



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Forest
Service**

February, 2008



**South Pond Road Association
Special Use Permit
Renewal**

Scoping Report

**Androscoggin Ranger District
White Mountain National Forest
Town of Stark,
Coos County, New Hampshire**

For Information Contact: Tom Moore
Androscoggin Ranger District
White Mountain National Forest
300 Glen Road
Gorham, NH 03581
(603) 466-2713, ext 226
FAX/TTY (603) 466-2856

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 the South Pond Road Association Special Use Permit for a term of ten years. The previous authorization enabled the South Pond Road Association to remove snow, grade, and clean culverts on these roads located.

Renewing the permit would authorize uses identical to the previous permit, consistent with approved operating plans.

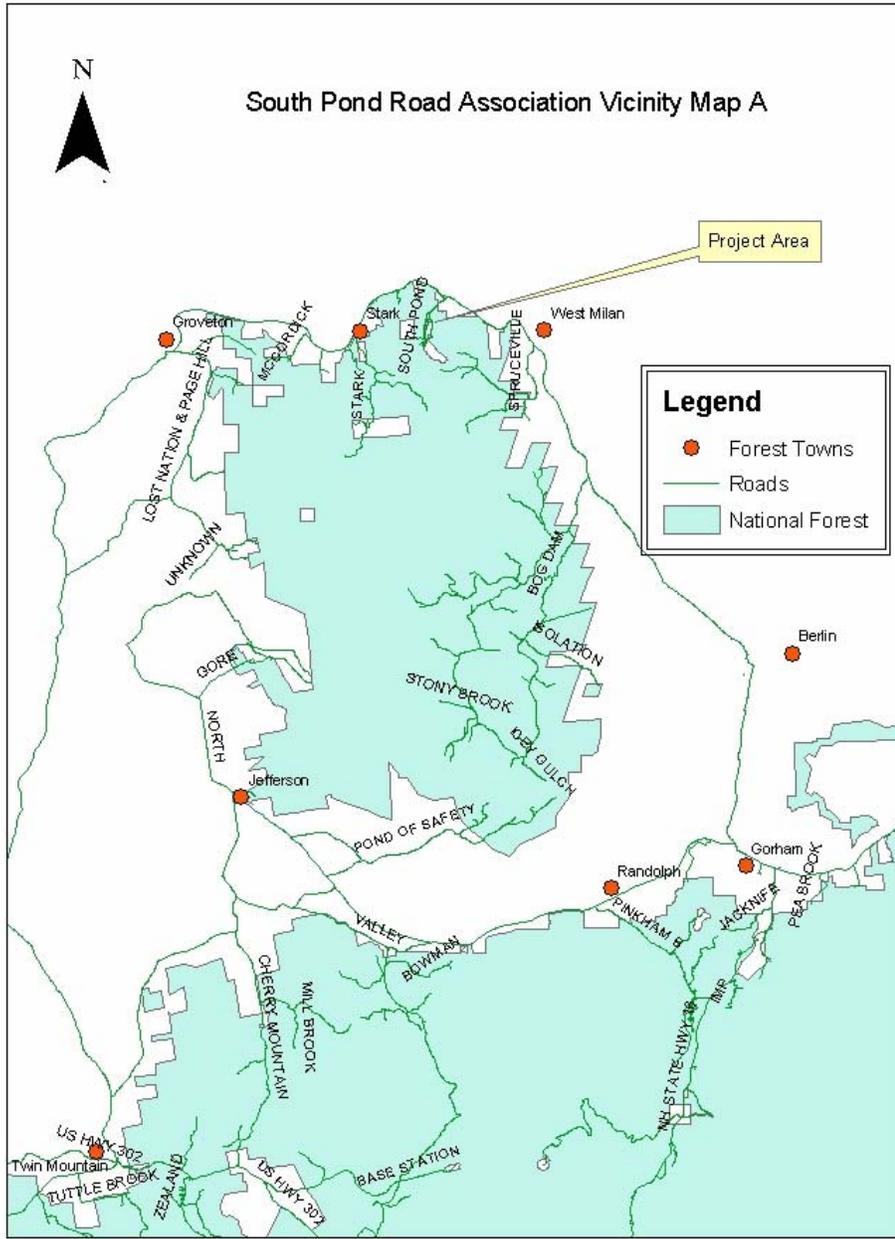
On December 22, 2007 the South Pond Road Association requested renewal of their Special Use Permit. The Forest Service has issued a Special Use Permit to the South Pond Road Association since 1988. Over the course of the years the South Pond Road Association has demonstrated responsible land stewardship by following the annual permit operating plan requirements and they have been responsive to communications and permit administration with the U.S. Forest Service.

The area is inspected annually and compliance with the permit clauses is overseen by a Forest Service permit administrator.

Location Maps of the Permit Area

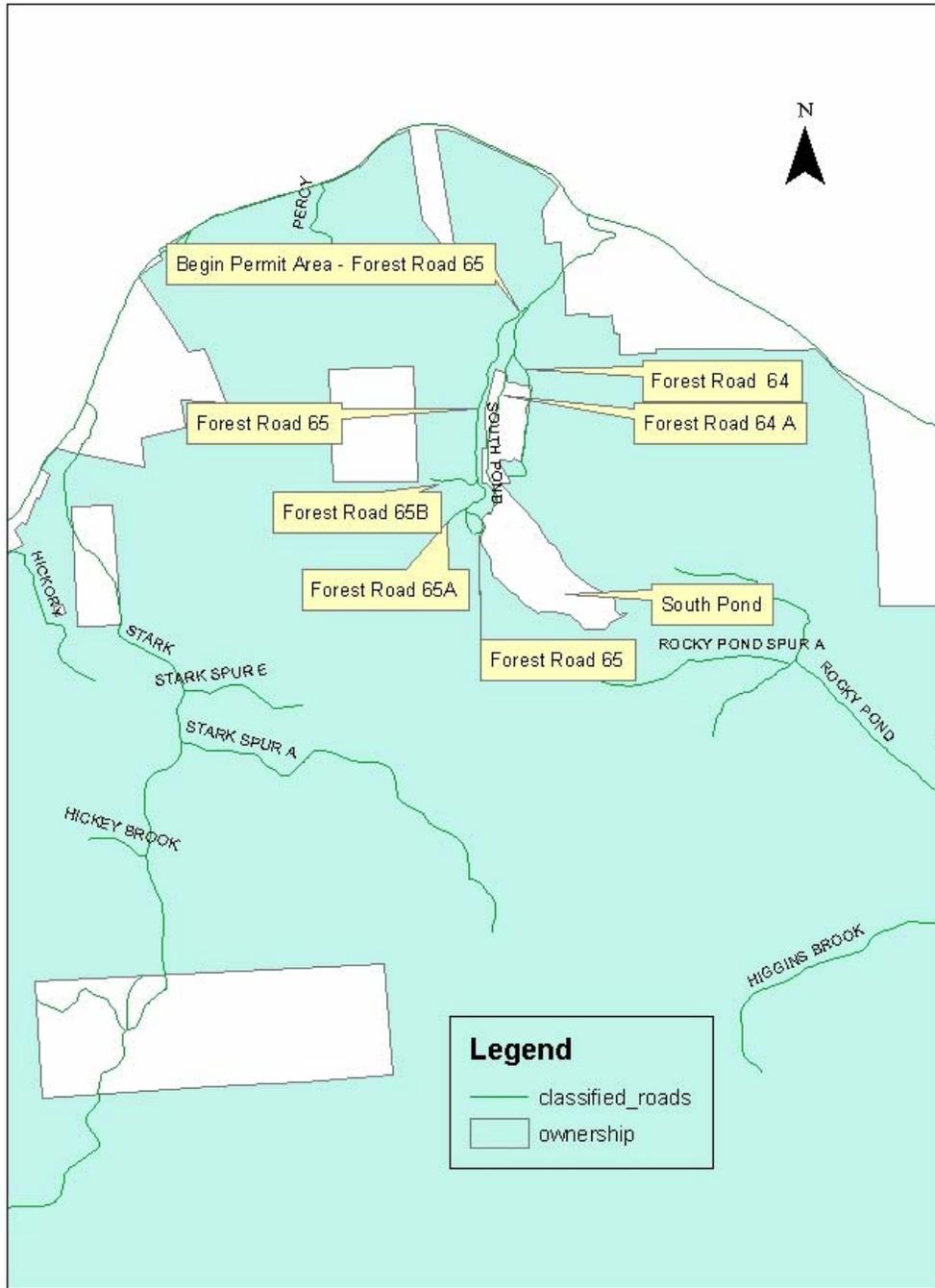
The permit authorizes the South Pond Road Association annual user maintenance of .7 miles of the South Pond Road (FR65) and two .1 mile spur sections (FR 65A and 65B) of road known as the Normand Road off of Forest Road 65.

These Forest Roads are located in U.S. Tracts 813 and 813B on National Forest System Lands in the Town of Stark, New Hampshire. (see Map A General Vicinity Map, and Map B South Pond Road Association next page).



0 13,000 26,000 52,000 Feet

South Pond Road Association Map B



0 2,050 4,100 8,200 Feet

Forest Plan and Management Area Direction

The purpose of the project is to enable the South Pond Road Association to continue to maintain these sections of road that provide access and safe road conditions to the residents and camp owners located on private lands at South and North Pond.

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

Renewing this Special Use Permit meets the 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.) The South Pond Road Association Permit area lies within Management Area 2.1 (General Forest Management Area). 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 area. The permit is non-exclusive and allows 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 South Pond Road Association Special Use Permit is 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 holder is not proposing changes in the uses or services provided and authorized under the current yet expired 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 a survey for rare plants, non-native invasive plants and heritage resources review, and a review for 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 specialist input, the District Ranger of the Androscoggin Ranger District will decide whether or not to renew the expired Special Use Permit.

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 Permit. 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 **March 26, 2008** 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: South Pond Road Association Special Use Permit
Renewal, c/o Katherine W. Stuart

By email – tmmoore@fs.fed.us

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: South Pond Road Association Special Use Permit Renewal.
- 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).

If you require information about this program, activity, or facility in a language other than English, contact the USDA agency responsible for the program or activity, or any USDA office.

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(TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. (REV 03/06/2007)

**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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300 Glen Road

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**South Pond Road Association 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 March 26, 2008**

1. To stay informed as the South Pond Road Association Special Use Permit Renewal environmental analysis continues, check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive the South Pond Road Association 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 South Pond Road Association 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 South Pond Road Association 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