



# Welcome to the White Mountain Quarterly

Oct 1 2003 - Dec 31, 2003



## White Mountain National Forest Quarterly (Schedule of Proposed Actions)

### Purpose

The White Mountain Quarterly is published four times annually (October, January, April, July), providing the Forest Service an opportunity to inform and educate interested members of the public about the NEPA process and its application to proposed activities within the White Mountain National Forest. NEPA is an acronym for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and it refers to the process of environmental analysis and public involvement that accompanies proposed projects on the National Forest. The Quarterly includes the Schedule of Proposed Actions, a listing that provides early and informal notice of project proposals so you are aware of Forest Service activities, you can indicate your interest in specific projects, and you can get involved in the environmental analysis process.

### Format

Proposed actions (projects) are listed by the Ranger District where the action would occur, and are keyed to maps showing their approximate locations. Forest-wide projects are listed separately. Each project listing includes a description of the proposal, and the status of public involvement and the analysis.

Each project is assigned a permanent alpha-numeric reference. New projects are assigned the next available reference. As project decisions are made, or as projects are dropped from further consideration, they will no longer appear in the Quarterly (but they will keep their assigned reference).

Project listings are organized by the status of the analysis and are included in one of five categories:

- 1) New Proposed Projects (highlighted on page 2). This includes project proposals that are listed for the first time and will undergo public scoping during this quarter; and long dormant project proposals that are being reconsidered for analysis.
- 2) Projects listed in previous Quarterly that are still undergoing environmental analysis.
- 3) Projects listed in previous Quarterly that are pending or are on hold.
- 4) Projects that have had decisions made since the previous Quarterly (highlighted on page 2).
- 5) Projects that have been withdrawn or have had decisions appealed or litigated since previous Quarterly (none listed for this quarter).

### What's Inside this Issue:

- *Project Highlights for this Quarter*
- *Definition of Key Terms*
- *Page 4 Spotlight: New Appeals Regulations*
- *The Project Planning Process and How You Can Get Involved*
- *Summary of NEPA Accomplishments, Fiscal Year 2003*
- *Map of Proposed Actions*
- *How to Read an EA*
- *Schedule of Proposed Actions (by unit)*
- *How and When to Prepare Comments*

### The White Mountain NEPA Staff includes:

- *Rob Fallon, Forest NEPA Coordinator*
- *Sue Wingate, Ammonoosuc/Pemigewasset District NEPA Coordinator*
- *Pat Nasta, Androscoggin District NEPA Coordinator*
- *Rod Wilson, Saco District NEPA Coordinator*

**Contact information for these folks is included with the project listings**

## How to Use the White Mountain Quarterly

Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comment on a project, get more information, or be placed on the project mailing list, write or call the contact person for that District (see project listing). We value your site-specific involvement. A generic statement of interest in all projects is not specific enough. It is only through **site-specific** input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns

into project development. Project specific involvement is required for standing to appeal a subsequent decision.

The NEPA Quarterly is only one facet of our public involvement process. We will continue to contact directly those people known to be affected by and/or interested in our proposals; including those that have expressed specific interest in certain projects.

## Project Highlights in this Issue of Quarterly

### NEW ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

*If you are on the mailing list for a project listed below, you have or will receive separate notification of its availability; if you are not on the list or are not sure, you may contact the unit NEPA Coordinator to request a copy. See the Schedule of Proposed Actions for descriptions of each of these projects.*

- The **Scoping Report for the Administrative Office Project** (Ammo/Pemi) is available for review and comment. Copies of this report were sent to members of the public who are on the mailing list for recreation projects on the Ammo/Pemi Ranger District.
- The **Scoping Report for the Chandler Round Vegetation Management Project** (Saco) is available for review and comment. Copies of this report were sent to members of the public who are on the mailing list for timber projects on the Saco Ranger District.
- The **Scoping Report for the Warren-to-Woodstock Snowmobile Trail Project** (Ammo/Pemi) is available for review and comment. Copies of this report were sent to members of the public who are on the mailing list for recreation projects on the Ammo/Pemi Ranger District.
- The **Scoping Report for the Tintah Vegetation, Recreation & Wildlife Management Project** (Ammo/Pemi) is available for review and comment. Copies of this report were sent to members of the public who are on the mailing list for timber projects on the Ammo/Pemi Ranger District.
- The **Environmental Assessment for the Peabody Vegetation Management Project** (Andro) has been completed and is currently in the **30-day comment period**. Copies of this EA were sent to those members of the public who provided input during scoping, or who specifically requested the EA.

### NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS

(See Project Listing for details)

#### **Ammo/Pemi District**

Warren-to-Woodstock Snowmobile Trail  
Sugar House Vegetation/Recreation Management  
Tintah Vegetation/Recreation/Wildlife Management

#### **Androscoggin District**

Lower Loop Vegetation Management  
Connor Brook Vegetation Management

#### **Saco District**

Special Use Permit for Driveway, Power Line &  
Phone Line

### DECISIONS MADE IN LAST QUARTER

(See Project Listing for details)

(Page 10 has list of all Decisions made in FY 2003)

#### **Ammo/Pemi District**

Private Road Special Use Permit (Apple Hill Lane)  
Timber Stand Improvement  
Guinea Pond Trailhead Parking

#### **Saco District**

County Line Vegetation Management  
Special Use Permit for Power Line (Stone House Rd)  
Special Use Permit Renewals  
(Chatham Woods Road Association, Lincoln, Yeaton,  
Eastman & Palubeckas)

# Where to Call, Write, or Visit Your White Mountain National Forest Offices

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## Supervisor's Office

White Mountain National Forest  
719 Main Street  
Laconia, NH 03246  
Ph: (603) 528-8721  
TTY: (603) 528-8722

## Saco Ranger District

33 Kancamagus Highway  
Conway, NH 03818  
Ph: (603) 447-2166  
TTY: (603) 447-3121

## Ammonoosuc/Pemigewasset Ranger District

RFD #3, Box 15, Route 175  
Plymouth, NH 03264  
Ph: (603) 536-1315  
TTY: (603) 869-3104

660 Trudeau Road  
Bethlehem, NH 03574  
Ph: (603) 869-2626  
TTY: (603) 869-3104

## Androscoggin Ranger District

300 Glen Road  
Gorham, NH 03581  
Ph: (603) 466-2713  
TTY: (603) 466-2856

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

## Definitions of Key Terms

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*The following are definitions of some of the terms used in the NEPA Quarterly:*

**Appeal Period** — The 45-day period after publication of a decision in which an appeal can be filed. To have “standing” to appeal, a person must have submitted a timely and substantive comment during the comment period.

**Categorical Exclusion (CE)** — A category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

**Comment Period** — The set time period following publication of a legal notice in a newspaper of record when interested persons can provide comments to a Responsible Official on a proposed action.

**Decision Memo (DM)** — A concise written record of the responsible official's decision to implement an action that has been categorically excluded from documentation.

**Decision Notice (DN)** — A concise written record of the responsible official's decision based on an environmental assessment & finding of no significant impact.

**Environmental Assessment (EA)** — A document which presents issues and concerns important to a project, alternate means of accomplishing a project, and environmental effects of each of these alternatives.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** — This document is required for proposed actions that may have significant effects on the human environment. The contents are similar to an environmental assessment, and it includes some additional sections.

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)** — A document prepared by a federal agency presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise excluded, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

**NEPA** — National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The procedural guide for the decision making process for site-specific projects.

**Proposed Action** — A proposal made by the Forest Service to authorize, recommend, or implement an action on National Forest System lands to meet a specific purpose and need which is subject to public notice comment provisions.

**Scoping** — Includes internal and public involvement to determine the range of issues to be addressed. Scoping aids in the development of alternatives for a proposed action.

**Significance** — As used in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), requires consideration of both context and intensity.

## Page 4 Spotlight On: New Appeals Regulations

A regular feature of the White Mountain Quarterly is a spotlight section providing details and discussion about a particular aspect of the NEPA process. In this issue the Page 4 Spotlight focuses on the new Forest Service appeals regulations.

In 1993, the United States Congress passed the “Forest Service Decisionmaking and Appeals Reform Act” (ARA) as part of the “Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act of Fiscal Year 1993”. The ARA mandates that the Forest Service develop a separate process for notice, comment and appeal of National Forest System projects and activities.

Title 36, Part 215 of the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 215) provides the regulations for notice, comment and appeal procedures for projects and activities implementing land and resource management plans on National Forest System lands. On June 4, 2003, the Forest Service amended 36 CFR 215 to establish new regulations for these procedures. The full text of the rule revising these procedures may be found in the Federal Register. (See website at [www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html))

The intent of the new regulations is to clarify and reduce the complexity of certain provisions, improve efficiency of processing appeals, and encourage early and effective public participation in the environmental analysis of projects and activities.

Highlights of the new appeals regulations are listed in the sidebar on this page. The most significant changes relate to Forest Service procedures for:

- **When** to seek formal public comments on a proposed action
- **How** to consider comments received during the formal comment period
- **Who** has standing, and **Who** reviews and issues decisions on appeals



### ***When to seek formal public comments on a proposed action***

**Past Practice:** The Responsible Official would typically seek formal public comment on a proposed action when the Environmental Assessment had been completed.

### ***Highlights: New Appeals Regulations***

- *The new appeals regulations do not replace any procedures required by the National Environmental Policy Act (such as scoping).*
- *The Responsible Official may seek public comment on an EA when it is sufficiently developed (instead of waiting until an EA is completed).*
- *All **substantive** comments received during the public comment period will be considered by the Responsible Official.*
- *Only individuals and organizations who submit **substantive** written or oral comments during the public comment period will be eligible to file an appeal.*
- *It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner.*
- *The comment period for an EA shall not be extended beyond 30 days.*
- *A Response to Comments must be part of Project Planning Record, but does not need to appear in the EA or Decision Notice.*
- *Decisions for actions that have been categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS are not subject to appeal.*
- *When a Decision is appealed, the Appeal Deciding Officer shall be the next level line officer (Example: If a District Ranger is the Responsible Official who made a decision, then the Forest Supervisor is the Appeal Deciding Officer).*

**New Regulations:** Give the Responsible Official discretion to determine the most effective timing for providing the 30-day comment period.

This change does not eliminate the opportunity for the public to comment on proposed actions, it just gives the Responsible Official flexibility in determining when to seek those comments. Further, the changes clarify that

*Continued on Page 5*

# Spotlight On: New Appeals Regulations

Continued from Page 4

the public will have at least two opportunities to participate in project planning: Scoping, and the 30-day Comment Period.

The sidebar below summarizes the differences between the scoping process and the formal comment period. Scoping is required by NEPA, and is an opportunity for the public to provide input to a proposed action early in the planning process. The formal comment period is required by ARA, and is an opportunity for the public to comment on the alternatives considered and their environmental effects. In essence, the 30-day comment

period is where the public can help the Responsible Official decide if there are significant environmental effects from a proposed action and its alternatives, and whether or not there are acceptable trade-offs to implementing one of the alternatives.

In determining the effectiveness of the 30-day comment period, the Forest Service noted that it is critical to achieving the goals of the ARA that those interested in or affected by a proposed action make their concerns and objections known to the Responsible Official *before* a decision has been made.

Continued on Page 6

## Difference between Scoping Process and Comment Period

### Scoping Process

*Public provides input to project planning*

- A process that occurs early in project planning where the public provides input on the **scope** of issues to be addressed relative to a proposed action. Issues identified during scoping are used to develop alternatives and focus the analysis of environmental effects.
- Scoping is a part of any proposed action, regardless of the environmental documentation required.
- **Formal scoping period** — involves distribution of a scoping letter or report, which details purpose and need for action, proposed action, and the decision to be made. The Responsible Official determines the length of this period, which is usually 30 days.
- **Informal scoping** — where new information may be brought forward - may continue right up to the final decision.
- Public input is part of project planning record and is available for public inspection.
- A person providing input during the scoping period does **not** have **standing** to appeal the final project decision.

### Comment Period

*Public comments on Environmental Analysis*

- A uniform period, prior to a final decision, when the public may comment on a proposed action (including alternatives) that has been analyzed and documented in an EA or EIS.
- Categorically excluded projects do not require a comment period and can not be appealed.
- An **EA** requires a strict 30-day comment period (can not be extended) and can be appealed. This formal comment period has typically occurred when an EA has been completed; but the new regulations give the Responsible Official the option to seek formal comment earlier in the process.
- An **EIS** requires a 45-day comment period and can be appealed. This formal comment period occurs when a Draft EIS has been completed.
- Public comments are part of project planning record and are available for public inspection.
- Only those members of the public who provide **timely and substantive** comments during the formal comment period for the EA or EIS are **eligible to appeal** the Responsible Official's final decision on the project.

# Spotlight On: New Appeals Regulations

*Continued from Page 5*

The change in the rule highlights this important point by allowing the Responsible Official the flexibility to determine when in the environmental analysis process public comments would be most useful and meaningful in helping him or her make a decision.

An example of when a Responsible Official may use this flexibility to get public input is when the analysis is substantially complete, but he or she must await some additional field data before making a decision.

## ***How to consider comments received during the formal comment period***

**Past Practice:** The Responsible Official would consider and respond to any comments received during the 30-day comment period, regardless of how these comments related to the proposed action.

**New Regulations:** Only substantive comments will be considered for project planning purposes.

*Continued on Page 7*

## ***Summer 2003: Chief Approves New Categorical Exclusions***

- On **June 5, 2003**, Interim Directive 1909.15-2203-1 was approved for use. This directive, which expires on December 5, 2004, establishes categorical exclusions for hazardous fuels reduction activities and post-fire rehabilitation activities. These are “Categories of Actions for Which a Project or Case File and Decision Memo are Required.”
  - 31.2.10** — Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire, not to exceed 4,500 acres, and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning. Pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres.
  - 31.2.11** — Post-fire rehabilitation activities, not to exceed 4,200 acres (such as tree planting, fence replacement, habitat restoration, heritage site restoration, repair of roads and trails, and repair of damage to minor facilities such as campgrounds), to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition from wildland fire damage, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire.
- On **July 29, 2003**, Interim Directive 1909.15-2003-2 was approved for use. This directive, which expires January 29, 2005, establishes categorical exclusions for limited harvest activities of live trees to maintain forest health and improve stand conditions, salvage dead and dying trees, and conduct sanitation harvests in response to ongoing insect and disease infestations. All 3 categories include incidental removal of live or dead trees for landings, skid trails, and road clearing. These are “Categories of Actions for Which a Project or Case File and Decision Memo are Required.”
  - 31.2.12** — Harvest of live trees not to exceed 70 acres, requiring no more than 1/2-mile of temporary road construction. (Not intended for even-aged regeneration harvest or vegetation type conversion.)
  - 31.2.13** — Salvage of dead and/or dying trees not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than 1/2-mile of temporary road construction. Examples include harvest of a portion of a stand damaged by wind or ice event, or harvest of fire-damaged trees.
  - 31.2.14** - Commercial and non-commercial sanitation harvest of trees to control insects or disease not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than 1/2-mile of temporary road construction, including removal of infested/infected trees and adjacent live uninfested/uninfected trees as determined necessary to control the spread of insects or disease.

# Spotlight On: New Appeals Regulations

Continued from Page 6

The 30-day comment period is intended to solicit information and concerns specific to the proposed action and its alternatives, and to provide such comments to the Responsible Official before the decision is made. It has been the experience of the Forest Service that, when comments are received that are not within the scope of the proposed action or not specific to the proposed action or do not include supporting reasons for concern, they are not useful for consideration in project planning or in reaching a decision.

The new regulations define a “timely and substantive comment” (see sidebar right), and leave it to the Responsible Official to determine if comments meet this definition.

The *scope* of a proposed action is determined by the *purpose and need* for the action (which is found in Chapter One of an EA). The purpose and need for an action is determined by the Forest Plan, which allows a National Forest to address a resource condition by taking an action. The more *specific* a comment is to the proposed action, the more useful it can be in helping the Responsible Official reach a decision.

- An example of a comment that **is not** within the scope of a proposed action: “The Forest Service should not harvest timber.” Congress authorizes the Forest Service to harvest timber on National Forest lands, a Forest Plan determines how much timber can be sustainably harvested.
- An example of a comment that **is** within the scope of a proposed action: “The proposed action should consider harvesting only those stands accessible by the existing road system, because the soils in the project area are too unstable to support new road construction.”
- A further example of a comment **specific** to the proposed action: “During a recent hike in Stand 36, I discovered two ginseng plants. I am willing to show you the location of these plants, and ask that you consider not harvesting this unit to protect these plants and others that might exist.”

## ***Who has standing, and Who reviews and issues decisions on appeals***

**Past Practice:** Anyone who expressed an interest in a proposed action had “standing”, or was eligible to appeal a decision. All decisions made on National Forests

## ***A Timely and Substantive Comment***

***IF you want the Responsible Official making the decision on a project that has been documented in an EA or an EIS to consider your comments, AND you wish to retain the ability to appeal that decision to a higher level, THEN:***

- You must submit a timely and substantive comment during the official comment period (30 days for an EA, and 45 days for a Draft EIS).
- A timely comment is one which is submitted within the prescribed comment period (see page 20).
- A substantive comment is one which is within the scope of the proposed action (and its alternatives), is specific to the proposed action, has a direct relationship to the proposed action, and includes supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. It provides meaningful and useful information about your concerns and issues, and can be used to enhance project analysis and planning (see page 23).

were appealed to a central point, usually to the Regional Forester.

**New Regulations:** Only those individuals and organizations submitting “timely and substantive comments” during the 30-day comment period have standing to appeal a project decision. Decisions will be appealed to the next level above the Responsible Official. A Forest Supervisor will decide an appeal of a District Ranger decision; a Regional Forester will decide an appeal of a Forest Supervisor decision.

The ARA makes clear that an individual or organization must participate in the formal comment period to establish standing to appeal a decision. This change clarifies that requirement and adds emphasis to the Forest Service goal of encouraging early and meaningful public participation. The ARA does not require that appeals go to a central point. The change in who decides an appeal is intended to enhance communication within the Forest Service chain of command, and encourage collaborative decision making.

# The Project Planning Process & How You Can Be Involved

The Forest Service decision-making process provides opportunities for interested parties to give their ideas and opinions about resource management. This input is important in helping us identify resource needs, which will shape the alternatives evaluated and lead to the formation of a decision.

There are several points in the planning process during which you can be the most helpful, but exact steps and timing may vary depending on the type and complexity of the project. The planning process may be relatively short for small, non-complex projects, or several years for large, complex projects.

## Step One – Need for a Project

<b>The Process</b>	<b>How You Can be Involved</b>
Identify need for project — Forest Service, business, organization, government entity, or individual suggests a project.	Bring need for a project to attention of Forest Service.

## Step Two— Develop Project Proposal

<b>The Process</b>	<b>How You Can be Involved</b>
Develop site specific, detailed project proposal (Forest Service or other project proponent)	Develop project proposal, provide input and ideas.

## Step Three – Scoping (Public Comment)

<b>The Process</b>	<b>How You Can be Involved</b>
Scoping — Solicit public comment on the site-specific proposal to identify issues and impacts. (How proposal might affect forest resources and uses. How proposal could be done differently.) This defines the scope of environmental analysis needed and the range of alternatives that should be considered.	Request participation in scoping process — either by notifying the project contact (see project listings) or assuring that you are on the mailing list for projects that are of interest to you (contact Forest NEPA Coordinator). Provide site-specific comments — suggest issues, alternatives, or mitigation measures.

## Step Four – Develop Reasonable Range of Alternatives

<b>The Process</b>	<b>How You Can be Involved</b>
If scoping and analysis determine the proposal fits a categorical exclusion, then the Responsible Official makes and documents decision (not subject to appeal). If scoping and analysis determines the proposal requires an EA or EIS, then develop range of alternatives based on the issues raised during scoping. One alternative will maintain the “status quo” (No Action). Any other alternatives will vary from the status quo in response to the need for change.	When commenting on the project proposal, suggest variations to the original proposal that are responsive to the purpose and need. Constructive, thoughtful, and site-specific comments and suggestions are the most useful in generating alternatives to the proposal. Comments that simply affirm or criticize the proposal are much less useful in defining issues or developing alternatives.

## Step Five –Environmental Analysis (Public Comment)

<b>The Process</b>	<b>How You Can be Involved</b>
<p>Conduct environmental analysis, identify a proposed action, and solicit public comment. The public comment period for a Draft EIS is 45 days. For an EA, the comment period is 30 days. Decision Memos do not require a comment period.</p> <p>A copy of the EIS (or EA, or Decision Memo) will be mailed to those who request it, and to those who have participated in the scoping process.</p> <p>A legal notice, requesting comments, will be published in the newspaper of record for the District in which the proposed action is located (36 CFR 215.5).</p>	<p>Provide comments on the environmental analysis. Federal Regulations (36 CFR 215.6) require that comments are timely (received by close of comment period) and substantive, and include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Name, address, telephone number (if possible)</li> <li>2) Title of the document(s) on which comment is being submitted, and</li> <li>3) Substantive comments are within the scope of the proposed action, asre specific to the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Deciding Official to consider.</li> </ol>

## Step Six –Decision

<b>The Process</b>	<b>How You Can be Involved</b>
<p>Notice of decision will be published in the newspaper of record. Copies of the decision document will be sent to those who submitted comments on the proposed action, either before or during the comment period (36 CFR 215.9).</p>	<p>Review the decision. You have the option to appeal the decision through administrative process (where applicable)</p>

## Step Seven – Appeal

<b>The Process</b>	<b>How You Can be Involved</b>
<p>Appeal period will be open for 45 days following legal notice of decision in the newspaper of record, except if no one expressed interest and there is no change from the proposed action (36 CFR 215.10).</p>	<p>File Notice of Appeal (36 CFR 215.14 lists contents for an appeal). Only those who submitted substantive comments during the official comment period will be eligible to appeal (36 CFR 215.11).</p>

## Step Eight – Implmentation

<b>The Process</b>	<b>How You Can be Involved</b>
<p>Implement the project.</p>	<p>Contribute labor, equipment, or funding.</p>

## Step Nine – Monitor and Evaluate

<b>The Process</b>	<b>How You Can be Involved</b>
<p>Monitor and evaluate the project results.</p>	<p>Provide feedback on the project.</p>

# Summary of NEPA Accomplishments – Fiscal Year 2003

## What is a NEPA Accomplishment?

September 30 marked the end of the Forest Service Fiscal Year. For the White Mountain National Forest this is a time to look back on the previous 12 months and get a measure of our accomplishments over that time. For NEPA an accomplishment is measured as a Decision to implement (or not to implement) a project. Listed below are those projects which had been listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions over the past 12 months, and for which a Decision has been signed. Decisions may have been a:

- **Letter to the File** (documenting analysis and decision for a project which is Categorically Excluded, but for which a case file and Decision Memo are not required — Category 31.1 Exclusions)
- **Decision Memo (DM)** (documenting analysis and decision for a project which is Categorically excluded, and for which a case file and Decision Memo are required — Category 3.2 Exclusions)
- **Decision Notice (DN)** (documenting decision for a project analyzed in an Environmental Assessment)
- **Record of Decision (ROD)** (documenting decision for a project analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement — there were no Records of Decision signed on the WMNF in FY 2003)

No decisions were appealed, litigated, or withdrawn on the White Mountain NF in Fiscal Year 2003.

See map on pages 12-13 for the location of these projects (each project has an alpha-numeric reference.)

## October 2002 – January 2003

### Letters to the File

**Russell Pond Campground Host Site**  
(Ammo/Pemi District, AP2-7)  
Letter signed October 31, 2002

**Big Rock Campground Solar Well**  
(Ammo/Pemi District, AP2-3)  
Letter signed November 4, 2002

**Sugarloaf I Campground Well & Septic**  
(Ammo/Pemi District, AP2-1)  
Letter Signed November 6, 2002

### Decision Memos

**Small Whorled Pogonia Release**  
(Saco District, S6)  
DM signed December 4, 2002

**Hermit Lake Well & Water System**  
(Androscoggin District, AN5)  
DM signed December 5, 2002

### No Decision Notices

## January 2003 – April 2003

### No Letters to the File

### Decision Memos

**Welch-Dickey Parking Expansion**  
(Ammo/Pemi District, AP7)  
DM signed February 13, 2003

### No Decision Notices

## Projects which have been dropped from the Schedule of Proposed Actions without a Decision in Fiscal Year 2003

**Ruffed Grouse & Woodcock Habitat Improvement**  
(Ammo/Pemi District, AP5-1)

**Algonquin & Ridgepole Trailhead Parking**  
(Ammo/Pemi District, AP8-1, 8-3)

**Domestic Spring**  
(Androscoggin District, AN8)

**Wildcat Mountain Resort Improvements**  
(Androscoggin District, AN11)

## April 2003 – July 2003

### Letters to the File

#### ***Bartlett Roads Improvement***

(Saco District, S8)  
Letter signed May 28, 2003

### Decision Memos

#### ***Verizon Telecommunications Fiber Optic***

(Ammo/Pemi District, AP12)  
DM signed April 2, 2003

#### ***Log Cabin Composting Toilet***

(Androscoggin District, AN1)  
DM signed May 9, 2003

#### ***Great Brook Aquatic Restoration***

(Saco District, S7)  
DM signed May 22, 2003

#### ***Lower Nanamocomuck Ski Trail Relocation, Moat Mountain Mineral Site Trail Relocation, & Blackberry Crossing Campground***

(Saco District, S1, S4, S18)  
DM signed June 10, 2003

#### ***Moose Mountain Shelter Relocation***

(Ammo/Pemi District, AP4)  
DM signed June 12, 2003

#### ***Domestic Septic System & Drainfield***

(Androscoggin District, AN10)  
DM signed June 24, 2003

#### ***Rocky Pond Snowmobile Trail***

(Androscoggin District, AN4)  
DM signed June 30, 2003

### Decision Notices

#### ***Rocky Gorge Reconstruction***

(Saco District, S10)  
DN signed April 16, 2003

#### ***Tripoli East Vegetation Management***

(Ammo/Pemi District, AP18)  
DN signed May 6, 2003

#### ***Nubble Vegetation Management***

(Ammo/Pemi District, AP9)  
DN signed June 2, 2003

#### ***Iron-Maple Vegetation Management***

(Saco District, S16)  
DN signed June 6, 2003

## July 2003 – October 2003

### Letters to the File

#### ***Livermore Parking Area Toilet***

(Ammo/Pemi District, AP2-4)  
Letter signed September 17, 2003

#### ***Guinea Pond Trailhead Parking***

(Ammo/Pemi District, AP8-2)  
Letter signed September 17, 2003

### Decision Memos

#### ***Private Road Special Use Permit for Existing Road (Apple Hill Lane)***

(Ammo/Pemi District, AP20)  
DM signed August 15, 2003

#### ***Special Use Permit Renewals:***

***(Chatham Woods Road Assoc., Elizabeth Lincoln,  
Robert Yeaton, John Eastman, Aurelio Palubeckas***  
(Saco District, S17)

DM signed September 3, 2003

#### ***Special Use Permit for Existing Power Line (Stone House Road)***

(Saco District, S20)  
DM signed September 2, 2003

#### ***Timber Stand Improvement***

(Ammo/Pemi District, AP19)  
DN signed September 17, 2003

### Decision Notices

#### ***County Line Vegetation Management***

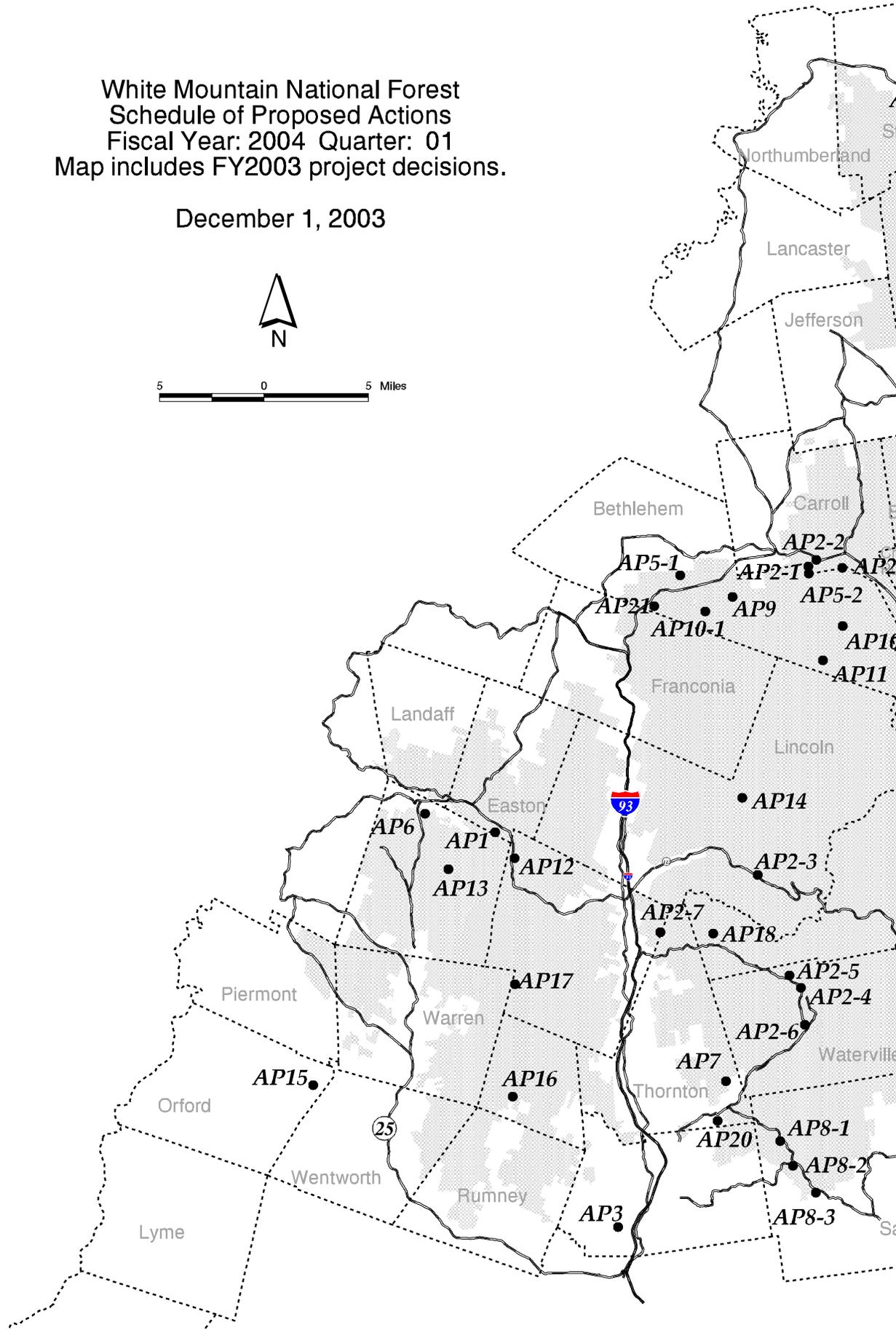
(Saco District, S5)  
DN signed July 3, 2003

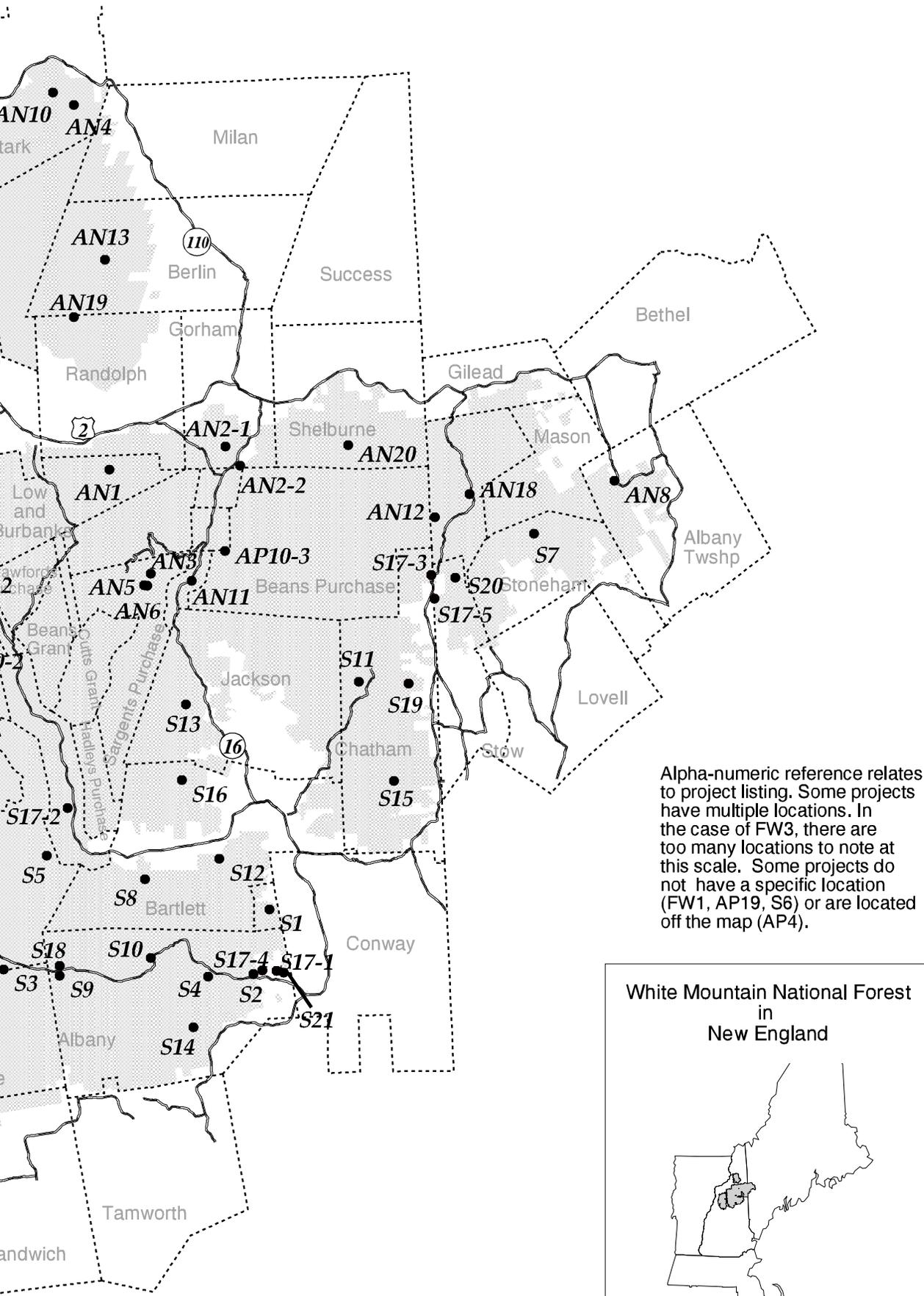
White Mountain National Forest  
Schedule of Proposed Actions  
Fiscal Year: 2004 Quarter: 01  
Map includes FY2003 project decisions.

December 1, 2003

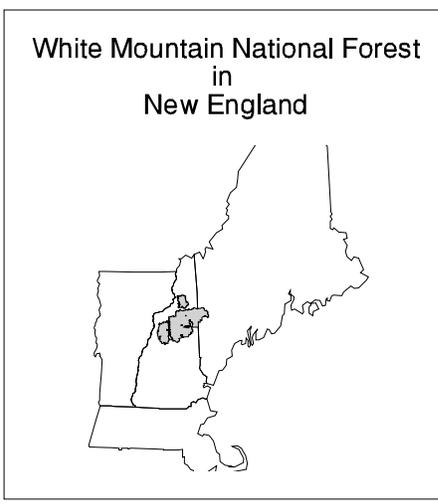


5 0 5 Miles





Alpha-numeric reference relates to project listing. Some projects have multiple locations. In the case of FW3, there are too many locations to note at this scale. Some projects do not have a specific location (FW1, AP19, S6) or are located off the map (AP4).



# What's In an Environmental Assessment

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The following describes some of the key components found in an Environmental Assessment for a White Mountain National Forest project.

## ***Cover Sheet***

Briefly identifies project name and location, responsible officials, and a contact for additional information.

## ***Summary***

Provides an executive summary of the document, including a brief description of the purpose and need, proposed action, decision to be made, alternatives considered, and the preferred alternative.

## ***Chapter 1 — Purpose and Need for Action***

Provides background information (including a location map) and describes the purpose and need for action (including the relationship to Forest Plan direction), proposed action, decisions to be made, public involvement, and issues used to develop alternatives.

## ***Chapter 2 — Alternatives, including Proposed Action***

Describes in detail the proposed action and the range of alternatives considered in the analysis (including alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed study). May also provide detailed maps and/or diagrams of the alternatives and mitigation measures common to all alternatives (these are measures prescribed to offset or rectify potential environmental effects) - or it may refer to these items in the Appendices. A table comparing key elements of the alternatives concludes Chapter 2.

## ***Chapter 3 — Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences***

Discloses the expected environmental consequences and any effects on resources within the project area for each of the alternatives. Direct, indirect and cumulative effects are disclosed for soils, vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, water quality and quan-

tity, and air. These effects are also disclosed for transportation, recreation, visual quality, cultural resources, socioeconomics, and, where applicable, roadless or Wilderness characteristics.

## ***Chapter 4 — Preparation & Consultation***

Lists the individuals who prepared the document, and a list of agencies, organizations and persons involved in public scoping.

## ***Appendices***

May provide more specific information related to the analysis. The content of the Appendices will vary depending on the nature of the project. Most often, the Appendices provide more detailed information or analysis on topics that are of particular concern. This could include the Biological Evaluation (determination of effects on Threatened and Endangered species), Tables for Management Indicator Species or for Species Viability Concerns, transportation report or roads analysis, Forest Plan references, response to public comments, bibliography of literature cited, and a glossary of terms used in the document, or any of a number of other supporting documents.

## ***Project Planning Record***

Although not a part of the actual environmental assessment document, the project planning record is an integral part of the analysis, providing the supporting documentation, references, research, monitoring data, communication and background. These items are generally not included in the document due to technical nature or excessive length, or because they are reference materials used to develop the analysis in the document. Members of the public may have access to the project planning record; and they can request the opportunity to view these files at the designated office, or they may pay to have copies of documents made and mailed.



# Schedule of Proposed Actions

## Supervisor's Office – Forest-Wide Projects Forest Supervisor — Tom Wagner

For information on any of the following Forest-wide projects, contact:  
Rob Fallon, Forest NEPA, Appeals and Litigation Coordinator  
719 Main Street  
Laconia, NH 03246  
E-mail: rfallon@fs.fed.us  
Phone: (603) 528-8769, TTY (603) 528-8722, FAX (603) 528-8783

### New Proposed Forest-wide Projects

—NONE—

### Previously Proposed Forest-wide Projects — Environmental Analysis in Progress

<b>FW1</b>	<b>LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION</b> <b>Location:</b> White Mountain National Forest <b>Proposal:</b> Environmental Impact Statement for Revision of White Mountain National Forest Plan <b>Project Status:</b> Forest Planning Team is finalizing alternatives, standards and guidelines and management area prescriptions. Draft Land and Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement expected in Winter 2004.
<b>FW3</b>	<b>FOREST-WIDE WILDLIFE OPENING MAINTENANCE, FUELS REDUCTION AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT</b> <b>Location:</b> White Mountain National Forest <b>Proposal:</b> Development of 5-Year Program for Wildlife Opening Maintenance, Fuels Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Utilizing Prescribed Burning or Mechanical Treatments <b>Project Status:</b> This proposal combines elements of two previously listed projects from the Androscoggin District (Wildlife Opening Maintenance and Oak/Pine Restoration) with new projects from all three Districts of the National Forest. The objective is to develop a 5-year Forest-wide program for prescribed burning and mechanical treatments that targets maintenance of existing wildlife openings, reduction of fuels for potential wildfires, and promotion or restoration of under-represented ecosystems. Scoping for this project proposal was done in June 2003, Decision(s) expected January/February 2004.

### Previously Proposed Forest-wide Projects — Environmental Analysis Pending or Deferred

—NONE—

### Completed Forest-wide Decision Documents Since Last Schedule of Proposed Actions (July 2003)

—NONE—

# Schedule of Proposed Actions

## Ammonoosuc/Pemigewasset Ranger District District Ranger — John Serfass

**For information on any of the following Ammo/Pemi projects, contact:**  
Sue Wingate, District NEPA Coordinator  
RFD #3, Box 115  
Plymouth, NH 03266-9103  
E-mail: swingate01@fs.fed.us  
Phone: (603) 536-1315, TTY (603) 536-3281, FAX (603) 536-5147

### New Proposed Projects on the Ammo/Pemi

<b>AP17</b>	<p><b>WARREN-TO-WOODSTOCK SNOWMOBILE TRAIL</b> <b>Location:</b> Towns of Warren and North Woodstock, Grafton County, NH <b>Proposal:</b> Previously proposed as the “Warren-Woodstock Historic Trail”, this project proposes to utilize portions of the historic trail, as well as other existing Forest Service roads and new trail locations as a north-south snowmobile corridor to replace the existing Corridor #11 on the railroad right-of-way adjacent to I-93 <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping letter and report has been mailed, persons interested in providing input should contact District NEPA Coordinator for a copy, Decision expected in Summer 2004</p>
<b>AP21</b>	<p><b>SUGAR HOUSE VEGETATION &amp; RECREATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT</b> <b>Location:</b> Towns of Bethlehem and Franconia, Grafton County, NH <b>Proposal:</b> Vegetation management on approximately 450 stand acres, including harvest of approximately 4.0 mmbf of timber and wildlife habitat improvement <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping planned for January 2004, Decision expected in Summer 2004</p>
<b>AP22</b>	<p><b>TINTAH VEGETATION, RECREATION &amp; WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROJECT</b> <b>Location:</b> Zealand Valley, Towns of Bethlehem and Carroll, Grafton County, NH <b>Proposal:</b> Vegetation management on approximately 1,000 stand acres, including harvest of approximately 3.5 mmbf of timber and wildlife habitat improvement; also includes a unit from the former “Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Habitat Improvement Project” (see AP5-2 on map) which proposes mechanical regeneration of speckled alder on 10 acres; and a proposal to increase trailhead parking on Forest Road 16 <b>Project Status:</b> The western portion of the Project Area was previously proposed as the Trestle Timber Sale in June 1999, and withdrawn for further analysis in August 1999. The eastern portion of the Project Area was scoped as the Oscar Sale in January 1999. The 10-acre Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Habitat Improvement Project was scoped in January 2002. The Scoping letter and report for the Tintah Project has been mailed, persons interested in providing input should contact District NEPA Coordinator for a copy, Decision expected in Summer 2004</p>

**Previously Proposed Projects on the Ammo/Pemi  
Environmental Analysis in Progress**

<b>AP2</b>	<p><b>VARIOUS SMALL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS</b>  <b>Locations:</b> Osceola Vista (AP2-5) and Waterville Campground (AP2-6), Town of Waterville Valley, Grafton County, NH; and Zealand Campground (AP2-2), Town of Carroll, Coos County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Sewage and/or water improvement projects  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping planned Winter 2004, Decision expected Spring 2004  <b>Note:</b> District Ranger has made decisions on Livermore Trailhead Parking, which was previously included in this Project (see “Completed Decision Documents” for description of the decision).</p>
<b>AP3</b>	<p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Blair Bridge, Exit 27 on I-93, Town of Campton, Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Construction of the combined Ammonoosuc/Pemigewasset Ranger District office and White Mountain National Forest Supervisor’s office on a site purchased by the Forest Service for this purpose.  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping letter and report has been mailed, persons interested in providing input should contact District NEPA Coordinator for a copy, Decision expected in Spring 2004.</p>
<b>AP6</b>	<p><b>RAMSEY BASIN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Town of Benton, Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Vegetation management on approximately 250 stand acres, including harvest of approximately 1.5 MMBF of timber and wildlife habitat improvement  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping completed February 2002, Decision expected late Spring 2004</p>
<b>AP11</b>	<p><b>AMC HYDRO POWER SYSTEM PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Town of Bethlehem, Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Reissue of existing permit for hydro system for the Zealand hut  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping planned for Fiscal Year 2004, waiting for response from FERC</p>
<b>AP16</b>	<p><b>ELLSWORTH VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Towns of Ellsworth &amp; Rumney, Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Vegetation management on approximately 3,000 stand acres and harvest of approximately 1.5 MMBF of timber  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping expected in Fall 2004, Decision expected in Fiscal Year 2005</p>

**Note on Two Previously Proposed Projects on the Ammo/Pemi**

<b>AP5</b>	<p><b>RUFFED GROUSE AND WOODCOCK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT</b>  <b>Locations:</b> Town of Bethlehem, Grafton County (AP5-1) &amp; Town of Carroll, Coos County (AP5-2)  <b>Proposal:</b> Wildlife habitat improvement project regenerate speckled alder  <b>Project Status:</b> This project was originally scoped in January 2002. The Bethlehem unit (AP)5-1) has been dropped. The Carroll unit (AP5-2) is a proposed 10-acre treatment area that has now been included in the Tintah Project (AP22).</p>
<b>AP10</b>	<p><b>AMC TRAILHEAD STORAGE PROJECT</b>  <b>Locations:</b> Towns of Franconia (AP10-1) &amp; Franconia (AP10-2), Grafton County, and Beans Purchase (AP10-3), Coos County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Issue and reissue of existing Special Use Permit for food storage sheds  <b>Project Status:</b> Due to an oversight, these storage units were omitted from the AMC Special Use Permit. The permit was amended in February 5, 2002 to include these storage units. It has been mistakenly retained in the SOPA as a proposed project, and it will now be dropped from the list.</p>

**Previously Proposed Projects on the Ammo/Pemi  
Environmental Analysis Pending or Deferred**

<b>AP1</b>	<p><b>REVISED STARK FALLS VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT</b>  <b>Locations:</b> Towns of Benton, Easton, &amp; Woodstock, Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Vegetation management on approximately 270 stand acres, including harvest of approximately 1.3 MMBF of timber.  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping for original Stark Falls Vegetation Management Project was completed in 1999, and an Environmental Assessment was prepared for comment and review in 2002. A redesigned project proposal will be developed in the future; for now project is on hold.</p>
<b>AP13</b>	<p><b>TUNNEL BROOK STABILIZATION PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Tunnel Brook, Town of Benton, Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Erosion control along a portion of Tunnel Brook  <b>Project Status:</b> Project on hold.</p>
<b>AP14</b>	<p><b>FRANCONIA BROOK CAMPGROUND PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Forest Road P95, Town of Lincoln, Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Relocation/rehabilitation of closed Franconia Brook Campground  <b>Project Status:</b> Initially scoped in march 1999; will be rescoped in future; project on hold.</p>
<b>AP15</b>	<p><b>MT. CUBE PARKING AREA PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Town of Orford, Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Relocation of Mt. Cube parking area  <b>Project Status:</b> Analysis is dependent on funding; project pending.</p>

**Completed Decision Documents on the Ammo/Pemi Since  
Last Schedule of Proposed Actions (July 2003)**

<b>AP2</b>	<p><b>VARIOUS SMALL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS</b>  <b>Locations:</b> Livermore Parking Area (AP2-4), Town of Waterville Valley, Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Install sealed vault toilet in the center isle of the trailhead parking area  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping completed in March 2003, Letter to the File posted September 17, 2003  <b>Note:</b> District Ranger has not yet made decisions for other sites previously included in this Project, see “Previously Proposed Projects — Environmental analysis in Progress” for description.</p>
<b>AP19</b>	<p><b>TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS</b>  <b>Locations:</b> Towns of Benton (74 ac), Warren (109 ac), Wentworth (48 ac), Ellsworth (78 ac) and Thornton (7 ac), and Sandwich (7 ac), Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Small scale thinning and other mechanical non-commercial timber stand improvement projects to maintain less common woody species and improve growing stock of other species  <b>Project Status:</b> District Ranger signed Decision Memo on September 17, 2003, Decision not subject to appeal, Project currently being implemented</p>
<b>AP20</b>	<p><b>PRIVATE ROAD SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR EXISTING ROAD (APPLE HILL LANE)</b>  <b>Locations:</b> Town of Thornton, Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Issue Special Use Permit for driveway/road access, existing since 1989, to subdivision of five private properties, located east of NF Day Use Area known as “The Eddy”  <b>Project Status:</b> District Ranger signed Decision Memo on August 15, 2003, Decision not subject to appeal, Project implemented with Decision.</p>

# Schedule of Proposed Actions

## Androscoggin Ranger District District Ranger — George Pozzuto

For information on any of the following Ammo/Pemi projects, contact:  
 Pat Nasta, District NEPA Coordinator/Public Affairs Specialist  
 300 Glen Road  
 Gorham, NH 03581  
 E-mail: pnasta@fs.fed.us  
 Phone: (603) 466-2713, TTY/FAX (603) 466-2856

### New Proposed Projects on the Andro

<b>AN19</b>	<p><b>LOWER LOOP VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Towns of Berlin and Randolph, Coos County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Vegetation management on approximately 500 acres. Includes harvest of approximately 1.5 mmbf of timber, wildlife habitat improvement, potential abandonment of some hiking trails, potential stream habitat improvement.  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping planned in January 2004, Decision expected July 2004.</p>
<b>AN20</b>	<p><b>CONNOR BROOK VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Town of Shelburne, Coos County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Vegetation management on approximately 550 acres. Includes harvest of approximately 2.0 mmbf of timber, wildlife habitat improvement, potential stream habitat improvement, new snowmobile bypass trail, potential underburning to regenerate red oak.  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping planned in January 2004, Decision expected July 2004</p>

### Previously Proposed Projects on the Andro — Environmental Analysis in Progress

<b>AN2</b>	<p><b>PEABODY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Towns of Gorham, Shelburne, and Martin's Location, Coos County, NH wildlife habitat improvement and road restoration.  <b>Project Status:</b> Previously scoped as Pine Mountain and North Carter projects in 1997 &amp; 1999, Re-scoped as Peabody project in February 2003 (note on map that project is identified as AN2-1, west of Hwy 16, and AN2-2, east of Hwy 16); EA currently available for 30-day comment, persons interested in commenting should contact the District NEPA Coordinator for a copy, Decision expected Winter 2004</p>
<b>AN3</b>	<p><b>HUNTINGTON RAVINE WINTER ACCESS TRAIL</b>  <b>Location:</b> Sargents Purchase, Coos County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Reconstruction and maintenance of about 0.25 miles of trail, including relocation and replacement of bridge and reduction of obstacle boulders.  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping for original project in 1993 and 1995, Decision in 1995 implemented three bridge replacements and 85' of trail work; Remaining work proposed in original project has been revised, Scoping on revised project proposal done March 2003; Decision expected January 2004</p>
<b>AN6</b>	<p><b>HERMIT LAKE SPECIAL USE PERMIT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Sargents Purchase, Coos County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Current permit for maintenance and operation of shelters under analysis for re-issue.  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping done in Spring 2003, Decision expected Spring 2004</p>

## More Previously Proposed Projects on the Andro Environmental Analysis in Progress

<b>AN18</b>	<p><b>STATE HIGHWAY 113 ROADSIDE BRUSH CONTROL</b>  <b>Locations:</b> Oxford County, Batchelder's Grant, ME  <b>Proposal:</b> The Maine Department of Transportation proposes to use cut-stump treatments of herbicides to control resprouting of hardwood trees and brush within the cleared right-of-way along State Highway 113 within the White Mountain National Forest.  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping completed May 2003, Decision expected March 2004</p>
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## Previously Proposed Projects on the Andro Environmental Analysis Pending or Deferred

<b>AN12</b>	<p><b>EAST ROYCE HELIPAD</b>  <b>Location:</b> Oxford County, Batchelder's Grant, ME  <b>Proposal:</b> Construction of 12'x12' treated timber helipad to facilitate maintenance of existing radio tower.  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping completed April 1999, no date set for analysis or Decision</p>
<b>AN13</b>	<p><b>BERLIN WATER WORKS — GODFREY DAM PHASE III</b>  <b>Location:</b> Coos County, Berlin, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Improvements for Godfrey Dam pipeline and access for site maintenance.  <b>Project Status:</b> Project on hold</p>

## Completed Decision Documents on the Andro Since Last Schedule of Proposed Actions (July 2003)

—NONE—

### Submitting a Timely Comment on an EA

In order to assure that your comments on an EA are considered and that you are eligible to appeal the decision, they must be submitted in a timely manner. To be timely, comments must be submitted by the 30th calendar day following publication of the legal notice in the newspaper of record (Manchester Union Leader). When the time period expires on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day. In addition:

- Written comments must be postmarked by the Postal Service, e-mailed, FAXed or otherwise submitted by 11:59 pm ET on the 30<sup>th</sup> calendar day.
- Hand-delivered and oral comments must be time and date imprinted at the correct Responsible Official's office by the close of business on the 30th calendar day.
- Electronic comments must be submitted to the appropriate e-mail address (clearly identified in the legal notice and the EA cover letter) by 11:59 pm ET on the 30th calendar day; and must be in the appropriate text format. The sender should normally receive an automated electronic confirmation of receipt - if not, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

# Schedule of Proposed Actions

## Saco Ranger District District Ranger — Terry Miller

**For information on any of the following Ammo/Pemi projects, contact:**  
 Rod Wilson, District NEPA Coordinator  
 33 Kancamagus Highway  
 Conway, NH 03818  
 E-mail: rmwilson@fs.fed.us  
 Phone: (603) 447-5448x120, TTY (603) 447-3121, FAX (603) 447-8405

### New Proposed Projects on the Saco

<b>S21</b>	<p><b>ISSUE SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR DRIVEWAY, POWERLINE &amp; PHONE LINE</b>  <b>Location:</b> Crossover Road, Town of Albany, Carroll County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Issue Special Use Permits for access to private property across 25-30 feet of National Forest land; including a driveway permit to the landowner, and powerline and phone line permits to the respective utilities.  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping planned for December 2003, Decision expected in Spring 2004</p>
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### Previously Proposed Projects on the Saco — Environmental Analysis in Progress

<b>S2</b>	<p><b>SOUTH MOAT TRAILHEAD AND TRAIL RELOCATION</b>  <b>Location:</b> Dugway Picnic Area; Town of Albany, Carroll County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Construct new trailhead and 10-15 car parking lot across road from Dugway Picnic Area and relocate ½-mile of existing trail to link to the new trailhead  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping completed January 2003, Decision expected January 2004</p>
<b>S3</b>	<p><b>PINE BEND BROOK TRAIL RELOCATION</b>  <b>Location:</b> Pine Bend Brook Trail; Towns of Livermore and Waterville Valley, Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Relocate three sections of trail, approximately 100, 300, and 600 feet in length, to address erosion concerns  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping completed in January 2003, Decision expected January 2004</p>
<b>S11</b>	<p><b>CHANDLER/ROUND MOUNTAIN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Towns of Jackson and Chatham, Carroll County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Proposal includes timber harvest and wildlife management projects. Vegetation management would encompass approximately 1,000 stand acres and harvest of approximately 6.0 MMBF of timber  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping letter and report has been mailed, persons interested in providing input should contact District NEPA Coordinator for a copy, Decision expected in Spring 2004.</p>
<b>S13</b>	<p><b>POPPLE MOUNTAIN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Towns of Bartlett and Jackson, Carroll County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Proposal includes timber harvest, wildlife habitat management and recreation projects. Vegetation management would encompass approximately 650 stand acres and harvest of approximately 3.5 MMBF of timber.  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping expected in late Spring 2004</p>

## More Previously Proposed Projects on the Saco Environmental Analysis in Progress

<b>S19</b>	<p><b>BUTTERHILL ROAD SNOWMOBILE TRAIL RELOCATION</b>  <b>Locations:</b> NH Snowmobile Corridor #19, Town of Chatham, Carroll County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Existing trail had been located on Butterhill Road (FR 315), but private landowner needs to plow road to gain access to property; proposal to relocate trail 100 feet west of FR 315 for distance of 0.6 mile; some additional modifications are under consideration  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping for proposed action done in January 2003, Decision expected Spring 2004</p>
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## Previously Proposed Projects on the Saco Environmental Analysis Pending or Deferred

<b>S9</b>	<p><b>WHITE BROOK WILDLIFE HABITAT INTERPRETATION AREA</b>  <b>Location:</b> Town of Albany, Carroll County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Implement projects originally identified in Kancamagus Interpretive Plan, includes construction of new parking lot, vault toilet and information kiosk  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping completed March 2002, Project proposal may be modified and re-scoped, currently on hold</p>
<b>S12</b>	<p><b>ATTITASH RESORT PERMIT BOUNDARY</b>  <b>Location:</b> Town of Bartlett, Carroll County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Expansion of permit area by 7.6 acres to allow construction of previously approved Easy Trail  <b>Project Status:</b> Project on hold</p>
<b>S14</b>	<p><b>CHOCORUA RIVER VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Town of Albany, Carroll County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Proposal includes timber harvest, wildlife habitat management and recreation projects. Vegetation management would encompass approximately 200 stand acres and harvest of approximately 1.5 MMBF of timber.  <b>Project Status:</b> Scoping expected in 2004</p>

## Completed Decision Documents on the Saco Since Last Schedule of Proposed Actions (July 2003)

<b>S5</b>	<p><b>COUNTY LINE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT</b>  <b>Location:</b> Towns of Livermore and Harts Location, Grafton County, NH  <b>Proposal:</b> Vegetative management on 455 acres, including harvest of 2.2 mmbf of timber, wildlife habitat improvement, restoration of 3.14 miles of road, construction of 1,000 feet of temporary road, improvements to 1/4-mile of trail and sanitation facilities at Fourth Iron Campsite, and bridge replacement on trail to Sawyer Pond.  <b>Project Status:</b> District Ranger signed Decision Notice on July 3, 2003, Decision not appealed during 45-day appeal period, Project currently being implemented</p>
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## More Completed Decision Documents on the Saco Since Last Schedule of Proposed Actions (July 2003)

<b>S17</b>	<p><b>REISSUE SPECIAL USE PERMITS</b></p> <p><b>Location:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Robert Yeaton, access road/domestic water supply (Town of Albany, Carroll County, NH);</li> <li>2. Elizabeth Lincoln, access road/domestic water supply (Hart's Location, Carroll County, NH);</li> <li>3. Aurelia Palubeckas, access road/domestic water supply (Town of Chatham, Carroll County, NH);</li> <li>4. John Eastman, access road (Town of Albany, Carroll County, NH);</li> <li>5. Chatham Woods Road Association, access road (Town of Stow, Oxford County, ME)</li> </ol> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Re-issue Special Use Permit authorizations to provide access across National Forest</p> <p><b>Project Status:</b> District Ranger signed Decision Memo on September 2, 2003, Decision not subject to appeal, Project implemented with Decision</p>
<b>S20</b>	<p><b>ISSUE SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR EXISTING POWERLINE (STONE HOUSE ROAD)</b></p> <p><b>Location:</b> Town of Stow, Oxford County, ME</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Issue Special Use Permit for powerline installed in 2002 to private residence. Privatelandowner had not obtained permit when powerline was installed due to confusion regarding the permitting process and land ownership of the road corridor. Eighteen power poles and transmission line are located on National Forest land.</p> <p><b>Project Status:</b> District Ranger signed Decision Memo on September 2, 2003, Decision not subject to appeal, Project implemented with Decision</p>

## How to Prepare a Comment on an EA or Draft EIS

Individuals and organizations wishing to comment on a proposed action that is analyzed and documented in an EA or Draft EIS must provide the following in order to be eligible to appeal the Responsible Official's final decision:

- Name and Address.
- Title of the Proposed Action.
- Specific substantive comments (see page 7) on the proposed action (including alternatives), along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision.
- Signature or other verification of identity upon request; identification of the individual or organization who authored the comment(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility.
- Individual members of an organization must submit their own substantive comments to meet the requirements of appeal eligibility; comments received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.
- Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone or in person; or, if during non-business hours, must be at an official agency function (such as a public meeting) which is designed to elicit public comment.

**USDA – Forest Service**  
White Mountain National Forest  
Forest Supervisor's Office  
719 Main Street  
Laconia, NH 03246

Phone (603) 528-8769  
FAX (603) 528-8783  
TTY (603) 528-8722  
rfallon@fs.fed.us

### ***America's Great Outdoors***



**Visit the White Mountain  
National Forest Website**  
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/white](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/white)

**Large Print copies  
available upon request**

## **Stuff You Should Know**

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### ***Privacy***

Comments received in response to solicitation as part of the NEPA process, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on a proposed action, and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act permits such confidentiality.

### ***Walk-In Business***

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate that analysis be completed with a short turn-around. This may mean that some decisions are made without prior announcement in this update. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads and utility rights-of-way. Scoping efforts for these requests will be conducted as applicable.

### ***Equal Opportunity***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all pro-

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.