



**GREEN MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL FOREST**

Forest Plan Revision
January 2004

Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions/Announcements
- Overview of Plan Revision
- Management Areas Descriptions
- Information Stations
- Group Discussion
- Conclusion

Announcements

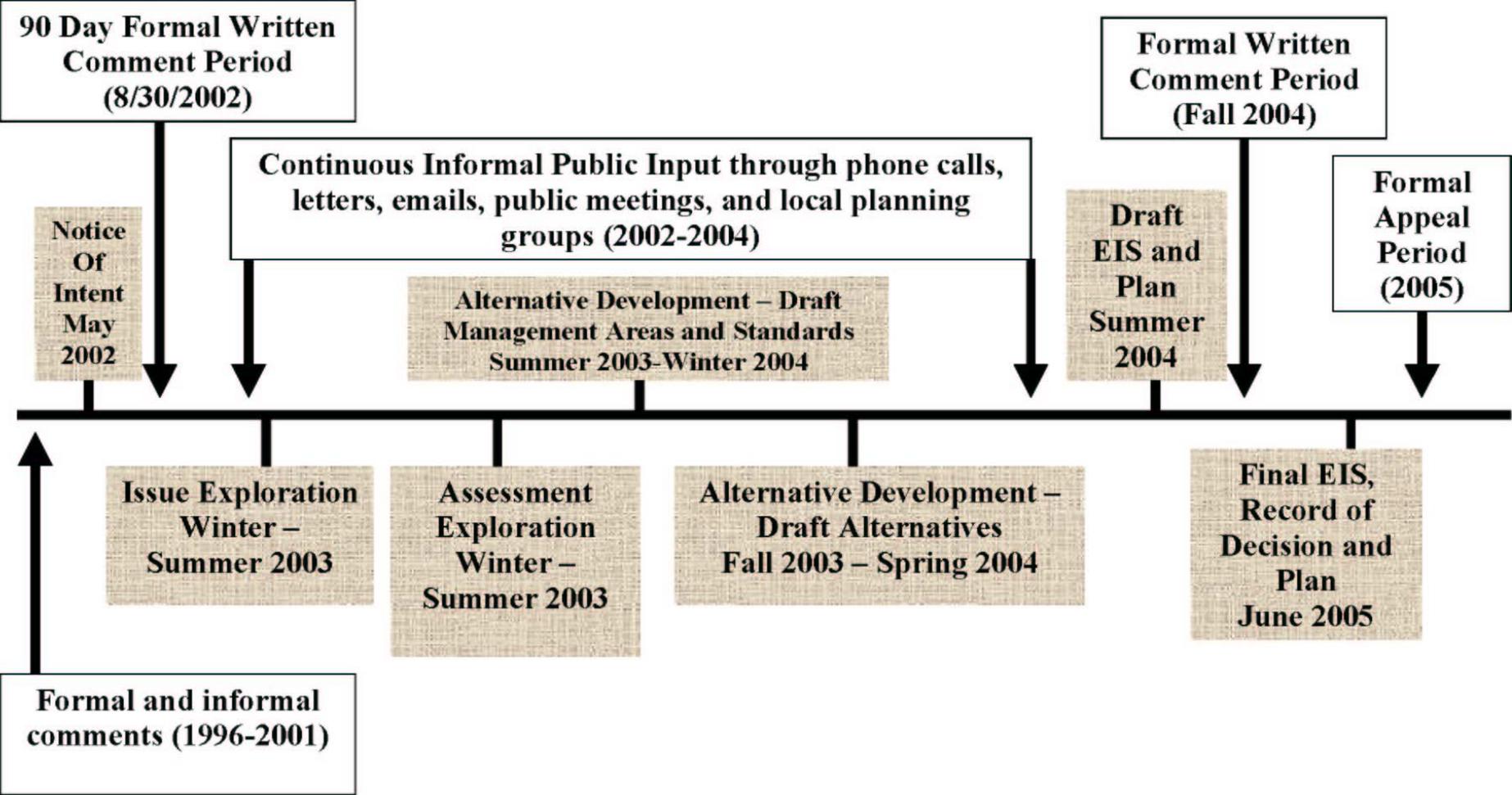
- Meeting notes
- Past issues
- Missed previous meetings?
- Public input meetings – No Decisions

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:

- Provide information on current Management Areas (MAs) on the GMNF
- Discuss MA problems and suggested changes
- Answer questions and gather public comments on MAs

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?

Areas with similar management objectives and a common management prescription.

- management practices and intensity selected and scheduled for application on a specific area to attain multiple use and other goals and objectives

-1987 GMNF Forest Plan

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

Flexibility in Revised Plan

- Current plan is starting point
- Regional Forest Service Office direction
- These are general ideas and they will be more explicit in draft plan

Goals for Management Area Changes

- Simplify and clarify the existing Forest Plan
- Address Forest Service and public concerns – inconsistencies with National direction
- Stress desired future conditions not management tools
- Right now working on descriptions NOT allocation – but good descriptions will make allocation easier

Existing Management Areas

- Minor Or No Recommended Changes to their general description:
 - Wilderness (5.1)
 - White Rocks National Recreation Area
 - Appalachian/Long Trail Corridor

- Special Areas (MA 8.1 areas would be grouped into similar categories that would be assigned to an 8... MA) including:
 - Grout Pond
 - The Cape
 - Mount Horrid
 - Texas Falls
 - High Elevation Ponds
 - Robert Frost Trail
 - Cranberry Bog
 - Beaver Meadows/Abbey Pond

Existing Management Areas

- Minor Or No Recommended Changes to their general description:
 - Ski Areas (7.1)
 - Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers – change from Significant Streams to include only those streams determined eligible in the Wild & Scenic Rivers Assessment

Possible Management Area Changes

■ General Forest

● 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 hiking trails to motorized recreational uses to developed campgrounds.
- Combines present MAs for unevenaged (2.), evenaged (3.) and Deer wintering (4.) into one management area.

Possible Management Area Changes

- Areas Not Managed for Timber due to Economic conditions (B Land MA)
 - propose removal the B Land MAs to provide clearer direction and to simply forest management areas.
 - 14,969 acres (3.8%) of Forest
 - Only 4198 (28%) of the B lands tentatively suitable for timber production – the rest are incapable or marginal
 - Major Emphasis
 - Same as A lands but trees will not be managed for timber production until economic conditions and technologies improve.
 - Naturally appearing forest with continuous forest cover.
 - Range of recreational opportunities

Possible Management Area Changes

■ 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)

Possible Management Area Changes

■ 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.
- It would remove confusion as it does not use a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) category in the title.

● Modifies current Semi Primitive Recreation (6.2)

Possible Management Area Additions

The Escarpment

Possible Management Area Additions

■ 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 coniferous forests. A prominent feature is a large, irregularly shaped clearing or meadow in the center, characterized by lighter green and brownish patches, possibly indicating a different vegetation type or a natural opening. In the background, more mountain peaks are visible, some appearing hazy or less detailed. The overall scene is a vast, natural landscape.

Possible Management Area Additions

Alpine/subalpine

Possible Management Area Additions

■ 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

Options for Newly Acquired Lands (MA 9.2)



Propose eliminating this MA

Newly Acquired Lands

■ Option 1

- The tract should have the same MA classification as the surrounding or adjacent National Forest lands if it has similar attributes or;
- If the land has attributes that are unique or different from the surrounding land, the acquired tract will be evaluated by an integrated team and the Forest Supervisor will decide whether a new MA Designation is needed within two years from the date of purchase.

Newly Acquired Lands

■ Option 2:

- Map existing Forest Service ownership and delineate Management Area (MA) boundaries. Also, delineate MA boundaries for all lands within the proclamation boundary to show what MA parcels would be placed in if they were to be acquired.

FS Constraints/Flexibility

- Biodiversity – Habitat types can't be eliminated but amounts and locations could shift
- Regional Forest Service Office – consistency with other National Forest's descriptions
- Simplify Management Areas and focus on desired landscape not management techniques
- Different arrangements create different “alternatives” in Plan Revision
- Alternatives need to be feasible with budgets



Questions on Information presented

Questions

- 1. What is working, or not working, with the existing Management Areas in the current Forest Plan?*
- 2. What changes would you like to see in management area descriptions?*
- 3. What uses are compatible, or incompatible, with the current Management Areas and the possible new Management Areas?*
- 4. Do you have any suggestions to improve any of the Management Areas presented tonight?*



NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Melissa Reichert 802-747-6754
- 231 N. Main ST Rutland, VT 05701
- Email – 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!

