



**GREEN MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL FOREST**

**Forest Plan Revision
March 2004**

AGENDA

- Welcome/Introductions/Announcements
- Overview of Plan Revision
- Overview of Management Area Descriptions
- Pie Chart Exercise
- Mapping Exercise
- Report Out
- Conclusion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

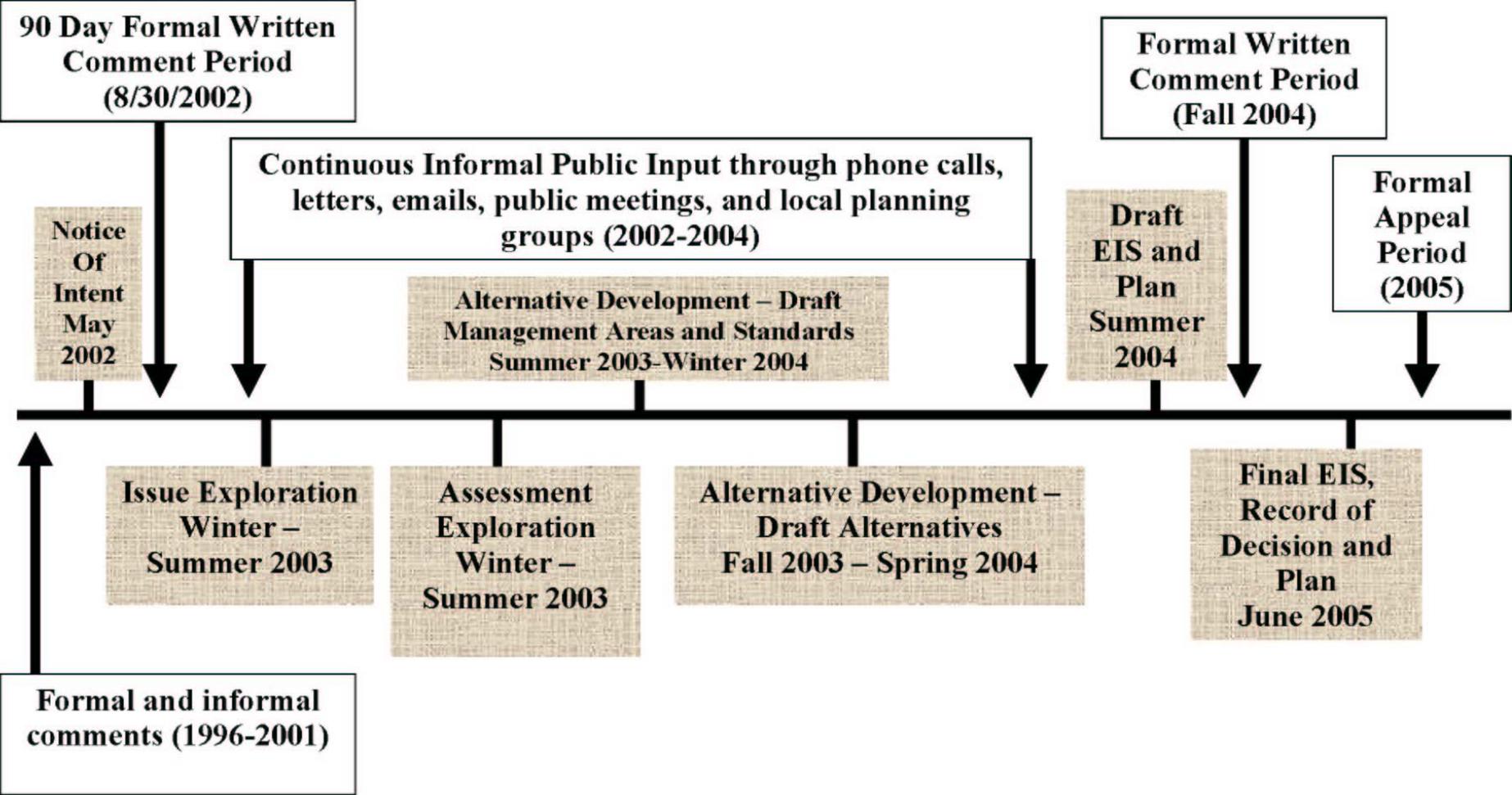
- Previous meeting notes
- Past issues
- Public input meetings – No decisions

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:

- Develop a balanced allocation of management areas
- Identify areas of substantial agreement
- Explore underlying reasons for areas with differences
- Explore options to resolve differences

GROUND RULES

- Start and end on time
- One person speaking at a time
- Speak loudly enough so others can hear
- Share Air time
- Be respectful
- Stay on task
- Listen to Others
- Seek to understand other's 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
 - Desired Condition of Land
 - Compatible Uses
- Management Area Standards and Guidelines
- Box of Crayons

Why are Management Areas Important in Plan Revision?

■ Management Areas:

- Allow for a variety of diverse habitats and uses across the landscape
- Group compatible activities together
- Help land managers know what activities should happen in what areas
- Are a required part of a Forest Plan

What are Forest Plan Alternatives?

- Options for Future Management
- A Way to Address Issues
- Different Management Area Allocations
- Basis for In-depth Analysis
- Legal Requirement

Forest Plan Alternatives

- GMNF will develop and analyze several (perhaps 3 to 5) different land use management scenarios or “alternatives.”
- Each alternative will include a map of proposed management areas.
- One of the alternatives will be selected as the “preferred alternative.” It may be revised in response to public comment, and will be adopted as the new plan.

PLAN REVISION ISSUES

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



PROPOSED MANAGEMENT AREA SUMMARY

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT AREAS

- **Remote Wildlife Habitat**
- 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

NEW PROPOSED MANAGEMENT AREA

REMOTE WILDLIFE HABITAT



REMOTE WILDLIFE HABITAT

- Developed in response to comments received while doing the mapping exercise with local planning groups and Forest Service personnel
- Would complement NOT replace existing wildlife habitat management in other management areas
- Focuses on wildlife habitat in more remote areas. Wildlife habitat in less remote areas still conducted in other Management areas.

REMOTE WILDLIFE HABITAT

■ Major Emphasis:

- Provide a mix of different aged forest habitats, from early successional to mature forests
- Employ a full range of timber management techniques as the primary tool for habitat manipulation
- Manage recreation to minimize disturbance to wildlife
 - Retain existing trails
 - No new trails allowed
 - Close temporary road and skid trails after projects
- Designed to benefit more reclusive species such as black bear, bobcat, Northern goshawk

SKI AREAS 7.1

■ Major Emphasis

- Wide recreation opportunities requiring highly developed structures or facilities

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. The major emphasis, desired future conditions, and compatible and incompatible uses vary. 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 as in Research Natural Areas (RNA).**
 - **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

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SPECIAL AREAS

The Escarpment

■ 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



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

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 is determined in the law that created the area and by the area's management plan.

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 is 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

Congressionally Designated

■ Major Emphasis

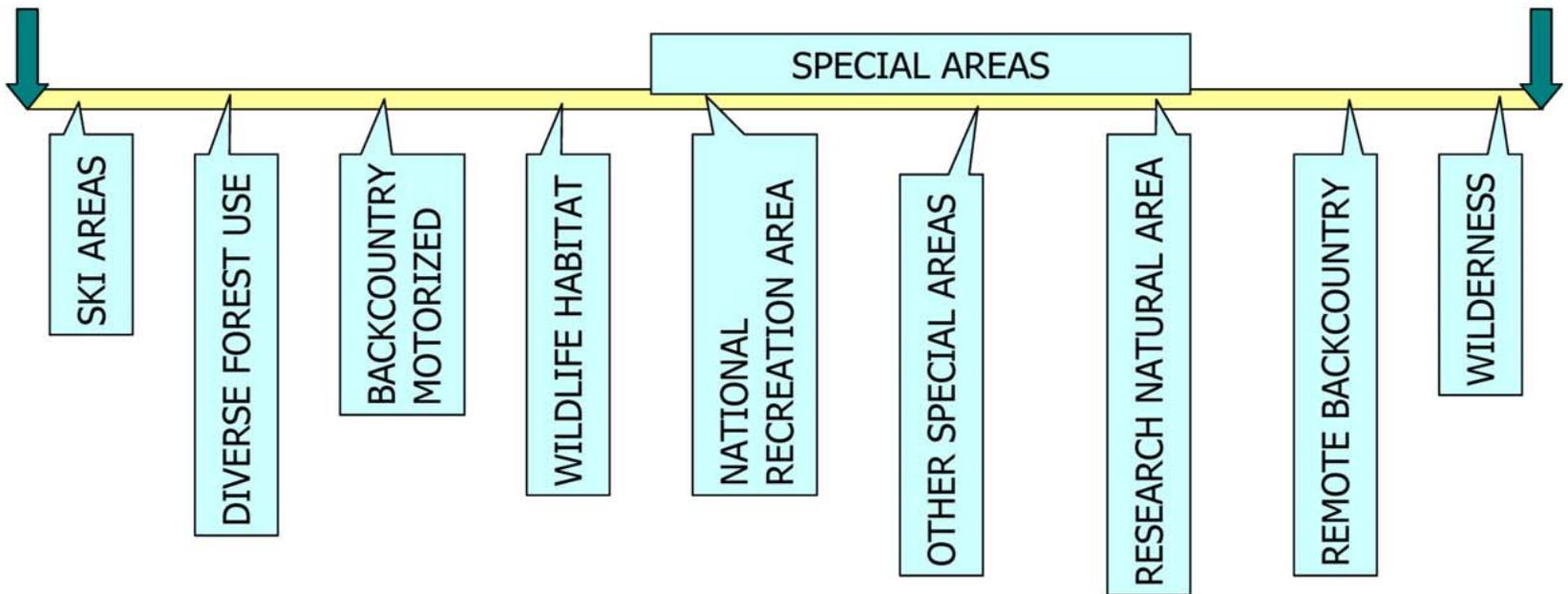
- Managed to promote and perpetuate the wilderness character of the land and its specific values of solitude, physical and mental challenge, scientific study, inspiration, and primitive recreation

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

MANAGEMENT AREA CONTINUUM

LEAST RESTRICTIVE

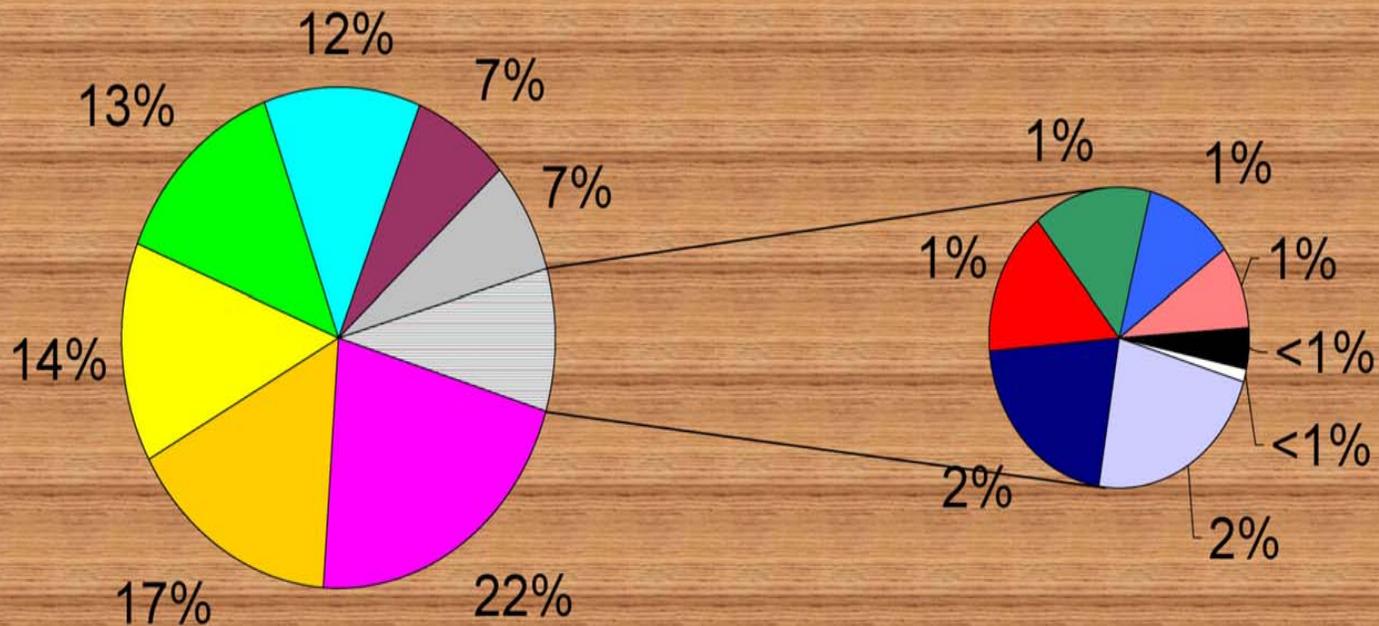
MOST RESTRICTIVE



DIRECTIONS FOR PIE CHARTS

- Work as a GROUP to develop a pie chart that shows the portion of the Forest that you as a GROUP agree you would like to see in each Management Area.
- This is the basis for your vision of the forest and the mapping exercise.

GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT AREAS (MA)



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

Areas of Considerable Agreement

- Most, if not all, the alternatives will use areas of considerable agreement as a baseline, provided that areas of agreement are consistent with sound management practices.

Mapping Exercise: Finding Areas of Agreement

- Begin by each group member briefly describing his/her vision for future forest management and how this relates to the GMNF's goals of balance and multiple use
- Next mark areas of agreement on the map. Begin w/ the "easy" areas.

Mapping Exercise: Areas of Disagreement

- For areas where group members have different visions, **explore the underlying reasons for these differences.**
- Ask others *why* they are suggesting a particular management area, and explain why you are suggesting a different management area designation.

Mapping Exercise: Exploring Options

- Remember that there are a variety of management area designations to choose from. Are there other management area designations that can address the group's interests?
- Step back and look at the “big picture”: Are there “trades” that you can make to address the group's interests? A high priority area for one person may be a lower priority to another, making trades possible.
- Be creative!

Mapping Exercise: Summary

- Remember that it may be in your interest to find as broad an agreement as possible, as such an agreement is likely to become the basis for the alternatives that the GMNF considers.
- After you've completed the map work, fill out the worksheet for your group.

Map Exercise

Summary Work Sheet

- Fill out a work sheet explaining how your group's map:
 - Is balanced and provides for multiple use
 - Addresses Forest Plan Issues
 - Provides for a viable, sustainable timber harvesting program, and
 - demonstrates active consideration for additional wilderness designation, should Congress decide to introduce legislation regarding wilderness on the GMNF
- Highlight points of agreement and areas where group members differ.

NEXT MEETING

**NO MEETINGS SCHEDULES AT
THIS POINT**

**WE PLAN TO SCHEDULE
MEETINGS TO REVIEW
PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES**

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plan_revision.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa_planning/plan_revision.htm)



THANK YOU!

