



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Green Mountain & Finger Lakes  
National Forests  
Manchester Ranger District

[www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl)

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**File Code:** 1950-1  
**Date:** June 24, 2003

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to present for your review the enclosed copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Mount Tabor Seasonal Employee Housing Facilities project located at the Mount Tabor Work Center, Green Mountain National Forest within the Town of Mount Tabor, Rutland County, VT. The proposed action includes the construction of housing and associated facilities to accommodate individuals who are seasonally employed by or in partnership with the Forest Service to assist in the implementation of on-the-ground National Forest management activities. The public involvement process for this proposal was initiated with the project scoping notice and invitation to comment dated September 4, 2002. The issues raised during the scoping period were used in the preparation of this EA.

This EA documents the environmental analysis for the proposed action and its alternatives in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and is now ready for the 30-day notice and comment period. The EA analyzes five alternative actions including the Proposed Action and No-action Alternatives. As the Responsible Official for this project, I am considering selecting Alternative 5 for implementation. This alternative includes the seasonal housing facilities as proposed in the scoping notice, but would phase out snowmobile parking within the Mount Tabor Work Center area as soon as the facilities are constructed and operational. I feel this alternative is most responsive to the project purpose and need while addressing issues raised during public scoping.

Please note that this EA document falls under the new rules and regulations for notice, comment, and appeal procedures for National Forest System projects and activities published in the Federal Register on June 4, 2003. Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6, you may submit to me any substantive comments on the proposed action (Mount Tabor Seasonal Employee Housing Facilities EA) either in writing or orally during the 30-day period following the date of publication of the legal notice. It is anticipated the legal notice will appear in our paper of record, the Rutland Daily Herald, within the next week.

To ensure your comments are considered before I make a final decision for this project, they must be postmarked, faxed, emailed, or submitted orally by close-of-business on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the legal notice is published. All comments should be sent to me in c/o: Jay Strand, USDA Forest Service, 99 Ranger Road, Rochester, VT, 05767-9431



(mail); 802-767-4777 (facsimile); [jstrand@fs.fed.us](mailto:jstrand@fs.fed.us) (email); or call Jay directly at 802-767-4261, ext. 522 (Voice), or 802-747-6765 (TTY). You may also orally submit your comments to me at my office by telephone or in person at Manchester Ranger District, 2538 Depot St., Manchester Ctr., VT, 05255; 802-362-2307 (voice); 802-747-6765 (TTY) during business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm).

I am very interested in your response to the proposed action, and will carefully consider your comments before making my final decision. Comments received in response to this notice to comment, including name and address of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public review. It is important to note that only those who submit timely and substantive comments will be accepted as appellants. Please be sure to include the following information with your comments pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(3):

- 1) Name and address.
- 2) Title of the proposed action (Mount Tabor Seasonal Employee Housing Facilities).
- 3) Specific substantive comments on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that I should consider in reaching a decision. (*Note that substantive comments are those that are within the scope of the proposed action, are specific to the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action and include supporting reasons for me to consider*).
- 4) Signature or other verification of identity upon request. (*Identification of the individual or organization who authors the comment(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility*).

If you would like more information concerning the Mount Tabor Seasonal Employee Housing Facilities EA or this notice to comment, please contact Jay Strand at the same phone/facsimile number, email or address provided above. Thank you for your continued interest in the management of the Green Mountain National Forest.

Sincerely,

GINA OWENS  
District Ranger

Enclosure

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