



Green Mountain National Forest

Schedule of Proposed Actions

April 1 to June 30, 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>	<u>Newspaper(s)</u>
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 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 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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Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

04/01/2024 to 06/30/2024

Green Mountain National Forest

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

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Projects Occurring Nationwide					
Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System EIS *UPDATED*	- Land management planning	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 12/20/2023 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 06/2024	Expected:01/2025	01/2025	Jennifer McRae 505-377-3145 Jennifer.McRae@usda.gov
	Description: Amend all land management plans for units of the National Forest System to include consistent direction to conserve and steward existing and recruit future old-growth forest conditions and to monitor their condition across planning areas of NFS.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356				
Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. National Forests and Grasslands (128 units).					
Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A. EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Sarah Shoemaker 907-586-7886 sarahshoemaker@fs.fed.us
	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 .					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Projects Occurring Nationwide					
Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land. EIS *UPDATED*	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	Completed	Actual: 02/06/2024	02/2024	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.gov/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 *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/31/2023	Expected:06/2024	09/2024	Scott Wixsom 802-362-2307 x7219 scott.wixsom@usda.gov
	Description: This project would authorize continuing management of permanent openings in 266 stands on the Green Mountain National Forest.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61917				
Location: UNIT - Middlebury Ranger District, Rochester Ranger District, Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Several Towns throughout Vermont.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest, Occurring in more than one District					R9 - Eastern Region
Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project EA *UPDATED*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Watershed management - Road management - Climate Change Adaptation 	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 03/08/2024	Expected:09/2024	10/2024	Jay Strand 802-767-4261 x5522 jay.strand@usda.gov
Description: Multiple resource management to implement the Forest Plan across a large landscape area. Proposed activities include timber harvesting, wildlife habitat enhancement, recreation & forest access improvements, and soil and wetland restoration work. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60192					
Location: UNIT - Middlebury Ranger District, Rochester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison, Rutland, Windsor. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Killington, Mendon, Pittsfield, Pittsford, and Stockbridge.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Manchester Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region
Appalachian Trail/Long Trail (AT/LT) Relocations in Bennington County CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/22/2024	Expected:05/2024	06/2024	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 x7237 danna.strout@usda.gov
	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: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Pownal and Woodford.					
Appalachian/Long Trail Relocation Little Black Branch CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Climate Change Adaptation	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 10/2024	Expected:04/2025	06/2025	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 danna.strout@usda.gov
	Description: Relocating a section of the Appalachian Trail/Long Trail that was destroyed by rain and flooding. The newly constructed section of trail would be designed to be safer and more sustainable.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65169				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Rutland. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Mount Tabor.					
Corridor 7 Trail Relocation of 11/30 Crossing CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/24/2024	Expected:09/2024	09/2024	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 danna.strout@usda.gov
	Description: Relocation of the Corridor 7 trail crossing of Vermont State Route 11/30 to improve safety and the relocation of a section of trail that is currently closed due to failing infrastructure with the goal of improving safety and the trail experience.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65411				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Winhall.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Manchester Ranger District		R9 - Eastern Region	
Glastenbury and Stratton Tower Repairs CE *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management - Facility management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2024	Expected:10/2024	12/2025	David Donahue 802-747-6726 david.p.donahue@usda.gov
	Description: Structural repairs to the Glastenbury and Stratton lookout towers.				
	Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington, Windham. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Glastenbury and Stratton.				
Grout Pond Loop Trail Relocation CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/09/2023	Expected:04/2025	06/2025	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 Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Windham. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Stratton.					
Hapgood Pond Dredging CE *NEW LISTING*	- Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2024	Expected:09/2024	12/2024	John McCann 802-747-6739 john.mccann@usda.gov
	Description: Removal of accumulated fine sediment from Hapgood Pond in order to increase water storage volume, improve recreational experience, and prevent potentially dangerous high water temperatures.				
	Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Peru.				
Hapgood Pond Recreation Site Improvements CE *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management - Facility management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2024	Expected:06/2024	07/2024	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 danna.strout@usda.gov
	Description: Maintenance and improvement of recreation features and facilities at Hapgood Pond to meet the needs of visitors and standards for safety, sustainability, and universal access.				
	Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Peru.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Manchester Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region
Jones Brook East Trail Relocation and Managed Bike Use Addition CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	Completed	Actual: 02/28/2024	02/2024	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 x7237 danna.strout@usda.gov
	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: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63331				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Peru.					
Little Mad Tom Brook Diversion Repair Special Use Permit CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 02/20/2024	03/2024	Kate Miller 802-362-2307 x7217 kate.miller@usda.gov
	Description: Repair an existing breached berm that reroutes Little Mad Tom Brook to a long-established diversion channel. Reconstruction of the berm is necessary to prevent flooding and protect property and infrastructure.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65385				
Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Bennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Dorset.					
Manchester Trail Bridge Replacements and Repairs CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/09/2023	Expected:04/2024	06/2024	Danna Strout 802-362-2307 x7237 danna.strout@usda.gov
	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.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Manchester Ranger District		R9 - Eastern Region	
Mount Snow High Traverse Widening CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/15/2023	Expected:04/2024	04/2024	Nathaniel Blanks 802-747-6714 Nathaniel.Blanks@usda.gov
	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.gov/project/?project=62974				
	Location: UNIT - Manchester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Windham. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Dover.				

Green Mountain National Forest		Middlebury Ranger District		R9 - Eastern Region	
Clark Right of Way Reconstruction Special Use Permit CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/22/2023	Expected:05/2024	05/2024	Jennifer Edmonds 802-353-8186 jennifer.edmonds@usda.gov
	Description: Issuance of a special use permit with a term of two years, authorizing work on the existing right of way. Fourteen hardwood trees would be cut and left in place, and the entire length of the right of way would be resurfaced with crushed stone.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64159				
	Location: UNIT - Middlebury Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Rutland. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Chittenden.				
Dutton Brook II Oak/Chestnut Release CE	- Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Research and Development - Climate Change 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: UNIT - Middlebury Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison, Rutland. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Goshen, Leicester and Brandon.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Middlebury Ranger District		R9 - Eastern Region	
Middlebury College Land Exchange CE	- Land ownership management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2024	Expected:06/2024	06/2025	Christopher Mattrick 802-767-4261 x5513 christopher.mattrick@usda.gov
	Description: The Forest Service proposes to exchange an approximately 475 acre tract of land on the GMNF for approximately 402 acres of land owned by Middlebury College in the Breadloaf area of Ripton, Vermont.				
	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.					
Old Town Road Powerline Reconstruction Permit CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 05/2024	Expected:06/2024	06/2024	Jennifer Edmonds 802-767-4261 x. 529 jennifer.edmonds@usda.gov
	Description: Proposal to issue a construction permit with a 3 year term authorizing the rebuilding of existing overhead electric utility and telecommunications lines and converting them to underground lines directly adjacent to National Forest Road 296.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59518				
Location: UNIT - Middlebury Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Middlebury and Ripton.					
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
	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: UNIT - Middlebury Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Ripton.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Middlebury Ranger District		R9 - Eastern Region	
Walters Right of Way Permit Authorization CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2024	Expected:05/2024	05/2024	Jennifer Edmonds 802-353-8186 jennifer.edmonds@usda.gov
	Description: A Special Use Permit would be issued with a term of twenty years for a road Right of Way that is 16 feet wide and includes the existing snowmobile trail (Blue Ridge Mountain Trail, #136) for 1,712 feet and new construction for approximately 600 feet.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59806				
	Location: UNIT - Middlebury Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Rutland. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Chittenden.				

Green Mountain National Forest		Rochester Ranger District		R9 - Eastern Region	
Appalachian Trail Side & Corridor Crossing Trail Designations CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/07/2021	Expected:04/2024	04/2024	Christopher Mattrick 802-767-4261 x5513 christopher.mattrick@usda.gov
	Description: The project would add three existing trail segments to the National Forest System in the Town of Norwich, Vermont (Dothan Brook, Joshua, and Griggs Mountain Trails).				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59805				
	Location: UNIT - Rochester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Windsor. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Norwich.				
Chittenden Brook Campground Renovation Project CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Facility management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2024	Expected:01/2025	01/2025	Philip MacAskill 559-855-5355 philip.macaskill@usda.gov
	Description: Renovation and reconstruction of a campground by replacing outhouses; installing accessible paths; replacing aging signs, kiosk, and other infrastructure; regravell and grade campsites as needed.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65165				
	Location: UNIT - Rochester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Windsor. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Rochester.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Rochester Ranger District		R9 - Eastern Region	
Maher Right of Way Special Use Amendment CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/13/2022	Expected:04/2024	04/2024	Jennifer Edmonds 802-353-8186 jennifer.edmonds@usda.gov
	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.gov/project/?project=62976				
	Location: UNIT - Rochester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Windsor. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Rochester.				
Rochester Administrative Site Garage Construction CE *UPDATED*	- Facility management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2024	Expected:05/2024	06/2025	David Donahue 802-747-6726 david.p.donahue@usda.gov
	Description: Construction of a new 20 vehicle garage and expanded parking to address limited parking at the Rochester Ranger District Administrative Site.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65390				
	Location: UNIT - Rochester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Windsor. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Rochester.				
Sugarbush Gate House Mountain Bike Trails CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Special use management - Facility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 02/29/2024	Expected:04/2024	05/2024	Nathaniel Blanks 802-747-6714 Nathaniel.Blanks@usda.gov
	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.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain National Forest		Rochester Ranger District		R9 - Eastern Region	
Sugarbush Super Bravo Mountain Bike Trail Improvement CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Special use management - Carbon Stewardship	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/19/2023	Expected:04/2024	05/2024	Jeffrey Hammell 802-747-6798 jeffrey.hammell@usda.gov
	Description: Realignment and reconstruction of existing mountain bike trail infrastructure.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63895				
Location: UNIT - Rochester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Washington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Warren.					
Texas Gap Stream Enhancement Project CE *NEW LISTING*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 06/2024	Expected:07/2024	08/2024	Jeremy Mears 802-767-4261 ext 5514 jeremy.mears@usda.gov
	Description: Restoring stream channels through addition of coarse woody materials to retain sediment and organic material, reduce flow to improve stream habitat, increase channel stability, reconnect flood plains and riparian habitat, reduce downstream effects.				
	Location: UNIT - Rochester Ranger District. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Granville and Hancock.				

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