

# Green Mountain National Forest

## *Schedule of Proposed Actions*



**July 1 - September 30, 2003**

### **ABOUT THIS SCHEDULE**

The purpose of the Schedule of Proposed Actions is to provide a status report and short summary of proposals that are undergoing, or will undergo, environmental analysis on the Green Mountain National Forest. Issued quarterly, this Schedule is intended to provide the public with informal notice of proposed activities. Reference can be made to past or future Schedules for additional information. The publishing of this Schedule is required by Forest Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Scoping letters asking for public input on individual proposals will continue to be mailed to interested individuals, or in some cases, the public may be notified via this Schedule. Legal notices announcing project decisions will continue to be published in the Rutland Herald. In addition, at the discretion of the Deciding Official, District Ranger Decisions may be published as legal notices in the following:

<b>District</b>	<b>Newspaper(s)</b>
Manchester	Bennington Banner Manchester Journal Brattleboro Reformer
Rochester	Randolph Herald Burlington Free Press Valley Reporter
Middlebury	Addison Country Independent

The Schedule of Proposed Actions lists projects by each Ranger District. The Schedule includes the name, location, and a brief description of the proposal. Also included is the scoping date (which

indicates when public participation began or will begin), decision date (which indicates the date a decision regarding the implementation of the proposal is expected) and the current status of the proposal.

Analysis which supports any decision is documented in either an Environmental Assessment (EA), or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Proposals which have been "categorically excluded" from documentation in an EA or EIS are supported by project files, which may or may not include a Decision Memo. The analysis and decision documents are kept on file at the appropriate Ranger District Office.

### **HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED**

Your participation is important. Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comment on a project, get more information, or be placed on the project mailing list, write or call the Supervisor's Office or Ranger District Office. A generic statement of interest in all projects based on your review of this Schedule is not specific enough. It is only through site-specific input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns into project development. Project specific involvement is required for standing.

Walk in Requests: Requests from the public occasionally necessitate that analysis be completed with a short turnaround time. This means that NEPA analyses may be conducted and decisions made without prior announcement in this NEPA quarterly update. Scoping efforts for such requests will be conducted as applicable in accordance to regulations. As decisions are made, they will continue to be announced by legal notices in the papers of record. Examples of walk-in requests include short-term special use permits for a recreation event on the forest.

## Green Mountain National Forest Quarterly Project List – 7/1/03 to 9/30/03

### Forest-Wide

<u>#</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Scoping Date</u>	<u>Decision Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
	Forest Plan Revision	Revision of the Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.	All Districts	Forestwide	May 2002 with NOI	Record of Decision projected in 2005	Notice of Intent (NOI) published on May 2, 2002. Assessments, analyses, and public involvement in progress.

### Manchester Ranger District

<u>#</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Scoping Date</u>	<u>Decision Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
1	Wickes Land Exchange	Exchange of approximately 2 ½ acres of land owned by the United States along Old Route 11 in Winhall for land of approximate equal value owned by Ira & Esther Wickes.	Bennington	Winhall	TBD	TBD	Other parcels of land are now being considered for an exchange. A new scoping letter will be sent for public comment.
2	Nordic Project	Timber sale & vegetation management to improve wildlife habitat, deer wintering habitat, and stand conditions for growing high quality wood products.	Bennington, Windham	Peru, Weston, Londonderry Winhall	05/98; 09/03	2004	Analysis expected to begin again in late summer or early fall, 2003.
12	Castlebrook Bridges Rehabilitation	Re-build four road bridges on FR 325, Castlebrook Road for health and safety, and resource protection.	Bennington	Glastenbury, Somerset	07/03	September 2003	Scoping letter being developed.

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3	Greendale Project	Timber sale to improve wildlife habitat; includes permanent openings, deer wintering areas and stream habitat restoration.	Windsor	Weston	Original scoping 4/98; NOI and scoping letter in Jan. 2002.	Aug./Sept. 2003	Comments to Draft Environmental Impact Statement being analyzed.
4	Bromley AT/LT Shelter Relocation	Move existing tent pads and shelter structure to a better location.	Bennington	Winhall	April 4, 2002	May 12, 2003	Decision signed. Implementation underway.
5	Mount Tabor Seasonal Employee Housing Facilities	Construction of housing facilities for Forest Service seasonal employees and partners assisting in the management of the south half of the Green Mountain National Forest.	Rutland	Mount Tabor	09/02	August 2003	EA for Public Comment mailed end of June. Legal Notice published 6/27. Comment period ends July 28.
6	Hapgood Gravel Pit Re-opening	Re-open and expand the gravel pit to provide material for maintenance of Forest Service roads.	Bennington	Peru	06/03	September 2003	Scoping letter mailed in early June.
7	Dead Horse Cross-Country Ski Trail Relocation	Relocate a section of the Catamount Trail Association cross-country ski trail system.	Bennington	Winhall	09/03	Fall/Winter 2003	Project proposal being finalized.
8	Grout Pond Pit Toilet Relocation	Relocate two pit toilets on the northeast side of Grout Pond.	Windham	Stratton	06/03	July 2003	Project being finalized. Scoping underway.
9	Wild Wings Cross Country Ski Trail reconstruction	Reconstruct existing skid trail as an addition to existing cross country ski trail system.	Bennington	Peru	07/03	August 2003	Scoping initiated.

### Middlebury Ranger District

<u>#</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Scoping Date</u>	<u>Decision Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
10	Dutton Brook II Timber Sale	Timber sale to improve wildlife habitat, deer wintering areas, forest health, and recreational opportunities.	Addison	Leicester, Goshen	07/03	Winter 2004	Scoping letter being prepared.
11	Goshen Pit	Issue Town of Goshen a mineral materials permit to use existing gravel pit. Pit to be expanded by 1 to 2 acres.	Addison	Goshen	07/03	Summer/Fall 2003	Project being finalized. Hoping to scope in July.
23	Fitzpatrick Private Land Access	Permit to construct a road on National Forest lands granted to private individuals to allow access to private land.	Addison	Ripton, Lincoln	08/03	Fall 2003	Gathering data. Scoping letter to be prepared.

### Rochester Ranger District

<u>#</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Scoping Date</u>	<u>Decision Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
15	Old Joe Timber Sale	Proposed timber sale to improve deer winter habitat, forest health and recreational opportunities.	Windsor	Rochester	02/98	August 2002	Being litigated by three environmental groups.
16	Appalachian Trail Relocation at Thundering Falls	Proposal to relocate a 1/4 mile segment of the Trail off Thundering Brook Road so that the trail will lead to Thundering Brook Falls.	Rutland	Killington	01/00	July 2, 2003	Decision signed July 2. Legal Notice expected shortly after.
17	White River Restoration, Lower Granville	Habitat restoration on about 4000 feet of the White River on NFS and private lands in cooperation with State and federal agencies, and the White River Partnership.	Addison	Granville	Summer 2003	Summer/Fall 2003	Proposal being developed. Scoping expected in the Summer of 2003.

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18	Upper White River Riparian Restoration	Restore riparian forests on NFS lands along the White River (various locations). Includes treatment of exotic invasive species & planting native trees & shrubs.	Windsor	Stockbridge and Rochester	10/03	December 2003	Proposal being finalized. Scoping expected in the Fall of 2003.
19	Corporation Brook Woods Road Project	Remove culverts and a bridge, install waterbars, restore stream crossings, and close an old logging road which starts at the end of Corporation Road.	Rutland	Pittsfield	06/03	September 2003	Scoping letters mailed in early June.
20	Fish passage Improvement	Install boulder and log structures to facilitate fish passage through 3 culverts that are currently migration barriers in Bingo, Brandon, and Perkins Brooks.	Addison, Windsor	Rochester	05/03	July 2003	Scoping letter mailed. Only 1 comments received.
21	Mountain Meadows Cross country Ski Trail Maintenance	Repair 0.15 miles of existing cross country ski trail and replace a bridge.	Rutland	Killington	07/03	September 2003	Scoping initiated.
22	Catamount Trail-Forest Road 54 Bypass	Relocate approximately 2.5 miles of trail off of plowed road which is also used as a major snowmobile trail.	Addison	Ripton and Lincoln	09/03	November 2003	Project proposal being finalized.



# FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on the projects described in this update, contact:

Paul Brewster  
Forest Supervisor  
Green Mountain & Finger Lakes  
National Forests  
231 North Main Street  
Rutland, VT 05701  
802-747-6700 (voice)  
802-747-6765 (TDD/TTY)

Steve Kimball, District Ranger  
Middlebury and Rochester Ranger Districts  
Green Mountain National Forest  
99 Ranger Road Route 100  
Rochester, VT 05767  
802-767-4261 (voice and TDD/TTY)

Gina Owens, District Ranger  
Manchester Ranger District  
Green Mountain National Forest  
2538 Depot Street  
Manchester Ctr., VT 05255  
802-362-2307 (voice & TDD/TTY)

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**U.S. Department of Agriculture**



**Forest Service**  
**Green Mountain and Finger Lakes**  
**National Forests**  
231 North Main Street  
Rutland, VT 05701

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