

**Decision Memo for  
Relocation of  
Lower Nanamocomuck Ski And Moat Mountain Mineral Site Trails And  
Campsite Replacement at Blackberry Crossing Campground  
White Mountain National Forest  
Saco Ranger District  
Towns of Albany and Hales Location,  
Carroll County, New Hampshire**

***The Decision***

Based on my review of the project file and past experience with similar activities on the White Mountain National Forest, it is my decision to relocate 500 feet of the Lower Nanamocomuck Ski Trail, relocate one-half mile of the Moat Mountain Mineral Site Trail, and replace three campsites in the Blackberry Crossing Campground, on National Forest System Lands.

***The Proposal***

The projects are located on two multiple-user trails and one developed campground. The Lower Nanamocomuck Trail and Blackberry Crossing Campground are located in the Town of Albany and the Moat Mountain Mineral Site Trail located in Hales Location, all in Carroll County, New Hampshire. The **Proposed Actions** are outlined below.

**Lower Nanamocomuck Ski Trail Relocation**

This project will relocate an existing 300 foot section of the Lower Nanamocomuck Ski Trail that is being undercut by the Swift River. The Nanamocomuck Ski Trail follows the Swift River and the section to be relocated was damaged by repeated high-flow events that has eroded the river bank to the point where the trail tread has been undermined posing a threat to trail users. The project will construct 500 feet of new trail on more desirable ground located further away from the river's edge.

**Moat Mountain Mineral Site Trail Relocation**

This project will relocate a one-half mile section of shared-use trail located near the Moat Mountain mineral area. Sections of the existing trail proceed through a clearcut payment unit of the Red Moat Timber Sale. The trail is frequented by an array of users and experiences extensive erosion damage caused by poor trail design and location, impacts from mountain bikes and other users, and on-going channeling of the trail as a result of rain events and snow melt.

The trail relocation would be located on terrain better suited for side-slope trail construction, adjacent to the clearcut. The project will also rehabilitate the abandoned trail segment in order to stabilize erosion by constructing water-bars and catch basins to slow runoff and encourage native vegetation to grow in impacted areas.

## **Blackberry Crossing Campground**

Three campsites were obliterated as a result of the recent upgrades at the Blackberry Crossing Campground. The upgrades included an additional parking lot, interpretive signing, and an interpretive trail used to access remnants of a CCC era residential camp currently encompassed in a developed campground. The decision to implement the parking, signing and trail upgrades along with the obliteration of three campsites is documented in 5/26/1995 Decision Notice. As a result of the recent improvement, I am now mitigating the effects of three obliterated campsites by constructing three additional campsites. Two of these new campsites will be in timbered areas and the third campsite located in a mowed area of the campground. Up to ten trees ranging in size from 2 inches to 10 inches in diameter will need to be removed at the two timbered campsites. Tree removal will be kept to a minimum to preserve the forested camping experience.

### ***Category of the Action***

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment. It is my finding that this project meets the criteria under ***Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 31.2 Categories of Actions for Which a Project or Case File and Decision Memo Are Required. The Lower Nanamocomuck and Moat Mountain Mineral Site reside in the following category: 31.2(1) Construction and reconstruction of trails. The Blackberry Campground Campsite Replacement project resides in category 31.1b(5), Repair and Maintenance of Recreation Sites and Facilities.***

### ***Extraordinary Circumstances***

Based on my review of the project file, it is my finding that there are no extraordinary circumstances that would cause this project to have significant effects on the physical or human environment pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 1508.27. I have reviewed the various circumstances that might qualify as extraordinary listed in Forest Service Handbook, Chapter 30.3(2)(g).

### ***Scoping and Analysis***

Field reviews and reviews of inventory data were conducted by the District Wildlife Biologist and/or the District Biological Technician. From the field reviews no federally threatened or endangered species were located.

The District Paraprofessionals conducted Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Reports for the projects. The reports indicated that there were no cultural resources of concern in the area of the relocations. The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources have reviewed the three projects and has determined that there are no known properties of architectural, historical, archaeological, engineering, or cultural significance within the area of the undertakings and no identification or evaluative studies are recommended.

A scoping letter was sent to 147 interested people and/or interested organizations on December 3, 2002. The district received 11 responses, all supportive of the projects. There were no issues identified.

*Administrative Review*

This decision is not subject to administrative appeal, pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 215 (see Part 215.8(a)(4)).

*Contacts*

Questions about this project can be addressed to Dean Yoshina, Project Leader, USDA-Forest Service, Saco Ranger District, 33 Kancamagus Highway, Conway, NH 03818; telephone number (603) 447-5448, ext. 109. Questions about the decision can be addressed to Terry Miller, District Ranger, at the address listed or 603-447-5448 ext. 102.

/s/Terry Miller  
TERRY MILLER  
District Ranger

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DATE

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