



Green Mountain National Forest

Schedule of Proposed Action



July 1 to September 30, 2020

ABOUT THIS SCHEDULE

The purpose of the Schedule of Proposed Action (Schedule) is to provide a status report and short summary of project proposals that are undergoing, or will undergo, environmental analysis by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Forest Service on the Green Mountain National Forest. Issued quarterly, this Schedule is intended to provide the public with informal notice of proposed activities. The publishing of this Schedule is required by Forest Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

An effort will be made to seek public input (called “scoping”) on proposed projects based on specific response to this Schedule. Scoping may be in the form of letters, email requests or phone calls that will include more specific information in order for the public to provide meaningful feedback that may be incorporated into the environmental analysis process. When required, legal notices announcing project information will be published in the *Rutland Herald*, our newspaper of record. In addition, at the discretion of the Responsible Official, project information may be published as legal notices in the following newspapers:

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

The Schedule lists projects by each Ranger District or Forest-wide. 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, and the

expected implementation date. 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" (CE) 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 or Supervisor’s (Forest Headquarters) office depending on the location of the project, and is available for your review.

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

Your participation is important. Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comments on a project, get more information, or be placed on a project mailing list, either write or call using 1) the contacts listed at the end of the Schedule or; 2) the project contact included for the specific project of your interest. 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.

Walk in Requests: Requests from the public occasionally require that the environmental analysis be completed with a short turnaround time. This means that the analyses may be conducted and decisions made without prior listing in this Schedule. Efforts for public input for such requests will be conducted as applicable in accordance to regulations. An example of a walk-in request would be a short-term special use permit for a recreation event on the forest.

VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE

For more information about planning or projects on the Green Mountain National Forest you may visit our website at:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/gmfl/landmanagement/projects>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on the projects described in this Schedule of Proposed Action, contact:

John A. Sinclair
Forest Supervisor
Green Mountain & Finger Lakes
National Forests
231 North Main Street
Rutland, VT 05701
802-747-6700

Christopher Mattrick, District Ranger
Middlebury and Rochester Ranger Districts
Green Mountain National Forest
99 Ranger Road, Route 100
Rochester, VT 05767
802-767-4261



David Francomb, District Ranger
Manchester Ranger District
Green Mountain National Forest
2538 Depot Street
Manchester Ctr., VT 05255
802-362-2307

This document available in large print upon request.

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Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)
07/01/2020 to 09/30/2020
Green Mountain National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Projects Occurring Nationwide					
Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A. EIS *UPDATED*	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/13/2018 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 11/2021	Expected:12/2021	12/2021	Nancy Rusho 202-731-9196 nancy.rusho@usda.gov
	Description: The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposes revisions to its regulations at 36 CFR 228, Subpart A governing locatable minerals operations on National Forest System lands. A draft EIS & proposed rule should be available for review/comment in late 2020				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214				
	Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. These regulations apply to all NFS lands open to mineral entry under the US mining laws. More Information is available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/geology/minerals/locatable-minerals/current-revisions .				

Green Mountain National Forest, Occurring in more than one District					R9 - Eastern Region
White Pine/Oak/Hickory Timber Stand Improvement CE *UPDATED*	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/21/2019	Expected:07/2020	09/2020	Allan Braun 802-362-2307 x 7213 allan.braun@usda.gov
	Description: Release white pine, oak and hickory regeneration from competition via non-commercial, non-ground disturbing, hand felling on 54 acres in six separate stands across the Forest.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56906				
	Location: UNIT - Rochester Ranger District, Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Windsor. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Leicester, Peru, Ripton, and Winhall.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Manchester Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region
Feller Brook Trail and Wallingford Pond Spur C Decommissioning CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	Completed	Actual: 04/07/2020	05/2020	Emily Lauderdale 802-362-2307 x7227 emily.lauderdale@usda.gov
	Description: The project would remove Feller Brook Trail and Wallingford Pond Spur C from the National Forest System Trails Database. These trails have not seen snowmobile use in several years and are missing two bridges.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56904				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Rutland. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Wallingford.					
Macintyre Permanent Opening Reclamation CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 08/2020	Expected:10/2020	03/2021	Scott Wixsom 802-362-2307 x7219 scott.wixsom@usda.gov
	Description: This project would remove trees on 21 acres from two permanent wildlife openings to allow for planned maintenance of the openings. This would be a complimentary action to a timber sale implemented for the Early Successional Habitat Project.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57923				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Sunderland.					
Mount Snow Epic Mix Installation CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2020	Expected:09/2020	10/2020	Jeffrey Hammell 802-747-6798 jeffrey.hammell@usda.gov
	Description: This project would authorize Mt. Snow to install infrastructure associated with an interactive skiing app and increase areas on the mountain where electrical power would be available.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57927				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Windham. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of West Dover.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Manchester Ranger District		R9 - Eastern Region	
Mount Snow Upper Carinthia Bypass Power and Communications Install CE *UPDATED*	- Regulations, Directives, Orders - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2020	Expected:09/2020	10/2020	Jeffrey Hammell 802-747-6798 jeffrey.hammell@usda.gov
	Description: This project would authorize Mt Snow to install the instrumentation needed at the inlet to Carinthia Pond to comply with Federal and State minimum streamflow regulations, which would minimize impacts to aquatic resources.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57929				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Windham. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of West Dover.					
Somerset Integrated Resource Project EA *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Heritage resource management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Road management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 03/29/2019	Expected:09/2020	10/2020	Jay Strand 802-767-4261 x5522 jay.strand@usda.gov
	Description: Multiple resource management to implement the Forest Plan across a large landscape area. Includes activities such as timber harvesting, wildlife & fisheries habitat improvement, recreation & forest access opportunities, and restoration work.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53706				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington, Windham. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Multiple towns.					
South Fork of the Roaring Branch Stream Restoration CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 08/2020	Expected:09/2020	03/2021	Scott Wixsom 802-362-2307 x7219 scott.wixsom@usda.gov
	Description: This project consists of large wood placement on approximately 2.1 miles of stream along the South Fork of the Roaring Branch where chainsaws will be used to directionally fell and position trees from the adjacent streamside.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57931				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Sunderland and Glastenbury.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Manchester Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region
Spruce Peak VAST Trail Additions CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 07/03/2019	Expected:08/2020	09/2020	Robert Abrams 802-362-2307 x7725 robert.abrams@usda.gov
	Description: Add two sections of existing snowmobile trail totaling about 1.1 miles in use and maintained by the VT Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) to the Forest Service trail system.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56382				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Winhall and Manchester.					
Weston CCC Trail Designation CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/24/2020	Expected:08/2020	09/2020	Emily Lauderdale 802-362-2307 x7227 emily.lauderdale@usda.gov
	Description: This project would designate 0.25 miles of Forest Road 299 as a hiking trail. No bridges or other trail tread infrastructure would be built.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57921				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Weston.					
Wilcox Special Use Permit Amendment CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/07/2019	Expected:12/2020	03/2021	Jennifer Edmonds 802-747-6746 jennifer.edmonds@usda.gov
	Description: This project would consist of the issuance of a special use permit amendment to the Wilcox Cultivation Permit. The amendment would allow Mr. Wilcox to cultivate the 8.3 acre field adjacent to his current permit area.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57935				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Manchester.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Middlebury Ranger District		R9 - Eastern Region	
Frost Wayside Connector and Accessibility Trail Upgrade CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/12/2020	Expected:07/2020	08/2020	David Nulsen 802-767-4261 x5533 david.nulsen@usda.gov
	Description: This project would relocate and upgrade trails at the Robert Frost Wayside site in order to improve user safety and universal accessibility, address streambank erosion, and respond to public feedback for future recreation site management.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57936				
Location: UNIT - Middlebury Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Ripton.					
Goshen Blueberry Opening Management CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/27/2019	Expected:09/2020	10/2020	Lindsay Silvia (802) 353-8898 lindsay.r.silvia@usda.gov
	Description: Re-establish and maintain low-bush blueberry openings on 63 acres in and around the Goshen Blueberry Management Area. Includes commercial removal of trees and control of brush with mastication and prescribed fire.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55718				
Location: UNIT - Middlebury Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Goshen.					
Green Mountain Power Goshen Dam Power Special Use Permit CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 05/18/2020	05/2020	Jennifer Edmonds 802-747-6746 jennifer.edmonds@usda.gov
	Description: This project would authorize Green Mountain Power to install an electric line and fiber optic cable to Goshen Dam which would enable remote sensing of water levels and flows at the dam and remote operation of valves and gates.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57937				
Location: UNIT - Middlebury Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Goshen.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Rochester Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region
Chateauguay Trail Relocation CE *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management	Completed	Actual: 06/12/2020	06/2020	Holly Knox 802-747-6724 holly.knox@usda.gov
	Description: Trail improvements are necessary to address erosion, slumping, sedimentation and hydraulic connectivity concerns. Improvements include a 500 foot trail relocation, installation of drainage structures, and gate installation.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58078				
Location: UNIT - Rochester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Windsor. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Bridgewater.					
Cow Mountain Pond Snowmobile Trail Special Use Reissuance CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Jennifer Edmonds 802-747-6746 jennifer.edmonds@usda.gov
	Description: Reissue a special use permit to Vermont Association of Snow Travelers for the operation and maintenance of a segment of a snowmobile trail located on a Forest Legacy Tract. The fee title of the tract located in Granby, VT is owned by the U.S. The project was cancelled because the permit was issued through an existing agreement.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=49835				
Location: UNIT - Rochester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Essex. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Granby.					
West Hill Road Bridge Replacement Special Use Permit CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management - Road management	Completed	Actual: 05/20/2020	09/2020	Jennifer Edmonds 802-747-6746 jennifer.edmonds@usda.gov
	Description: This project would authorize the Town of Rochester, Vermont to replace an existing road bridge on West Hill Road (Forest Road 41).				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57938				
Location: UNIT - Rochester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Windsor. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Rochester.					

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