Round Pond North	8	331	54	1	2006	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A95	Oxford	Stoneham	Virginia Lk Fields 1	8	335	83	3	2006	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A96	Oxford	Stoneham	Virginia Lk Fields 2	8	335	85	2	2006	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A97	Oxford	Stoneham	Virginia Lk Fields 3	8	335	87	1	2006	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A98	Oxford	Stoneham	Virginia Lk Fields 5	8	335	88	4	2006	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A99	Oxford	Stoneham	Virginia Lk Fields 6	8	335	90	3	2006	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A100	Oxford	Stoneham	Virginia Lk Fields 4	8	335	122	1	2006	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A102	Coos	Beans Purchase	Weather Station	9	363	14	3	2008	Mech/RxBurn/Mow
A103	Coos	Shelburne	State Line Opening	7	364	6	3	2007	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A104	Oxford	Mason	Bean Orchard 1	7	307	60	2	2004	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A105	Oxford	Mason	Bean Orchard 2	7	307	59	1	2004	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A106	Oxford	Mason	Bean Orchard 3	7	307	58	1	2004	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
A107	Oxford	Mason	Bean Orchard 4	7	307	35	4	2006	Mech/Rx burn/Mow

## Appendix B: Pemigewasset Ranger District

### Proposed Sites for the Wildlife Opening Maintenance, Scenic Vista Maintenance, and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

**Planned Treatment**

- Mow – Tractor-pulled brush head mower
- Mech – Mechanical-may include, but not limited to chain saw, brush cutter and/or excavator-mounted brush hog
- Mech/ Mow – May use Mechanical and/or Mowing treatments on the same site
- Rx Burn – Prescribed burn, including pile burns - may require preparations to contain the burn
- Mow/ Rx Burn– May use Mowing and/or Prescribed Burn treatments on the same site
- Mech/ Rx Burn – May use Mechanical and/or Prescribed Burn treatments on the same site
- Mech/ RX Burn/ Mow – May use Mechanical, Prescribed Burn and/or Mowing treatments on the same site

\* Indicates opening is in an Inventoried Roadless Area (2004)

- Compartment (Cmpt) or Stand data is in the process of being updated, the number is not currently available or there is no Cmpt and Stand designation for the area (example: AT corridor)

Unit #	County	Town	Unit Name	Map #	Cmpt. #	Stand #	Acres	Last Mtce	Planned Treatment
P09	Coos	Carroll	Brook's Field	21	12	7	7	2008	Mow
P10	Grafton	Bethlehem	Rosebrook	21	12	-	3	2004	Rx burn/Mow
P13	Coos	Carroll	Zealand Fields	21	16	-	7	2007	Mow
P15	Grafton	Bethlehem	Tuttle Brook*	21	17	18	3	2005	Rx burn/Mow
P16	Grafton	Bethlehem	Haystack Landing	20	19	-	2	2000	Rx burn/Mow
P18	Grafton	Bethlehem	North Branch Landings	20	20	-	3	2000	Mow
P20	Grafton	Bethlehem	South Branch Gale River	20	21	-	2	2007	Mow
P24	Grafton	Bethlehem	Outback Field	20	24	49	10	2006	Rx burn/Mow
P25	Grafton	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road Landings	20	24	42	2	2008	Mow
P26	Grafton	Bethlehem	Garvin's Bowl	20	24	43	4	2008	Rx burn
P27	Grafton	Bethlehem	Last Chance	20	24	31, 47	12	2004	Mow

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Unit #	County	Town	Unit Name	Map #	Cmpt. #	Stand #	Acres	Last Mtce	Planned Treatment
P30	Grafton	Franconia	Skookum-chuck Landing*	20	26	-	2	1998	Mow
P32	Grafton	Easton	Beech Hill Trailhead	19	31	21	1	2004	Mow
P33	Grafton	Easton	Trailer Field	19	32	71	2	2007	Mow
P35	Grafton	Easton	Whitcomb's Fields	19	32, 33	2, 1,2	6	2007	Mow
P40	Grafton	Landaff	Dearth Brook Fields	18	36, 40	6, 31	3	2008	Mow
P42	Grafton	Landaff	Cobble Hill Landing	18	36	11	2	2005	Rx burn
P43	Grafton	Landaff	Cobble Hill Orchard	18	36	16	2	2008	Mow/Mech
P44	Grafton	Landaff	Petty Brook Orchard 1	18	36	52	4	2008	Mow/Mech
P45	Grafton	Landaff	Petty Brook Orchard 2	18	36	35	3	2008	Mow/Mech
P46	Grafton	Landaff	Petty Brook Orchard 3	18	36	34	4	2008	Mow/Mech
P48	Grafton	Easton	Wildwood Field	19	38	5	4	2005	Rx burn/Mow
P49	Grafton	Benton	Bunga Jar Landing A*	19	39	-	1	2004	Mow
P50	Grafton	Benton	Bunga Jar Landing B*	19	39	-	1	2004	Mow
P51	Grafton	Easton	White Pine Field	19	39	36	2	2004	Mow
P52	Grafton	Easton	Three Fields	19	39	6, 24	5	2003	Rx burn/Mow
P53	Grafton	Easton	School House Field	19	39	24	2	2007	Mow
P54	Grafton	Easton	Fire Field	18	40	16	6	2004	Rx burn
P56	Grafton	Benton	Fallon's Orchard	18	43	4, 6	4	2008	Mow/Mech
P60	Grafton	Benton	North South Rd Orchard	18	44	21	1	2008	Mow/Mech

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Unit #	County	Town	Unit Name	Map #	Cmpt. #	Stand #	Acres	Last Mtce	Planned Treatment
P61	Grafton	Benton	Davis Brook Orchard	18	44	24	2	2008	Mow/Mech
P63	Grafton	Benton	Titus Brook Rd (FR 190)	18	46	-	6	1998	Mow
P64	Grafton	Benton	Long Pond Overlook	18	46	24	1	2007	Mow
P67	Grafton	Benton	Whitcher Bk Rd (FR 127)	18	47	38, 39	4	1996	Mow
P68	Coos	Carroll	Crawford Golf Course	21	49	24	21	2005	Rx burn/Mow
P69	Grafton	Warren	Moosilau-kee Inn Orch. 3	17	8	20	4	1998	Mow/Mech
P70	Grafton	Warren	Moosilau-kee Inn Orch 1, 2	15	8	21, 42	2	2008	Mow/Mech
P71	Grafton	Warren	Breezy Point Golf Course	15	8	52	26	2007	Rx burn/Mow
P72	Grafton	Wentworth	Steven's Brook Orchard	16	16	21	2	2007	Mow/Mech
P73	Grafton	Ellsworth	Ellsworth Road Orchard	16	28	55	2	2007	Mow/Mech
P75	Grafton	Thornton	Mud Pond Orchard	15	30	25	1	2004	Mow/Mech
P76	Grafton	Ellsworth	Red Dunn Orchard	16	33	36	5	2007	Mow/Mech
P77	Grafton	Ellsworth	Brown Brook Orchard	16	34	36	1	2007	Mow/Mech
P78	Grafton	Woodstock	Woodstock CCC	15	44	22, 24	3	2006	Mow
P79	Grafton	Woodstock	Gordon Pond Orchard	19	53	20	3	2007	Mow/Mech
P80	Grafton	Thornton	Hazeltan Brook Orchard	14	124	15	5	2008	Mow/Mech

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Unit #	County	Town	Unit Name	Map #	Cmpt. #	Stand #	Acres	Last Mtce	Planned Treatment
P81	Grafton	Waterville Valley	Old Waterville Rd Orch.	14	148	-	1	2006	Mow/Mech
P82	Grafton	Thornton	Chicken-boro (Gov Orch)	14	150	26	2	2007	Mow/Mech
P83	Grafton	Campton	Chicken-boro South Orch.	14	151	23	5	2007	Mow/Mech
P84	Grafton	Campton	Chicken-boro Landing	14	151	37	2	2006	Mow
P87	Grafton	Thornton	Martin Flats Orchard	14	118	15	2	2005	Mech/ Rx burn/Mow
P88	Grafton	Piermont	Lake Tarleton Openings	17	160	14	65	2008	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
P92	Grafton	Franconia	Bickford Landing	20	23	23	1	New	Mow
P93	Grafton	Benton	Page Orchard	18	1	13	1	1988	Mech
P94	Grafton	Benton	Sugarloaf Orchard	18	1	14	2	1989	Mech
P95	Grafton	Benton	Far Point Orchard	18	1	15	2	1990	Mech
P96	Grafton	Benton	Oliverian Fields	17	3	-	40	New	Rx burn/ Mow
P97	Grafton	Bethlehem	Zealand Alders	21	12	17	13	2006	Mech
P98	Grafton	Benton	Roadside Orchard	17	5	-	1	1998	Mech
P99	Grafton	Lincoln	Discovery Trail	13	98	-	1	2004	Rx burn
P100	Grafton	Hanover	Trescott Field	22	-	-	15	2007	Mow
P101	Grafton	Hanover	Dogford Field	22	-	-	3	2007	Mow
P102	Grafton	Hanover	Bent Field	22	-	-	14	2007	Mow

## Appendix C: Saco Ranger District

### Proposed Sites for the Wildlife Opening Maintenance, Scenic Vista Maintenance, and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

#### Planned Treatment

- Mow – Tractor-pulled brush head mower
- Mech – Mechanical-may include, but not limited to chain saw, brush cutter and/or excavator-mounted brush hog
- Mech/ Mow – May use Mechanical and/or Mowing treatments on the same site
- Rx Burn – Prescribed burn, including pile burns - may require preparations to contain the burn
- Mow/ Rx Burn– May use Mowing and/or Prescribed Burn treatments on the same site
- Mech/ Rx Burn – May use Mechanical and/or Prescribed Burn treatments on the same site
- Mech/ RX Burn/ Mow – May use Mechanical, Prescribed Burn and/or Mowing treatments on the same site

\* Indicates opening is in an Inventoried Roadless Area (2004)

- Compartment (Cmpt) or Stand data is in the process of being updated, the number is not currently available

Unit #	County	Town	Unit Name	Map #	Cmpt #	Stand #	Acres	Last Mtce	Planned Treatment
S01	Oxford	Stow	Colton Dam	9	341	30	5	2006	Rx burn/Mow
S02	Oxford	Stow	Cold River	9	317	19	3	2007	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
S03	Oxford	Stow	Cold River CCC 1	9	317	18	1	2007	Mech/ Rx burn/Mow
S04	Oxford	Stow	Cold River CCC 2	9	317	12	3	2007	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
S05	Carroll	Chatham	Basin Pond Dam	9	366	24	8	2006	Rx burn/Mow
S06	Carroll	Chatham	Bradley Brook*	9	369	5	12	2007	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
S07	Carroll	Chatham	Peaked Hill 67*	10	381	67	3	2005	Mech/Rx burn
S08	Carroll	Chatham	Kimball Pond	10	381	68	3	2007	Mech/Rx burn
S09	Carroll	Chatham	Hardwood Hill*	10	382	19	6	2007	Mech/Rx burn
S10	Carroll	Chatham	Robbins Ridge	10	377	40	3	2007	Mech/Rx burn
S11	Carroll	Jackson	Walter Mountain 1*	11	95	31	3	2003	Rx burn/Mow
S12	Carroll	Jackson	Walter Mountain 2*	11	95	32	3	2003	Rx burn/Mow
S13	Carroll	Albany	Annis Field	12	104	10	18	2008	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
S14	Carroll	Albany	Hotel Field	12	103	29	40	2007	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
S15	Carroll	Albany	Hedgehog	12	104	22	7	2004	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
S16	Carroll	Albany	White's Brook	12	103	30,33	33	2007	Rx burn

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Unit #	County	Town	Unit Name	Map #	Cmpt #	Stand #	Acres	Last Mtce	Planned Treatment
S17	Grafton	Livermore	Pine Bend Brook	12/13	99	40	14	2004	Rx burn
S18	Grafton	Livermore	Livermore A	12	25	3	2	2007	Mech/Rx burn
S19	Grafton	Livermore	Livermore B*	12	25	-	1	2005	Mech/Rx burn
S21	Carroll	Chatham	Langdon Brook-Marshall*	10	375	27	3	2006	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
S22	Carroll	Chatham	Langdon Brook 18	10	375	18	1	2002	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
S23	Carroll	Chatham	Langdon Brook 21	10	375	21	2	2002	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
S24	Carroll	Albany	Birch Hill	12	44	33	2	2005	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
S25	Grafton	Livermore	Upper Nana 23	12/13	46	23	2	2002	Rx burn/Mow
S26	Grafton	Livermore	Upper Nana 24	12	46	24	2	2005	Rx burn/Mow
S27	Grafton	Livermore	Upper Nana 25	12	46	25	3	2005	Rx burn/Mow
S28	Grafton	Livermore	Upper Nana 26	12	46	26	1	2005	Rx burn/Mow
S29	Oxford	Stoneham	Rainbow	8	337	12	1	2006	Mech/Mow/Rx burn
S30	Oxford	Stoneham	Shirley Valley	8	322	12	6	2007	Mech/Rx burn/Mow
S31	Oxford	Stoneham	Knox Opening	8	337	13	2	2005	Rx burn/Mow
S32	Carroll	Jackson	Doliff Field	11	7	23,26	10	2008	MechMow/ Rx Burn
S33	Carroll	Jackson	Grey's Field	11	10	10	5	2007	Mech/Mow
S34	Carroll	Jackson	Winniweta	11	7	23	3	2008	Mech/Mow/Rx burn
S35	Carroll	Jackson	Marsh Brook Orchard	11	72	27	3	2006	Mech/Rx burn
S36	Carroll	Jackson	Bald Land Orchard	11	83	2	4	2000	Mech/Rx burn
S37	Carroll	Chatham	Quintwiley	10	91	20	2	2006	Rx burn/Mow
S38	Carroll	Chatham	FR 303-1	10	381	44	1	2006	Mech/Mow/Rx burn
S39	Carroll	Chatham	FR 303-2	10	381	45	1	2006	Mech/Mow/Rx burn
S40	Carroll	Chatham	FR 303-3	10	381	46	1	2006	Mech/Mow/Rx burn
S41	Oxford	Stow	Speckled Mt.	9	318	18	1	2007	Mech/Rx burn
S42	Oxford	Stow	Brickett Place Orchard	9	319	19	5	2005	Mech/Mow/Rx burn
S43	Oxford	Stoneham	Horseshoe Pond	9	338	34	1	2007	MechMow/Rx burn
S44	Oxford	Batchelders Grant	Evans Notch Vista*	9	-	-	1	1994	Mech/Rx burn

*Forest-Wide Opening Maintenance – Draft Decision Memo*

<b>Unit #</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Unit Name</b>	<b>Map #</b>	<b>Cmpt #</b>	<b>Stand #</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Last Mtce</b>	<b>Planned Treatment</b>
S45	Oxford	Batchelders Grant	Cold River Vista*	9	-	-	1	1994	Mech/Rx burn
S46	Carroll	Bartlett	Bartlett Vista	12	-	-	1	2008	Mech/Rx burn
S47	Carroll	Bartlett	Mt. Wash Vista	12	-	-	1	2008	Mech/Rx burn
S48	Carroll	Bartlett	Tremont Vista	12	-	-	1	2003	Mech/Rx burn
S49	Carroll	Bartlett	Chocorua Vista*	12	-	-	1	2008	Mech/Rx burn
S50	Grafton	Livermore	Sugar Hill Vista	12/13	-	-	1	2008	Mech/Rx burn
S51	Grafton	Livermore	CL Graham Vista	13	-	-	1	2003	Mech/Rx burn

## Appendix D: Specific Area Maps

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Maps appropriate to a recipient's area(s) of interest are enclosed with this document. Other maps may be requested, or can be viewed and downloaded from the Forest Internet site: <[www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white\\_mountain](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white_mountain)>.

