



**GREEN MOUNTAIN  
NATIONAL FOREST**

**Forest Plan Revision  
FEBRUARY 2004**

# AGENDA

- Welcome/Introductions/Announcements
- Overview of Plan Revision
- Management Areas Descriptions
- Management Area Mapping
- Conclusion

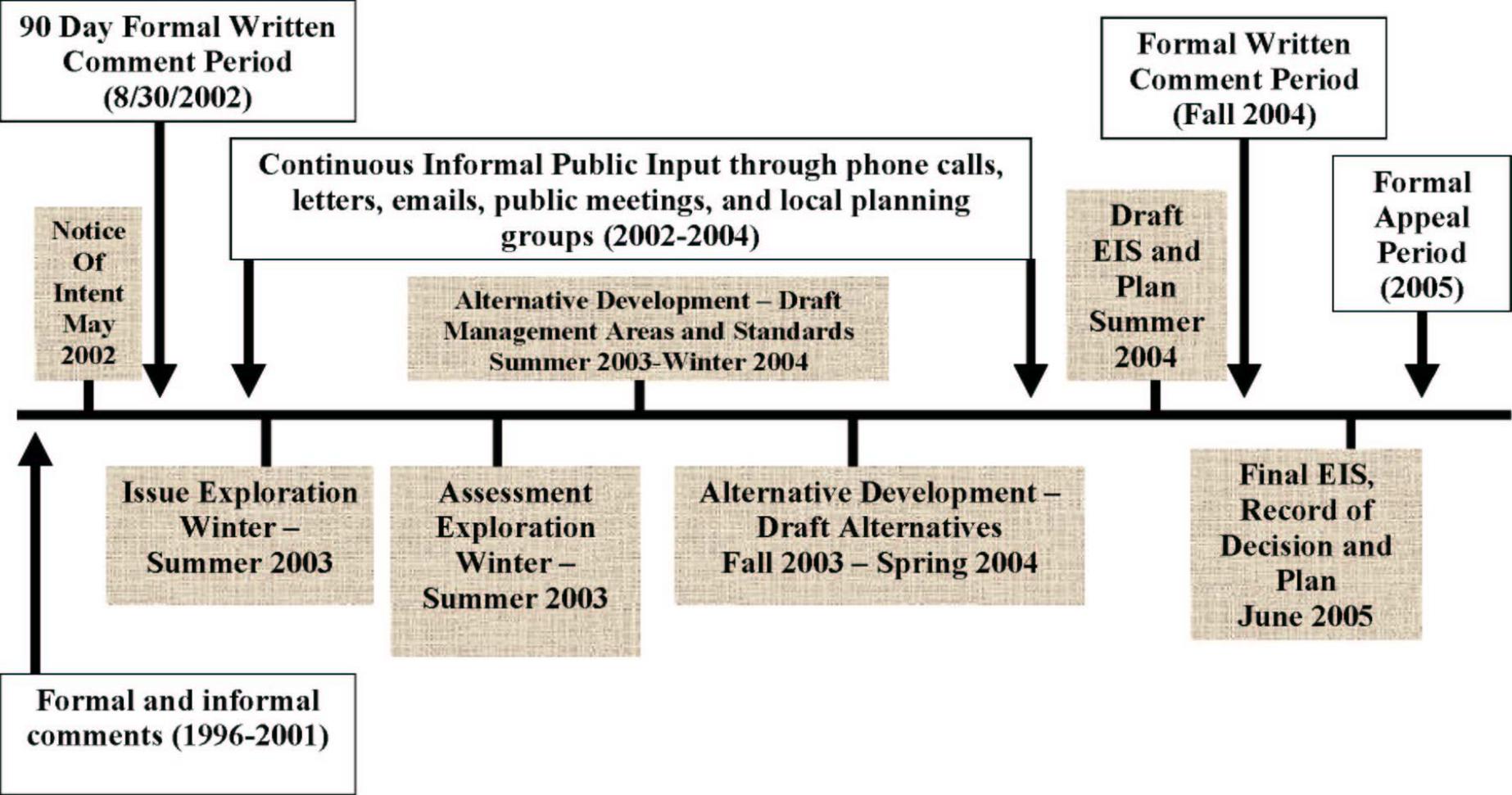
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Previous meeting notes
- Past issues
- Public input meetings – No Decisions

# FOREST PLAN REVISION

- Why are we revising the plan?
- How can you get involved?
- Where are we in the process?

# Public Involvement Timeline GMNF Forest Plan Revision



# WHAT IS IN A FOREST PLAN?

- Goals and Objectives
- Standards and Guidelines
- Management Areas
- Land suitable for timber harvesting and upper limits on timber sales
- Wilderness recommendations
- Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements

# GOALS FOR THIS EVENING:

- **Discuss problems and suggested changes for current Management Areas**
- **Map out the GMNF to address issues**
- **Explore areas of substantial agreement & areas where opinions differ**
- **Begin developing different management alternatives**

# GROUND RULES

- Start and end on time
- One person speaking at a time
- Speak loudly enough so others can hear
- Air time – be conscious of how long you're speaking Be respectful
- Stay on task
- Respect others views
- Active listening
- Seek to understand others perspectives
- Aim for consensus but OK to disagree



# **Green Mountain National Forest**

## **Management Areas**

# What are Management Areas?

- Forest Plan zoning or land use
- Describes Management Emphasis
- Describes Desired Condition of Land
- Describes Compatible uses
- Management Area Standards and Guidelines
- Box of crayons

# Why are Management Areas Important in Plan Revision?

- Allow for a variety of diverse habitats and uses across the landscape
- Different distributions create the “alternatives” in Plan Revision
- Helps configure the GMNF in different ways to respond to Plan Revision issues
- Helps land managers know what activities should happen in what areas
- It is a required part of a Forest Plan

# PLAN REVISION ISSUES

- Timber Management
- Wilderness
- Biodiversity & Ecosystem Management
- Recreation
- Socio-Economic concerns



# **PROPOSED MANAGEMENT AREA SUMMARY**

# PROPOSED MANAGEMENT AREAS

- Ski Areas
- Diverse Forest Uses
- Backcountry Motorized
- Special areas
  - National Recreation Area
  - Research Natural Area
  - The Escarpment
  - Alpine/subalpine
  - Other Special Areas
- Remote backcountry
- Wilderness
- Eligible Wild & Scenic Rivers
- Ski Area Expansion

# SKI AREAS 7.1

## ■ Major Emphasis

- Wide recreation opportunities requiring highly developed structures or facilities
- Habitat will support low to moderate populations and a variety of wildlife tolerant of high levels of human activity

# SKI AREA EXPANSION 9.3

## ■ Major Emphasis

- Maintains the potential of lands for existing ski area expansion

# DIVERSE FOREST USE

## ■ Major Emphasis

- Provide high quality sawtimber and other timber products on a sustained yield basis.
- Provide a mix of habitats for wildlife species, including deer wintering habitat.
- Provide a wide range of recreation opportunities, from low-use hiking trails to developed campgrounds to motorized trail use.

## ■ Replaces Management Areas 2,3 and 4 in the current plan

# BACKCOUNTRY MOTORIZED (6.2)

## ■ Major Emphasis

- Long rotation (150+) timber harvests
- A range of recreational opportunities that occur in more remote areas
- Winter motorized recreation, and potentially summer motorized trail use.

## ■ Modifies current Semi Primitive Recreation (6.2)

# SPECIAL AREAS 8.\_\_\_\_

- **Each Special Area has an individualized management plan, and therefore they vary by major emphasis, desired future conditions, and compatible and incompatible uses. In general however, the following apply for all Special Areas:**
- **Major Emphasis**
  - **Protect areas of national significance that have uncommon or outstanding biological, geological, recreational, cultural, or historical significance**
  - **Preserve unique ecosystems for scientific purposes**
  - **Provide areas to conduct research to improve the benefits of forests**
  - **Preserve these areas for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations**

# EXISTING SPECIAL AREAS

- Long Trail/Appalachian Trail
- White Rocks NRA
- Grout Pond
- The Cape RNA
- Mount Horrid
- Texas Falls
- Crystal Brook Glacial Kettle
- Robert Frost Interpretive trail
- Beaver Meadows/Abbey Pond
- Mount Abraham
- Remote or high elevation ponds
- Rattlesnake Point
- Cranberry Bog

# NATIONAL RECREATION AREAS (NRA) 8.1

- \*Each NRA has an individualized management plan, and therefore they vary by major emphasis, desired future conditions, and compatible and incompatible uses. In general however, the following apply for all NRAs:
- Major Emphasis
  - NRAs are areas that have outstanding combinations of outdoor recreation opportunities, aesthetic attractions, and proximity to potential users. They may also have cultural, historical, archaeological, pastoral, wilderness, scientific, wildlife, and other values contributing to public enjoyment.
  - Management for these areas is determined in the Public Law that creates the area and by the subsequent management plan.

# RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS (RNA) 8.\_\_\_\_

## ■ Major Emphasis

- Protect areas for the purposes of maintaining biological diversity, conducting non-manipulative research and monitoring, and fostering education
- Preserve our Nation's natural heritage for future generations
- Designated to be permanently protected and maintained in natural condition
- Include areas with:
  - Unique ecosystems or ecological features
  - Rare or sensitive species of plants and animals and their habitat
  - High-quality examples of widespread ecosystems

■ RNAs are administered jointly by the National Forest System (National Forests) and Forest Service Research

# PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SPECIAL AREAS



*The Escarpment*

# PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SPECIAL AREAS

## ■ Escarpment (8...)

### ■ Major Emphasis

- Management of natural communities along the escarpment –the long cliff or steep slope on the Western side of the Green Mountains
- Provide habitat for trees, herbs, ferns and natural communities that are rare and uncommon
- Active management of natural community diversity to maintain and enhance these populations

An aerial photograph of a mountain range. The foreground and middle ground are covered in dense, dark green forest. A prominent, lighter-colored, irregularly shaped clearing or meadow is visible in the center of the image. In the background, more mountain peaks are visible, some appearing hazy or misty. The overall scene is a natural, mountainous landscape.

# PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SPECIAL AREAS

*Alpine/subalpine*

# PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SPECIAL AREAS

## ■ Alpine/subalpine

### ■ Major Emphasis

- Recognize, conserve and interpret the alpine and subalpine zone and its associated ecological values
- Areas generally located at elevations above 3500 feet

# ELIGIBLE WILD & SCENIC RIVERS 9.4

## ■ Major Emphasis

- Possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values
- The idea is not to halt development and use of a river; instead, the goal is to preserve the character of a river
- Primary emphasis shall be given to protecting aesthetic, scenic, historic, archaeological, and scientific features

# Remote Backcountry Forest (6.1)

## ■ Major Emphasis

- Large expanses of relatively undisturbed landscapes
- Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems develop under natural regimes
- Foot related recreational opportunities -hiking, backpacking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing
- Sense of isolation and remoteness
- Natural or natural-appearing environment

## ■ Modifies current Primitive Area (6.1)

# WILDERNESS 5.1

## ■ Major Emphasis

- Managed to promote and perpetuate the wilderness character of the land and its specific values of solitude, physical and mental challenge, scientific study, inspiration, and primitive recreation

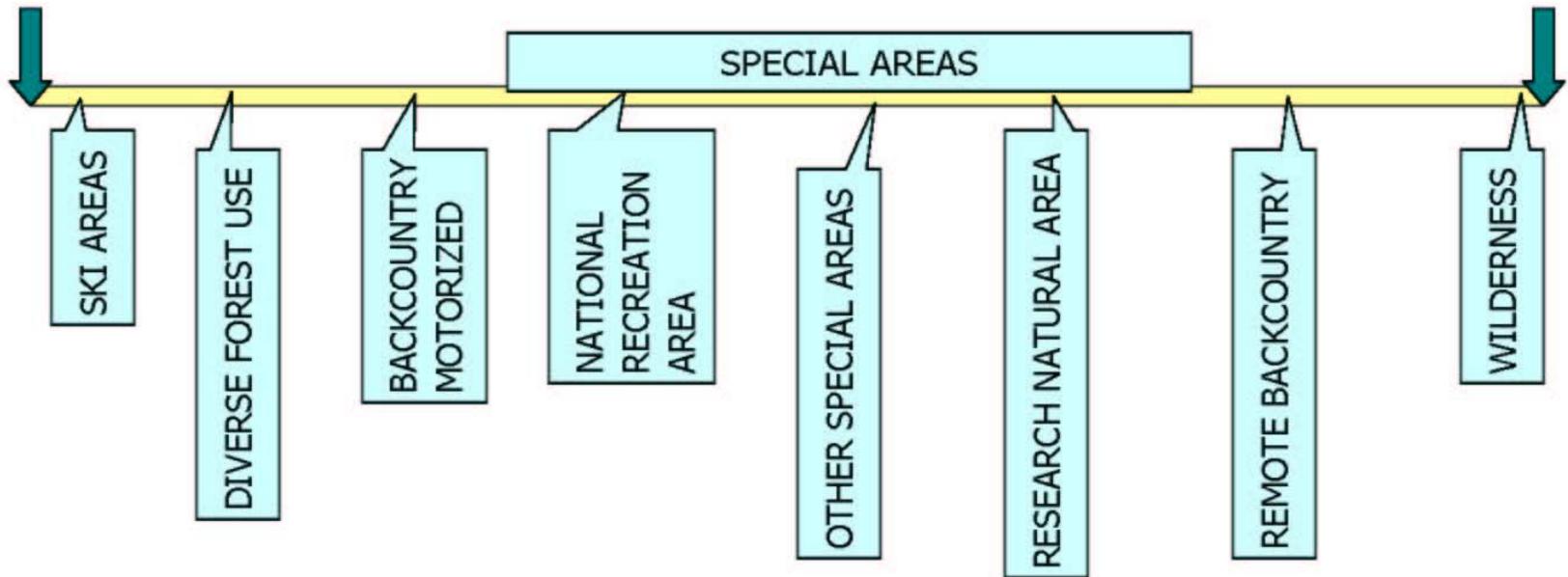
## ■ Existing Wilderness: Bristol Cliffs, Lye Brook, Breadloaf, Peru Peak, George D. Aiken, and Big Branch

## ■ Congressionally Designated

# MANAGEMENT AREA CONTINUUM

LEAST RESTRICTIVE

MOST RESTRICTIVE



# Directions for Mapping Exercise

- Areas that will stay pretty much the same:
  - Existing Wilderness
  - White Rocks National Recreation Area
  - The Cape Research Natural Area
  - Appalachian Trail/Long Trail
  - Existing Special areas
  - Ski areas

# Directions for Mapping Exercise

- Display areas for commercial timber harvesting
- Display areas of additional Wilderness
- Provide a mosaic of habitats
- Provide for a range of uses

# Summarizing Your Group's Work

- At the end of the mapping exercise, please write a brief explanation of how your group's map:
  - is balanced and provides for multiple use
  - addresses the forest Plan Issues
  - provides for a viable, sustainable timber harvesting program, and
  - provides for additional wilderness, should the Congressional Delegation decide to introduce legislation regarding wilderness on the GMNF
- You may also want to highlight points of agreement and areas where group members differ.



# **NEXT MEETING**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 TH**

# CONTACT INFORMATION

- Melissa Reichert 802-747-6754
- 231 N. Main ST Rutland, VT 05701
- Email – [gmflplanrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:gmflplanrevision@fs.fed.us)
- Or visit our website:  
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa\\_planning/  
plan\\_revision.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa_planning/plan_revision.htm)

**THANK YOU!**

