



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

White Mountain National Forest
Androscoggin Ranger District

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United States
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Agriculture

Forest
Service

July, 2007



**Parker Sugar Bush and Dorothy Wheeler Spring
Pipeline
Special Use Permit
Renewals**

Scoping Report

**Androscoggin Ranger District
White Mountain National Forest
Towns of Jefferson and Stark,
Coos County, New Hampshire**

For Information Contact: Tom Moore
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300 Glen Road
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www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white_mountain/projects/projects/



What is the Forest Service Proposing?

The Androscoggin Ranger District of the White Mountain National Forest is proposing to renew two Special Use permits currently held by the Rebecca and Wayne Parker, and Dorothy Wheeler for a term of five years. The permits authorize the Parkers to tap maple trees in the Boothman Tract (see map below) of the White Mountain National Forest and Dorothy Wheeler's permit authorizes use of an existing spring and an above-ground 2-inch water pipeline for a domestic, private water system located on National Forest System Lands in the Town of Stark, New Hampshire. Renewing the permits would authorize uses identical to the previous permits, consistent with approved operating plans.

On March 22, 2007 Rebecca and Wayne Parker, requested renewal of their Special Use permit. The Forest Service has issued a Special Use permit to the Parkers since 1991. The last five-year permit was issued on July 20, 2001.

The Special Use permit authorizes the Parkers to tap sugar maple trees on 238 acres of National Forest System lands for the purpose of making maple syrup. The Special Use permit requires the Parkers to submit annual operating plans that identify work projects. The area is inspected annually and compliance with the permit clauses is overseen by a Forest Service permit administrator.

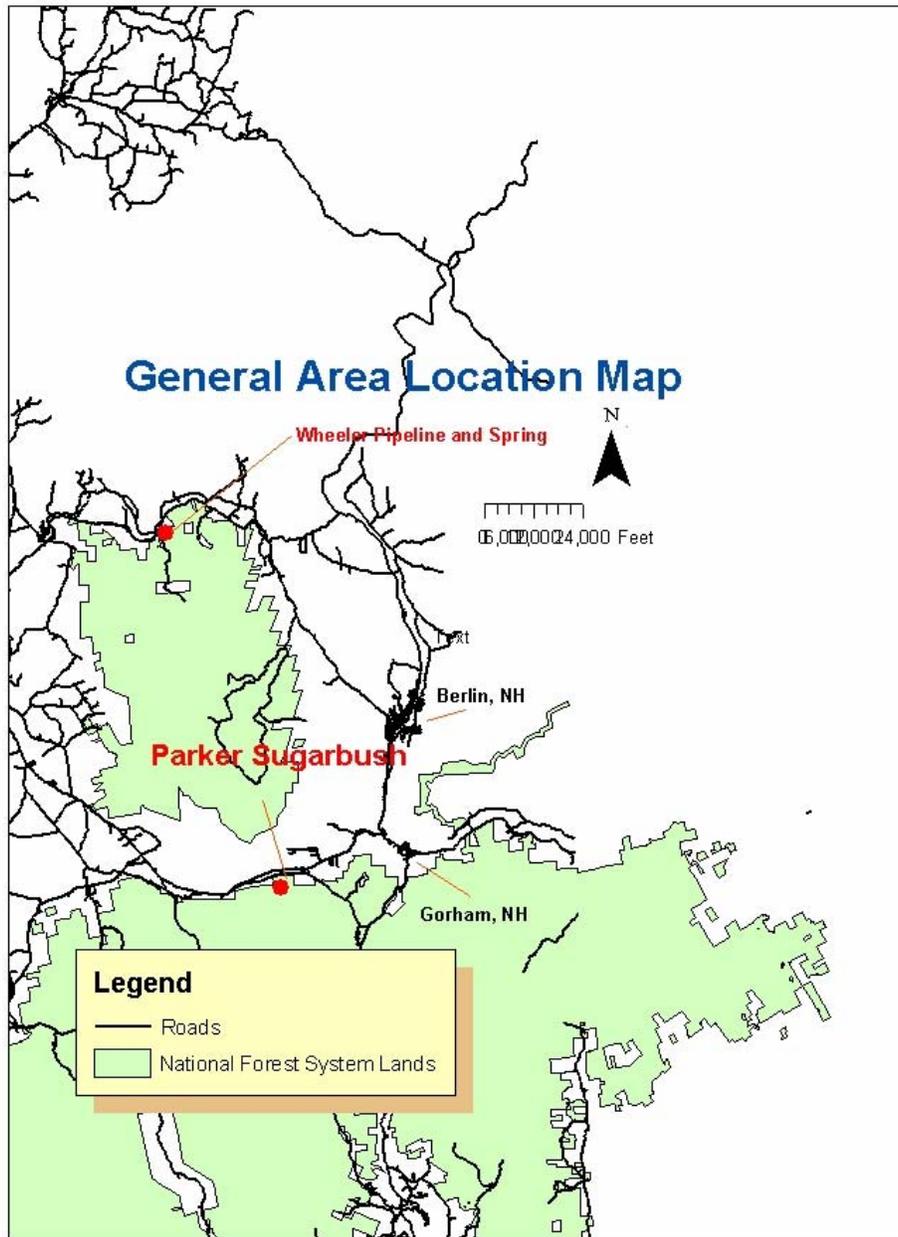
Over the course of the years the Parkers have demonstrated responsible land stewardship by following the annual permit operating plan requirements and they have been responsive to communications and permit administration with the U.S. Forest Service.

Dorothy Wheeler's Special Use Permit expired on August 16, 2006. On May 14, 2007 Mrs. Wheeler requested renewal of her permit that authorizes use of an existing spring and 2" water pipeline for a domestic, private water system. The Forest Service has issued the Special Use permit to Dorothy Wheeler since 1981 with the last five year permit issued on July 16, 2001

Location of the Permit Areas

The Parker's permit area is located in the Boothman Tract area adjacent in the Town of Randolph, Coos County, New Hampshire (see location map) within an approximate 238 acre area of National Forest Land.

Dorothy Wheeler's pipeline is approximately 50 feet southwest of the boundary line corners 24-25, tract 237 (F.L. Blake estate). Associated with the spring is approximately 650 feet of 2 inch pipeline right-of-way which runs to a point midway between corners 22-23, Tract 237 in the Town of Stark, Coos County, New Hampshire. The permit area used for the domestic water supply is less than 1/8th of an acre.



Forest Plan and Management Area Direction

The purpose of the project is to enable the Parkers to continue to tap maple sugar trees on National Forest System Lands and enable Dorothy Wheeler to continue to use a spring for her domestic water supply. Renewing these permits provides a range of public opportunities and benefits in accordance with the Forest Plan.

The need for the project is to address the permittee's requests to renew their Special Use permits.

Nothing in the Special Use permit implies exclusive use of the permit areas. The permits are non-exclusive and allow public recreation and other uses within the permit area on National Forest System land.

Renewing these Special Use permits meets goals and objectives of the White Mountain National Forest by renewing permits when appropriate and in a timely manner (USDA, 2005, White Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan; Ch. 1, page 1-7.) One of the goals of the 2005 Forest Plan for the 2.1 Management Areas is to support local economies (2005 USDA Ch. 1, 1-3) and provide other Forest products on a sustained-yield basis (2005 USDA 3-3).

Dorothy Wheeler's permit area lies within Management Area 2.1 (General Forest Management Area) and the Parker and permit area is located in Management Areas 2.1 and 6.1 (Semi-primitive Recreation Management Area).

Forest Plan Water Uses Standards that apply to the Wheeler spring permit renewal state that:

- S-1 Projects that withdraw water from surface water features or groundwater must ensure that water is maintained at levels that will protect management uses and Forest resources, including aquatic species, their habitats, and water quality.

The permit activities are consistent with first and second level screening criteria as described in FSH 2709.11/12.21 and 2709.11/12.31.

Nothing in the Special Use permit implies exclusive use of the permit areas. The permits are non-exclusive and allow public recreation and other uses within the permit area on National Forest System land

Environmental Analysis

Our environmental analysis will consider your comments as well as those provided by a Forest Service interdisciplinary team. Renewal of the Parker and Wheeler Special Use permits are in the category of actions identified in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15 Chapter 30, Section 31.2 (15): "Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are no changes

to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorizations.”

The Special Use permit holders are not proposing changes in the uses or services provided and authorized under the current permit. We expect this permit renewal to be routine, with no resulting individual or cumulative significant effects on the environment, and therefore the analysis can be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA).

The environmental analysis will include on-site surveys for rare plants and heritage resources and will identify any extraordinary circumstances that exist and could result in significant effects to the environment. In accordance with FSH 1909.15 Chapter 30, the following specific resource conditions will be considered:

- 1) Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.
- 2) Floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds.
- 3) Congressionally designated areas.
- 4) Inventoried Roadless Areas
- 5) Research Natural Areas
- 6) American Indians and Alaska Native Religious or Cultural Sites
- 7) Archaeological Sites, or Historic Properties or Areas

Preliminary Issues

No environmental or administrative issues have been identified to date.

What Decision Will Be Made?

After conducting and reviewing the environmental analysis, including public involvement and resource specialists’ input, the District Ranger of the Androscoggin

Ranger District will decide whether or not to renew the expiring Special Use permits requested by Wayne and Rebecca Parker, and Dorothy Wheeler.

How Are You Involved In The Decision?

We are seeking your comments to help identify issues or concerns associated with the proposal to renew the Special Use permits. The regulations governing this kind of analysis do not allow appeals of the final decision, so we encourage you to share your comments and concerns now so we can incorporate them into the environmental analysis.

How Can You Comment?

In order for your comments to be considered in the next stage of analysis, they should be received by **August 21, 2007** and submitted in one of the following ways:

Written comments

By letter – Androscoggin Ranger District, White Mountain National Forest,
300 Glen Road, Gorham, NH 03581, c/o Katherine W. Stuart, District Ranger

By FAX – (603) 466-2856, ATTN: Parker and Wheeler Permit Renewals, c/o Katherine W. Stuart

By email –

Oral Comments

Oral comments must be received in person at the Androscoggin Ranger Station or via telephone (603) 466-2713 (TTY 603-466-2856), during normal business hours (8:00am – 4:30pm).

In your comments, please include the following information:

- 1) Your name, address and telephone number or email address.
- 2) The project you are commenting on: Parker and Wheeler Special Use Permit Renewals.
- 3) Site specific comments about the proposal along with supporting information you believe will help me identify issues, develop alternatives, or predict environmental effects of our proposal.

Please direct questions to Tom Moore, Permit Administrator at the above address or call 603-466-2713 ext. 226. Please be aware that your name, address and comments will become part of the public record and may be available for public inspection. If this is a concern, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

References

USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service). 2005a. White Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Laconia, NH: USDA-FS, Eastern Region, White Mountain National Forest.

USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service). 2005b Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Laconia, NH: USDA-FS, Eastern Region, White Mountain National Forest.

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If you require this information in alternative format (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (Voice or TDD).

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**This document is available in large print.
Contact the White Mountain National Forest
Androscoggin Ranger District
1-603-466-2713 TTY 1-603-466-2856**

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tmmoore@fs.fed.us

**Parker and Dorothy Wheeler Special Use Permit Renewal
Androscoggin Ranger District – White Mountain National Forest**

**Let us know if you want to stay informed about this project.
Please return this form, call the phone number above, or email
by August 21, 2007**

- 1. To stay informed as the Parker and Dorothy Wheeler Special Use Permit Renewal environmental analysis continues, check all that apply:**

<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive the Parker and Dorothy Wheeler Special Use permit renewal project decision document when the analysis is complete.	-OR-	<input type="checkbox"/> Just send me a note summarizing your final decision.
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I wish to view the Parker and Dorothy Wheeler Special Use permit renewal information in the following format (choose one):

- Electronically on the White Mountain National Forest website:** www.fs.fed.us/r9/white

If you wish to receive an email message when the documents are posted, please write your email address clearly: _____

- In print form received by post** (print name and address):

OR

- 2. Please remove me from the Parker and Dorothy Wheeler Special Use permit mailing list. I do not wish to receive further information about this project.**

From: _____

STAMP

Androscoggin Ranger District
White Mountain National Forest
300 Glen Road
Gorham, NH 03581