

# White Mountain National Forest



## What is a National Forest?

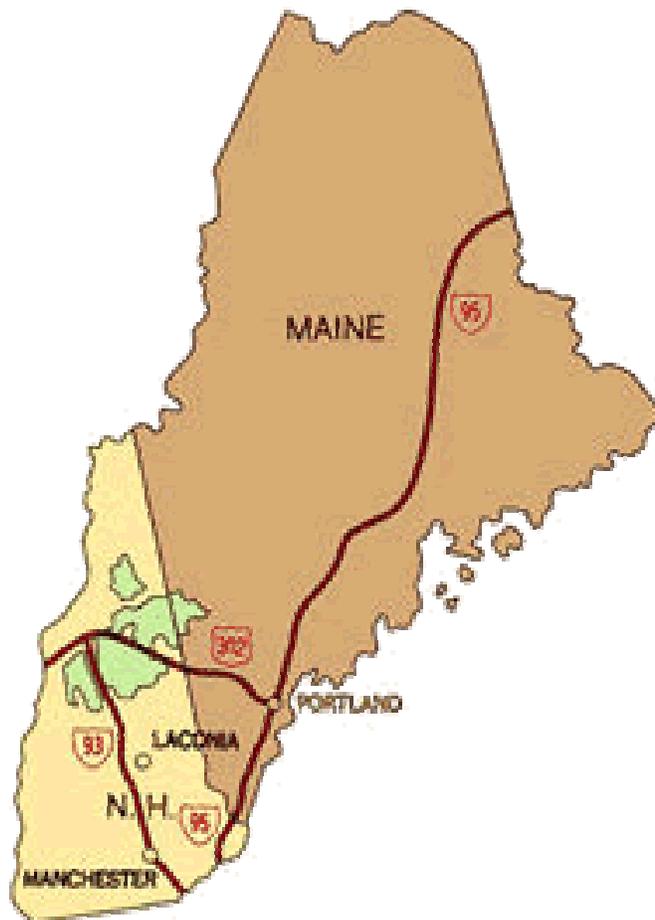
National forests were established to provide clean water sources and forest resources for the nation while protecting and managing the land for future generations. The USDA Forest Service manages the national forests to conserve these resources through a balance of activities and uses, including wildlife habitat and wilderness, clean water, timber and forest products, and recreation. Each national forest is part of the larger National Forest System that includes more than 150 forests from Alaska to Puerto Rico. Unlike National Parks where land is set aside for preservation, National Forests were set aside for conservation, or the wise use of resources through a balance of activities and uses. These include recreation, wildlife habitat, water, timber and wilderness.

## History of the White Mountain National Forest

Public outcry over uncontrolled logging and forest fires forced passage of the Weeks Act in 1911, allowing the federal government to purchase private land east of the Mississippi River. The White Mountain National Forest was established by Presidential proclamation in 1918.

Today, the forest has grown to include almost 800,000 acres in New Hampshire and western Maine, and is one of the most popular forests in the country with upwards of 6 million visitors annually. The White Mountain National Forest is one of the most heavily used forests in the country. People come here to backpack, to camp and picnic, to enjoy scenic drives, to ski and even to go dog sledding!

The map on page vii illustrates the White Mountain National Forest and location of the Forest Discovery Trail, using several towns in New Hampshire and Maine as reference points.



## White Mountain National Forest Facts

### Unique Features

- Mt. Washington is the highest peak north of the Smokey Mountains and east of the Mississippi.
- Tuckerman Ravine is host to unique spring backcountry skiing.
- There are eight square miles of alpine surroundings in the Forest, the largest area east of the Rocky Mountains, and south of Canada.
- The Kancamagus Scenic Byway, at 34 miles long, traverses the heart of the White Mountains.

### Recreation

Recreation opportunities are the most popular attraction at the White Mountain National Forest. People visit year round to experience:

- 1200 miles of hiking trails,
- Approximately 400 miles of snowmobile trails,
- 160 miles of the Appalachian Trail,
- 23 developed campgrounds, with over 800 camping units,
- Six ski touring areas, with over 864,249 skier days per year, and
- Four alpine ski areas.

### Timber Harvest

Harvesting occurs on approximately 0.5% of the entire Forest at any given time, with about 29 million board feet of timber harvested annually. (A million board feet equals wood to build one hundred 1,880 square foot homes.)

Harvesting is done to improve recreation, to create trails or vistas, to create wildlife habitat and to provide wood products.

Over half of the Forest is unavailable to timber harvesting, including 115,000 acres of Congressionally-designated wilderness.

### Wilderness

The White Mountain National Forest contains five congressionally designated Wilderness areas, totaling over 115,000 acres.

- The Great Gulf - 5,552 acres
- The Presidential Range/Dry River Wilderness - 27,380 acres
- The Sandwich Range - 25,000 acres
- The Pemigewasset Wilderness - 45,000 acres
- Caribou-Speckled Wilderness - 12,000 acres

## **Water**

Protecting and ensuring the quality of water resources is a forest priority. The forest continuously restores and revitalizes the vast water resources, including:

- 12,000 acres of wetlands
- 4,750 miles of streams
- 67 lakes
- 35 watersheds

## **Wildlife, Fish, and Plants**

The White Mountain National Forest provides habitat for big and small game, including 184 species of birds (38 species year round, 35 migrants or winter species, and 110 during the summer months). The Forest is also home to several federally listed Threatened and Endangered species.

Partnerships with many other natural resource agencies and groups are an important part of habitat management. For example, in 2002, cooperative efforts between the forest and partners recovered the Robbin's cinquefoil, a member of the rose family native only to the White Mountain, from the Endangered Species list.

## **Heritage Resources:**

The Forest is home to two sites on the National Registers of Historic Places:

- Brickett Place, on Route 113 near the Maine/New Hampshire border.
- Russell Colbath House, on the Kancamagus Scenic Byway, in Albany, NH.

For more information about the White Mountain National Forest, please visit their website at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white\\_mountain/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white_mountain/) or use the contact information on the next page to contact your local Forest Ranger Station.

## White Mountain National Forest Contacts

### **Androscoggin Ranger District**

#### **Gorham Office**

300 Glen Rd  
Gorham, NH 03581-1399  
(603) 466-2713 x 0  
(603) 466-2856 TTY

### **Pemigewasset Ranger District**

#### **Plymouth Office**

1171 NH Rt 175  
Holderness, NH 03245  
(603) 536-1315 (Business Number)  
(603) 536-3281 TTY

#### **Bethlehem Office**

660 Trudeau Rd  
Bethlehem, NH 03574  
(603) 869-2626 (Business Number)  
(603) 869-3104 TTY

### **Saco Ranger District**

33 Kancamagus Highway  
Conway, NH 03818  
(603) 447-5448 x 0  
(603) 447-3121 TTY

### **Supervisor's Office**

719 N Main Street  
Laconia, NH 03246  
(603) 528-8721  
(603) 528-8722 TTY

### **Campton Visitor Center**

I-93, Exit 28  
Campton, NH  
(603) 726-3804

### **Evans Notch Information Center**

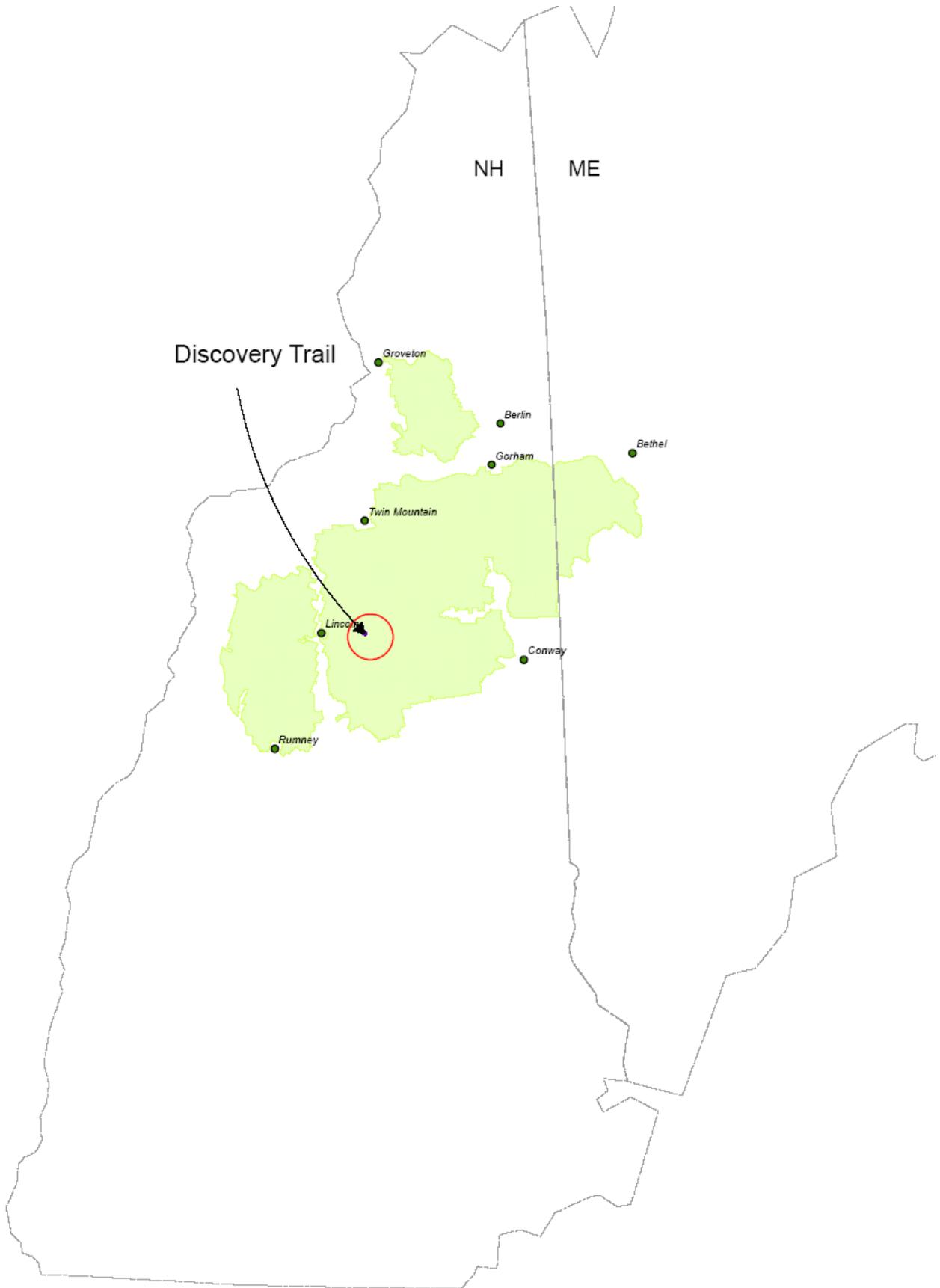
18 Mayville Road Bethel, ME 04217  
(207) 824-2134  
(207) 824-3312 TTY

### **Gateway Visitor Center**

I-93, Exit 32  
Lincoln, NH  
(603) 745-3816

### **Lincoln Woods Visitor Center**

Kancamagus Highway  
Lincoln, NH  
(603) 630-5190



# USDA Forest Service

## “Caring for the Land and Serving People”



### What is the Forest Service?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service is a Federal agency that manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service is also the largest forestry research organization in the world, and provides technical and financial assistance to state and private forestry agencies. Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service, summed up the purpose of the Forest Service—"to provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run."

### When and why was the Forest Service established?

Congress established the Forest Service in 1905 to provide quality water and timber for the Nation's benefit. Over the years, the public has expanded the list of what they want from national forests and grasslands. Congress responded by directing the Forest Service to manage national forests for additional multiple uses and benefits and for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood, and recreation. Multiple use means managing resources under the best combination of uses to benefit the American people while ensuring the productivity of the land and protecting the quality of the environment.

National forests are America's great outdoors. They encompass 191 million acres (77.3 million hectares) of land, which is an area equivalent to the size of Texas. National forests provide opportunities for recreation in open spaces and natural environments. With more and more people living in urban areas, national forests are becoming more important and valuable to Americans. People enjoy a wide variety of activities on national forests, including backpacking in remote, unroaded wilderness areas, mastering an all-terrain vehicle over a challenging trail, enjoying the views along a scenic byway, or fishing in a great trout stream, to mention just a few.

### What does the Forest Service do?

The job of Forest Service managers is to help people share and enjoy the forest, while conserving the environment for generations yet to come. Some activities are compatible. Some are not. You, as a concerned citizen, play a key role. By expressing your views to

Forest Service managers, you will help them balance all of these uses and make decisions in the best interest of the forest and the public.

The Forest Service motto, "*Caring for the Land and Serving People*," captures the spirit of our mission, which we accomplish through five main activities:

- Protection and management of natural resources on National Forest System lands.
- Research on all aspects of forestry, rangeland management, and forest resource utilization.
- Community assistance and cooperation with State and local governments, forest industries, and private landowners to help protect and manage non-Federal forest and associated range and watershed lands to improve conditions in rural areas.
- Achieving and supporting an effective workforce that reflects the full range of diversity of the American people.
- International assistance in formulating policy and coordinating U.S. support for the protection and sound management of the world's forest resources.

## How are the Forest Service offices organized?

There are four levels of national forest offices:

Ranger District: The district ranger and his or her staff may be your first point of contact with the Forest Service. There are more than **600 ranger districts**. The districts vary in size from 50,000 acres (20,000 hectares) to more than 1 million acres (400,000 hectares). Many on-the-ground activities occur on the ranger districts, including trail construction and maintenance, operation of campgrounds, and management of vegetation and wildlife habitat.

National Forest: There are **155 national forests** and **20 grasslands**. Each forest is composed of several ranger districts. The person in charge of a national forest is called the forest supervisor. The headquarters of a national forest is called the supervisor's office. This level coordinates activities between districts, allocates the budget, and provides technical support to each district.

Region: There are **9 regions**, numbered 1 through 10 (Region 7 was eliminated some years ago). The regions are broad geographic areas, usually including several States. The person in charge is called the regional forester. Forest supervisors of the national forests within a region report to the regional forester. The regional office staff coordinates activities

between national forests, monitors activities on national forests to ensure quality operations, provides guidance for forest plans, and allocates budgets to the forests.

National Level: This is commonly called the Washington Office. The person who oversees the entire Forest Service is called the Chief. The Chief is a Federal employee who reports to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Chief's staff provides broad policy and direction for the agency, works with the President's Administration to develop a budget to submit to Congress, provides information to Congress on accomplishments, and monitors activities of the agency.

### **How does the Forest Service carry out its activities?**

National Forest System: The Forest Service manages public lands, known collectively as the National Forest System, located in 44 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The lands comprise 8.5 percent of the total land area in the United States. The natural resources on these lands are some of the Nation's greatest assets and have major economic, environmental, and social significance for all Americans.

Forest Service Research: The Forest Service provides the scientific and technical knowledge necessary to protect and sustain the Nation's natural resources on all lands, providing benefits to people within the capabilities of the land. Research is conducted through a network of forest and range experiment stations and the Forest Products Laboratory.

State and Private Forestry: The Forest Service cooperates with State and local governments, forest industries, other private landowners and forest users in the management, protection, and development of forest land in non-Federal ownership. Activities include cooperation in urban interface fire management and urban forestry. State and Private Forestry works through the regional offices and through a special Northeastern Area office to provide these services.

Administration: The Forest Service provides leadership, direction, quality assurance, and customer service in carrying out agency business and human resource programs, such as Americorps, Job Corps, the Senior Community Service Employment Program, and the volunteer program. The agency hires, trains, evaluates, and promotes its employees; pays employees and contractors; acquires office space, equipment and supplies; and acquires,

supports, and maintains the computer and communications technology needed to ensure efficient and effective operations.

International Forestry: The Forest Service plays a key role in formulating policy and coordinating U.S. support for the protection and sound management of the world's forest resources. It works closely with other agencies such as the Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of State, and the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as with nonprofit development organizations, wildlife organizations, universities, and international assistance organizations. The Forest Service's international work serves to link people and communities striving to protect and manage forests throughout the world.

### **Who are the people of the Forest Service?**

The Forest Service has a workforce of **approximately 30,000 employees** that reflects the full range of diversity of the American people. This includes cultural and disciplinary diversity , as well as diversity in skills and abilities. In the summer, the numbers increase to meet additional need for services by the recreating public. If you are a high school or college student, senior citizen, or interested volunteer, there are opportunities for you in the Forest Service.

For more information about the USDA Forest Service, please visit their website at <http://www.fs.fed.us>.