



Green Mountain *National Forest*

Caring for the Land and Serving People

Gold Panning/Rock Collecting

Gold Panning:

Casual recreational gold panning is allowed on National Forest lands of the Green Mountain National Forest without special permission. Panning must be done by hand and must be for personal, non-commercial use. When panning, special care should be taken to avoid disturbing the riverbed.

Mechanical Excavation:

Machine dredging for gold or other minerals is not allowed in potential wild, scenic, and recreational rivers and significant streams on Green Mountain National Forest. Drill hole exploration, mechanical excavations, or removal of gold in commercial quantities requires a Bureau of Land Management prospecting permit or lease.

The State of Vermont prohibits the operation of suction dredges and regulates the operation of sluice boxes in any watercourse. A permit from the State of Vermont and landowner approval is required for the operation of sluice boxes. To obtain a permit you may call (802) 786-5906.

Mineral Collection:

Forest visitors are welcome to collect mineral specimens by hand so long as it is done for personal use and not as a commercial activity. The Devils Den Area on the Manchester Ranger District is currently closed to the removal of mineral specimens or crystals and any other ground disturbing activity.

Metal Detectors:

The use of metal detectors is allowed except in areas that contain or would be reasonably expected to contain archaeological or historic resources. The use of metal detectors is not allowed in areas designated by Congress as Wilderness.

For more information:

Manchester Ranger District, 2538 Depot St., Manchester Center, VT 05255, (802) 362-2307

Middlebury Ranger District, 1007 Route 7 South, Middlebury, VT 05753, (802) 388-4362

Rochester Ranger District, 99 Ranger Rd., Rochester, VT 05767, (802) 767-4261

Rutland Supervisor Office, 231 North Main St., Rutland, VT 05701, (802) 747-6700

This Recreation Guide is Available in Large Print at Forest Service Information Centers



U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests

231 North Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701



Forest Service

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Website: www.fs.usda.gov/greenmountain

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