



Green Mountain National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions

January 1 to March 31, 2024

ABOUT THIS SCHEDULE

The purpose of the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) 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 SOPA is intended to provide the public with informal notice of proposed activities. The publishing of this SOPA 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 SOPA. 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>	Newspaper(s)
Manchester	Bennington Banner Manchester Journal Brattleboro Reformer
Rochester	Randolph Herald Burlington Free Press Valley Reporter
Middlebury	Addison County Independent

The SOPA lists projects by each Ranger District or Forest-wide. The SOPA 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 SOPA 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 SOPA 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 environomental analysis be completed with a short turnaround time. This means that the analyses may be conducted and decisions made without prior listing in this SOPA. 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 Actions, contact:

John A. Sinclair Forest Supervisor Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests Mendon, VT 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

Martina Barnes, District Ranger Manchester Ranger District Green Mountain National Forest 2538 Depot Street Manchester Center, VT 05255 802-362-2307

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA) 01/01/2024 to 03/31/2024

Green Mountain National Forest

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

Expected

Project Name	Project Purpose		Planning Status	Decision	Implementation	Project Contact		
Projects Occurring Nationwide								
Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System	- Land mana	gement planning	Developing Proposal Est. NOI in Federal Register 12/2023	Expected:01/2025	01/2025	Jennifer Ruyle 520- 388-8351 jennifer.mcrae@usda.gov		
EIS *NEW LISTING*	Description: Web Link:	Amend all land management plans for units of the National Forest System to include consistent direction conserve and steward existing and recruit future old-growth forest conditions and to monitor their condition planning areas of NFS. http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356						
	Location:							
Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A.	- Regulations Orders	, Directives,	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Sarah Shoemaker 907- 586-7886 sarahshoemaker@fs.fed.us		
	Description:	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 State	s. COUNTY - All Co	ounties. LEGAL - N	ot 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.

Project Name	Proje	ect Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact		
Projects Occurring Nationwide								
Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land.	- Regulations Orders	s, Directives,	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 02/11/2022 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/2023	Expected:09/2023	01/2024	Laura Conway 406-802-4317 laura.conway@usda.gov		
	Description: Programmatic Supplemental EIS for the Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land.							
	Web Link:	http://www.fs.usda.g	ov/project/?project=60450					
	Location:	UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The direction in the SEIS will apply to use of aerially delivered fire retardant on all National Forest System land.						

Green Mountain National Forest, Occurring in more than one District R9 - Eastern Region								
Forest-wide Opening Maintenance CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/31/2023	Expected:03/2024	03/2024	Scott Wixsom 802-362-2307 x7219 scott.wixsom@usda.gov			
UPDATED	National Forest.	d authorize continuing managen	nent of permanent open	ings in 266 stand	ds on the Green Mountain			
		y Ranger District, Rochester Rai son, Bennington, Rutland, Wash ut Vermont.						

Project Name	Proje	ect Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact	
Green Mountain National Forest	, Occurring ir	more than one Dis	strict			R9 - Eastern Region	
Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project EA *UPDATED*	 Recreation management Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants Forest products Vegetation management (other than forest products) Watershed management Road management Climate Change Adaptation 		In Progress: Scoping Start 01/27/2023 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 01/2024	Expected:06/2024	07/2024	Jay Strand 802-767-4261 x5522 jay.strand@usda.gov	
		include timber harve wetland restoration					
	Web Link:	http://www.fs.usda.g	gov/project/?project=60192				
	Location:		Ranger District, Rochester Rar Not Applicable. Towns of Chitte dge.				
Green Mountain National Forest		Manchest	er Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region	
Appalachian Trail/Long Trail (AT/LT) Relocations in Bennington County	- Recreation	management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2024	Expected:03/2024	06/2024	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 x7237 danna.strout@usda.gov	
CE *UPDATED*	Description: Relocate two separate trail segments of the Appalachian Trail/Long Trail in Bennington County in order to move the trail onto public land and provide for more sustainable trail tread by eliminating a steep, eroded section of trail. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64560						
	Location:	,	Ranger District. STATE - Veri	mont. COUNTY - Ber	nnington. LEGAL -	Not Applicable.	
Appalachian/Long Trail Relocation Little Black Branch CE		management nange Adaptation	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 03/2024	Expected:06/2024	07/2024	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 danna.strout@usda.gov	
NEW LISTING	Description:		n of the Appalachian Trail/Long of trail would be designed to b			ding. The newly	
	Location:	UNIT - Manchester Mount Tabor.	Ranger District. STATE - Verr	mont. COUNTY - Rutl	and. LEGAL - Not	Applicable. Town of	

Project Name	Proje	ct Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact		
Green Mountain National Forest		Manches	ter Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region		
Corridor 7 Trail Relocation of 11/30 Crossing	- Recreation	management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2024	Expected:09/2024	09/2024	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 danna.strout@usda.gov		
NEW LISTING	Description:		corridor 7 trail crossing of Vermo is currently closed due to failing					
	Location:	UNIT - Manchester Town of Winhall.	Ranger District. STATE - Veri	mont. COUNTY - Be	ennington. LEGAL	- Not Applicable.		
Grout Pond Loop Trail Relocation CE	- Recreation	management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/09/2023	Expected:02/2024	06/2024	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 x7237 danna.strout@usda.gov		
	Description: Relocate section of Pond Loop trail where it is currently trenched and heavily eroded southwest of Grout Pond. Trail relocation would be 310 feet in length and would be implemented in partnership with existing trail partners. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63333							
	Location:	UNIT - Manchester of Stratton.	Ranger District. STATE - Verr	mont. COUNTY - Wir	ndham. LEGAL - N	lot Applicable. Town		
Jones Brook East Trail Relocation and Managed Bike Use Addition	- Recreation	management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/09/2023	Expected:02/2024	02/2024	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 x7237 danna.strout@usda.gov		
CE	Description: Manage Jones Brook East trail for mountain bike use and relocate a section of the trail where it is currently unsuitable for summer use. Trail relocation would be 830 feet in length and implemented in partnership with existing trail partners.							
	Web Link: Location:	·	gov/project/?project=63331 Ranger District. STATE - Veri	mont. COUNTY - Be	ennington. LEGAL	- Not Applicable.		
Little Mad Tom Brook Diversion Repair Special Use Permit CE	- Special use	management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2024	Expected:01/2024	01/2024	Kate Miller 802-362-2307 x7217 kate.miller@usda.gov		
NEW LISTING	Description:		breached berm that reroutes Li he berm is necessary to prever					
	Location:	UNIT - Manchester Town of Dorset.	Ranger District. STATE - Veri	mont. COUNTY - Be	ennington. LEGAL	- Not Applicable.		

Project Name	Proje	ct Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact	
Green Mountain National Forest		Manchest		R9 - Eastern Region			
Lye Brook Trailhead Parking Relocation CE	- Recreation	management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 x7237 danna.strout@usda.gov	
UPDATED	Description: Web Link:	and Glen Roads. Th	head parking area would be ne new parking lot would acc gov/project/?project=61176	relocated on Lye Broo ommodate 30 to 40 v	ok Road near its int ehicles.	ersection with Benson	
	Location:	UNIT - Manchester Town of Mancheste	Ranger District. STATE - Ve r.	ermont. COUNTY - E	Bennington. LEGAI	Not Applicable.	
Manchester Trail Bridge Replacements and Repairs CE	- Recreation - Watershed	management management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/09/2023	Expected:03/2024	06/2024	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 x7237 danna.strout@usda.gov	
0 2	Description: Replace or repair 12 trail bridges that have significant maintenance needs. Project would involve heavy equipment and would be implemented in partnership with existing trail partners. Initially included Wardsboro Link #3, now Project #64533. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63335						
	Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington, Rutland, Windham. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Glastenbury, Mount Holly, Mount Tabor, Peru, Stratton, and Winhall.						
Mount Snow High Traverse Widening CE	- Special use	management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/15/2023	Expected:02/2024	04/2024	Nathaniel Blanks 802- 747-6714 Nathaniel.Blanks@usda.gov	
UPDATED	Description: Widen the High Traverse alpine ski trail to relieve congestion, replace 400 feet of buried power line along the trail and add a valve house in the same vicinity to improve snowmaking efficiency.						
	Web Link:	http://www.fs.usda.g	gov/project/?project=62974				
	Location:	ation: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Windham. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Dover.					

Project Name	Proje	ect Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact		
Green Mountain National Forest		Middlebu	ry Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region		
Clark Right of Way Reconstruction Special Use Permit	- Special use	e management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/22/2023	Expected:02/2024	02/2024	Jennifer Edmonds 802- 353-8186 jennifer.edmonds@usda.gov		
CE *UPDATED*	Description: Web Link: Location:	ng right of way. Fourteen would be resurfaced with ot Applicable. Town of						
		Chittenden.	ranger Bloanes. 617472 Ven		ations. EEG/12 14	ot Applicable. Fown of		
Dutton Brook II Oak/Chestnut Release CE	(other than for	management prest products) and Development nange Adaptation	In Progress: Scoping Start 08/09/2023	Expected:07/2024	08/2024	Joshua Wills 802-362-2307 x7213 joshua.wills@usda.gov		
	Description: On 262 acres of stands included in the Dutton Brook II DN, a non-commercial mid-story removal will be implemented on trees up to 10 inches in diameter using chainsaws and herbicide to release red oak and chestnut seedlings.							
	Web Link:	http://www.fs.usda.	gov/project/?project=64493					
	Location:		Ranger District. STATE - Ver Leicester and Brandon.	mont. COUNTY - A	ddison, Rutland. I	LEGAL - Not Applicable.		
Middlebury College Land Exchange CE	- Land owne	rship management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2024	Expected:06/2024	06/2025	Christopher Mattrick 802-767-4261 x5513 christopher.mattrick@usda.gov		
UPDATED	Description		proposes to exchange an app wned by Middlebury College i					
	Web Link:	http://www.fs.usda.	gov/project/?project=59518					
	Location:	UNIT - Middlebury Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Ripton.						

Project Name	Proje	ect Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Middlebu	ry Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region
Mountain Top Trail Improvement Project - 2023 CE	- Recreation management - Watershed management - Special use management		Completed	Actual: 12/05/2023	06/2024	Jeffrey Hammell 802- 222-1828 jeffrey.hammell@usda.gov
UPDATED	Description: Web Link:	improve visibility or	widen and grade trails to improcorners on existing Nordic s gov/project/?project=64074			
	Location:	UNIT - Middlebury Chittenden.	Ranger District. STATE - Ver	mont. COUNTY - Ru	ıtland. LEGAL - No	t Applicable. Town of
Silver Towers Trail Right of Way Special Use Permit CE	- Special use management		In Progress: Scoping Start 05/22/2023	Expected:05/2024	05/2024	Jennifer Edmonds (802)353-8186 jennifer.edmonds@usda.gov
UPDATED	Description: Issuance of a special use permit to Vermont Elks Charities, Inc dba Silver Towers Camp authorizing the construction, maintenance, and use of a 500 ft. long trail between the camp and Forest Road 89. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63865					
	Location:		Ranger District. STATE - Ver	mont. COUNTY - Ac	ldison. LEGAL - No	ot Applicable. Town of
Walters Right of Way Permit Authorization CE	- Special use	e management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2024	Expected:02/2024	02/2024	Jennifer Edmonds 802- 353-8186 jennifer.edmonds@usda.gov
UPDATED	Description:		nit would be issued with a terr g snowmobile trail (Blue Ridg feet.			
	Web Link: Location:	http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59806 UNIT - Middlebury Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Rutland. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Chittenden.				

Project Name	Proje	ect Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact		
Green Mountain National Forest		Rochester	Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region		
Appalachian Trail Side & Corridor Crossing Trail Designations	- Recreation	management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/07/2021	Expected:03/2024	03/2024	Christopher Mattrick 802- 767-4261 x5513 christopher.mattrick@usda.gov		
CE *UPDATED*	Description: The project would add three existing trail segments to the National Forest System in the Town of Norwich (Dothan Brook, Joshua, and Griggs Mountain Trails). Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59805							
	Location:	UNIT - Rochester R Norwich.	anger District. STATE - Vern	nont. COUNTY - Wii	ndsor. LEGAL - No	ot Applicable. Town of		
Chittenden Brook Campground Renovation Project CE	- Recreation - Facility ma	management nagement	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2024	Expected:04/2024	05/2024	Philip MacAskill 559- 855-5355 philip.macaskill@usda.gov		
NEW LISTING	Description: Renovation and reconstruction of a campground by replacing outhouses; installing accessible paths; replacing aging signs, kiosk, and other infrastructure; regravel and grade campsites as needed.							
	Location:	UNIT - Rochester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Windsor. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Rochester.						
Maher Right of Way Special Use Amendment CE *UPDATED*	- Special use	management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/13/2022	Expected:04/2024	04/2024	Jennifer Edmonds 802- 353-8186 jennifer.edmonds@usda.gov		
OPDATED	Description:	Amendment of an existing right of way (ROW) special use permit to include year round use and to extend the ROW by approximately 460 feet from the end of Pine Gap Road to the existing ROW.						
	Web Link:	http://www.fs.usda.g	ov/project/?project=62976					
	Location:	UNIT - Rochester R Rochester.	anger District. STATE - Vern	nont. COUNTY - Wil	ndsor. LEGAL - N	ot Applicable. Town of		

Project Name	Proje	ect Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact		
Green Mountain National Forest		Rocheste	er Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region		
Rochester Administrative Site Garage Construction CE	- Facility mai	nagement	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 03/2024	Expected:04/2024	06/2025	David Donahue 802- 747-6726 david.p.donahue@usda.gov		
NEW LISTING	Description:	Construction of a n Ranger District Ad	ew 20 vehicle garage and exp	anded parking to add	dress limited parkin	g at the Rochester		
	Location:	UNIT - Rochester Rochester.	Ranger District. STATE - Verr	nont. COUNTY - Wi	ndsor. LEGAL - No	t Applicable. Town of		
Sugarbush Gate House Mountain Bike Trails CE	- Special use management		Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2024	Expected:02/2024	03/2024	Nathaniel Blanks 802- 747-6714 Nathaniel.Blanks@usda.gov		
UPDATED	Description: Sugarbush Resort desires to improve their mountain bike opportunities by constructing 10.9 miles of mountain bike trails in the Gate House area. Some existing trails and a disc golf course would be decommissioned and rehabilitated.							
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62975							
	Location: UNIT - Rochester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Washington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Warren.							
Sugarbush Super Bravo Mountain Bike Trail Improvement	Recreation management Special use management Carbon Stewardship		In Progress: Scoping Start 05/19/2023	Expected:02/2024	03/2024	Jeffrey Hammell 802- 747-6798 jeffrey.hammell@usda.gov		
CE	Description:	Dealignment and r	acconstruction of evicting mour	tain hika trail infractr	Lioturo			
UPDATED	Description: Realignment and reconstruction of existing mountain bike trail infrastructure. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63895							
			<u> </u>					
	Location:	UNIT - Rochester of Warren.	Ranger District. STATE - Verr	nont. COUNTY - Wa	asnington. LEGAL -	- Not Applicable. Town		

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