

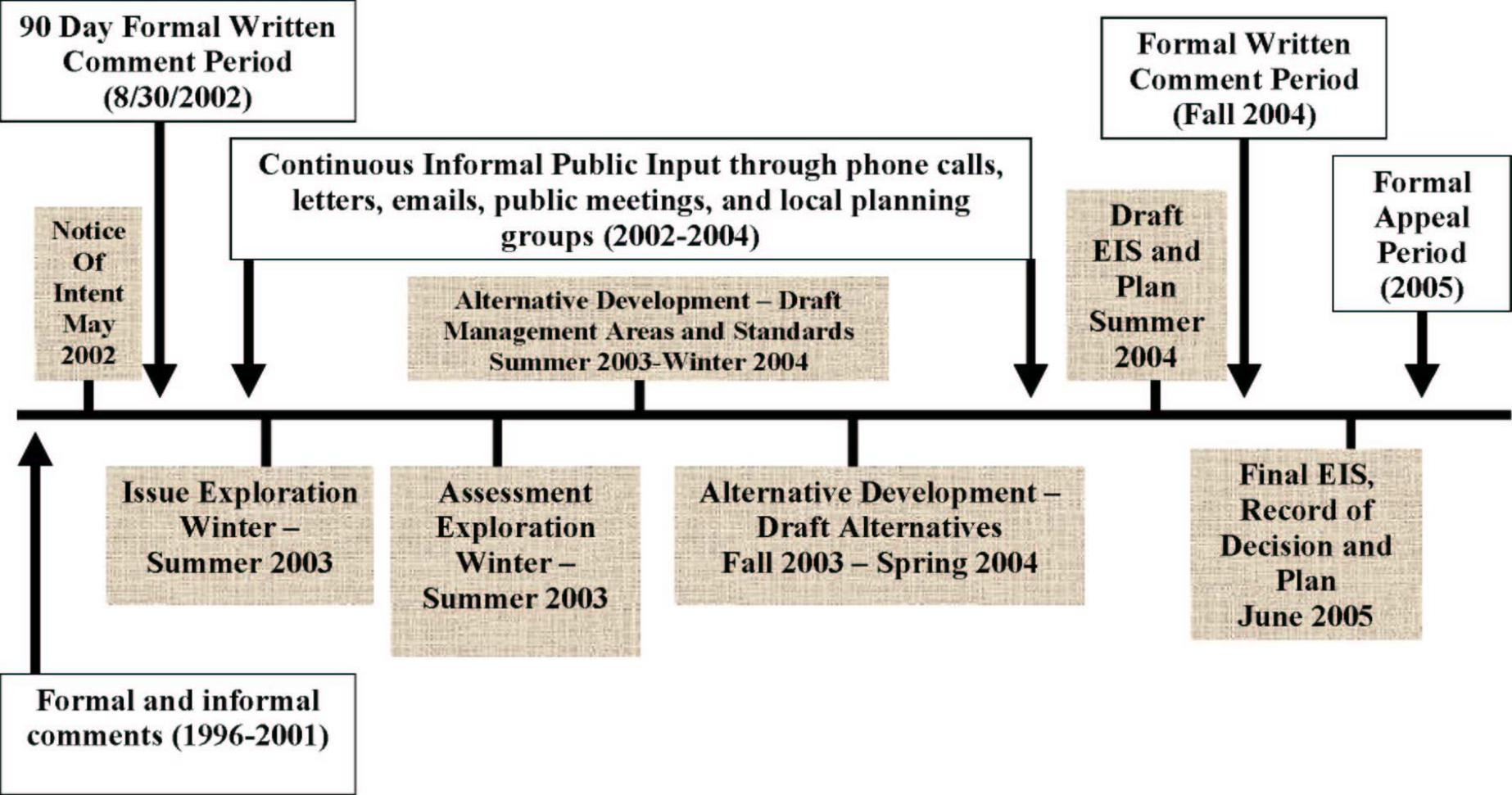
Green Mountain National Forest
December 2003

**Wild and Scenic
Rivers
Review Process**



Public Involvement Timeline

GMNF Forest Plan Revision



Wild and Scenic Rivers

★ *National Designation*

- ★ Requires Act of Congress to Designate

- ★ Free-Flowing Rivers

- ★ Three Levels of Classification

- ★ Wild, Scenic, Recreational

Inventory of Eligible Rivers

▲ *Why Now?*

- ▲ Forest Plan Revision
- ▲ This is a Draft Report
- ▲ Review of findings with groups that have on the ground knowledge

Inventory of Eligible Rivers

★ *Terminology*

- ★ **NRI**- National Rivers Inventory
- ★ **Eligible Rivers**- Determination if a river is free-flowing and possesses one or more Outstandingly Remarkable Value....
- ★ **Significant Stream**- FS term for rivers to evaluate...

Inventory of Eligible Rivers

Outstandingly Remarkable Values
(ORVs)

- ★ **Heritage Resources, Scenic, Recreation, Geologic, Fisheries/Aquatic, Wildlife, Botanical and Ecological**

Inventory of Eligible Rivers

What Steps have Happened So Far?

- ★ National Rivers Inventory
- ★ 1987 Forest Plan
- ★ Significant Streams in '87 Plan
- ★ Rivers Reviewed in '03 for Plan
Revision to be finished in '05
- ★ Draft Results

National Rivers Inventory

- If listed in NRI, (study by the National Park Service in 1982) then already determined “Eligible”.
- Nationally there were over 1,500 river segments.
- Seemed to have characteristics making them eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

National Rivers Inventory

National Park Service Study:

- ▲ 42 Rivers in Vermont found Eligible to be WSR.
- ▲ 11 of these on Green Mtn NF.
- ▲ These are already listed Eligible in Current Plan.
- ▲ Land acquired by Forest Service near three rivers so these will be added in revised Forest Plan.

1987 Forest Plan

- ✦ Plan included the NRI Rivers.
- ✦ After settlement agreement, Forest added 49 streams to study further to see if Eligible.
- ✦ Given the title “Significant Streams”, until study completed.

Forest Plan Revision

- ▲ Formed IDT Team in Jan. '03
- ▲ 1st Looked at New Boundaries.
- ▲ 2nd Added Logical Segments to Significant Streams.
- ▲ 3rd Added new streams inside new boundaries, and on newly acquired lands.
- ▲ See Handout.

Inventory of Eligible Rivers

Who participated on Interdisciplinary Team?

- ▲ **Archeologist**
- ▲ **Landscape Architect**
- ▲ **Recreation Manager**
- ▲ **Recreation Planner**
- ▲ **Soils Specialist**
- ▲ **Fisheries Biologist**
- ▲ **Wildlife Biologist**
- ▲ **Ecologist**
- ▲ **Lands Adjustment Specialist**

Inventory of Eligible Rivers

Criteria established for Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

- ★ Followed National Direction
- ★ Looked at Examples from Across the Country
- ★ Criteria listed in Handouts

Inventory of Eligible Rivers

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- ✦ **Nationally or Eco-Region.**
- ✦ **If a Stream has one or more ORVs, then it is found “Eligible” as WSR.**
- ✦ **NEXT step is Suitability Determination**

Suitability of Eligible Rivers

- ✦ **Determines if River Should be Recommended to Congress.**
- ✦ **Report would be done on each Eligible River.**
- ✦ **Considers “Demonstrated Commitment by Non-federal Entities”.**
- ✦ **Is designation the best method for protection of water quality and ORVs?**

Suitability of Eligible Rivers

- ✦ This Phase of the Process will not be done as part of Forest Plan revision.**
- ✦ Local, State or Federal Agencies may take lead on rivers with shared ownership.**
- ✦ Collaborative process.**

How To Comment Now?

- ✦ **Review evaluation of rivers you have local knowledge of.**
- ✦ **Comment on any features missed.**
- ✦ **Comment on any streams you feel are strong contenders that were missed.**

How To Comment Now?

- ✦ **Contact Pam Novitzky, Recreation Planner on the Green Mountain National Forest, with any questions.**
- ✦ **pnovitzky@fs.fed.us**
- ✦ **Work- 802-747-6759**
- ✦ **We are seeking information from those with on the ground information, prior to Feb 27th, 2004.**