

White Mountain National Forest

Appendix C Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

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Forest-wide Assessment of Wilderness Needs

Needs Related to Regional Wilderness Opportunities

The White Mountain National Forest is located within a day's drive of the Boston, New York, and Montreal metropolitan areas, meaning that more than 12 million people can access the Forest within five hours. Populations in these areas and throughout New England are increasing, and visitation to Forest Wilderness areas can be expected to increase as well. More importantly, however, the White Mountain National Forest, the Green Mountain-Finger Lakes National Forest (GMNF), and Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) are the only locations in the Northeast with federally-designated Wilderness areas.

The 114,832 acres comprising White Mountain National Forest Wildernesses are part of a National Wilderness Preservation System totaling approximately 105,687,246 acres as of January, 2004. Of the roughly 106 million acres in the Wilderness Preservation System, 1.6 million acres managed by the USDA Forest Service (USFS) is within its Eastern Region. Further, only 500,000 acres of Eastern Region Wilderness are held outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota. The National Park Service manages approximately 133,250 acres within the same region, and the Fish and Wildlife Service administers another 63,500 acres. All told, then, there is a relatively limited amount of Wilderness in the East outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, with the White Mountain National Forest holding approximately 16 percent of that acreage (23 percent of USFS Wilderness).

Within New England, the Wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest is complemented by the 59,598 acres of Wilderness on the Green Mountain National Forest and 7,392 acres in the MNWR. There is also substantial wilderness in the Adirondack State Forest, NY, though this area is not federally designated. Between the Green Mountain National Forest and White Mountain National Forest, there are four Wilderness areas of 20,000 acres or more, and only one greater than 40,000 acres. Thus, there are limited opportunities for recreation in a larger-scale Wilderness in the Northeast, which could then be interpreted as a need for additional supplies of Wilderness in areas this large. It is unclear, however, whether there is indeed a significant demand for recreation opportunities of this type. It is certainly important to have designated Wilderness within reach of urban centers; what remains uncertain is whether the different opportunities for recreation experiences afforded in smaller or larger Wildernesses are important to Wilderness users.

Visitor Use Patterns and Trends¹

Another factor to consider in assessing needs for additional designated Wilderness is the effect of visitation. Especially in areas like the White Mountain National Forest that are close to urban centers, visitation to

¹ Data used to estimate visitor use and use trends is of questionable quality. Estimates included here are based on the best available information at the time of this writing, but should be taken as indicators of possible trends, rather than exact counts or estimates.

Wilderness areas can be extraordinarily heavy at times. This visitation is likely to grow significantly in coming years as well. In 1998, it was estimated that Wilderness use on the White Mountain National Forest was 119,474 Recreational Visitor Days (RVDs), and that rate is growing 2-4 percent annually (USDA Forest Service, 1998). This is a faster rate than the 0.5-1 percent annual growth that has been reported for recreational use of Wilderness nationally (Loomis, Bonetti, and Echohawk, 1999). Further, participation is projected to increase dramatically in activities conventionally associated with Wilderness. On a nationwide basis, participation in backpacking is projected to increase 26 percent by 2050, and participation in hiking is projected to increase 31 percent in the same span (Bowker, English, and Cordell, 1999).

Demand is clearly tied to population growth in the region; within New England, population is projected to increase 30.3 percent between 1995 and 2025 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004). During this same time, the population of New York state is projected to expand 9.3 percent (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004).

The expansion of population and participation in recreation activities is also tied to changes in transportation and vacation preferences among potential Forest users. Since the events of September 11, 2001, there has been a widely-publicized change in travel patterns. Due primarily to an economic downturn and concerns about the safety of air travel, individuals who might otherwise have taken cross-country flights to participate in outdoor recreation are now more likely to drive to a nearby site instead. Given the proximity of the White Mountain National Forest to the large population centers of the eastern seaboard, this change in travel habits can be assumed to create an increased demand for unconfined types of recreation in the Northeast. It is worth noting here, however, that Forest visitation appears to have been significantly lower in 2003 than in previous years. It is unclear whether this is an anomaly or an indicator of a larger downturn in visitation.

Needs Related to Substitutability of Non-Wilderness Lands

Increased demand for unconfined recreation opportunities does not in and of itself mean that there is an increased demand for Wilderness. A number of possible substitutes for Wilderness areas exist in both New Hampshire and Maine, including MA 6.2 and other special areas (Appalachian Trail, Scenic Areas, and Research Natural Areas) on the White Mountain National Forest. Currently, 670,856 acres in New Hampshire (12 percent of the total land in the state) and 1,227,166 acres in Maine (6 percent) are held open for some form of recreation by an entity other than the USFS (New Hampshire Office of State Planning, 2003; Maine Department of Conservation, 2003). In both cases, the majority of open land is held by state or municipal governments. However, governmental ownership and management is not the only means by which recreation opportunities can be afforded.

A measure of the degree to which possible alternatives may exist is in assessing the number of acres in the New Hampshire Current Use Program. By the regulations set forth in this program, areas of 10 acres or more that are left as open space are taxed based on current use value rather than on

potential value for development (New Hampshire Office of State Planning, 2003). Landowners are also afforded a 20 percent reduction in taxes if those lands are left open to skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, hiking, and nature observation. A total of 1,207,742 acres in New Hampshire receive this tax adjustment (New Hampshire Office of State Planning, 2003).

What is left open in these discussions is the nature of recreation on these parcels of federal, state, county, municipal, and private land. There is clearly an available land base within which an unconfined experience might be achieved, but there is little to suggest the experiences that might be realized in these places are adequate substitutes for those that are likely to occur in Wilderness. For example, motorized vehicles and bicycles are allowed in many of these areas, but are prohibited in Wilderness. Thus, it is likely that the experiences afforded by recreation on these state, county, and municipal lands are different than could be had in Wilderness. There is, however, little information indicating whether or not these different types of experiences are important to users. This speaks directly to public perceptions of Wilderness.

There has been a progressive polarization in terms of how the idea of Wilderness is conveyed and perceived. On the one hand, Wilderness has become increasingly synonymous with preservation (Watson and Landres, 1999). In this sense, the idea of Congressionally-designated Wilderness becomes the ultimate protection for an area. Consequently, attitudes toward Wilderness and behaviors in Wilderness areas have changed as well. Visitors to Wilderness areas convey “much more purist attitudes about wilderness behavior, and they express much stronger wilderness values than visitors did shortly after passage of the Wilderness Act” (Watson, 2000, p. 55). This view of Wilderness extends to non-use values as well. The idea of Wilderness as a symbol of preservation is often substantial enough to persuade some people (Callicott, 1998). The end result of these attitudes and values is a belief that federally-designated Wildernesses are safest from development and that those areas are more pristine and natural (Soulé, 1995).

This idea of Wilderness as being more natural and pristine is the point at which others diverge in their views on Wilderness. According to this argument, Wilderness is a human creation, and removing human influence from the landscape creates an artificial impression of purity (Haraway, 1991; Luke, 1997; Merchant, 1990). By this line of reasoning, Wilderness is a mechanism for ignoring significant human history and removing human action as a component in shaping landscape change (Soper, 1995). Removing humans from the ecological system has two consequences: 1) centuries of human habitation and manipulation of the landscape leading to current environmental conditions would be neglected (Demerritt, 1998); and 2) societies would be led to separate themselves from natural processes of which they might otherwise understand themselves to be a part (Cronon, 1995).

These two views of Wilderness lead to disparate conclusions about the need for additional Wilderness, irrespective of geography. On the one hand, the view of Wilderness as the best hope for preservation of a landscape would lead to an increase in perceived need. On the other, designating more

Wilderness would be considered limiting in terms of opportunities for education and an expanded understanding of the human role in landscape change.

These views also tie to attitudes toward recreation experiences in and out of Wilderness. The predominant approach to understanding Wilderness has come from a means-end model of behavior, in which it is assumed that recreationists have certain unmet needs (e.g., a desire for solitude) and thus choose to visit places which help them meet that need (Hammit and Cole, 1998; Manning, 1999). With respect to Wilderness, this approach holds that individuals will seek out Wilderness as a means to meet needs that can't be met in differently developed areas; thus, adequate availability of Wilderness would be crucial. On the other hand, there is growing application of a model which recognizes recreation experiences as emergent and constantly shifting. By this line of reasoning, recreationists may achieve very different outcomes from what they originally intended, which can be both good and bad (Hull, Stewart, and Yi, 1992; Patterson, Williams, Watson, and Roggenbuck, 1998). For example, a Wilderness visitor may leave a trailhead seeking solitude, but end up walking with another group and be happier because of it. These changes in desires and outcomes can happen in any environment; thus, Wilderness designation may not be as crucial to individuals who view their recreation experiences this way. Though it is important, there is little information available that indicates how White Mountain National Forest visitors feel in this regard.

Needs Related to Biotic Species

The Species Viability Evaluation completed for this Forest Plan revision identified a number of species threatened by human disturbance, from plants being trampled along trails, to nest abandonment as a result of increased human presence. However, Wilderness designation would not resolve these concerns any more than other management area designations or application of appropriate standards and guidelines. No species have been identified that would require isolation from human activity. Nor have any species or systems been identified that would be better protected for scientific values through Wilderness as opposed to Research Natural Areas or other management area designation.

Needs Related to Ecological Communities

The White Mountain National Forest resides almost entirely in the White Mountain Ecological Subsection. This subsection, about one million acres in size, is distinguished from its neighboring subsections by generally higher elevation, greater maximum elevation, and steep environmental gradients reflected in distinct elevation patterns of vegetation. It is among the very few subsections in New England with Wilderness.

The White Mountain Subsection is divided into four Land-type Associations (LTAs): Valley Bottoms, Mountain Slopes, Upper Mountain Slopes, and Mountaintops. LTAs are broad categories of land capability that reflect differences in geomorphology, elevation, landform, and climax forest composition.

Mountaintop LTA (approximately 183,000 acres) is primarily a balsam fir forest at elevations generally above 2,900 feet with ridges that reach into lower slope positions. It currently includes the alpine zone. Upper Mountain Slopes (approximately 161,000 acres) occur between about 2,500 and 2,900 feet in elevation. They include red spruce, balsam fir and paper birch on steep, boundary land. Mountain Slopes (approximately 270,000 acres) are northern hardwood and northern hardwood-spruce forest on deep soils in elevations from approximately 1,000 to 2,500 feet. Valley Bottoms (approximately 155,000 acres) are red spruce, balsam fir, hemlock, and mixed hardwood forests below 1,000 feet.

The White Mountain National Forest is also categorized by a series of Management Areas (MAs), which are groupings of land with similar management goals. For the purposes of this analysis, MAs were grouped according to how actively vegetation can be managed. Management Areas 2.1, 3.1, 7.1, 9.2, 9.4, and 2.1a were combined into one group, and Management Areas 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 8.1, 9.1, and 9.3 into another. During Forest Plan revision, the amount of land in some MAs will vary by Alternative.

It is possible to summarize the occurrence of the four LTAs by these two groups to obtain a sense of the disposition of all Forest lands in a broad ecological sense.

As shown in Table C-01, about 95 percent of the Mountaintop and 77 percent Upper Mountain Slope LTAs have no active vegetation management. These are lands that are primarily used for non-motorized dispersed recreation. In comparison, about 78 percent of the Mountain Slope and 79 percent of the Valley Bottom LTAs *do* have active vegetation management, in addition to motorized and non-motorized recreation use. Overall, about 53 percent of the White Mountain National Forest is in lands without active vegetation management, and 47 percent has active vegetation management. The disposition of lands across the White Mountain National Forest by the two groupings described above is shown below:

Wilderness preservation is one way to contribute to biodiversity in the White Mountain Subsection; active vegetation management is another. Within this individual subsection, Valley Bottom Land Type Association is the logical need. This LTA is more poorly distributed across the landscape than the Mountain LTA. From a New England perspective, the nearly complete absence of Wilderness in almost all other Subsections, with their own unique assemblage of ecosystems is undoubtedly far greater.

Table C-01. Summary of Land Type Associations and Management Areas

Broad Community	Totals Acres	Acres in 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 8.1, 9.1, 9.3	Acres in 2.1, 3.1, 7.1, 9.2, 9.4, 2.1a
Mountaintop/Alpine	181,500	169,800	9,400
Upper Mountain	165,100	122,000	39,500
Mountain	279,300	74,700	199,400
Valley	170,300	40,400	124,200
Total Acres	796,200	406,900	372,500

Note: numbers are rounded.

Caribou-Speckled Mountain

Inventoried Roadless Areas #22651 and 22652

Overview

Acres

	Caribou-Speckled Mountain 1 (22651)	Caribou-Speckled Mountain 2 (22652)
Gross Acres	9,306	3,987
Net Acres	9,306	3,987
% NFS	100	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

These Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) are in the easternmost section of the White Mountain National forest, entirely within the state of Maine, in the towns of Stoneham, Stow, Gilead, Batchelders' Grant, and Mason, with the bulk of the areas within the later two towns.

The Inventoried Roadless Areas nearly encircle the Congressionally-designated Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness. Caribou-Speckled Mountain 1 lies north, west, and southwest of the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness; Caribou-Speckled Mountain 2 lies east/southeast.

With the exception of the Wilderness to their interior, the Inventoried Roadless Areas stretch from State Route 113 in the west to Forest Road 18 and Crocker Pond in the east. The northern boundary of Caribou 1 (22651) is the private land boundary near US Route 2. The southern boundary is an irregular line from Route 113 to Palmer Mountain and returning to the Wilderness boundary near Cold Brook, Great Brook to Beaver Brook, and east to Round Pond and Crocker Pond. Caribou 2 (22652) lies from the Wilderness boundary east to Crocker Pond and Round Pond. Caribou 2's northern boundary is generally defined by private land on the Forest boundary. Elsewhere, it is generally defined by the Crocker Pond Snowmobile Trail.

Access is via state and US highways, Forest Service roads and a network of hiking trails.

Roads: (miles)	Caribou 1	Caribou 2
Improved Roads	4.64	1.19
Trails: (miles)		
Hike	11.0	5.2
Snowmobile	0.7	1.6
Cross-country Ski	0.0	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

There are no major peaks or prominent topographic features in the Inventoried Roadless Areas. Albany Mountain is a lesser peak, easily accessible from Crocker Pond in the eastern portion of the Caribou 2 Inventoried Roadless Area. The maximum elevation in the Caribou 2 Inventoried Roadless Area is 2,462 feet, atop Peabody Mtn; the minimum is about 500 feet, on Great Brook.

Vegetation found in both Caribou 1 and 2 Inventoried Roadless Areas is typical of the White Mountain National Forest, with high quality northern hardwoods and white pine in the lower and mid-slopes, and spruce and fir at higher elevations. Exposed mountaintops exhibit a wide variety of plants, including mountain blueberry, cranberry, and others.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 19 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total *
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	5.3	0.0	5.7
20- 39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	11.1	0.0	11.5
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.2
60- 79	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	3.7
80- 99	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	1.4	14.6	0.0	17.1
100-119	0.0	0.5	1.4	0.2	3.8	19.9	0.0	25.8
120+	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.4	5.6	25.4	0.0	34.8
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age-classes on the White Mountain National Forest are regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). Caribou Inventoried Roadless Areas 1 and 2 contain approximately 3.2 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA		% of IRA*	
		Caribou 1	Caribou 2	Caribou 1	Caribou 2
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	2,689	1,520	20	11
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods, beech, red maple, paper birch, and softwood.	921	447	7	3
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	1,974	579	15	4
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	620	0	5	0
Softwood/ Hardwood Wet or Ledgy	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	406	162	3	1
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	72	8	1	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood ELT groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

Recreation use of the areas include hiking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and other day uses. Overall use levels are generally low. Most of the interior use, primarily hiking, is at its peak from June through September. Winter use is light to moderate, depending on snow depths. The predominant winter use is along the Inventoried Roadless Areas' boundaries, where a series of snowmobile trails nearly encircle the area. Route 113, along the western edge of Caribou 1, is closed to highway traffic in the winter, from near The Basin in the south to the northwest corner of the Inventoried Roadless Area. Route 113 is the primary north-south snowmobile trail once the highway is closed to vehicles.

The former Evergreen Valley Ski Area, closed since 1985, lies outside the south edge of this Inventoried Roadless Area, and southeast of Palmer Mountain. The concrete foundations of the ski lift towers remain on site, just south of the Caribou 1 boundary.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Areas, 5,738 acres are suitable for timber harvest in Caribou 1 and 2,300 are suitable for timber harvest in Caribou 2 (totalling about 60% of the Inventoried Roadless Area).

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Caribou 1	102	3,370	0	3,312	0	2,224	0	0	0	243	0
Caribou 2	2	409	0	2,307	0	1,268	0	0	0	0	0

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The Inventoried Roadless Areas appear as others on the Forest that have been managed for multiple uses. There is evidence of recent timber harvest throughout, along with associated timber haul roads. There are stands of various age-classes, along with remnants of old roads and skid trails. Many of the old roads parallel each other as they follow topographic contours at various elevations. Revegetation is complete on nearly all sections of roads in the area. A casual observer viewing the Inventoried Roadless Areas from outside their boundaries would consider the landscape as naturally-appearing.

To the north of the Inventoried Roadless Area, evidence of heavy timber harvest is visible on private timber lands, as well as the towers and summit buildings associated with the Sunday River Ski Area. To the east, views include myriad human impacts, including residential development and roads. To the south are views of farm lands and residential areas, lakes with developed shorelines, and a ski area.

The two Inventoried Roadless Areas nearly encircle the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness. Exterior boundaries border both private land and White Mountain National Forest lands managed for multiple use objectives. There are numerous cultural resources (cellar holes, rock walls, etc.) related to settlement within the area.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally-appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
Caribou 1						
acres	5,289	0	3,553	39	403	0
% of IRA	39	0	27	<1	3	0
Caribou 2						
acres	1,962	739	1,113	0	173	0
% of IRA	15	6	8	0	1	0

Key Attractions

Miles Notch and Albany Notch, both in the Caribou 2 Inventoried Roadless Area, provide unique scenic opportunities in an undeveloped setting. The Inventoried Roadless Areas generally do not contain any remarkable or outstanding recreation features. A system of trails links the east side with the west and the ridge tops. Most visitors, however, would likely be traveling to an attraction within the adjacent designated Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness rather than one within either of the Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Wilderness
Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

The commercial forest land within the Inventoried Roadless Areas has been harvested at various levels of intensity since the early 1900s. Old roads within the Inventoried Roadless Areas, especially at lower elevations, as well as stumps and the trail network could each be considered to detract from the natural appearance of the area. To the casual forest observer, however, the forest has revegetated thoroughly and is generally naturally appearing.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Areas, harvest over the last two decades includes:

Caribou 1	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	339	4	62	1
Intermediate	583	6	141	2
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	0	0	575	6
Intermediate	20	0	310	3
Total Harvest/Decade	942	10	1088	12

Caribou 2	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	249	6	0	0
Intermediate	147	4	9	0
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	0	0	1	0
Intermediate	0	0	55	1
Total Harvest/Decade	396	10	65	2

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Even Age system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.

- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g., solitude and challenge)

Opportunities for solitude are good throughout the area in non-winter months, particularly away from the major hiking trails. Topographic screening is high, and vegetative screening is dense. The distance from the perimeter to the core of each Inventoried Roadless Area is relatively short, with a maximum of approximately two miles. Winter access is limited; opportunities for solitude are high in winter.

As most of the Inventoried Roadless Areas are in low elevation areas, there is very little opportunity for challenging or unique experiences. Sudden weather changes and thick understory vegetation, conditions common on the White Mountain National Forest, pose a moderate level of challenge, particularly for off-trail travel.

Approximately 3,500 acres, or 38 percent of Caribou 1, and 823 acres, or 4 percent of Caribou 2, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

The road density within Caribou 1 is 0.5 miles of road per 1,000 acres; the road density of Caribou 2 is 0.3 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

Interest continues in incorporating low elevation softwood forest communities into a management area where natural processes predominate. On the White Mountain National Forest, approximately 39,574 acres of softwood capable lands are currently in this category. The Caribou Inventoried Roadless Areas would contribute approximately 3,998 additional acres of land capable of supporting low elevation softwood forest communities.

High quality northern hardwood forest products are an important niche for the Forest. The Inventoried Roadless Areas includes 6,509 acres capable of supporting high quality northern hardwood forests.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest and likely within the Inventoried Roadless Areas' boundaries. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

When considered independently, either of the Inventoried Roadless Areas would pose challenges for Wilderness management. Considered in the context of the encircled Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness, the two Inventoried Roadless Areas and the Wilderness form an easily managed

size and configuration capable of maintaining Wilderness values and experiences. Adjacent private lands to the northeast and the south may present complications for trailhead management, parking, etc.

There are currently no special uses within the Inventoried Roadless Areas that are inconsistent with Wilderness management. However, numerous outfitter/guide permits are issued annually and the number of clients per trip would need to be reduced to meet Wilderness standards on party size. There are no permits, leases, or applications on file with the White Mountain National Forest for mineral exploration or development of this area.

Boundary Conditions

Boundaries are easily recognized near road corridors and along the White Mountain National Forest boundary. In the south and in the east, boundaries occur mid-slope, with few recognizable landmarks.

Because the existing adjacent Wilderness is a relatively narrow north/south corridor, the Inventoried Roadless Areas provide important enhancements of the Wilderness characteristics, including isolation and solitude.

Availability for Wilderness Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

The old logging road network in the lower elevations could be considered a non-conforming use. Long abandoned, most of these roadbeds are naturally reforesting and will soon be difficult to discern; their status as a nonconforming use will be mitigated with time and natural revegetation.

Snowmobile trails are coincident with approximately 30 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area boundaries. While these trails do not enter the Inventoried Roadless Areas, the sounds associated with snowmobile use compromise the Wilderness characteristics of the areas.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (3.2 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, these Inventoried Roadless Areas only contain 10 stands of aspen/paper birch, totaling 102 acres (or 0.14 percent of the Forest total). Loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations because they are such a small proportion of the total.

There are 8 wildlife openings, totaling approximately 30 acres, currently being maintained in the two Inventoried Roadless Areas; these would no longer be maintained if the areas were to be designated as Wilderness.

These Inventoried Roadless Areas contain at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of these areas as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, winter survival may therefore be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout these Inventoried Roadless Areas. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in these Inventoried Roadless Areas may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in these Inventoried Roadless Areas is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Areas were to be designated as Wilderness.

There are no known water intakes within the Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There is no livestock use under permit within the Inventoried Roadless Areas, but incidental use by pack animals does occur.

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in these Inventoried Roadless Areas within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of these Inventoried Roadless Areas would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 5,738 acres of suitable land in Caribou 1 and 2,300 acres of suitable harvest in Caribou 2.

There are no permits, leases, or applications on file with the White Mountain National Forest for mineral exploration or development of this area. There are no mineral rights reserved within these Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Surveys to date have identified 52 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic. Approximately 40 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey. Scattered artifacts from past logging activity are common throughout

the Inventoried Roadless Areas. Especially interesting for management is one cemetery (Forest Site Number 3-046).

Land Uses

Other than the outfitter/guide permits noted above, there are no special use, contracts, or facilities that would be modified if the Inventoried Roadless Areas were designated as Wilderness.

Pending on-site boundary location, improvements from the former Evergreen Valley Ski Area may remain within the Caribou 1 boundary. If so, these improvements may need to be removed or the boundary adjusted.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in these Inventoried Roadless Areas is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings. Fire may also be a valuable tool for retention of red pine on Farwell and Albany Mountains.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

Site-Specific Wilderness Evaluation

The public has expressed limited specific interest in either of these Inventoried Roadless Areas. Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support for the protection of roadless areas in general. Only one comment was received that specifically addressed the Caribou-Speckled Mountain 1 and 2 Inventoried Roadless Areas; that comment recommended protection as Wilderness.

Considered independently, the Inventoried Roadless Areas do not contain recognizable Wilderness characteristics. Private land, roading, and motorized use encircling the small Inventoried Roadless Areas on all exterior sides significantly detract from their Wilderness values. When considered in the context of the existing Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness, however, the Inventoried Roadless Areas increase the manageability of the larger, combined Wilderness, provide increased opportunities for solitude, and enhance other Wilderness values associated with isolation and a larger Wilderness core area.

North Carr Mountain

Inventoried Roadless Area #2263

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	9,111
Net Acres	8,623
% NFS lands	95

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located in the southwest corner of the White Mountain National Forest, on the Pemigewasset Ranger District. It lies in the towns of Woodstock and Warren, Grafton County, New Hampshire. It is located west of the private land adjacent to Interstate-93, within the circle formed by State Highway 118 and the northern boundary of the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest.

There is a developed Forest Road to Elbow Pond, as well as to a gravel pit at Jackman Brook. There are several small inclusions of private land.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	3.5
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	0.2
Snowmobile	7.5
Cross-country Ski	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The maximum elevation in the Inventoried Roadless Area is 3,160 at Mt. Cushman; the minimum is 800 at Pike Brook. The Inventoried Roadless Area stretches from Grandview Mtn. south to Elbow Pond and Mt. Cushman.

The slopes of Grandview Mtn. are covered primarily in northern hardwoods. The upper slopes of Mt. Cushman contain spruce-fir. The area north of Elbow Pond is predominantly northern hardwoods. There are abandoned agricultural lands that have revegetated in softwood stands near the Elbow Pond and Mt. Cilley areas. There are scattered areas of steep terrain along the eastern portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 12 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	2.3
20- 39	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	1.1	0.0	1.9
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
60- 79	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.2	14.5	0.0	15.3
80- 99	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	6.8	38.9	0.0	46.1
100-119	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.2	22.0	0.0	23.7
120+	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	10.2	0.0	10.7
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 2% of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgey, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of* IRA
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	1,795	20
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	0	0
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	3,837	42
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	292	3
Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgey	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	79	1
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	0	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

Elbow Pond receives moderate to high use as an undeveloped recreation site for overnight camping and fishing. The Elbow Pond area also receives high levels of winter use due to its proximity to the Glover Brook and Mt. Cilley Snowmobile Trails. The Hubbard Brook Trail parallels the southern boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area from Route 118 to the Experimental Forest boundary. There is incidental hunting and trapping within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

The entire Inventoried Roadless Area was harvested in the 1800s and has subsequently reforested. The northwest portion of the area contains a 49-acre timber sale which salvaged stands of spruce-fir windthrow from a severe windstorm in 1980. A timber sale encompassing 1,100 acres was completed in the mid-1990s.

The White Mountain National Forest maintains a permanent wildlife transect in the Pike Brook and Jackman Brook area in the northern portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Within this Inventoried Roadless Area, 3,007 acres (approximately 33 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
N Carr Mtn	419	549	0	5,455	1,352	735	588	7	0	0	0

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The Elbow Pond area provides pleasant views of the surrounding bowl. Views from Mt. Cilley and Mt. Cushman provide views of rural residential development in the surrounding valleys, as well as Interstate 93, utility corridors, etc. There is a commercial race track to the east of the Inventoried Roadless Area that provide audible intrusions into the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Cellar holes and stonewalls can be found in the area of the now-abandoned historic village of Peeling, to the west of Grandview Mountain. There are remnants of an abandoned logging railroad along the east side of Elbow Pond, with isolated remnants of the trestle still visible in the shallow portions of the pond.

The landscape within the Inventoried Roadless Area appears entirely forested, with a variety of age-classes.

Timber harvest in the Experimental Forest abuts the southern boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area. There are forest health monitoring stations and equipment immediately adjacent to the Inventoried Roadless Area. A gravel pit at Leeman’s Brook abuts the Inventoried Roadless Area and Forest boundaries on the east side of the Inventoried Roadless Area. An abandoned USFS gravel pit is located near Jackman Brook.

Two microwave towers on private lands are visible from many vantage points in the Inventoried Roadless Area, one near Parker Ledge and one near Bryant Ledge.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally-appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	4,766	124	3,139	77	603	0
% of Area	52	<1	34	<1	7	0

Key Attractions

The key attractions include Elbow Pond, dispersed camping at the Pond, and the snowmobile trails.

Wilderness Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Harvest history within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

North Carr Mountain	1983-1992		1993-2002	
	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Even Age				
Regeneration	276	3	71	1
Intermediate	70	1	112	1
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	0	0	56	1
Intermediate	0	0	140	2
Total Harvest/Decade	346	4	379	4

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Even Age system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System

- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.38 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

The entire Inventoried Roadless Area has a high natural integrity, with modification associated only with old roads, the snowmobile trails, and incidental camping in the Elbow Pond area. Remnants of previous human activities, including historic logging and old summer residences, are apparent to the casual observer near Elbow Pond. These include concrete slabs from abandoned summer homes along the pond's shorelines.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g., solitude and challenge)

Approximately 2,707 acres, or 30 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

There are ample opportunities for solitude throughout the Inventoried Roadless Area during the summer months. There are no hiking trails or any distinct recreation attractions other than Elbow Pond in the Inventoried Roadless Area, so bushwhacking provides extensive opportunities for solitude. Solitude and isolation are limited along the snowmobile trail in winter months.

The probability of experiencing isolation anywhere in the Inventoried Roadless Area is impacted by the audible intrusions of the racetrack in summer, the snowmobile trail in winter, and year-round traffic on Interstate 93.

There is very limited opportunity for challenge, specifically loose footing, uneven terrain, and boggy areas.

The range of recreation opportunities available in the Inventoried Roadless Area is limited in comparison with those available in other areas of the White Mountain National Forest.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

There are no other known special features in the Inventoried Roadless Area.

The Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest is a notable special feature adjacent to the Inventoried Roadless Area. The Experimental Forest hosts a long-term ecological research project in a 7,805 acre reserve located in the White Mountain National Forest, near North Woodstock, New Hampshire. The Experimental Forest was established by the USDA Forest Service in 1955 as a major center for hydrologic research in New England.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The most significant limitation to the Inventoried Roadless Area's

manageability as Wilderness is its size and configuration, the extensive interface with private land and state highway rights of way, as well as the central presence of the snowmobile trail. While the snowmobile trail could be abandoned, it is a popular recreation resource and its closure would cause significant public concern.

Several small parcels of private land occur on the east edge of the Inventoried Roadless Area, though none appear significantly different from the surrounding landscape.

Boundary Conditions

The snowmobile trails and the road to Elbow Pond are the primary non-conforming uses within the Inventoried Roadless Area; because of their central location in the Inventoried Roadless Area, excluding these uses from the Inventoried Roadless Area through boundary adjustments would render the resulting Inventoried Roadless Area too small, and its configuration too irregular, to meet Wilderness criteria.

Another challenge for Wilderness management is three private land inholdings within the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary. While these parcels are currently undeveloped, future development may prove problematic for Wilderness management of the surrounding area.

**Availability for
Wilderness
Designation**

Recreation, Including Tourism

There is wide local interest in motorized access to Elbow Pond and along the Inventoried Roadless Area's snowmobile trails. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area and consequent termination of these motorized uses would generate significant local objection.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (1.9 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area contains 4 stands of aspen/paper birch, totaling 59 acres (or 0.07 percent of the Forest total). Loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations because they are such a small proportion of the total.

There is 1 wildlife opening, totaling 2.5 acres, currently being maintained in this Inventoried Roadless Area; this would no longer be maintained if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result, eventually, in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this Inventoried Roadless Area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 3,007 acres of suitable land.

There are no applications on file with the White Mountain National Forest for commercial mineral removal. There are no mineral rights reserved within this Inventoried Roadless Area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, 16 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 40 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey. Especially interesting is a possible cemetery site and the abandoned town site of Peeling (Forest Site Number 4-271).

Land Uses

There are no special uses issued for this Inventoried Roadless Area that would be modified should the Inventoried Roadless Area be designated as Wilderness.

The snowmobile trails in this Inventoried Roadless Area are maintained through a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails, and with the cooperation of local snowmobile clubs.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees in an area reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

Site-Specific Wilderness Evaluation

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support for the protection of roadless areas in general. Only three comments were received that specifically addressed this Inventoried Roadless Area: two recommended “maintenance or restoration to roadless condition” and one advocated preserving the area to protect “the ponds that sustain healthy brook trout populations ...”

When previous discussions regarding this Inventoried Roadless Area included Wilderness designation, local users were vocal in opposition to this consideration.

This Inventoried Roadless Area does not include significant unique characteristics not adequately represented in other Wilderness, or in scenic or natural areas on the White Mountain National Forest. Public use of the Inventoried Roadless Area is predominantly motorized, with no informal hiking trails or other user-defined or created facilities. This historic lack of development and use indicates that there is limited recreation interest in the Inventoried Roadless Area apart from the established motorized uses.

South Carr Mountain

Inventoried Roadless Area #2262

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	22,265
Net Acres	22,253
% NFS lands	99

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located in the southwest corner of the White Mountain National Forest, on the Pemigewasset Ranger District. It lies in the towns of Warren, Ellsworth, Rumney, and Wentworth, Grafton County, New Hampshire. It is located north and west of the private lands adjacent to the Stinson Lake area, and roughly parallels the Forest boundary near Rattlesnake Mountain, west along Carr Mountain, including Whitcher Hill to the Hubbard Brook Trail, and bordering the western and southern boundary of the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest. The eastern boundary generally follows the irregular White Mountain National Forest boundary in the vicinity of Bagley and Burleigh Brooks.

The Inventoried Roadless Area is accessed by State Route 25 on the south, 118 on the north, and Stinson Lake Road in the southeast.

The area is accessed via a number of snowmobile trails, including Three Ponds Trail, Annie's Loop, Donkey Hill Cut-off, and Buzzell Brook. The Warren to Woodstock Snowmobile Trail traverses a narrow section of the Inventoried Roadless Area near Patch Hill. There are likely to be user-developed snowmobile trails in the eastern portions of the Inventoried Roadless Area, originating from the Stinson Lake area. Hiking access includes the Three Ponds Trail, Mt. Kineo Trail, Carr Mountain Trail, and Rattlesnake Mountain Trail. The Hubbard Brook Trail parallels the northern boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	1.9
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	16.1
Snowmobile	13.5
Cross-country Ski	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The Inventoried Roadless Area topography is dominated by Carr Mountain, elevation 3,440, Rattlesnake Mountain, elevation 1,594 and Mt. Kineo, elevation 3,313.

The upper slopes of Carr Mtn. are predominantly spruce-fir with lesser amounts of northern hardwoods on the lower slopes.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 19 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.6
20- 39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.5	0.0	1.5
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
60- 79	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.4	4.3	0.0	4.9
80- 99	1.5	0.6	0.8	0.5	12.6	28.3	0.0	44.2
100-119	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.1	1.6	24.9	0.0	27.2
120+	1.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.7	16.5	0.0	20.1
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 0.6 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgey, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	3,318	15
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	0	0
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	1,795	8
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	649	3
Softwood/ Hardwood Wet or Ledy	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	298	1

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

Current use of the Inventoried Roadless Area centers around day hiking and backpacking on the Three Ponds Trail, the Carr Mountain Trail, and the Mt. Kineo Trail. An Adirondack shelter at Middle Pond hosts a maximum of 12 for overnight use. A network of snowmobile trails (see above) traverses the Inventoried Roadless Area. There is incidental local hunting and fishing use. There is a vista from the summit of Carr Mountain, as well as from the summit of Rattlesnake Mtn.. There is limited bushwhacking use in the Inventoried Roadless Area to the summit of Carr Mountain.

There is a regionally significant rock climbing opportunity in the area, known as “Rumney Rocks,” along the southern boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area. This area receives extremely high use and includes the use of fixed anchors.

The Inventoried Roadless Area receives some local pressure on the Rattlesnake Mountain Trail as a conditioning venue for cross-country running.

There are outstanding mineral rights covering most of the Inventoried Roadless Area. These occur in the east, south, and west portions of the Inventoried Roadless Area, in the towns of Wentworth, Ellsworth, and Rumney.

Within this Inventoried Roadless Area, 4,034 acres (approximately 18 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
S Carr Mtn	0	55	0	6,010	15,461	0	0	19	0	0	639

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The entire Inventoried Roadless Area was logged in the 1800s and has reforested. There is a network of old logging roads throughout the Inventoried Roadless Area, though they are not readily apparent to the casual observer.

A portion of the south end of the Inventoried Roadless Area was harvested in the 1970s. The Batchelder Brook Timber Sale, on the west side of the Inventoried Roadless Area, was active until the early 1990s. A timber sale in the northwest portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area was active until 2000.

The remains of a USFS fire tower are evident on the summit of Carr Mountain.

Limited hard rock mining occurred in the past along ridge south of Carr Mountain to Willoughby Mountain. There is evidence of an abandoned mine at Black Hill, just to the southeast of the Three Ponds area.

Scenic integrity of the Inventoried Roadless Area is generally good.

To the east of the Inventoried Roadless Area, there are harvested private timber lands and concentrated residential development near Stinson Lake. The Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest lies immediately to the northeast of the Inventoried Roadless Area. The Experimental Forest is the site of timber harvest and other resource management activities and studies.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	10,375	8	4,586	0	7,180	0
% of IRA	47	<1	21	0	32	0

Key Attractions

The key attraction of the Inventoried Roadless Area is the Three Ponds area and its surrounding trail loop. The vast majority of the Inventoried Roadless Area’s use occurs along this 5.5 mile loop trail and at the associated camping shelter. Day hiking also occurs on the Mount Kineo Trail and the Carr Mtn. Trail.

The Ponds attract a variety of wildlife species, including moose. Mt. Waternomee Falls is a local attraction near the Carr Mtn. Trail.

Snowmobile trails between Warren and Woodstock and in the Stinson Lake area attract moderate winter use.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area there are is a documented site of American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) and Goldie’s Fern (*Dryopteris Goldiana*). A second documented site includes Fragrant fern (*Dryopteris fragrans*), American ginseng, Missouri rock-cress (*Arabis Missouriensis*), and Piled-up sedge (*Carex cumulate*). All are listed as NH state threatened and USFS Region 9 sensitive species.

Rumney Rocks is a regional rock climbing attraction which receives exceptionally heavy use. Current use exceeds the capacity of the area’s parking facility and causes user conflicts along the adjacent town road.

Wilderness
Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Harvest history during the last two decades within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

South Carr Mountain	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	261	1	206	<1
Intermediate	172	<1	135	<1
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	36	<1	373	2
Intermediate	0	0	0	0
Total Harvest/Decade	469	2	714	3

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.08 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

The Three Ponds area provides pleasant views of the surrounding bowl. Views from Carr Mtn. are primarily of the rural development in the surrounding valleys, as well as distant views of Mt. Moosilauke, Franconia Ridge, and the Sandwich Range. These distant views are generally naturally-appearing, with the exception of the anticipated development associated

with the residential areas and highway corridors that surround the Inventoried Roadless Area.

The Inventoried Roadless Area contains several invasive plants, including Japanese knotweed along Stinson Brook in the southern portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area. Black locust is found along the Rattlesnake Trail.

The shelter would be considered for removal if the Inventoried Roadless Area were designated as Wilderness, although this would be objectionable to some Forest stakeholders.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g., solitude and challenge)

The opportunities for solitude are limited in and around the Three Ponds area. There are seasonal opportunities for solitude on the Mt. Kineo Trail, the Hubbard Brook Trail, and on the extreme north end of the Three Ponds Trail. Vegetative screening is dense, topographic screening is high, and the distance from the perimeter to the core of the area is approximately 1.3 miles. Off-trail opportunities for solitude are extensive.

As with the rest of the White Mountain National Forest, weather-related challenges are of concern to visitors.

There are significant challenges, even for the most experienced technical climbers, at Rumney Rocks.

Approximately 11,750 acres, or 53 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

Black Hill, east of the Three Ponds area, is a Gabbro intrusion, which is a relatively rare formation on the White Mountain National Forest. Gabbro intrusions are associated with higher levels of calcium; these rich sites may support rare plant communities.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection for these species.

The Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest lies to the north and northeast of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The Inventoried Roadless Area's size is moderate with regard to manageability, however its shape is long and narrow and its proximity to concentrated residential development at Stinson Lake may cause continuing conflict with Wilderness values.

Boundary Conditions

The borders of the area are not natural features and are difficult to determine, except where they follow the boundary of the Experimental Forest.

Nearly all of boundaries on the south and east of the Inventoried Roadless Area are coincident with the White Mountain National Forest boundary; the Inventoried Roadless Area could be heavily and adversely impacted by land use decisions on these adjacent private lands. Modifying the Inventoried Roadless Area boundaries to provide a buffer between the Inventoried Roadless Area and Forest boundaries would render it too small for effective Wilderness management. There are no opportunities for expansion of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

There is a narrow boundary between this Inventoried Roadless Area and the North Carr Inventoried Roadless Area; the boundary is defined by a critical segment of the snowmobile trail that connects the Warren area with the West Thornton area. Obliterating this section of trail and a short section of Forest road would create a larger, and possibly more easily managed, combined Inventoried Roadless Area. However, the configuration of the two Inventoried Roadless Areas, even if combined, is problematic; the core area is small and the area's interface with private lands is extensive.

**Availability for
Wilderness
Designation**

Recreation, Including Tourism

Snowmobile use throughout the Inventoried Roadless Area would be curtailed. These trails are critical connecting routes with the state-wide snowmobile trail system. Obliterating them would result in strong public opposition.

The shelter at the Three Ponds would be evaluated and considered for removal.

At Rumney Rocks, fixed anchor climbing would be curtailed. In addition, the current volume of use at this site does not meet Wilderness criteria for isolation and solitude, and use restrictions would be considered.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently in regeneration and young age-classes (0.6 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area contains 8 stands of aspen/paper birch, totaling 79 acres (or less than 0.1 percent of the Forest total). Loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations because it is such a small proportion of the total.

One wildlife opening is being maintained in this Inventoried Roadless Area; this opening would be lost if the area was recommended for Wilderness designation.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There is no livestock use in the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 4,034 acres of suitable land.

A majority of the Inventoried Roadless Area has outstanding mineral rights.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, 13 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 5 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey.

Land Uses

The snowmobile trails in this Inventoried Roadless Area are maintained through a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails, and with the cooperation of local snowmobile clubs.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees in an area reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

Site-Specific
Wilderness
Evaluation

The area has nominal Wilderness value because the Inventoried Roadless Area is extremely narrow. Sites and sounds associated with development along NH State Route 25 and at Stinson Lake preclude a sense of isolation. The Three Ponds area and the associated trail system were originally constructed as timber haul roads. This persistent evidence of harvest activity precludes the retention of the area's Wilderness character.

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support for the protection of roadless areas in general. Only two comments were received that specifically addressed this Roadless Area: one recommended protection as Wilderness, and one advocated preserving the area to protect "the ponds that sustain healthy brook trout populations...."

There is general opposition to the designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area as Wilderness, primarily by snowmobile users and the Town of Rumney selectmen.

Nearly the entire Inventoried Roadless Area contains outstanding mineral rights. While development may be unlikely, management for Wilderness values will be subject to these rights for exploration, development, and removal.

Changes from
Draft

A thorough review of decisions made on specific boundary locations of various inventoried roadless areas was conducted, based on public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This review resulted in approximately 13,000 acres being added to four of the existing inventoried roadless areas, consistent with our original roadless area criteria.

Cherry Mountain

Inventoried Roadless Area # 2273

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	8,637
Net Acres	8,637
% NFS lands	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area is located in the northwest section of the White Mountain National Forest, in Coos County, and in the towns of Carroll and Jefferson. U.S. Highway 302 lies to the south, Highway 3 to the southwest, NH Route 115 is to the west, and the Cherry Mtn. Road lies to the east.

The Maine Central Railroad track forms the southern boundary, the Cherry Mtn. Road forms the eastern boundary, and private land and natural terrain features form the north and west boundaries.

Trails in the Inventoried Roadless Area include the Cherry Mountain Trail, the Owls Head Trail, and Martha’s Mile. There is snowmobile use from the Cherry Mountain Road to the summit of Cherry Mountain (Mt. Martha), continuing north over Owls Head to Route 115, as well as along the entire length of the Cherry Mountain Road.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	4.4
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	8.5
Snowmobile	3.7
Cross-country Ski	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The northern one-third of the area is characterized by steep, challenging terrain and deeply cut streams. The southern two-thirds are characterized by more gentle slopes with slower flowing streams, many with beaver activity.

Elevations range from 1,420 feet, along the Ammonoosuc River, to 3,520 feet, on Mt. Martha. Owls Head, a prominent peak in the northern portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area, is over 3,000 feet.

The area is entirely forested; views of the surrounding landscape are very limited except where vistas are annually maintained through vegetation removal, such as the summit of Cherry Mtn.

Cover is northern hardwood with scattered softwood stands. Softwood occurs in greater proportions at higher elevations.

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 14 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	4.5	0.0	5.3
20- 39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.5
40- 59	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	1.4
60- 79	25.5	0.0	0.0	11.3	2.3	12.3	0.0	40.1
80- 99	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.2	3.1	27.9	0.0	44.1
100-119	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.7	4.5	0.0	7.6
120+	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 1.6 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	1,954	23
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	0	0
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	3,396	39
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	1,214	14
Softwood/ Hardwood Wet or Ledgy	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	191	2
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	0	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

Primary uses of the area are non-motorized dispersed recreation, including limited hiking and backpacking, as well as snowmobiling and hunting. The primary trails are Cherry Mtn., Owls Head, and Martha’s Mile. All receive low use because of limited attractions and special features. The Cherry Mtn. Fire Lookout, once an attraction, was removed in 1983.

The Cherry Mtn. Road, which forms the eastern boundary, is not included in the Inventoried Roadless Area. The Cherry Mtn. Road provides 11 roadside camping sites that receive seasonally heavy use. The road corridor is also heavily used seasonally by snowmobilers as a primary north-south link in the state-wide snowmobile system. The section of Cherry Mtn. Trail from this road west to Cherry Mtn. and north to Route 15 is also used by snowmobiles. Seasonally, deer, moose, and bear hunting are popular uses for the peripheral portions of the area.

The Presidential-Dry River and the Great Gulf Wildernesses are within 10 miles of the Cherry Mtn. area. It is anticipated that the low use patterns of the Cherry Mountain area would not change if the Inventoried Roadless Area were designated Wilderness; hikers and backpackers would continue to seek the more spectacular Presidential Range.

Three seasonal cabins under Special Use Permit stand in the northeast portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area, adjacent to the Cherry Mtn. Road.

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

There are no applications or permits for prospecting or commercial mineral removal on file with the White Mountain National Forest. There are no reserved mineral rights.

Within this Inventoried Roadless Area, 5,313 acres (approximately 62 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Cherry Mtn	61	764	0	5,993	0	0	1,808	0	0	0	0

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The Inventoried Roadless Area is typical of many lower-elevation portions of the White Mountain National Forest. The area varies from steep terrain in the north to more gentle terrain in the south.

The Presidential Mountain Range dominates the view to the east and south of this area with its high peaks and surrounding striking scenery. Scattered rural developments are seen to the north of the Inventoried Roadless Area. To the southeast, the Bretton Woods hotel, golf course, and ski area are visible.

The area was widely harvested in the 1800s and again in the 1930s. Upon close scrutiny, evidence of logging activities and trail networks remain apparent. The Inventoried Roadless Area's heaviest harvest intensity was the salvage operation that followed the 1938 hurricane. Less intensive harvest occurred in portions of the area in the 1970s and 1980s. From high viewing points in the Inventoried Roadless Area, a careful observer would see evidence of this harvest persisting today, including evidence of old logging roads. To the casual forest visitor, the Inventoried Roadless Area appears largely unaffected by harvest. There has been no harvest in the area since the late 1980s.

An abandoned gravel pit on the Cherry Mtn. Road, an abandoned telephone line right of way to Cherry Mtn., and the snowmobile and hiking trail systems within the area further detract from the natural integrity of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	2,026	11	4,999	4	1,561	0
% of IRA	23	<1	58	<1	18	0

Key Attractions

Cherry Mtn. and Owls Head serve as the Inventoried Roadless Area’s primary non-winter attractions. Snowmobile travel within the Inventoried Roadless Area, as well as connecting to the larger, exterior network of snowmobile trails, is a seasonal attraction to the area.

Wilderness
Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

The entire east side of the Inventoried Roadless Area appears naturally-occurring; the effects of historic harvest have largely mitigated over time.

Immediately adjacent to the Cherry Mtn. Road, the effects of recent harvest, including landings, are still visible. These areas now provide popular roadside camping opportunities, though impacts are concentrated on the areas directly adjoining the road. There are also three seasonal special use cabins along the road. Beyond this narrow corridor of visitor use, the Inventoried Roadless Area’s natural integrity appears intact.

Due to low levels of use, neither trails nor other recreation developments significantly affect the natural integrity of the area.

Harvest activity within the last two decades is summarized below:

Cherry Mountain	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	249	3	0	0
Intermediate	147	2	9	
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	0	0	1	0
Intermediate	0	0	55	1
Total Harvest/Decade	396	5	65	1

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g., solitude and challenge)

While the acreage of semi-primitive non-motorized land is relatively low within the Inventoried Roadless Area, the opportunities for solitude are

among the highest on the White Mountain National Forest due to the very low level of use. Although the area is well suited to primitive camping and backpacking, the Inventoried Roadless Area receives very limited use. Hiking trails are the only facility within the area.

Topographic screening is high, vegetative screening is dense, and the distance from the perimeter to the core is moderate (1 to 3 miles). Offsite intrusions, including sights and sounds, from outside the Inventoried Roadless Area are present. Highway noise, an active railroad, and commercial and residential developments immediately adjacent to the Inventoried Roadless Area detract from the opportunities for visitors to experience a sense of isolation.

Challenges available within the Inventoried Roadless Area include those typical of the Forest, including seasonal weather extremes. The area does not offer the extreme terrain or steep slopes contained in other roadless areas or Wilderness elsewhere on the Forest.

Approximately 2,978 acres, or 35 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area, is designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.51 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

There are no known special, unique, or outstanding recreation or scenic features within this Inventoried Roadless Area that are not fully represented in other areas of the Forest.

High quality northern hardwood forest products are an important niche for the White Mountain National Forest. This Inventoried Roadless Area includes 3,224 acres capable of supporting high quality northern hardwood forests.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The area poses no significant challenges to Wilderness management. There is negligible visitor use beyond the peripheral travel routes and camping areas; resource damage and maintenance of trails and facilities is not a concern. While the Inventoried Roadless Area is relatively small, its shape and boundaries are conducive to Wilderness management.

There are three cabins under Special Use Permit until 2039 that are inconsistent with Wilderness designation.

Private land to the north of the area and the White Mountain National Forest boundary is managed for a variety of objectives. Private harvest, rural residential development, and roading in this vicinity have been light.

The Dartmouth Inventoried Roadless Area lies to the east; private land lies to the west.

Boundary Conditions

The Cherry Mountain and Dartmouth Inventoried Roadless Areas are separated by the Cherry Mtn. Road. If the road were removed, the larger, combined Inventoried Roadless Area or Wilderness may offer efficiencies in management and increased opportunities for isolation.

The Cherry Mtn. Road has been considered carefully in the White Mountain National Forest Plan. The road serves a variety objectives, including: 1) popular roadside camping opportunities during all non-winter months in an area of the Forest with limited roadside camping opportunities; 2) important and popular snowmobile corridor connections among other established and maintained snowmobile routes; and 3) public access from Jefferson, Jefferson Station, and Meadows to Bethlehem and surrounding communities in non-winter months. Closure or obliteration of this road would be the subject of considerable public concern.

Boundary location should accommodate roadside camping opportunities along the Cherry Mtn. Road, as well as three seasonal cabins under Special Use Permit (see Land Uses, below).

Availability for Wilderness Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

Snowmobile use on the Cherry Mountain Trail would be discontinued. This restriction would likely result in considerable local controversy. The area is well suited to hiking and snowmobile trail location, as well as dispersed, primitive camping.

Wildlife and Fish

The area displays a typical population of wildlife for an area with a low vegetative diversity. If the area is not designated Wilderness, logging operations could result in 10 to 15 landings, which could be maintained as permanent wildlife openings.

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (1.6 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area contains only 32 stands of aspen/paper birch totaling 1,000 acres (or 1.4 percent of the Forest total). Loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations because they are such a small proportion of the total.

There are 4 wildlife openings, totaling approximately 12 acres, currently being maintained in this area. These would no longer be maintained if the area is designated Wilderness.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this Inventoried Roadless Area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 5,313 acres of suitable land.

A gravel pit on the Cherry Mtn. Road has been abandoned. There are no mineral rights reserved within this area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA/NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Surveys to date have identified 4 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, within the area. Approximately 30 percent of the proposed area has received some Heritage Survey.

Especially interesting for management is the Fabyan Cabin (1924) near Highway 302. The cabin stands just outside the southeast boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area and is the first permanent building constructed on the White Mountain National Forest. It is to be nominated to the National Register. Moving the structure to a more prominent location on the Forest

with a higher level of security and increased opportunity for interpretation is being considered.

There is an abandoned telephone line ROW leading to Cherry Mtn.,

Land Uses

There are no known ROW, pipelines, or electronic sites that would require modification should the Inventoried Roadless Area be designated as Wilderness.

In the northeast corner of the Inventoried Roadless Area, near its boundary's intersection with the Cherry Mtn. Road, three seasonal cabins are under Special Use Permit. These permits extend until August 17, 2039, and would be a nonconforming use if the area is designated as Wilderness.

The Cherry Mountain Road remains a locally important travelway between State Route 115 and the Bretton Woods area. Designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area or of the Dartmouth Inventoried Roadless Area, or a combination of both areas that would require the closure of the road or restriction of snowmobile use in this corridor would be a cause for considerable local concern.

The snowmobile trails in this Inventoried Roadless Area are maintained through a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails and with the cooperation of local snowmobile clubs.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

There are no outstanding management considerations or concerns regarding insects and/or disease hazard should this Inventoried Roadless Area be designated as Wilderness.

The risk of significant fire in the Inventoried Roadless Area is low. The need for prescribed fire is limited to its use as a means of maintaining wildlife openings.

There would be no anticipated change of use of surrounding non-federal land should the area be designated as Wilderness.

Site-Specific Wilderness Evaluation

The Inventoried Roadless Area meets the criteria for Wilderness designation with regard to isolation and solitude, and for some categories of challenge. It does not, however, meet the criteria regarding unique characteristics, nor does it contain any key attractions not adequately represented in other Wilderness areas or nearby protected areas.

Adjacent areas on the Forest host numerous trails to high peaks, more spectacular vistas, waterfalls, and geologic formations. Several hiking trails and camp sites exist in the Inventoried Roadless Area; however, each experiences very low use. It can be surmised that the area does not contain sufficient unique characteristics nor experiences to attract use away from more popular nearby Forest roadless, Wilderness, or other developed recreation areas.

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

The Inventoried Roadless Area is further characterized by its potential for the production of high quality hardwoods, its popular snowmobile trails which link to the larger, state-wide trail system, and its attraction as a seasonally popular hunting area for deer, moose, and bear.

Paradoxically, there was significant comment made to the Notice of Intent for the White Mountain National Forest Plan Revision regarding this Inventoried Roadless Area. Nearly 5 percent, or 700 comments, addressed the Cherry Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area. All the comments request that the Inventoried Roadless Area be preserved; all but two comments request that the area be designated Wilderness.

Chocorua

Inventoried Roadless Area #2270

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	10,368
Net Acres	10,298
% NFS Lands	99

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) lies in the south central portion of the White Mountain National Forest, adjacent to the Sandwich Range Wilderness to the west. It is bordered by private land to the south, accessed by and bordered by State Route 112 (the Kancamagus National Scenic Byway) to the north, and accessed and bordered by State Route 16 to the east.

The area lies in Carroll County and is located in the towns of Conway Albany, Tamworth, and Madison.

Trails accessing the Inventoried Roadless Area include the Piper, Nickerson Ledge, Liberty, Bee Line, Brook, Champney Falls, Middle Sister, Carter Ledge, Bickford Path, and Bolles Trails. Each of these trailheads is located on or close to a main travelway from Boston, 2.5 hours to the south. The Liberty and Bolles Cut-off snowmobile trails also access the area.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	1.9
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	27.0
Snowmobile	4.6
Cross-country Ski	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

Mount Chocoura, elevation 3,475 feet, is a picturesque, “classic” mountain, with a cone shape and a rocky, treeless, subalpine peak. The base of the mountain and the surrounding area is predominantly mature northern hardwoods. The maximum elevation in the Inventoried Roadless Area is 3,475; the minimum is 660.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 19 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
20- 39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	0.0	4.1
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
60- 79	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7
80- 99	0.0	0.0	0.1	16.2	5.4	9.6	0.0	31.3
100-119	0.0	2.4	0.2	0.9	1.9	29.9	0.0	35.3
120+	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	4.9	22.0	0.0	27.5
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 3.9 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	114	1
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	854	8
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	2,634	25
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	77	1
Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	226	2
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	25	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

Mount Chocorua receives extremely heavy day hiking and backpacking use. Camping is prohibited on its upland slopes; overnight stays are allowed only at and near the Jim Liberty Cabin and toilet, and the Camp Penacook Shelter, tent platform, and toilet. Camping at the shelters is heavy during the summer recreation season. The Champney Falls area is a popular scenic area and ice climbing venue. There is a significant level of permitted outfitter/guide use, as well as snowmobile use in the southwest section of the Inventoried Roadless Area along the Liberty Trail and on the Bolles snowmobile trail along the west boundary of the area. There is limited mountain bike use throughout the area.

The Mount Chocorua Scenic Area occupies 6,095 acres, or more than half of the Inventoried Roadless Area, and abuts the Sandwich Range Wilderness to the west.

There are three mineral prospecting permits for the area on file with the White Mountain National Forest. The permits lie immediately adjacent to the southeastern area and coincident Forest boundary. There are no mineral rights reserved, and no existing non-recreation special uses permitted within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, 2,693 acres (approximately 25 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Chocorua	83	2,354	0	1,690	102	150	0	5,982	0	0	0

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The Chocorua Inventoried Roadless Area includes all of what is currently managed as the “Mount Chocorua Scenic Area,” designated in 1986. Each of the trails which access the summit of Mount Chocorua is heavily used, with typically apparent signs of over-use. The trail treads are wide and compacted. A number of different clubs and organizations assist with trail maintenance. Most available firewood has been removed in the vicinity of the two shelters and other popular camping spots. Other impacts include damage to vegetation, exposed tree roots, etc. The more fragile subalpine areas at the peak show significant impact from extremely high visitor use.

The outstanding views from the summit are a principal attraction of the area, particularly to the north into the heart of the White Mountains and the distant Presidential Range, and to the west, where views of the Lakes Region provide stunning visual diversity. Views to the south and to the east include the developed and residential areas of Conway, North Conway, and surrounding communities.

To the east and south of the Inventoried Roadless Area, private land and residential development abut the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary. There has been recent harvest on USFS lands adjacent to State Route 16. In addition, there is a recently awarded USFS timber sale adjacent to the north boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally-appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally-appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	6,799	0	1	73	3,374	0
% of IRA	66	0	<1	<1	33	0

Key Attractions

Mount Chocorua, with its easily accessible trailheads and close proximity to population centers, is a key attraction for backpackers entering the Inventoried Roadless Area. The two shelters, a tent platform, and toilet facilities provide resource protection for this area.

Shorter day hikes to scenic Champney Falls and rock climbing opportunities, including White Ledge, Woodchuck Ledge, and Passaconaway, are also associated attractions for day use.

**Wilderness
Capability**

Natural Integrity and Appearance

The natural integrity of the area is significantly compromised by its popularity and easy access. The trail density and use is high, as are the visual impacts of this use. Outside the designated scenic area, past harvest is evident in the northeast section of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

There are no known species of non-native flora or fauna present in the area. Harvest history within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

Chocorua	1983-1992		1993-2002	
	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Even Age				
Regeneration	174	2	13	0
Intermediate	82	1	0	0
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	160	2	107	1
Intermediate	0	0	0	0
Total Harvest/Decade	416	4	120	1

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.18 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge)

Opportunities for solitude or experiences unique to Wilderness are extremely limited in the Chocorua Inventoried Roadless Area. Highly developed areas, high trail density, close proximity to and easy access from urban population centers, constant highway noise from nearby Highway 16, and support facilities including two shelters, a tent platform, and toilet facilities all detract from the Wilderness experience.

While views to the north and west are of high scenic integrity, the effects of development, including home construction, land-clearing, powerlines, and highways all impact views to the south and east.

Although the scenic quality is high, the Inventoried Roadless Area does not offer recreation opportunities or experiences (i.e., a spirit of adventure, solitude, or a sense of self-reliance) that are characteristic of Wilderness or unique to the Forest or region.

Approximately 5,172 acres, or 50 percent of the area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

The scenic opportunities from Mount Chocorua to the west and north, Champney Falls, and the two shelters are the special features of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

The Mount Chocorua Scenic Area is entirely within the area. The Inventoried Roadless Area abuts the Sandwich Range Wilderness on the west. These two areas are separated by the Bolles Trail and the Bolles snowmobile trail, which are coincident in this location.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species. There is a small population of small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), a federally threatened species, within the area.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

Because of the Inventoried Roadless Area's small size and proximity to the Kancamagus Highway, State Route 16, and surrounding private land, management of the area as a Wilderness would likely be problematic. Visitors would be in frequent sight and sound of each other because of trail density and volume of use, unless the Forest Service limited or controlled such use. The unavoidable visible and audible intrusions from the highways, towns, and developments in the surrounding region detract from the solitude of this area. The size of the area precludes mitigation of these impacts.

The current non-Wilderness Scenic Area status provides management flexibility regarding the regulation of high volumes of use, mountain biking, and fixed anchor rock climbing. Wilderness designation may encumber the Forest's ability to accommodate these established uses, yet still would not provide the types of unique experiences and challenges that are intended for and expected of a designated Wilderness.

Boundary Conditions

The Inventoried Roadless Area's small size, popularity, and proximity to major travelways detract from its potential to provide visitors with Wilderness experiences and characteristics. The boundaries cannot be extended because of state roads, private land, residential development, etc. Reducing the area's size will further compromise its capacity to provide semi-primitive recreation experiences and values.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

If designated as Wilderness, the two shelters, tent platform, and toilets would be considered for removal, and fixed rock anchors on new climbs would be prohibited. Mountain biking would be prohibited, and group size limitations would be implemented.

During high use seasons, a number of groups exceeding 10 people commonly hike Mount Chocorua. Wilderness designation would imply consideration of management strategies to limit and disperse this level of concentrated use.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (3.9 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area contains 2 stands of aspen/paper birch containing approximately 10 acres; therefore, there would be a negligible loss of wildlife habitat as a result of Wilderness designation.

There are no wildlife openings currently being maintained in this Inventoried Roadless Area; therefore, designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area as Wilderness would have no effect on wildlife habitat.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There is no active livestock grazing, timber harvest, or mineral removal in the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these

investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 2,693 acres of suitable land.

There are three mineral prospecting permits for the area on file with the White Mountain National Forest. The permits lie immediately adjacent to the southeastern area and coincident Forest boundary. There are no mineral rights reserved within this Inventoried Roadless Area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, 14 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 30 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey. Especially interesting for management are the Jim Liberty Cabin and Camp Penacook Shelter. The two sites may be of historical significance. While they may be non-conforming uses if designated as Wilderness, their alteration or removal would be subject to review and consultation with the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Office.

Land Uses

There are no known contracts or special uses that would be curtailed as a result of Wilderness designation.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

There are no concerns about insect and disease hazard in this area.

Although fire has had an impact on the area, it is not considered a natural occurring influence of this ecosystem. The risk of significant fire in the Inventoried Roadless Area is low. The need for prescribed fire is limited to its possible use as a means of maintaining wildlife openings.

Site-Specific Wilderness Evaluation

Current Scenic Area designation occupies the majority of the area and allows the Forest flexibility and management options that adequately protect the resource while providing social conditions that allow visitors to experience the natural environment in the company of others.

Wilderness designation would, in effect, preclude most of the current use of the Mount Chocorua area. Group size limitations, removal of facilities, closing of snowmobile trails, and changes in management objectives would displace a well-established use pattern. Evidence of heavy use could be expected to persist for many years, prohibiting visitors from experiencing a sense of isolation or an area predominantly untrammelled by human activity.

Because of the Inventoried Roadless Area's small size and single peak attraction, there are no practical opportunities to displace use within the area.

The presence of two historic trail structures, Jim Liberty cabin and Camp Penacook shelter, would present a management dilemma. If permitted to remain as historic structures within the Wilderness, they would encourage concentrated group use inconsistent with the solitude goals of Wilderness. However, it is anticipated that removal or modification of facilities and restriction of group size would be of great concern to traditional users.

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support for the protection of roadless areas in general; no comments were received that specifically addressed this Inventoried Roadless Area.

There are no recognized outstanding unique features that are not represented in other nearby roadless and Wilderness areas. There is no measurable need for this Inventoried Roadless Area to be designated as Wilderness; it would not offer experiences that are uniquely different than currently available on lands outside Wilderness or in previously designated nearby Wilderness areas.

Most visitors to this Inventoried Roadless Area arrive in or expect to encounter large groups. Designation of this area as Wilderness would ultimately require the Forest Service to find alternatives to displace the current high number of users and large group sizes to other non-Wilderness areas. It is anticipated that it would be difficult to replicate current users' recreation experiences at alternate non-Wilderness sites.

Dartmouth Range

Inventoried Roadless Area #2274

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	12,304
Net Acres	12,304
% NFS lands	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area (Inventoried Roadless Area) is in the northwest corner of the White Mountain National Forest, in Coos County, New Hampshire. The area covers portions of the towns of Carroll, Low, and Burbank's Grant; and Thompson, Meserves', and Chandlers' Purchases. The area can be accessed from the Cherry Mtn. Road, Jefferson Notch Road, Mill Brook Road, and U.S. Highway 302 via the CogRailway Base Station Road.

The Inventoried Roadless Area is bounded on the south by activities and development associated with the Bretton Woods complex immediately outside of the White Mountain National Forest boundary, on the west by the Cherry Mtn. Road, on the east by the Jefferson Notch Road, and on the north by private land within the proclamation boundary of the White Mountain National Forest.

Roads in the northern part of the Inventoried Roadless Area include the Mill Brook Road (#93), an all-season road; and the Red Brook Road, which is closed and gated to motorized vehicle public use during non-winter months. The Upper Falls Road provides access into the southern portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area. Other temporary timber access roads within the area have been closed.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	2.9
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	0.0
Snowmobile	3.1
Cross-country Ski	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The Inventoried Roadless Area is characterized by a series of low, ill-defined peaks and gentle topography. Elevations range from 1,560 feet to 3,700 feet. Mts. Deception, Dartmouth, and Mitten all exceed 3,000 feet, with Mt. Deception the highest at 3,727 feet. Lower elevations are gently sloping, while upper slopes are typically steeper. Numerous small streams break the landform.

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Vegetation is nearly evenly split between northern hardwoods and spruce-fir. The lower slopes have mixed hardwoods, while the upper slopes have paper birch and spruce-fir.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 13 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	2.7
20- 39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	5.0
40- 59	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.7	0.2	0.0	3.2
60- 79	2.4	0.0	0.0	2.5	22.4	8.9	0.0	36.3
80- 99	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	10.2	0.0	15.9
100-119	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.5	5.3	11.5	0.0	18.7
120+	2.7	0.0	0.0	3.4	8.1	4.0	0.0	18.3
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 1.2 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	1,897	15
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	0	0
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	7,545	61
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	62	1
Softwood/ Hardwood Wet or Ledgy	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	212	2
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	0	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

This Inventoried Roadless Area experiences some of the lowest use levels on the Forest.

The Mt. Mitten snowmobile trail passes through the northern section of the area connecting the Mill Brook Road and the Jefferson Notch Road. This heavily used trail is part of the snowmobile trail system emanating from Twin Mtn., and is maintained under agreement with the NH Bureau of Trails and the Twin Mtn. Snowmobile Club. Other snowmobile trails include a portion of the 25 Dollar Trail connecting the Mt. Mitten Trail to Route 2 and a short section of the Appleby Trail providing the ultimate connection to Cherry Mtn. Road in the northwest. The Dartmouth Cut-off is at the extreme southeast corner of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

There are no developed or maintained hiking trails in the Inventoried Roadless Area, but a low level of hiking use occurs. Historically, there had been a trail on Mt. Deception. The trail was closed by hurricane windfall and never formally re-opened; limited, informal hiking use continues on this trail. Hunting is seasonally popular in this area.

Seasonally, deer, moose, and bear hunting are popular uses for the peripheral portions of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Along the western boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area, the Cherry Mountain Road provides 11 roadside camping sites that receive seasonally heavy use.

There are no applications or permits for prospecting or commercial mineral removal on file with the White Mountain National Forest. There are no mineral rights reserved within this Inventoried Roadless Area.

Within this Inventoried Roadless Area, 7,632 acres (approximately 62 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Dartmouth	3	1,361	0	8,354	1,558	1,027	0	0	0	0	0

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The Inventoried Roadless Area is typical of many lower-elevation portions of the White Mountain National Forest. The Presidential Mountain Range dominates the view to the east and south of this area. These high peaks and the surrounding striking scenery overpower the Inventoried Roadless Area. These views also reveal harvest activity in the lower elevations to the east and south of the Inventoried Roadless Area. Scattered rural developments are seen to the north of the Inventoried Roadless Area. To the southeast, the Bretton Woods hotel, golf course and ski areas are visible.

The Inventoried Roadless Area was widely harvested in the 1800’s. Portions of the area were harvested in the 1930’s; the heaviest harvest intensity was the salvage operation that followed the 1938 hurricane. Harvest occurred in portions of the Inventoried Roadless Area in the 1970’s and 1980’s. From high viewing points in the Inventoried Roadless Area, a careful observer would see evidence of this harvest persisting today including evidence of old logging roads. To the casual forest visitor, the Inventoried Roadless Area appears largely unaffected by harvest. There has been no harvest in the Inventoried Roadless Area since the late 1980’s.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	4,165	0	6,832	0	1,307	0
% of IRA	34	0	56	0	11	0

Key Attractions

There are no key attractions within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Wilderness
Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

The entire east side of the Inventoried Roadless Area appears naturally occurring; the effects of historic harvest have been mitigated over time.

Immediately adjacent to the Cherry Mtn. Road, the effects of recent harvest, including landings, are still visible. These areas are now popular as roadside camping opportunities, though impacts are concentrated to the areas directly adjoining the road. Beyond this narrow corridor of visitor use, the Inventoried Roadless Area’s natural integrity appears intact.

Hiking trails do not affect the natural integrity of the Inventoried Roadless Area, but existing snowmobile trails do.

Harvest history within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

Dartmouth	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	236	2	25	0
Intermediate	288	2	120	1
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	91	1	352	3
Intermediate	63	1	999	8
Total Harvest/Decade	678	6	1,496	12

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.24 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g., solitude and challenge)

There are no developed hiking trails within the Inventoried Roadless Area, though the land is physically well suited to trail development and primitive camping.

The lack of hiking trails and other notable attractions within the Inventoried Roadless Area provides a very high level of opportunity for solitude and isolation from sights and sounds of human activity. Snowmobile trails would affect the opportunity for winter solitude in the northern half of the area. While the Inventoried Roadless Area provides ample opportunity for bushwhacking and orienteering, little evidence exists that these activities are popular here.

Approximately 6,926 acres, or 56 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

There are no known special, unique, or outstanding recreational or scenic features within this Inventoried Roadless Area that are not fully represented in other areas of the Forest.

Interest continues in incorporating low elevation softwood forest communities into a management area where natural processes predominate. On the White Mountain National Forest, approximately 39,574 acres of softwood capable lands are currently in this category. The Inventoried Roadless Area would contribute approximately 7,544 additional acres of land capable of supporting low elevation softwood forest communities.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The area poses no significant challenges to Wilderness management. There is negligible visitor use beyond the peripheral travel routes, camping areas, and snowmobile trails; resource damage and maintenance of trails or facilities is a concern for snowmobile trails.

While the Inventoried Roadless Area is relatively small, its shape and boundaries are conducive to Wilderness management.

There are no special use permits for activities within this Inventoried Roadless Area. There are no current uses that are inconsistent with Wilderness designation.

Private lands to the north of the Inventoried Roadless Area and White Mountain National Forest boundary are managed for a variety of objectives. Private timber harvest, rural residential development, and roading have been light.

The Cherry Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area lies to the west. And the Great Gulf Extension Inventoried Roadless Area lies to the east.

Boundary Conditions

The Cherry Mountain and Dartmouth Inventoried Roadless Areas are separated by the Cherry Mtn. Road. If removed, the larger, combined

Inventoried Roadless Area or Wilderness may offer efficiencies in management and increased opportunities for isolation.

The Cherry Mtn. Road has been considered carefully in the White Mountain National Forest Plan. The road serves a variety objectives, including: 1) popular roadside camping opportunities during all non-winter months in an area of the Forest with limited roadside camping opportunities; 2) important and popular snowmobile corridor connecting other established and maintained snowmobile routes; and 3) public access from Jefferson, Jefferson Station, and Meadows to Bethlehem and surrounding communities in non-winter months. Obliteration of this road would cause considerable public concern.

The Mt. Mitten/Appleby connector snowmobile trails, between the Cherry Mtn. and the Jefferson Notch Roads, and the 25 Dollar snowmobile trail connecting to US 2 are locally important. Adjusting the Inventoried Roadless Area/Wilderness boundary would address the concern of local snowmobilers to maintain this route, but would significantly reduce the size of the area, and might reduce or eliminate the Wilderness values for which the Inventoried Roadless Area was recognized.

Boundary location should accommodate roadside camping opportunities along the Cherry Mtn. Road.

**Availability for
Wilderness
Designation**

Recreation, Including Tourism

A locally important snowmobile connector trail between the Cherry Mtn. Road and the Jefferson Notch Road, the Mt. Mitten snowmobile route, including segments of the 25 Dollar and Appleby snowmobile trails, would be discontinued should the Inventoried Roadless Area be designated as Wilderness.

Wildlife and Fish

The area displays a typical population of wildlife for an area with a low vegetative diversity. If the area is not designated Wilderness, logging operations could result in 10 to 15 landings, which could be maintained as permanent wildlife openings.

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (1.2 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow

timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area contains 8 stands of aspen/paper birch totaling 507 acres (or 3.1 percent of the Forest total). Loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations because they are such a small proportion of the total.

There are 12 wildlife openings, totaling approximately 483 acres or less than 0.7 percent of the Forest total, currently being maintained in this Inventoried Roadless Area; these would no longer be maintained if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this Inventoried Roadless Area. lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 7,632 acres of suitable land.

There are no mineral rights reserved within this Inventoried Roadless Area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, 8 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 45 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area has received some heritage survey.

Land Uses

There are no known rights of way, pipelines, electronic sites, or special uses that would require modification should the area be designated as Wilderness.

The snowmobile trails in this area are maintained through a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails, and with the cooperation of local snowmobile clubs.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

There are no outstanding management considerations or concerns regarding insects and disease hazard should this Inventoried Roadless Area be designated as Wilderness.

The risk of significant fire in the Inventoried Roadless Area is generally low. Adjacent to the Bretton Woods complex, however, are stands of spruce and fir that pose a higher risk of fire related to the urban interface. Fire in this area has a high likelihood of spreading to adjacent stands within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

No change of use is anticipated in surrounding non-federal land should the Inventoried Roadless Area be designated as Wilderness.

**Site-Specific
Wilderness
Evaluation**

The Inventoried Roadless Area meets the criteria for Wilderness designation with regard to isolation and solitude, and for some categories of challenge. However, the Inventoried Roadless Area does not provide outstanding, unique characteristics, nor does it contain any key attractions not adequately represented in other Wilderness areas or nearby protected areas.

Adjacent areas on the Forest host myriad trails to high peaks, more spectacular vistas, waterfalls, and geologic formations. Over time, neither informal nor formal hiking trails or backcountry campsites have been established in this Inventoried Roadless Area. Snowmobile trails have been developed in this area. The lack of hiking trails is a unique condition in the White Mountains, and it could be surmised that the Inventoried Roadless Area does not contain sufficient unique characteristics or experiences to attract use away from more popular, nearby Forest roadless, Wilderness, or other developed recreation areas.

Paradoxically, there was significant comment made to the Notice of Intent for the White Mountain National Forest Plan Revision regarding this Inventoried Roadless Area. Nearly 5 percent, or 723, of the comments addressed the Dartmouth Inventoried Roadless Area. All of the comments request that the area be preserved; 90 percent request that it be designated as Wilderness.

The Inventoried Roadless Area is further characterized by its potential for production of high quality hardwoods, its location as a connecting link in a popular snowmobile trail system, and its attraction as a seasonally-popular hunting area for deer, moose, and bear.

Great Gulf

Inventoried Roadless Area #2268

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	17,066
Net Acres	17,066
% NFS lands	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) lies on the northern and western slopes of the northern Presidential Range. It is immediately adjacent to the 5,552 acre Great Gulf Wilderness, and is within the towns of Randolph, Lowe and Burbank's Grant, Martin's Location, Thompson and Merserves' Purchase, and Chandlers' Purchases, in Coos County, New Hampshire. The Inventoried Roadless Area is accessed from the east by NH Route 16, and from the north by NH Route 2, both heavily traveled primary roads. To the northeast is the Pinkham "B" Road, and on the west is the Jefferson Notch Road, a seasonal access between the Cog Railway Base Station in Crawford Notch and the town of Jefferson. A mix of private, federal, and state lands, including powerlines, highways, and snowmobile routes, lies to the north and east. The northern part of this area (the Northern Presidentials) has the most intensive trail system of any location on the Forest. The Great Gulf Wilderness lies to the south and east.

The perimeters of the area are fairly well defined. The southern boundary is the privately owned Cog Railway. The southeast and east boundaries are defined by the Gulfside and Osgood Trails. Part of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT), these heavily traveled trails follow the boundary of the Great Gulf Wilderness. The eastern boundary also includes Dolly Copp Campground and the Pinkham "B" Road. The western boundary is the Jefferson Notch Road. Across the Jefferson Notch Road, to the west, is the Dartmouth Inventoried Roadless Area.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	1.9
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	79.1
Snowmobile	0.0
Cross-country Ski	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

Elevations in the Inventoried Roadless Area range from about 1,300 feet, near the Pinkham B Road, up to the six peaks, exceeding 5,000 feet. The precipitous sides of the main ridge were heavily glaciated, giving the

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

Inventoried Roadless Area a craggy, imposing appearance, which is one of the prime attractions of the Forest.

There are six distinct vegetation types found in the unit as one ascends from the lower elevations to the ridge: Northern hardwoods (beech-birch-maple); Mixed hardwoods and conifers (spruce-fir-hardwood); Conifer (spruce-fir-paper birch); Krummholtz (dwarf spruce-fir-paper birch; sub-alpine (shrubs-sedges); and alpine (low grasses-mosses-lichen). Commercial forest land is composed of northern mixed hardwoods and conifers, and can be found up to elevations of 2,500 feet. Above this elevation, the mixed hardwoods are considered non-commercial up to the krummholtz zone, at about 5,000 feet elevation. The krummholtz zone is composed of a mat of dwarfed and twisted spruce, fir, and paper birch. A combination of wind, low temperatures, deep snow, and shallow, excessively drained soils causes the trees to become nearly horizontal, and to spread over the ground like a mat, from only six inches to several feet tall. This zone generally ranges between 4,800 feet and 5,200 feet in elevation. The sub-alpine and alpine areas are the most interesting, unique, and sensitive biological communities in the area, and perhaps on the Forest. Many of the plants found here are at the extreme southern limit of their range. About 110 species of plants are found above timberline or in the krummholtz zone. Approximately 75 species are considered true alpine plants, as they are only found above timberline. Of these, four species native to the Presidential Range are found nowhere else in the world. Overall, this sequence of plant communities from lowest to highest elevations on the Presidentials represents, in a compressed form, the vegetation found from the northern U.S. to the Arctic Circle.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 20 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20- 39	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.4
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
60- 79	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	4.8	2.5	0.0	15.3
80- 99	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	5.6	0.0	6.1
100-119	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.0	5.2	6.9	0.0	13.2
120+	13.4	0.0	0.0	12.2	5.0	34.4	0.0	65.0
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 0.2 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	610	4
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	382	2
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	2,479	15
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	16	0
Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	211	1
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	0	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

The main current use in this area is recreation. The Inventoried Roadless Area hosts extremely high, year-round hiking, dispersed back country camping, skiing, climbing, backpacking, and snowshoeing use. A major snowmobile Corridor trails is coincident with the Inventoried Roadless Area’s northern boundary; several trails in the east and west, are also heavily used. Several developed cross-country ski trails within the Inventoried Roadless Area are maintained and groomed by the Forest Service.

There are approximately 79 miles of hiking trails in this area maintained by the Forest Service, Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), and Randolph Mountain Club (RMC). The AT is coincident with nearly the entire border

of the Inventoried Roadless Area where it adjoins the Great Gulf Wilderness. In addition to these heavily used trails, the AMC maintains the Madison Springs Hut, a commercial use, above tree line in the col between Mounts Madison and Adams (capacity 50). Madison Springs Hut lies partially on a small parcel of private land, less than one acre, within the Inventoried Roadless Area. The RMC has three enclosed cabins (Gray Knob, Crag Camp, and the Log Cabin), and a shelter-tent platform and outhouse complex at the Perch. The Forest Service maintains tent platforms and toilets on the Osgood Trail and at Valley Way.

King Ravine, at Mount Adams, provides rock climbing opportunities.

Snyder Brook Scenic Area is a 36-acre tract adjacent to the lower stretches of Snyder Brook along the northern boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area. The Scenic Area was established to protect the many attractive small waterfalls along this scenic walk.

A stand of sugar maple in the northern section of the Inventoried Roadless Area is leased as a sugar bush under a special use permit. The Pinkham B timber sale harvested 258 acres with individual tree and shelterwood prescriptions, plus another 2 acre permanent wildlife opening. The sale was completed in the late 1990s. The harvest units were along the Pinkham B Road between Dolly Copp Campground and the Randolph town line.

Within this Inventoried Roadless Area, 2,455 acres (approximately 14 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Great Gulf	10	3,066	0	613	3,196	8,805	0	1	0	0	1,366

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The characteristic landscape is made up of a high alpine ridge almost five miles long, with four high peaks rising over 200 feet above it. The slopes of the mountains are steep and heavily glaciated. Fast mountain streams, such as Snyder, Cold, Spur, Bumpus, Culhane, Castle, and Clay Brooks, drain these slopes. The upper elevations of the adjacent Great Gulf Wilderness and the Presidential-Dry River Wilderness to the south feature environments similar to this Inventoried Roadless Area. The lower elevations are not unique, and are much like adjacent low elevation stands of timber.

The Inventoried Roadless Area is generally naturally-appearing, with obvious impacts of long-term, heavy recreation use.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally-appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally-appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	0	720	7,384	2	8,955	0
% of IRA	0	4	43	<1	52	0

Key Attractions

The primary attractions of the area are the large expanses above tree line, and four of the highest peaks in the northeast, all over 5,000 feet. Striking vistas from these high peaks are regional and national attractions.

The steep, rocky headwalls have some of the most challenging hikes in New England, specifically King Ravine, Great Gully, the Castle Trail over Castellated Ridge, and the Castle Ravine Trail. The fast streams have many attractive waterfalls, with trails leading to almost every one. Associated attractions are the AT, and the hut and shelter networks which support hikers and backpackers along the trail.

Wilderness Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Historically, impacts in the Inventoried Roadless Area have included limited subsistence farming along the northern borders and timber harvest on the lower sections along Route 16, Pinkham B Road, and the Jefferson Notch Road. The farms have long since been abandoned. The Inventoried Roadless Area retains much of its original old-growth forest cover on its upper slopes. A hurricane in 1938 razed the timber on much of the western slopes of the Inventoried Roadless Area. These areas have reforested naturally, and the effects of the wind throw are no longer evident when viewed from a distance.

Harvest history within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

Great Gulf	1983-1992		1993-2002	
	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Even Age				
Regeneration	11	0	70	0
Intermediate	132	1	0	0
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	309	2	172	1
Intermediate	0	0	0	0
Total Harvest/Decade	452	3	242	1

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.

- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.11 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

The most prominent impact to the Inventoried Roadless Area is its extraordinary popularity for hikers and backpackers. More than 45 distinct trails traverse more than 80 miles. Many of these trails were established by local use in the mid-1800s; others in the early 1900s. Maintained by a number of local user volunteer groups and the Forest Service, this interconnecting maze of trails runs along nearly every ridge, through every valley, and to every outlook and waterfall. The high trail density significantly detracts from the natural appearance of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Views from the Inventoried Roadless Area include highways, roads, and the Cog Railway to the south, and a powerline, highways, roads, timber harvest, and residential development to the north.

The AMC- and RMC-operated huts and facilities have a long history within the White Mountain National Forest. They are, in themselves, historical and cultural treasures, providing resource protection and valuable facilities and services to the public. At the same time, these facilities compromise the Wilderness character and adversely affect the natural appearance of the Inventoried Roadless Area by concentrating use and creating visual and audible intrusions, including helicopter support. Because of the Inventoried Roadless Area's long history of use and development, changes to use patterns, particularly with regard to the hut or removal of the shelters, tent platforms, and outhouses would be met with strong opposition.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge),

The Inventoried Roadless Area provides a limited opportunity for solitude. Topographic and vegetative screenings are moderate, and the distance from the perimeter to the core is moderate (averaging about 2.75 miles). The trail density within the Inventoried Roadless Area precludes solitude during high use non-winter seasons. Once above tree line, solitude opportunities decrease further due to loss of vegetative screening. The network of trails is marginally effective in dispersing the hiking traffic throughout the area, affording hikers limited opportunity to select a route with a higher likelihood of experiencing a sense of solitude and isolation.

The softwood density in the krummholtz prevents dispersion, and thus decreases solitude. The many off-site intrusions, such as the Cog Railroad, the Auto Road, surrounding towns, the summit buildings on Mt. Washington, Wildcat Ski Area, and Highways 16 and 2, each detract from a sense of solitude or isolation.

Visitors can experience a high degree of challenge within the Inventoried Roadless Area as provided by the rugged and steep terrain, the exposed upper slopes, and the extreme, rapidly changing weather conditions. King Ravine at Mount Adams provides an extreme challenge for those seeking rock climbing opportunities.

Approximately 13,043 acres, or 76 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

The White Mountain National Forest contains the most significant acres of alpine communities in the Northeast and eastern Canada. There are 3,917 acres of alpine communities on the 2003 Inventoried Roadless Areas of the White Mountain National Forest. This represents 89 percent of the 4,409 acres of alpine communities found on the White Mountain National Forest. Of the Forest total, 2,087 acres, or 47 percent of the White Mountain National Forest alpine communities are in this Inventoried Roadless Area.

The Bumpus Basin is a glacial cirque not impacted by trails, though it was the site of a logging camp before the area became part of the National Forest.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

The high peaks and their associated views, the AT, the huts, and the network of trails are each special features of the Inventoried Roadless Area. The AT corridor includes 1,039 acres within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The area is readily identifiable, and its boundaries are easily located. The Inventoried Roadless Area's configuration and external influences are conducive to Wilderness management. The AMC owns a parcel of land, approximately one-acre in size, at Madison Hut. The Great Gulf Wilderness to the east enhances the Wilderness characteristics of the Inventoried Roadless Area by providing alternate hiking and scenic opportunities as well as opportunities for dispersion.

Boundary Conditions

The Cog Railway, with its associated sites and sounds, has a negative effect on the Wilderness experience within the Inventoried Roadless Area. It is impractical to consider removal of this facility, as the railway is of regional importance and is on private land. The Jewel Trail, which parallels the railway, may provide a more appropriate Wilderness boundary.

Modifying the boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area to exclude the north and west side of the Inventoried Roadless Area and its non-conforming uses (i.e., AMC-operated hut and RMC shelters) may be an effective approach for separating incompatible uses. An effective boundary modification would exclude from Wilderness the entire area north of the southern boundary of the AT, from its border with the Cog Railway to the west to a point east of the Osgood Tent Platform to the east.

A permutation of this AT corridor exclusion would be to exclude the AT corridor, but to designate as Wilderness the remaining portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area north of the corridor. However, this would create a narrow slice of Wilderness disconnected from any surrounding Wilderness,

and cause impractical management situations. Visitors would travel from non-Wilderness through Wilderness, through the non-Wilderness AT corridor, and then back into the Great Gulf Wilderness. This approach does not present a viable management solution to the challenges of incompatible uses.

Another approach for separating incompatible uses from Wilderness designation would be the creation of “islands” of non-Wilderness around the highly developed and highly impacted areas at and around the hut and shelters. While this may appear as effective strategy, the hut and shelters are highly visible focal points of the Inventoried Roadless Area and adjacent Wilderness. The effects of these operations, including helicopter support, would unavoidably affect the surrounding Wilderness. Previous analysis, including the environmental analysis in support of the Record of Decision for permitting The Appalachian Mountain Club Huts and Pinkham Notch Visitor Center in the White Mountain National Forest, Jan. 1999, determined that this approach is problematic and does not meet the objectives for maintaining and protecting Wilderness character.

Other boundaries, particularly along Routes 2 and 16 as well as along the Jefferson Notch Road, should be considered for relocation; minor boundary adjustments along these roads will accommodate future trailhead parking needs.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

The hut, shelter, tent platform, outhouses, and bridges would each be considered for removal if the Inventoried Roadless Area were designated as Wilderness. The services provided at these sites would be considered for modification, including alterations or removal of the structures and services provided. Modification to these structures or of these uses, due to their historical presence within the Inventoried Roadless Area, would be highly controversial, both regionally and nationally.

There would be consideration to reduce the extremely high hiking trail density in the “Northern Presidentials” of this area.

Mechanized ski trail grooming for cross-country skiing would be discontinued for part of the Hayes-Copp trail system. Group size limitations, as exist in other White Mountain National Forest Wilderness, would need to be considered. Timber harvest in the Inventoried Roadless Area would be discontinued. If the area is designated as Wilderness, the sugar bush currently operating under special use permit would not be renewed at the time of its termination in 2006.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would

not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (0.2 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area contains no stands of aspen/paper birch, therefore, loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations.

There are 3 wildlife openings, totaling approximately 23 acres or approximately 0.03 percent of the Forest aspen-birch stands, currently being maintained in this Inventoried Roadless Area. These would no longer be maintained if the Inventoried Roadless Area is designated as Wilderness.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this Inventoried Roadless Area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

The Inventoried Roadless Area includes multiple wells: several for the Dolly Copp Campground that supply water to a population of 600 people, and one for AMC's Madison Hut, which provides water to a seasonal population of 55 people.

The headwaters for the Israel River, a tributary of the Connecticut River, are within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There is no livestock use under permit in the Inventoried Roadless Area but incidental use with pack animals does occur.

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs

associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 2,455 acres of suitable land.

There are no permits, leases or applications for mineral exploration or development of this area. There are no mineral rights reserved within this Inventoried Roadless Area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, 13 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 5 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey. Especially interesting for management, and sites of potential cultural significance, are Madison Spring Hut (AMC), The Log Cabin (RMC), Crag Camp (RMC), Grey Knob (RMC), and The Pearch Shelter (RMC).

Land Uses

The sugar bush special use permit in the extreme north of the Inventoried Roadless Area would be reviewed for modification if the Inventoried Roadless Area is designated as Wilderness.

As stated elsewhere, the AMC and RMC permits for land use and operation would be considered for modification.

While the AMC-owned and operated Madison hut is partially located on AMC-owned land, a portion of the infrastructure lies on NFS lands. This use occurs under the authorization of a Special Use Permit.

Schools and camps from throughout New England bring small groups of backpackers and hikers to the Inventoried Roadless Area, particularly during summer and fall months. This use is dispersed throughout the Inventoried Roadless Area and is regulated through outfitter/guide permits issued by the White Mountain National Forest. There are also numerous single day recreation events for which permits are granted during the year.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

Site-Specific
Wilderness
Evaluation

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support the protection of roadless areas in general.

Only three comments were received that specifically addressed this Inventoried Roadless Area: one recommended protection as Wilderness, and two advocated preservation as a roadless area.

Designation of this area as Wilderness would be extremely controversial because of the popular and well-established non-conforming uses. The hut and shelters provide a level of resource protection by concentrating use in limited areas and providing hardened facilities in these popular locations. The level of year-round recreation use, including both density and volume, within the Inventoried Roadless Area, severely compromises its Wilderness integrity and detracts from a Wilderness experience for most visitors.

While Wilderness values are adequately represented in the adjacent Great Gulf Wilderness, the AT corridor is more appropriately managed to provide backcountry, rather than “Wilderness,” experiences. The AT corridor’s high level of use and historic, non-conforming uses do not meet the criteria for Wilderness with regard to maximizing primitive character and providing solitude while minimizing human presence.

The Inventoried Roadless Area’s highest value is as an adjunct to the existing adjacent Wilderness. Designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area, with the noted boundary changes to exclude the AT corridor as suggested above, would not provide this connection.

Jobildunk

Inventoried Roadless Area #2276

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	16,577
Net Acres	16,577
% NFS lands	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located near the western edge of the White Mountain National forest on the Ammonoosuc/Pemigewasset Ranger District, and in the towns of Benton, Woodstock, Warren, and several acres in Easton, New Hampshire. The Inventoried Roadless Area boundary is immediately adjacent to State Highway 112 to the north, approximately parallels Highway 118 to the southeast. The western boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area parallels the North/South Road (Forest Road 19) and non-federal lands in the southwest. The Inventoried Roadless Area nearly encircles a private parcel owned by Dartmouth College and managed by the Dartmouth Outing Club. It is also accessed by the Tunnel Brook snowmobile trail.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	3.9
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	11.2
Snowmobile	3.9
Cross-country Ski	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The maximum elevation in the Inventoried Roadless Area is 4,802 feet; the minimum is 1,080 feet. The area includes the mid-slope section of several peaks of about 4,000 feet elevation, including Mounts Moosilauke, Blue, Jim, and Waternomee. Several deeply-cut streams drain from the area.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 22 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

There are small alpine and sub-alpine communities found in within the Inventoried Roadless Area on Mt. Moosilauke.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	3.2	0.0	3.6
20- 39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.7	0.0	2.8
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
60- 79	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	3.9	15.1	0.0	19.9
80- 99	1.6	0.0	0.0	2.7	7.8	23.9	0.0	36.0
100-119	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2	25.2	10.2	0.0	35.9
120+	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.0	0.0	1.3
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 1.9 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	2113	13
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	95	1
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	2070	13
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	1019	6
Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	853	5
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	10	<1

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

The current use of the Inventoried Roadless Area is dominated by the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) corridor which runs southwest to northeast along the southern portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area, just north and west of the Dartmouth College parcel. The AT receives heavy backpacking use, particularly at the Beaver Brook Shelter. The shelter, constructed in the mid-1990s, is of the Adirondack style and is maintained in cooperation with the Dartmouth Outing Club.

Significant hiking and camping use originates on the adjacent Dartmouth property; there are several locally popular trails to the summit of Mt. Moosilauke. The Moosilauke Carriage Road is a system snowmobile trail that is coincident with one of the southeast boundaries of the Inventoried Roadless Area, and a short section of the Elbow Pond Snowmobile Trail is within the Inventoried Roadless Area. There is a popular rock and ice climbing sites southwest of State Route 112, as well as incidental recreational gold panning in Tunnel Brook in the western portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Mountain biking and snowmobiling occur along in the western portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area along the Tunnel Brook Trail; the trail is part of a larger mountain bike and snowmobile trail system in this section of the Forest.

Remnants of a World War II-era bomber lie on the east slope of Mt. Waternomee.

The Dartmouth College Ornithology Department maintains a breeding bird transect on the west side of the Inventoried Roadless Area just north of the AT.

There are no recently closed or proposed timber sales within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

The White Mountain National Forest has approved construction of the Warren to Woodstock Snowmobile Trail which will traverse approximately 850 feet of the extreme southeastern portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

There are no mineral rights reserved within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Within this Inventoried Roadless Area, 3,718 acres (approximately 22 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Jobildunk	81	1,552	0	4,609	582	9,285	0	150	0	0	319

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The appearance of the Inventoried Roadless Area is similar to other mid-slope areas on the Forest. There is a long history of timber harvest, including recent harvest, though the Inventoried Roadless Area is fully reforested with a wide range of age-classes, and is generally naturally-appearing. Old logging roads are still evident to the careful observer at lower elevations.

Segments of the historic Warren to Woodstock Carriage Road traverse approximately 850 feet of the southern portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area. Though long-abandoned and revegetated, remnant grades are still discernible. The Forest Service has approved construction of the Warren to Woodstock snowmobile trail on portions of this carriage road. Another carriage road, from Breezy Point in the south of the Inventoried Roadless Area to the summit of Mt. Moosilauke, is now a hiking trail, with rock walls, side cuts, and fills evident along its length.

The adjacent Dartmouth College-owned parcel has had recent – and extensive past – timber harvest; associated haul roads and visual effects on the vegetation are prominent.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally-appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally-appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	7902	9	5936	13	2664	0
% of IRA	48	<1	36	<1	16	0

Key Attractions

The White Mountain National Forest contains the most significant acres of alpine communities in the Northeast and eastern Canada. There are small alpine and sub-alpine communities found in this Inventoried Roadless Area.

Mt. Moosilauke is a regionally popular hiking opportunity, with easy access and outstanding vistas. The AT is a national recreation attraction. The ice and rock climbing opportunities are regionally popular. The shelter at Beaver Brook Trail attracts overnight use, and Beaver Pond attracts a high volume of day use. Kinsman Notch lies at the east boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

The Tunnel Brook Trail is a portion of a system mountain bike loop trail that travels from the North-South Road along the western boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area, along the Tunnel Brook Trail within the Inventoried Roadless Area, to Tunnel Brook Road north of the Inventoried Roadless Area, and then along town roads back to its point of origin.

Wilderness
Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Harvest history within the Inventoried Roadless Area over the last two decades is summarized below:

Jobildunk	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	538	3	55	<1
Intermediate	133	<1	306	2
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	35	<1	189	1
Intermediate	0	0	12	<1
Total Harvest/Decade	706	4	562	3

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.24 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

To the casual observer, the Inventoried Roadless Area appears generally free from human-caused disturbance, and is generally forested. Upper slopes appear largely undisturbed; lower slopes still show evidence of past logging haul roads. Though many have varying degrees of reforestation, this modification to the landscape is readily apparent to the casual observer.

Human impacts from the AT and shelter are the most prominent and enduring impacts on the natural integrity of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

There is a concrete and earth-filled dam at Beaver Pond within the Inventoried Roadless Area. Removal would be controversial because of resulting adverse effects on the scenic quality of the pond, shoreline, and surrounding area.

Removal of the Beaver Brook Shelter would be controversial, as this popular facility affords resource protection along a high-use section of the AT.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge)

The area provides varying opportunities for solitude: though topographic screening is high, vegetative screening is moderate and there are many off-site visual and audible intrusions.

Opportunities for solitude along all trails, including the mountain bike trail, are low to moderate; Mt. Moosilauke's popularity and accessibility attracts high use in all non-winter months. Opportunity for solitude away from the trails and in winter months is high.

The Inventoried Roadless Area has severe climate conditions at the summit of Mt. Moosilauke, severe potential for extreme snow depths, rock slides in the ravines, and cliffs and other hazardous terrain.

Approximately 7,091 acres, or 43 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

There are large slides on steep slopes, a large area of summit above tree line, scenic views from Mt. Moosilauke, and the remains of a World War II bomber on the slopes of Mt. Waternomee. Beaver Pond is a popular scenic attraction in Kinsman Notch. The AT corridor includes 2,793 acres within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The Inventoried Roadless Area is a horseshoe-shaped parcel surrounding a large private inholding. Dartmouth College attracts a high number of students and other school-related visitors to its lodge, cabin, and trail system. These visitors often enter the Inventoried Roadless Area from this private parcel to travel on the AT, stay at the shelter, visit Beaver Pond, etc. Although a change in ownership is not anticipated for this private parcel, future management decisions are undetermined and beyond the scope of the White Mountain National Forest; related impacts to the Inventoried Roadless Area are unknown.

The Inventoried Roadless Area is typical of smaller roadless areas on the White Mountain National Forest with regard to its constraints for the protection of Wilderness characteristics. The Inventoried Roadless Area is substantially influenced by adjacent private land, extensive roading adjacent to its boundary, and well-established, heavy visitor use along the AT and at Beaver Pond and Beaver Brook Shelter. Effective Wilderness management would occur most successfully in partnership with Dartmouth College, or subsequent owner of the adjacent private parcel.

There are no mineral rights reserved within this Inventoried Roadless Area.

Boundary Conditions

The unusual shape of the area reduces its integrity by making its boundaries difficult to discern. The Inventoried Roadless Area's small size detracts from its potential to provide visitors with Wilderness experiences. The boundaries cannot be extended because of nearby roads, non-conforming land management practices, private ownership, etc. Reducing the Inventoried Roadless Area's size would further compromise its capacity to provide semi-primitive recreation experiences and associated values.

Modification to the western boundary could exclude the Tunnel Brook Trail, excluding this non-conforming mountain bike and snowmobile use.

Modification of the eastern boundary could exclude the small section of snowmobile trail near Walker Brook, excluding this non-conforming snowmobile use.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

The Beaver Brook Shelter may be considered for removal if the Inventoried Roadless Area is designated as Wilderness.

The Tunnel Brook loop mountain bike and snowmobile trails are non-conforming use and would be curtailed within the Inventoried Roadless Area if designated as Wilderness. The Beaver Pond dam would be considered for removal. A short section of the Elbow Pond Snowmobile Trail, a major trail corridor, is within the Inventoried Roadless Area; this section would be relocated outside of the Inventoried Roadless Area. Snowmobile use of the North-South Road would continue.

Trail maintenance techniques would be refined to exclude motorized tools and equipment.

The Warren to Woodstock Snowmobile Trail project, to be constructed in 2005/2006 between the towns of Warren and Woodstock, would be eliminated by Wilderness designation.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (1.9 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area only contains 18 stands of aspen/paper birch, totaling 249 acres (or 0.3 percent of the Forest total). Loss

of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations because they are such a small proportion of the total.

There is one wildlife opening, totaling 2 acres, currently being maintained in this Inventoried Roadless Area; this would no longer be maintained if the Inventoried Roadless Area was designated as Wilderness.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this Inventoried Roadless Area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

The headwaters of the Wild Ammonoosuc River are located in this Inventoried Roadless Area.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There is no livestock use in the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 3,718 acres of suitable land.

There are two permit applications on file with the White Mountain National Forest for commercial mineral prospecting in this Inventoried Roadless Area. Approximately 30 percent of the permit application areas lie in the western portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area near Mud Pond and Mt. Clough.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, 10 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 30 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey. Especially interesting for management is the new location of the Beaver Brook Shelter (DOC). Another site of interest is the Merrill Estate, near the southern boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area. The Estate included the Merrill Mountain House, a popular summer tourist house built in 1834 by the Nathaniel Merrill family. Accommodating 35 guests, it was located along the carriage road leading to the top of Mt. Moosilauke. The house was operated until about 1910, and burned soon thereafter.

The Inventoried Roadless Area also contains the site where, on January 14, 1942, a Douglas B-18 Bolo Bomber crashed on the side of Mt. Waternomee. The story is featured in “The Night the Bomber Crashed: The Story of N. Woodstock’s Famous World War II Bomber Crash,” a pamphlet by Floyd W. Ramsey, and in a video which is occasionally shown on NH Public Television.

The area also includes portions of the long-abandoned Warren to Woodstock Carriage Road, established in the 1840s to connect those two communities. The Carriage Road was replaced by State Route 118 and gradually fell into disuse.

Land Uses

There are no special use permits or contracts that would be modified if the Inventoried Roadless Area were designated as Wilderness.

The sections of snowmobile trail in this Inventoried Roadless Area are maintained through a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails, and with the cooperation of local snowmobile clubs. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would require relocation of these trails.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

Site-Specific Wilderness Evaluation

Support for Wilderness designation for this Inventoried Roadless Area is unknown. Approximately 44 percent of the comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support the protection of roadless areas in general. No comments were received that specifically addressed this Inventoried Roadless Area.

This Inventoried Roadless Area does not contain any significant characteristics or attributes not adequately represented elsewhere on the White Mountain National Forest. The significant presence of the adjacent large, private parcel detracts from the Wilderness values of the Inventoried Roadless Area. Should the adjacent parcel be acquired and incorporated into the Inventoried Roadless Area, additional analysis would be appropriate.

Changes from
Draft

A thorough review of decisions made on specific boundary locations of various inventoried roadless areas was conducted, based on public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This review resulted in approximately 13,000 acres being added to four of the existing inventoried roadless areas, consistent with our original roadless area criteria.

Kearsarge

Inventoried Roadless Area #2277

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	10,325
Net Acres	10,325
% NFS lands	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located in the southeast corner of the White Mountain National Forest, in the Carroll County towns of Chatham, Jackson, and Bartlett, New Hampshire. Access is via the East Branch of the Saco Forest Road from the west, the Hurricane Mtn. Road from the south, or Route 113 from the east. A number of forest roads, including Burnt Knoll Brook, Gardiner Brook, Peaked Hill, and Langdon Brook Roads access the boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	4.9
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	7.3
Snowmobile	0.0
Cross-country Ski	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The maximum elevation in the Inventoried Roadless Area is 3,220 feet; the minimum is 760 feet. The prominent peak in the area, Mt. Kearsarge, has an elevation of 3,220 feet. The Kearsarge-Mt. Shaw ridge is bounded on the west by the valley of the East Branch of the Saco River, and on the east by the valley of the Cold River, another tributary of the Saco River. Streams range from steep, bouldered, deeply entrenched channels to gently meandering flows. There are three ponds: Mountain, Providence, and Shingle Ponds.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 17 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.8	0.0	2.9
20- 39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	5.5	0.0	6.8
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
60- 79	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	6.9	0.0	7.9
80- 99	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.2	16.6	0.0	18.1
100-119	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	8.4	22.0	0.0	31.7
120+	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	7.3	22.2	0.0	32.6
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 1.5 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	0	0
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	3,472	34
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	2,934	28
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	1,023	10
Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	441	4
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	32	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

The primary use of the Inventoried Roadless Area is day hiking and backpacking to the observation tower, located in the southern section of the Inventoried Roadless Area, and to the Inventoried Roadless Area’s three ponds, the Province Pond Shelter, and the nearby Mountain Pond Shelter, which lies just inside the Inventoried Roadless Area’s northern boundary. The top of Mt. Kearsarge and its lookout tower are a short hike from the Hurricane Mtn. Road. The tower is an old, National Register-eligible, fire tower that is no longer in use for fire purposes. It is currently maintained as an observation tower, giving hikers a clear, 360-degree view from the summit. It is a popular summer destination for local day hikers. The Weeks Brook Trail, an alternate route to the tower via Shingle Pond, receives light use. Mountain Pond, along the north boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area, receives light to moderate summer use.

Snowmobile use is heavy along the trails that encircle three-quarters of the Inventoried Roadless Area and are coincident with its boundaries.

Much of this area is popular for hunting and fishing, and both the East Branch of the Saco River and Slippery Brook are stocked in this area. Existing roads provide convenient access for hunters to disperse throughout the area, and for fishermen to disperse to the East Branch, Slippery Brook, and their tributaries.

The Inventoried Roadless Area includes a 1,000 acre parcel running generally north and south of Shingle Pond that is a candidate Research Natural Area. The area contains old growth hardwoods over 260 years and spruce-hemlock stands between 260 and 300 years.

Within this Inventoried Roadless Area, 7,063 acres (approximately 68 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Kearsarge	49	0	0	7,903	0	159	2,213	0	0	1	0

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

As with most of the White Mountain National Forest, much of the area was harvested in the mid-1800s and early 1900s, with the exception of the upper elevations.

Although several timbers sales were active in the 1990s in the Mountain Pond and Langdon Brook areas, these sales have been closed and the area revegetated. Views of the Inventoried Roadless Area from the observation tower reveal that it is primarily naturally-appearing. The ponds are naturally-appearing, though their water levels are controlled by long-standing earth dams.

The appearance of the surrounding area includes the visual impacts of extensive logging on private lands along the East Branch of the Saco River. Views also include residential and industrial development concentrated near the surrounding towns of Jackson and North Conway.

The Inventoried Roadless Area abuts private and State Forest lands to the south. Much of the area directly south of this Inventoried Roadless Area was extensively harvested by salvage cutting after the 1998 ice storm. On the east and west sides, a small corridor of NFS lands lie between the Inventoried Roadless Area and the Forest boundaries.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	2,035	1,034	5,787	3	1,374	0
% of IRA	20	10	56	<1	13	0

Key Attractions

The summit and observation tower of Mt. Kearsarge, the three ponds, the two shelters (Mountain Pond and Province Pond), and the trails are the major attractions of the area. The snowmobile trails that nearly encircle the Inventoried Roadless Area also attract heavy seasonal use to the perimeter of the area.

Wilderness Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Harvest history over the last two decades within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

Kearsarge	1983-1992		1993-2002	
	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Even Age				
Regeneration	446	4	167	2
Intermediate	80	1	220	2
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	0	0	824	8
Intermediate	50	0	232	2
Total Harvest/Decade	576	6	1443	14

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.47 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

Between 1916 and 1918, the western side of the ridge was logged by the Conway Lumber Company to a railroad that ran along the East Branch of the Saco. There are old logging roads west of Walter Mtn. and south of Shingle Pond. Cuts and fills of those roads are still evident. A small portion of the area was burned by fire in 1903, which led to timber type changes, loss of soil, and open areas.

In addition to the tower noted above, there are remains of a railroad grade on the west side of Mt. Kearsarge, an electric line corridor, and a hotel at the summit. Despite the past land uses, the area itself appears as a natural forest setting to the casual visitor. Because of the lack of ready road access, the remaining evidence of these improvements is obscure, and would be impractical to remove.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge)

There are moderate opportunities for solitude in the Inventoried Roadless Area. While there are relatively few visitors, its relatively small size and notable attractions focus nearly all visitors into a concentrated area. There is a very low probability of experiencing a sense of isolation due to the size of the Inventoried Roadless Area, the shelters and observation tower, and the visual and audible encroachments from outside the Inventoried Roadless Area. Due to the dense spruce and birch thickets on the sides of Mount Kearsarge, cross-country travel is very difficult, and recreation use is almost completely confined to the trails.

There are virtually no opportunities for challenge, as the area is small, well serviced by trails, shelters, and toilets, and nearly surrounded by nearby roads. The topography is moderate and the peaks do not offer the physical, environmental, or climatic challenges offered by surrounding areas on the White Mountain National Forest.

Approximately 4,174 acres, or 39 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

Shingle Pond candidate Research Natural Area is an excellent example of spruce-fir, hemlock, and northern hardwood old growth. This 1,000-acre area has a high probability of being accepted and permanently preserved as the Forest's next Research Natural Area.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

The Inventoried Roadless Area includes historic features that are locally important, including the tower on Mt. Kearsarge.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The Inventoried Roadless Area's size and configuration present many challenges for Wilderness management. Its small size and proximity to private lands, roads, and snowmobile trails present year-round encroachment and non-conforming use challenges.

Current non-conforming and well-established structures and uses include the observation tower, the pond dams, the two shelters, and toilets. Removal of the shelters, toilets, or observation tower would be met with strong local opposition.

Boundary Conditions

Expanding the Inventoried Roadless Area to the west is precluded by Road 17; it is precluded to the east by Road 450 and an important existing north/south Corridor snowmobile trail. Expansion is limited to the south by the Forest boundary.

To the north, expansion could be considered by combining with the Wild River Inventoried Roadless Area. However, this would require closing an existing snowmobile system trail if the area were to be designated Wilderness. As a critical east/west segment, closure of this trail would meet with considerable local public resistance. The trail is a popular connector from the North Conway area into the North-South NH Corridor Trail.

Other boundary changes to exclude non-conforming uses, such as the observation tower, pond dams, or shelter, would reduce the size of the Inventoried Roadless Area and further compromise its Wilderness capability.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

Facilities that would be considered for removal include the tower, the shelter, toilet, and dams.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness

designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (1.5 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area contains three stands of aspen/paper birch totalling 9 acres or 0.01 percent of the Forest total; loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in a negligible effect to wildlife populations.

There is one wildlife opening, totaling 2.7 acres, currently being maintained in this Inventoried Roadless Area; it would no longer be maintained if the Inventoried Roadless Area is designated as Wilderness.

Parts of the Weeks Brook and Gardiner Brook deeryards are within the Inventoried Roadless Area, as well as the travel ways between these two yards and the Burnt Knoll Brook and Doublehead yards. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this Inventoried Roadless Area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area will reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

The water levels on Shingle and Province Ponds are controlled by small dams. These dams would be considered for removal if the Inventoried Roadless Area were designated as Wilderness. Because of the adverse impacts to shoreline in the vicinity of these popular and long-established recreation areas, it is anticipated that dam removal would meet strong local resistance.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality

sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 7.063 acres of suitable land.

Three mineral prospecting permits currently on file for commercial mineral exploration and removal would fall 80, 50, and 40 percent within the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary. Interest has been expressed in drilling for geothermal energy in this area.

There are no mineral rights reserved within this Inventoried Roadless Area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, 10 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 50 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area has received some heritage survey. Especially interesting are the 1930s log Province Pond Shelter and Mtn. Pond Shelter (the latter just outside the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary), and North Kearsarge Fire Lookout. The Lookout is listed No. 1 in NH on The National Historic Fire Lookout Register.

Land Uses

The dams on Province Pond and Mountain Pond, the Province Pond shelter, the toilets, and the observation tower would be considered for removal in the event of a Wilderness designation.

Management Consideration (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

Site-Specific Wilderness Evaluation

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support for the protection of roadless areas in general. Approximately 5 percent of comments received, or 726 comments, specifically addressed the “Kearsarge” area by name. All of these request that this Inventoried Roadless Area be preserved, and over 90 percent specify that this preservation should occur through Wilderness designation.

The Kearsarge Inventoried Roadless Area has issues, described above, which may collectively reduce its suitability for Wilderness designation. These issues include the degree of development, lack of opportunities for solitude, and limited size of the area. Specifically, there could be concerns with: 1) established recreation uses (hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling); 2) the existence of roads and non-conforming improvements, such as shelters, toilets, the North Kearsarge tower, and pond dams; 3) its relatively small size combined with a long and narrow shape, bounded by roads on both sides, creating an area where opportunities for solitude are relatively few.

The Kearsarge Inventoried Roadless Area's most significant feature that could be preserved by Wilderness designation, the unique, old growth forest community in the Shingle Pond area, is also a candidate Research Natural Area that has a very high probability of being accepted as the Forest's next RNA. Such a designation would preserve and protect the community to a higher level than that provided by Wilderness designation.

Kilkenny

Inventoried Roadless Area #2278

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	37,096
Net Acres	37,008
% NFS lands	99

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located in the extreme north end of the White Mountain National Forest, in the towns of Jefferson, Lancaster, Randolph, Berlin, Stark, Milan, and Kilkenny, New Hampshire. It is north of Route 2 and south of Route 110. The outer perimeter of the Inventoried Roadless Area was extensively settled for farming in the 1800s. Extensive timber harvest occurred in the early 1800s to early 1900s. An excessive buildup of logging slash and dry weather conditions led to a 25,000 acre fire in 1903. Acquisition of this burned-over area within the proclamation boundary began after the passage of the Weeks Law Act of 1911; most of the acreage was acquired by 1919.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	2.6
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	31.2
Snowmobile	0.0
Cross-country Ski	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The dominant topographical features of the Inventoried Roadless Area are two low-lying mountain ranges: the Pilot Range in the center and the Pliny Range to the southwest. Most of the peaks in these ranges have elevations over 3,500 feet. The most noteworthy are Mts. Cabot and Waumbek, both 4,000 footers, The Horn and Mt. Weeks, both main peaks, and South Peak. These are listed in the “Hundred Highest in New England” club. There are two notches dividing these ranges: Willard Notch and Bunnell Notch. The northeastern section of this area tends to be of lower elevations, with several prominent bluffs over 2,500 feet: Rogers Ledge, Greens Ledge, Square Mtn., and Deer Mtn.

The area’s primary drainages include the headwaters of the Upper Ammonoosuc River, Mill Brook (a tributary of the Upper Ammo), and Garland Brook (which drains into the Israel River). Both the Upper Ammo and Israel Rivers empty into the Connecticut River on the border between New Hampshire and Vermont. In addition to the multitude of small brooks

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

draining the area, there are also several small upland ponds, the largest of which is Unknown Pond.

The maximum elevation in the Inventoried Roadless Area is 4,080 feet, on Mt. Cabot feet; the minimum is 1,250 feet, near Route 110 in Stark.

The vegetative types recorded in the 1800s were mostly northern hardwoods, pure spruce, and white pine. Some of the largest fir trees in New England were reported in the region of the Upper Ammonoosuc Valley. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, heavy cuts resulted in an abundance of pine and spruce-fir slash which was a contributing factor to the 25,000-acre 1903 fire. The reestablishment of softwood species has been very slow since the fire. Today, the Inventoried Roadless Area is predominately northern hardwood (see below), with the balance consisting of mixed stands of northern hardwoods and spruce-fir, paper birch, and some aspen. Much of the paper birch that regenerated after the 1903 fire is in substantial decline because it has reached its biological maturity. The Kilkenny Area was also very heavily affected by the icestorm in 1998 and there remains abundant evidence of that event.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 24 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.3
20- 39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.2
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.8	0.0	1.9
60- 79	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8	2.4	0.0	3.4
80- 99	0.1	0.0	0.0	9.5	4.2	9.8	0.0	23.6
100-119	1.1	0.0	0.0	11.9	8.3	22.9	0.0	44.3
120+	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.9	20.7	0.0	23.5
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 1.9 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/

Hardwood Wet or Ledgy, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	1,545	4
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	229	1
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine	1,403	4
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	293	1
Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	63	0
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	0	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

This Inventoried Roadless Area is one of the least visited areas of the White Mountain National Forest, the predominant use being recreation, especially hiking and back country dispersed camping to Mt. Cabot and Unknown Pond. Hunting (for moose, bear, deer, birds, and rabbit) and fishing occur along the roaded portions of Kilkenny area.

Kilkenney Ridge Trail allows for north/south travel through the Inventoried Roadless Area. There are also several shorter trails that tie into the Ridge trail from trailheads around the area.

The Inventoried Roadless Area is a moderately popular destination for group overnight backpacking, in part because of the network of established camping sites and the Mt. Cabot Cabin. There are limited rock climbing opportunities at Rogers Ledge, Square Mountain, and Hutchins Mountain. Cross-country skiing occurs near Unknown Pond and Starr King. There are no authorized snowmobile trails within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

The main attraction to the Inventoried Roadless Area is its remote, undeveloped “Great North Woods” character.

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

Within this Inventoried Roadless Area, 3,309 acres (approximately 9 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Kilkenny	250	1,159	1,022	3,202	13,535	13,595	0	0	0	0	4,311

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The Inventoried Roadless Area appears to be a fully regenerated forest. To hikers and casual observers, the Inventoried Roadless Area appears predominantly unaffected by human activity, with the exception of the evidence of historic harvest activities, including old railroad grades and logging haul routes. Revegetation on these old roads is generally well established, and several historical viewpoints no longer offer the views once provided.

There are isolated blocks of NFS lands between the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary and the Forest boundary. There are two active timber sales within the Fifield Brook and Betty Brook areas, both on NFS lands just east of the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary.

The Inventoried Roadless Area is bordered by private, highly developed rural residential and agricultural land to the west. The private land to the east and south, near Carlton Notch, outside the Inventoried Roadless Area has received heavy harvest.

Private land within the Forest boundary and adjacent to the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary includes an International Paper Company tract in the Mill Brook drainage, and a parcel with a cabin on Mt. Mary.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally-appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	16,807	383	5,699	0	13,000	0
% of IRA	44	1	15	0	35	0

Key Attractions

Some of the outstanding features include Mt. Cabot (elevation 4,140; the highest peak in the Inventoried Roadless Area); Mt. Weeks, Mt. Waumbek, the Pilot Range, Willard Notch, Rogers Ledge, Greens Ledge, Square Mtn., and Unknown Pond, a unique high-elevation pond. The Mt. Cabot Cabin, an old fire lookout cabin, is maintained in partnership with the Jefferson

Boy Scouts, and is used by hikers for overnight accommodation. The Forest Service recently refurbished this cabin.

A key attraction to visitors is the Inventoried Roadless Area’s isolation and its “North Woods” character. Its size and isolation make it suitable for overnight backpacking, the use of survival skills, and practice in orienteering. This section of the Forest receives most of its use from local populations, who traditionally use it for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and wood gathering. Much of the use in this Inventoried Roadless Area is from prospective members of the AMC’s 4,000-Footer Club as they “peak-bag” Mts. Cabot and Waumbek. The area around Unknown Pond is also beginning to show the effects of increased human use.

Wilderness
Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Harvest history within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

Kilkenny	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	245	1	125	0
Intermediate	323	1	149	0
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	56	0	89	0
Intermediate	0	0	0	0
Total Harvest/Decade	624	2	363	1

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.07 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

With the exception of the Mt. Cabot Cabin and a small, maintained opening, the entire Inventoried Roadless Area is naturally-appearing and well reforested following previous harvest. The Cabin may be of historical significance and would be controversial to remove.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge)

The opportunity to experience solitude is high within the Inventoried Roadless Area. Topographic screening is high, vegetative screening is dense, and the distance from the perimeter to the core is moderate. Because the Inventoried Roadless Area is isolated from the rest of the White Mountain National Forest, the detached location of the Inventoried Roadless Area contributes to its isolation and opportunity for solitude. Intrusions of sight and sound are minimal.

Access to the innermost sections of the Inventoried Roadless Area is difficult. Most trails receive little use and are sometimes difficult to follow. Although there are several striking rocky promontories, notably Rogers Ledge, there are no spectacular mountains such as those found in the Presidentials to the south. The Kilkenny area is also colder and wetter than most areas of the National Forest.

Once off the trail network, visitors would find ample opportunity for bushwhacking, though the vegetation is thick and the terrain difficult. Other opportunities for challenge include cliffs and ledges, areas above tree line, periodic high stream flows, and unpredictable weather.

Other than the opportunity for solitude and the “Great North Woods” character, the Inventoried Roadless Area does not offer any unique or remarkable recreation opportunities not adequately represented elsewhere on the White Mountain National Forest. Moose and partridge (ruffed grouse) are more common here than most other areas, especially near the areas recently harvested.

Approximately 31,022 acres, or 84 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The Inventoried Roadless Area is a large area which lies north of and separate from the rest of the White Mountain National Forest. It is currently unroaded, and hosts few visitors despite a limited network of trails that connect to other hiking opportunities. Its size and shape are conducive to Wilderness management. There are no known non-conforming uses of the Inventoried Roadless Area. Adjacent private lands to the west are under timber management and residential uses. White Mountain National Forest land to the east is managed for multiple resource objectives.

Boundary Conditions

The National Forest boundary is the area boundary on the west and south sides. The area’s boundaries to the east and north are non-descript, mid-

slope, and difficult to locate. Neither the size nor shape of the area should detract from its management. Any problems would probably stem from the difficulty in defining the boundaries on the east and north sides.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

The cabin and outhouse on Mt. Cabot, as well as the outhouse at Unknown Pond, may be considered non-conforming uses if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness. There is also a campsite at Rogers Ledge. There are no other known non-compliant recreation uses in the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The cumulative effects, however, of designating multiple roadless areas as Wilderness may result in more significant effects on wildlife and plant populations. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (1.9 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area contains 16 stands of aspen/paper birch totaling 130 acres (or 0.2 percent of the Forest total). Loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations because they are such a small proportion of the total.

There are no wildlife openings currently being maintained in this Inventoried Roadless Area; therefore, there would be no loss of this kind of habitat if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options and may result, eventually, in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally. The east side of this roadless area has the second highest moose population density in New Hampshire.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this

Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce the snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

The watersheds of the Town of Lancaster and the City of Berlin are affected by the streams in this area. In addition, one of the objectives of the unit is to assure the water quality of the Berlin Fish Hatchery.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There is no livestock use under permit in the Inventoried Roadless Area, although incidental use by pack animals does occur.

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately precluding harvest on 3,309 acres of suitable land.

There are no commercial mineral removal permits on file with the White Mountain National Forest for the Inventoried Roadless Area. There are no mineral rights reserved within this Inventoried Roadless Area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

In the Inventoried Roadless Area, 10 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 2 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey. Especially interesting for management is the 1934 Mt. Cabot Fire Warden's cabin. There are clusters of historic sites in the Gregg Tract and in the Garland Brook region. The Gregg Tract contains remnants of sugar shacks, the Waumbek Hotel icehouse, and other nineteenth century sites. The Garland Brook region was a farmstead community. Two logging-related sites are documented along upland streams. There is a high potential for additional nineteenth century habitation sites along the western boundary. There is a low potential for historic habitation sites along the east boundary and in the interior.

Land Uses

There are no known rights of way, pipelines, electronic sites, or special uses that would require modification should the Inventoried Roadless Area be designated as Wilderness.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

**Site-Specific
Wilderness
Evaluation**

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support for the protection of roadless areas in general. Four comments, or 0.03 percent of comments received, specifically addressed this Inventoried Roadless Area and recommended its protection as Wilderness.

During the public involvement phases of previous Forest- and District-level planning, timber industry representatives and other groups have expressed opposition to Wilderness designation for this Inventoried Roadless Area, while regional conservation/preservation groups have supported retention of roadless character and consideration for Wilderness.

The Inventoried Roadless Area meets the criteria for Wilderness designation with regard to isolation and solitude, and for some categories of challenge. Its size, configuration, location, and access routes assure isolation and solitude for visitors seeking those Wilderness amenities. The Inventoried Roadless Area, however, does not meet the criteria regarding unique characteristics, nor does it contain any key attractions not adequately represented in other Wilderness areas or nearby protected areas.

The Inventoried Roadless Area does not attract a large number of visitors. It is considered the lowest recreation use area of the Forest.

The Inventoried Roadless Area has high timber resource values, particularly for the production of high quality sugar maple, birch, and other hardwoods.

The Mt. Cabot Cabin, a partnership with the Jefferson Boy Scouts, is a well-established non-conforming use and a popular recreation opportunity.

Kinsman

Inventoried Roadless Area #2272

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	11,158
Net Acres	11,158
% NFS lands	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is in the western portion of the White Mountain National Forest, in Grafton County, with sections in the towns of Franconia, Easton, and Lincoln, New Hampshire. The Inventoried Roadless Area is west of Franconia Notch State Park, U.S. Route 3, and I-93; and east of Route 116. The area could be considered a north-south, irregularly shaped ridge. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) is the backbone of the trail system in the area.

The New Hampshire Public Service Company high voltage electric transmission line forms the southern boundary. The eastern boundary follows state-owned land along the Interstate-93 corridor and Franconia Notch State Park. The western and northern boundary lines follow the National Forest boundary east of Route 116. The boundaries do not follow natural or topographic features.

Access to the Inventoried Roadless Area is via trails through Franconia Notch State Park, from Route 116, or via the AT, which bisects the area.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	1.3
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	18.4
Snowmobile	0.0
Cross-country Ski	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The maximum elevation in the Inventoried Roadless Area is 4,340 feet; the minimum is 1,160. There are four mountain peaks over 3,000 feet, and one, North Kinsman, over 4,000 feet. A high ridge running northeast bisects the area. On the north side of the ridge, lower elevations are on moderately steep terrain, with northern hardwoods prevalent. Steeper slopes over 3,000 feet change to spruce and fir. South of the ridge, the Inventoried Roadless Area is dominated by a glacial cirque.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to

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dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 17 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20- 39	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.0	1.0
60- 79	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	2.4	0.0	4.6
80- 99	4.1	0.0	0.0	9.0	10.7	9.6	0.0	33.3
100-119	12.5	0.0	0.0	6.7	8.3	20.3	0.0	47.9
120+	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	8.6	3.5	0.0	12.9
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area does not contains of these age classes.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgey, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	9	0
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	0	0
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine	19	0
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	0	0
Softwood/ Hardwood Wet or Ledyg	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	0	0
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	0	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

Recreation is the primary use, including hiking, backpacking, and camping (primarily along the AT, at the three shelters within the Inventoried Roadless Area, and at a fourth shelter that lies just east of the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary). The Kinsman Pond Shelter sleeps 8, and three tent pads have a maximum capacity of 12. Elijah Brook Shelter sleeps 6, and two tent pads sleep a maximum of 8. Copper Mine Shelter has a capacity of 6. AMC’s Lonesome Lake Hut is just outside the Inventoried Roadless Area on private lands.

There is a small network of trails leading from access roads surrounding the Inventoried Roadless Area to points of interest within it, including the AT, Lonesome Lake, Kinsman Pond, and Bridal Veil Falls. There is incidental fishing. Hunting is limited due to difficult access, particularly in the western portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area where private land lies between the trailhead and the USFS boundary.

There is no authorized snowmobile use within the Inventoried Roadless Area, although the Power Line and Bog Pond snowmobile trails do parallel the southeast boundary.

The Inventoried Roadless Area overlaps MA 9.2, formerly the Mittersill Ski Area. This MA allows for potential ski area development, in this case in conjunction with Cannon Mountain Ski Area, which is adjacent to the northeast portion of the roadless area.

There are no permits or applications for commercial mineral removal from this Inventoried Roadless Area on file with the White Mountain National Forest. There are no mineral rights reserved within this area. There are no non-recreation special uses in this area.

There is no current timber harvest within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Within this Inventoried Roadless Area there are no acres suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Kinsman	60	0	0	28	1,966	6,375	1,360	0	181	0	1,183

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The majority of the Inventoried Roadless Area was logged in the early 1900s while in private ownership. The majority of the land was acquired in the late 1910s and 1920s. The natural condition in the northern tip of the Inventoried Roadless Area was modified by timber harvest again in the 1950s. In 1979, an additional 4,055 acres were purchased in the Bog Pond area. This added a large, wet area, now heavily flooded due to beaver activity.

Since harvest in the early part of the century, the Inventoried Roadless Area has reestablished a natural distribution of stands of hardwoods and softwoods. The landscape is naturally-appearing to the casual observer. Old logging roads are not readily apparent, except where they serve as recreation trail corridors.

The Mt. Wolf-Gordon Pond Inventoried Roadless Area lies immediately to the south of this Inventoried Roadless Area, separated by a power line with a coincident snowmobile trail. Private land lies to the northeast, and highways and state land border the Inventoried Roadless Area to the east.

The Inventoried Roadless Area is predominantly naturally-appearing. Views to the Franconia Notch and Pemigewasset Wilderness are outstanding. Other views include highways, private lands, and portions of the Franconia Notch State Park, which appear as developed rural areas.

From several peaks a visitor can see the lift tower on Cannon Mountain Ski Area, State Route 116, timber harvest on surrounding mountains to the west, and the power line in the southern portion of the area. There is limited sound encroachment from Interstate 93, as experienced from the Cascade Brook Trail.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	13	0	8,736	0	2,186	0
% of IRA	<1	0	78	0	20	0

Key Attractions

Spectacular views are afforded of Franconia Ridge and Franconia Notch from within the Inventoried Roadless Area. The AT and the 4,000 foot peaks attract and focus use through the central portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area. The AMC shelters within and adjacent to the Inventoried Roadless Area are key attractions for the area.

A flume, located off the Mt. Kinsman Trail, is a feature of interest. Bald Knob, a rocky outcrop off the side of North Kinsman Mtn., affords excellent views of Easton Valley. Kinsman Pond is an attractive, relatively large, high mountain pond. Bridal Veil Falls and Bald Knob are also highlights of the area.

**Wilderness
Capability**

Natural Integrity and Appearance

The Inventoried Roadless Area is generally naturally-appearing, with the exception of the impacts of heavy hiking use along the AT corridor and scattered evidence and artifacts of previous harvest activity. The Inventoried Roadless Area is currently managed for recreation objectives.

The powerline corridor on the south boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area is the most prominent non-conforming feature near the Inventoried Roadless Area. The corridor separates this Inventoried Roadless Area from the Mt. Wolf-Gordon Pond Inventoried Roadless Area. Its removal is impractical and unanticipated at this time.

The AMC shelters and tent platforms may be non-conforming, and would be difficult and highly controversial to remove.

There has been no harvest in the Inventoried Roadless Area within the last two decades.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.11 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge)

There are moderate opportunities for solitude away from the more popular trails (particularly the AT), and away from the shelters and tent platforms. In some sections of the Inventoried Roadless Area, dispersion is limited by steep slopes and difficult terrain and vegetation. Topographic screening is high, vegetative screening is dense, and it is a moderate distance (1 to 3 miles) from the perimeter to the core of the area. There are many off-site intrusions that diminish the solitude of the Inventoried Roadless Area, including Cannon Mountain Ski Area, I-93 to the east, Route 116 to the west, and the power line to the south.

Climate diversity, elevation changes, fast moving water during spring runoff, the 4,000 feet peaks, and the irregular terrain all provide challenges for visitors.

The range of recreation opportunities available in the Inventoried Roadless Area is typical of the White Mountain National Forest.

Approximately 9,036 acres, or 81 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

There are no known unique ecological features in the Inventoried Roadless Area. The scenic opportunities from the Inventoried Roadless Area to Franconia Notch are notable. The most notable feature and attraction in the Inventoried Roadless Area is the approximately four miles of the AT corridor and its associated shelters. This Inventoried Roadless Area receives relatively low use because it does not have outstanding characteristics or natural features compared to other areas such as the nearby Presidential Range.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The Inventoried Roadless Area is of adequate size and general configuration to be managed as Wilderness. There are heavy uses surrounding the area, especially in Franconia State Park to the east and the state-owned and operated Cannon Mtn. Ski Area immediately to the north. Both the Ski Area and State Park are well-established, high-volume, highly developed facilities. Although these facilities attract high visitor use to the perimeter of the Inventoried Roadless Area, their associated activities are considered impractical to significantly alter or terminate.

Boundary Conditions

As stated above, there are adjacent state-owned facilities which would be difficult to alter or terminate. The irregular boundary between the White Mountain National Forest and the State Park to the east presents management challenges. It is not anticipated that this boundary will be altered in this focal point of motorized visitor use.

As stated above, the area's southern boundary is delineated by the powerline. Removal of the powerline between this Inventoried Roadless Area and the Mt. Wolf-Gordon Pond Inventoried Roadless Area would facilitate Wilderness management of a combined, significantly larger area. The powerline's removal, however, is considered prohibitively impractical at this time.

Trail access to this Inventoried Roadless Area from Route 116 is across private lands. Landowners in the area are generally opposed to this access, and increasing opposition can be expected. Boundary changes through land or right of way acquisition could help minimize or avoid this conflict.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

Snowmobile use along the powerline corridor adjacent to the southern boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area would need to be carefully regulated for potential encroachments in the area. Shelters and tent platforms would need to be considered for removal if the Inventoried Roadless Area were designated as Wilderness. Group size limitations, as are in effect in other White Mountain National Forest Wildernesses, would be considered.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. There is no acreage currently less than 20 years old in this Inventoried Roadless Area, so no loss of this wildlife habitat would occur with a recommendation to Wilderness designation.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area contains one nine-acre stand of aspen/paper birch, or 0.01 percent of the Forests total, so there would be a negligible effect to wildlife populations with a recommendation for Wilderness designation.

There are no wildlife openings being maintained in this area, so there would be no loss of this kind of habitat if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options and may result, eventually, in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is

anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

The east side of the Inventoried Roadless Area encompasses the headwaters of the Pemigewasset River. The Inventoried Roadless Area contains the water intake for a maximum of 48 people at the AMC Lonesome Lake Hut.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There is no known livestock use of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Access to suitable timberland is problematic and is the probable limiting factor to harvest. There are no active timber sales in the area.

There is no known interest in commercial mineral removal from this Inventoried Roadless Area. There are no mineral rights reserved within this area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, 4 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 2 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey. Especially interesting for management is the Copper Mine Brook Shelter and the Eliza Brook Shelter.

Land Uses

With the exception of the AMC shelters, are no outstanding contracts or special uses that would be modified if the Inventoried Roadless Area was designated as Wilderness.

Although there are no current contracts or special uses, there is potential that the former Mittersill Ski Area (MA 9.2) could become part of Cannon Mountain Ski Area and operate under special use authority.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

**Site-Specific
Wilderness
Evaluation**

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support the protection of roadless areas in general, and 21 comments, or 0.14 percent of comments received,

specifically addressed this Inventoried Roadless Area. All recommended that the Inventoried Roadless Area be preserved.

The Inventoried Roadless Area does not offer any outstanding unique characteristics or features or unusual opportunities for solitude or challenge. Its irregular boundaries and proximity to highways, the powerline, and Cannon Mountain Ski Area pose significant challenges to maintaining Wilderness characteristics. The volume of hikers on the AT and the levels of use associated with the AMC shelters further compromise the Wilderness integrity of the area.

Removal of the powerline and combining with the Mt. Wolf-Gordon Pond Inventoried Roadless Area would result in a larger, more easily managed unit. However, the powerline removal is impractical at this time.

Franconia Notch State Park, including Cannon Mountain Ski Area, attracts high levels of visitors to the area.

The opportunity to manage the area for non-recreation uses is somewhat limited by the rugged terrain, the presence of the AT, the area's popularity, and its proximity to the State Park. Designation as Wilderness would preclude consideration of a portion of MA 9.2 for inclusion as part of Cannon Mountain Ski Area.

Mt. Wolf-Gordon Pond

Inventoried Roadless Area #2275

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	12,388
Net Acres	12,315
% NFS lands	99

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area is on the west edge of the White Mountain National Forest, in the Grafton County towns of Woodstock, Lincoln, and Easton, New Hampshire. The area is to the west of I-93, to the east of State Route 116, and to the north of Route 112.

The northeast boundary is along the Public Service powerline, the southern boundary is Route 112, and the western boundary is Route 116. The boundary follows either these cultural features or the Forest property line.

Access to the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary is via Routes 112 and 116, or via snowmobile on the powerline right of way. Interior access is via the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT), the Reel Brook Trail, and the Gordon Pond Trail, or via the Gordon Pond Snowmobile Trail.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	3.1
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	10.6
Snowmobile	4.2
Cross-country Ski	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The maximum elevation in the Inventoried Roadless Area is 3,440 feet; the minimum is 1,060.

This Inventoried Roadless Area is the southern portion of the ridge forming Kinsman area. This prominent feature runs northeast to northwest, from the power line at the north of Kinsman Notch to Route 112 on the south. The east side of the ridge contains several well-defined valleys; the most prominent surrounds Gordon Pond below Mt. Wolf. The AT is located on the ridge bisecting the area.

The lower slopes of the Inventoried Roadless Area's west side are characterized by rolling terrain and even-aged high quality hardwoods. The steeper areas closest to the AT include hardwood stands, with some spruce-fir at the highest elevation. On the east side of the area, the upper slopes are typically spruce-fir; the lower slopes contain stands of highly productive northern hardwoods.

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 16 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.9
20- 39	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	6.5	0.0	7.2
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
60- 79	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	4.3	0.0	5.1
80- 99	1.2	1.0	0.0	1.4	6.1	43.4	0.0	53.0
100-119	5.6	1.8	0.0	5.8	8.5	6.7	0.0	28.4
120+	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	2.0	0.0	5.3
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately .5 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgey, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	1,907	15
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	0	0
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	1,978	16
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	818	7
Softwood/ Hardwood Wet or Ledyg	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	319	3
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	0	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

The primary uses are backpacking along the AT, hunting, and seasonal snowmobile travel.

The AT from Kinsman Notch traverses the center of this area northeasterly for approximately six miles. The only other hiking trails, Reel Brook and Gordon Pond trails, provide access to the AT from the east and west, respectively. A system snowmobile trail parallels Gordon Pond Brook to Gordon Pond, and then runs northeast across the Inventoried Roadless Area to the powerline right of way in the Harvard Bog area. A second snowmobile trail is coincident with the powerline corridor along the eastern boundary of the area.

There are no shelters or huts within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

There are no permits or applications on file with the White Mountain National Forest for commercial mineral removal from this area. There are no mineral rights reservations in this area.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, 3,595 acres (approximately 29 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Wolf-Gordon	85	1,773	0	3,249	4,955	131	891	4	0	0	1387

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The Inventoried Roadless Area is generally naturally-appearing area with no outstanding, unique, or special features. Although Mt. Wolf exceeds 3,000 feet, other mountains both north and south are higher and more visually dramatic.

Other than the roadless nature of this area, there is little difference between it and surrounding forest land across Routes 112 or 116.

Historically, much of the Inventoried Roadless Area was harvested and subsequently converted to pasture land. These areas have revegetated, leaving a generally forested landscape. There has been limited recent timber harvest on the east side. On the west side, as much as 25 percent of the area was harvested in the 1950s and '60s, and over 5 million board feet was removed in the late 1980s. The Inventoried Roadless Area exhibits the visual vegetative effects of harvest; pockets of young vegetation are evident across the west side of the area, though the casual hiker on the AT would not be aware of these changes.

The landscape to the north is the Kinsman Inventoried Roadless Area, which generally appears as a natural landscape. To the east, across Interstate 93, the Pemigewasset Wilderness is naturally-appearing, as is Franconia Notch State Park. The North Carr Inventoried Roadless Area, to the south, is also generally naturally-appearing.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	0	0	6,815	0	5,503	0
% of IRA	0	0	55	0	44	0

Key Attractions

Gordon Pond and Mt. Wolf are the prominent natural features of this area. The AT is the prominent attraction, though most use is through-hiking rather than to destinations within the Inventoried Roadless Area. The snowmobile trail is a seasonal attraction in the southeast portion of the area.

There are no unique vegetative types in the area.

Wilderness
Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Harvest history within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

Mt. Wolf-Gordon Pond	1983-1992		1993-2002	
	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Even Age				
Regeneration	72	1	20	0
Intermediate	155	1	86	1
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	32	0	247	2
Intermediate	0	0	24	0
Total Harvest/Decade	259	2	377	3

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.25 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

With the exception of this recent harvest, the Inventoried Roadless Area is generally naturally-appearing. Evidence of historic harvest and haul roads are generally not noticeable to the casual observer. Recent harvest appears as a non-uniform texture across the landscape; however, these areas are sufficiently reforested to not detract from the natural appearance of the landscape.

There are no improvements in the area. The north and east boundaries, however, are the powerline. While its removal would enhance the Wilderness character of the area, it is impractical at this time.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge)

Public use of the Inventoried Roadless Area is minimal; there is ample opportunity for solitude, particularly away from the AT corridor. Topography provides excellent screening on at least 50 percent of the area. The distance from the perimeter to the core is moderate, approximately 1 to 3 miles. There is high probability of experiencing isolation from other visitors to the area, particularly away from the AT corridor.

Off-site intrusions that diminish the solitude experience include the power line to the north and east (which is also a snowmobile trail), Route 112 to the southwest, Route 116 to the northwest, and housing and communities to the west, south, and east. The powerline to the north is also a visual intrusion into the area. Interstate 93 also provides audible intrusions to the Inventoried Roadless Area's solitude.

With limited diversity in vegetation, terrain, and climate, the primitive recreation opportunity and opportunity for challenge provided by this Inventoried Roadless Area is rated as moderate. Challenges include those typical of the region, including weather extremes.

Approximately 4,917 acres, or 40 percent of the area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

There are no outstanding, unique, or special features in the Inventoried Roadless Area; its vegetation and terrain are characteristic of much of the White Mountain National Forest.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The Inventoried Roadless Area is of adequate size and general configuration to be managed as Wilderness. The most significant influence on the Inventoried Roadless Area is the adjacent powerline, which provides a significant visual intrusion to the area.

An interior, private 14-acre parcel has been recently harvested; reforestation is adequate in this area.

Boundary Conditions

As noted above, the Inventoried Roadless Area's northern boundary is delineated by the powerline. Removal of the powerline between this Inventoried Roadless Area and the Kinsman Inventoried Roadless Area would facilitate Wilderness management of a combined, significantly larger area. The powerline's removal, however, is considered prohibitively impractical at this time.

There is an isolated 14-acre parcel of private land within the area. Acquisition of this parcel would enhance Wilderness manageability. The remainder of the Inventoried Roadless Area boundaries are delineated by state road corridors and are impractical to alter or remove.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

The snowmobile loop from Gordon Pond Brook to Gordon Pond and to the powerline near Bog Pond would be eliminated if the Inventoried Roadless Area was designated Wilderness. The elimination of this snowmobile trail would likely meet with strong opposition. There are no other known non-conforming recreation activities within the area.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (0.5 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area only contains three stands of aspen/paper birch totaling 168 acres (or 0.2 percent of the Forest total). Loss of this stand (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations because it is such a small proportion of the total.

There is one wildlife opening, totaling one acre, currently being maintained in this Inventoried Roadless Area; this would no longer be maintained if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options and may result, eventually, in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies, specifically for the towns of Woodstock and Woodsville. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There is no known livestock use of the area. There are no active timber sales in the area.

There are significant stands of high quality sugar maple, white ash, and yellow birch on the west side of the area. The Inventoried Roadless Area contains some of the most productive hardwood sites on the Ammo-Pemi Ranger District, and is capable of producing a large volume of exceptionally high quality logs, especially sugar maple.

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 3,595 acres of suitable land.

There is no known interest in commercial mineral removal from this Area. There are no mineral rights reservations in this Area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific WMNF project compliance with NEPA/NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the Area, 2 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 10 % of the proposed area has received some Heritage Survey.

Land Uses

There are no known ROW, pipelines, electronic sites, or special uses that would require modification should the Area be designated as wilderness.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and/or disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and/or disease. However, as trees in an area reach maturity their susceptibility to attacks by insects and/or disease increases.

Site Specific
Wilderness
Evaluation

Approximately 44% of comments received in response to the WMNF Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90% expressed support the protection of roadless areas; no comments were received that specifically addressed this Area.

The Inventoried Roadless Area does not offer any outstanding unique characteristics or features or unusual opportunities for solitude or challenge. The AT is the most notable feature in the Area.

Removal of the powerline and combination with the Kinsman Inventoried Roadless Area would result in a larger, more easily managed unit, however powerline removal is impractical at this time.

Significant stands of highly productive, high quality hardwoods are included in the Area.

Pemigewasset

Inventoried Roadless Area #2266

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	65,781
Net Acres	65,738
% NFS lands	99

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) completely encircles the Pemigewasset Wilderness, which lies in the central portion of the White Mountain National Forest on the Ammonoosuc/Pemigewasset and Saco Ranger Districts. The Inventoried Roadless Area forms a band around the Wilderness. At its most narrow point, near Lincoln Woods Scenic Area and Crawford Notch, the Inventoried Roadless Area is less than ½ mile wide; elsewhere, the band varies from one mile to several miles wide.

The Inventoried Roadless Area lies within the towns of Livermore, Franconia, and Bethlehem in Grafton County, and in Hart's Location in Carroll County, New Hampshire.

Access to the area is provided by Interstate 93, the Kancamagus Highway (Route 112), several Forest Roads off U.S. Route 302 and Route 3, and the Sawyer River Road (F.S. #34). More than a dozen trails access the Inventoried Roadless Area and continue into the Wilderness from points along these highly traveled roads and through the Franconia Notch State Park that lies just west of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

The Inventoried Roadless Area's exterior boundary is immediately adjacent to some of the most highly traveled and visited areas within the White Mountain National Forest including the Kancamagus Highway, Franconia Notch, and Crawford Notch. The Inventoried Roadless Area's interior boundary is coincident with the boundary of the Pemigewasset Wilderness, the largest Wilderness on the White Mountain National Forest and in the Northeast.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	9.5
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	90.7
Snowmobile	3.5
Cross-country Ski	3.4

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The maximum elevation in the Inventoried Roadless Area is Mt. Lafayette, at 5,260 feet; the minimum is 880. The Inventoried Roadless Area includes two peaks over 5,000 feet and 18 peaks over 4,000 feet. The Inventoried Roadless Area includes parts of several major drainages, including the Pemigewasset River, Hancock Brook, Carrigan Brook, Nancy Brook, and the North and South Branches of the Gale River. The Inventoried Roadless Area includes several ponds, including Nancy Pond, Duck Pond, Black Pond and Ethan Pond.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 34 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	1.4
20- 39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.3	0.0	2.6
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.5	0.0	2.6
60- 79	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.7	2.2	0.0	4.9
80- 99	1.4	0.0	0.0	3.8	10.2	8.9	0.0	24.3
100-119	3.0	0.0	0.0	6.6	16.8	14.4	0.0	40.8
120+	2.5	0.0	0.0	2.7	6.6	11.5	0.0	23.3
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 4.3 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	3,626	6
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	2,246	3
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	6,058	9
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	408	1
Softwood/ Hardwood Wet or Ledyg	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	318	<1
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	295	<1

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Use

The current use of the Inventoried Roadless Area is primarily hiking, backpacking, and camping. The Inventoried Roadless Area serves as an entry corridor for the Pemigewasset Wilderness. The AMC owns and operates a system of three huts: Greenleaf, Galehead, and Zealand, that provide lodging and meals for up to 110 hikers within the Inventoried Roadless Area. The huts are located on NFS lands; hut operation is a commercial use under special use permit authorization from the White Mountain National Forest. There are also six shelters and tent platform sites within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

One of the highest summer use areas within and adjacent to the Inventoried Roadless Area is the portion of the Appalachian Trail along Franconia Ridge. This section of trail connects a series of popular high peaks and is easily accessed from Franconia Notch State Park.

System snowmobile trails enter the Inventoried Roadless Area in the southeast, near Sawyer River, and in the northeast, near the Lincoln Woods Scenic area. Snowmobile trails are coincident with the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary near Sawyer Pond and near the South Branch of the Gale River (NH Corridor Trail 11).

There are three active timber sales in the northwest of the Inventoried Roadless Area, near Bickford Mountain, Haystack, and Moose Watch. Two active timber sales, Trestle and Oscar, are scheduled to operate until 2010,

lie in the Sugarloaf area. There are two proposed timber sales, also in the northwest, near Skoosumchuck Brook and Carrigain Brook.

There is a mountain bike trail within the Inventoried Roadless Area near Sawyer River.

The Forest Service maintains a cross-country ski trail along the Lincoln Woods Trail, beginning at the Lincoln Woods Visitor Center and running north into the Inventoried Roadless Area to Franconia Falls. The Forest Service also maintains a winter trail along the service road on the east of the Pemigewasset from the Visitor Information Center parking lot to the Franconia Brook East campsite, 24 interim campsites just south of the Pemigewasset Wilderness boundary.

Seasonally, Franconia Falls is among the most popular backcountry day use destinations on the White Mountain National Forest. In summer months, permits are issued for 60 people at one time for day use of Franconia Falls, the only area on the White Mountain National Forest in which day use is limited. Because visitor use of the Falls area may be brief, individual visits to the Falls may number well over 200 per day without exceeding the 60 people at a time limit. There are three portable toilets located at the Franconia Brook East Campsites. These are serviced and removed seasonally via the service road located on the east side of the Pemigewasset River. In winter months, the Lincoln Woods Trail and the East Side access road are popular with cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and hikers.

Use of this portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area by families and small groups has long been actively promoted by the USFS, private visitor information services, and local and regional tourism organizations and publications. The complex is in close proximity to a major highway and provides an easy hike to a scenic area.

The complex of facilities, including the Lincoln Woods Information Center, offers an effective public contact area for hikers entering the adjacent Wilderness; USFS personnel provide Wilderness and Leave No Trace camping information, as well as hikeSafe and other safety information to Forest visitors. The Franconia Brook East Campsites is a popular staging area for backpackers entering the Wilderness.

The East Side access road, on the East Branch of the Pemigewasset River, provides critical emergency access to Franconia Falls, the campground, and this section of the Pemigewasset Wilderness.

Franconia Notch and Crawford Notch State Parks border the Inventoried Roadless Area to the west and east respectively. There is a 28-acre parcel of state ownership within the Inventoried Roadless Area, near Crawford Notch State Park at Arethus Falls.

Within this Inventoried Roadless Area, 8,942 acres (approximately 14 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Pemi	334	6,775	0	6,451	14,055	31,301	1,606	5,246	0	0	0

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

Extensive stands of northern hardwoods dominate the mountain slopes and valleys. Conifers, including red spruce and balsam fir, are mixed with hardwoods at mid- to lower elevations, and dominate at higher elevations. Mountain tops are rounded, with side slopes broken by streams.

Adjacent areas to the south, east, and west are very similar; however, these tend to include lands sloped more moderately, and more apparent evidence of timber management activity.

The Inventoried Roadless Area completely encircles the Pemigewasset Wilderness. The exterior of the boundary includes two state parks, managed primarily for recreation purposes, and White Mountain National Forest lands managed for a variety of multiple use objectives, including timber harvest. Views from the Inventoried Roadless Area across the surrounding landscape are outstanding and include vast expanses of undisturbed areas and mountain peaks, as well as highways, ski areas, utility corridors, and distant residential development. To the very careful observer, the entire landscape shows the visual effects of a variety of age-classes and subtle textural changes.

The Inventoried Roadless Area is generally naturally-appearing to the forest visitor, with the exception of the huts, tent platforms, outhouses, observation platform, and other impacts associated with extremely heavy visitor use. This includes excessive trail tread width, exposed roots, etc. While the lower elevations have had a long history of timber harvest, the area is well reforested. Old railroad beds are generally discernable, but reforested. Overall, the forest in the Inventoried Roadless Area is generally naturally appearing.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	8,587	4,049	7,649	0	45,386	0
% of IRA	13	6	7		69	0

Key Attractions

The key attractions within the Inventoried Roadless Area are the AT and associated huts and shelters, the trails and peaks, and the outstanding scenery and unparalleled scenic vistas. The Inventoried Roadless Area and Wilderness contain 18 of the 48 4,000-foot summits.

Other noteworthy attractions in the Inventoried Roadless Area include Franconia Falls, several ponds, and the Lincoln Woods and Lafayette Brook Scenic Areas, as well as the Nancy Brook Research Natural Area.

There is an observation platform on the summit of Carrigain Mountain in the southwest portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area. This platform was constructed to replace a previously existing USFS cabin.

The following huts, shelters and tent platforms attract heavy use throughout the non-winter seasons: Greenleaf Hut, Galehead Hut, Liberty Springs shelter (only platforms), Garfield Ridge Shelter, Guyot Shelter, and Ethan Pond Shelter. Zealand Falls Hut, in the northeast portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area, is operated year-round by the AMC. These huts are considered destination facilities for regional, national, and international travelers.

An isolated population of Robbins' cinquefoil (*potentilla robinsiana*) is found in the Inventoried Roadless Area in the vicinity of Franconia Ridge. This species was recently removed from the federal Endangered Species list. It will remain on the USFS Regional Forester's sensitive species list.

Wilderness
Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Extensive logging occurred in the late 1800s. There has been periodic logging re-entry since then; however, evidence of this timber activity is not readily apparent to most visitors.

Harvest history within the last two decades within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

Pemigewasset	1983-1992		1993-2002	
	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Even Age				
Regeneration	455	<1	42	<1
Intermediate	80	<1	0	0
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	186	<1	70	<1
Intermediate	0	0	9	<1
Total Harvest/Decade	621	<1	121	<1

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.

- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.14 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

The most significant and enduring adverse impacts to the Inventoried Roadless Area's natural integrity are those associated with its heavy recreation use. These include an extensive trail system, including the AT, the highly visible huts, shelters, and outhouses, highly worn trail routes, the observation platform on Mt. Carrigain, and the service road to Franconia Falls campground that parallels the Lincoln Woods Trail from the Lincoln Woods Visitor Center. There are three portable toilets at the Franconia Brook Campground that are removed seasonally, as well as two closed outhouses located at the old campground location. The observation platform, mountain bike, and snowmobile trail would be practical to remove, though locally controversial.

The AMC-operated huts have a long history within the White Mountain National Forest. They are, in themselves, historical and cultural treasures and provide resource protection, valuable facilities, and services to the public. At the same time, the huts compromise the Wilderness character and adversely affect the natural appearance of the Inventoried Roadless Area by concentrating use and creating visual and audible intrusions, including helicopter support.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge)

The trails within the Inventoried Roadless Area and the adjacent Wilderness host the highest visitor use on the White Mountain National Forest. Visitor use occurs almost exclusively on the existing trail system. There is severely limited opportunity for solitude on the existing systems of trails, huts, shelters, and tent platforms. The noteworthy views and 4,000 foot peaks focus most visitor use on the AT corridor along the west side of the Inventoried Roadless Area. While there are moderate opportunities for off-the-trail solitude, these are rarely enjoyed. Rugged topography and dense vegetation provide effective screening as well as major obstacles to off-trail use.

When assessing the Inventoried Roadless Area's appearance and opportunity for solitude, it is prudent to consider it in combination with the adjacent Pemigewasset Wilderness. The Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 48,933 acres of semi-primitive non-motorized core land area. The combined area and Wilderness offers a large core area with distances greater than 7 miles from its perimeter.

The rapidly changing and extreme climate of the Inventoried Roadless Area can provide distinct challenges, especially on exposed ridges and above tree line. The many cliffs, rugged, steep terrain, and fast moving water during spring runoff also provide challenges. These are among the most challenging and highly sought-after conditions found in the White Mountains. The high peaks and connecting trails offer a sense of risk, adventure, and accomplishment.

There is significant development beyond the Inventoried Roadless Area's exterior boundary, including highways, towns, ski areas, and utility corridors. While this development is apparent from ridge tops and peaks, these intrusions must be considered in the context of the expansive landscape views seen from these viewpoints.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

Nancy Brook Research Natural Area in the southeast portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area is an outstanding example of spruce-fir old growth.

The Inventoried Roadless Area contains isolated alpine and sub-alpine communities at or near the peaks of Mts. Liberty, Lafayette, Flume, Garfield, S. Twin, North Twin, Guyot, Bond, Bond Cliff, and Carrigain. Cumulatively, the Inventoried Roadless Area and the adjacent Wilderness contain 651 acres of alpine communities, approximately 300 acres of which lie within the Inventoried Roadless Area on the west side of Franconia Ridge.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

The Nancy Brook Research Natural Area is 1,286 acres, and the Lincoln Woods and Lafayette Brook Scenic Areas total 1,931 acres.

Portions of the area, then in private ownership, were logged from the 1880s to 1948, with a very large railroad-based operation, including over 50 miles of track, removing large volumes of high quality spruce. As was common with large slash accumulations, fires followed in the early 1900s. There is photo documentation of the 1908 fire in the Franconia Brook drainage that is often used to demonstrate the fires of this period. Portions of the Inventoried Roadless Area were acquired as NFS lands as early as 1916, with the majority obtained in 1936. The railroad grades and associated evidence remain identifiable by the careful observer.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The Inventoried Roadless Area would be highly impractical for Wilderness designation if it were considered independently. Considered in context with the adjacent Wilderness, however, this Inventoried Roadless Area provides a valuable addition to the Pemigewasset Wilderness and affords enhancement and fortification of its Wilderness values.

The Inventoried Roadless Area provides typical challenges to Wilderness management, including difficult access, increased costs for trail maintenance, etc. The long-established uses of the Inventoried Roadless Area, including the AT and hut system, however, pose formidable challenges for Wilderness management and would require careful review and controversial modifications (see Recreation, below).

Lands adjacent to the interior of the Inventoried Roadless Area are managed as Wilderness. Lands exterior to the Inventoried Roadless Area include White

Mountain National Forest lands managed for multiple objectives, state parks, heavily traveled state highways, and private lands. There is a small parcel of Crawford Notch State Park inside the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Boundary Conditions

Franconia Brook Complex: The Franconia Falls, Franconia Brook East Campsites, and the Lincoln Woods trail complex receives exceptionally high year-round use. This area does not offer Wilderness attributes with regard to challenge, solitude, or isolation. While day hiking, fishing, swimming, and skiing are intrinsically compatible uses, the volume of use and intensity of development in the area are not compatible with Wilderness attributes. To limit use and remove improvements, including the old railroad grade, campground, and access road, would reverse the Forest's significant investment in, and promotion of, non-Wilderness use of this area.

Boundary adjustment to exclude the access road, Falls, Campground, and Trail from Wilderness designation would provide protection of these opportunities and investments. Depending on the final boundary configuration, this could result in a "cherry stem" boundary.

Franconia Ridge, Huts, and Shelters: Modifying the boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area to exclude the north and west side of the Inventoried Roadless Area and its non-conforming uses (i.e., AMC-operated huts and shelters) may be an effective approach for separating incompatible uses. An effective boundary modification would exclude from Wilderness the area north of the southern boundary of the AT from its border with Franconia Notch State Park to the west to its border with Crawford Notch State Park to the east. This would delete more than half the Inventoried Roadless Area.

A permutation of this AT exclusion would be to exclude an AT corridor, but to designate as Wilderness the remaining portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area north of the corridor. This would create a narrow slice of Wilderness separated from any surrounding Wilderness and cause impractical management situations; visitors would travel from non-Wilderness, through Wilderness, through the non-Wilderness AT corridor, and then back into the Pemigewasset Wilderness. This approach does not present a viable management solution to the challenges of incompatible uses.

Another approach for separating incompatible uses from Wilderness designation would be the creation of "islands" of non-Wilderness around the highly developed and highly impacted areas at and around the huts and shelters. While this may appear an effective strategy, the huts are located in highly visible focal points of the entire Inventoried Roadless Area and adjacent Wilderness. The effects of their operations, including helicopter support, would unavoidably affect the surrounding Wilderness. Previous analysis, including the environmental analysis in support of the Record of Decision for permitting The Appalachian Mountain Club Huts and Pinkham Notch Visitor Center in the White Mountain National Forest, Jan. 1999, determined that this approach is problematic and does not meet the objectives for maintaining and protecting Wilderness character.

It should be noted that an apparent mapping discrepancy occurred at the time of the RARE II inventory on the east side of the Inventoried Roadless Area, south of Crawford Notch State Park. In this area it appears that the RARE II boundary followed the USFS ownership boundary. A short segment of railroad right of way crosses NFS lands and was inadvertently included in the area. It was not the intention of the agency to include this length of railroad in the area. This boundary discrepancy is being corrected through the current Roadless Area inventory, adjusting the boundary to lie along the west side of the railroad right of way exclusively outside of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

Franconia Brook Complex: There would be significant and impassioned public resistance to Wilderness designation of the Lincoln Woods Trail, Franconia Falls, and Franconia Brook East Campsites complex if designation resulted in additional use limitations. This complex, one of the most heavily used and publicized backcountry day use area on the White Mountain National Forest, provides an important transition zone from a highly developed area to the adjacent Wilderness. It is an important public contact and education venue, and provides crucial emergency services access to the area.

Franconia Ridge, Huts, and Shelters: As a permitted commercial use, AMC-hut operation within the Inventoried Roadless Area is an integral component of the Club's business infrastructure located in and adjacent to the White Mountain National Forest. To AMC, the huts provide an income stream, employment opportunities, important public contact points, and venues and staging grounds for AMC-sanctioned activities.

The AMC's recently completed Highland Center is located in a small private inholding north of Crawford Notch State Park, immediately adjacent to the Inventoried Roadless Area. The Highland Center provides hotel, restaurant, meeting, outfitting, guiding, and educational facilities to AMC members as well as to the general public. While the Center is located outside of the Inventoried Roadless Area, its activities highlight visitor use and enjoyment of the surrounding White Mountain National Forest and the facilities and infrastructure, including the AMC-operated huts, within this area. The long-standing relationships shared among the resource, the USFS, the AMC, and the public render modification, limitation, or elimination of the hut system highly problematic and controversial. Such changes infer significant economic, social, and resource protection implications. Modification, limitation, or elimination of the facilities or services provided by the AMC-operated huts within the roadless area would be highly controversial.

Other Recreation Uses: Snowmobile use within the Inventoried Roadless Area would be curtailed if the Inventoried Roadless Area were designated as Wilderness. This would eliminate the Mt. Tom/Mt. Field snowmobile loop trail in the vicinity of Lincoln Woods Scenic Area and the North Fork

snowmobile trail in the southeastern portion of the area. Packing of the cross-country ski trail at the Lincoln Woods Information Center would be curtailed. The observation platform at Mt. Carrigain would be considered for removal.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (4.3 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area contains 42 stands of aspen/paper birch totaling 2,250 acres (or 3.1 percent of the Forest total). Loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) might result in local wildlife shifts, but would have little effect to larger wildlife populations because the acreage is such a small proportion of the total.

There are no wildlife openings currently being maintained in this Inventoried Roadless Area; therefore, there would be no effects to this type of habitat if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options and may result, eventually, in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

There are two municipal water supply intakes in the Inventoried Roadless Area: Lincoln Water Works maintains a secondary intake for a population of 2,750, and the Bethlehem Village Water District maintains an intake for a

population of 1,700. The intakes for the AMC Zealand and Greenleaf Huts both lie within the Inventoried Roadless Area and supply water for 40 and 53 people respectively.

The Inventoried Roadless Area contains the headwaters of the Saco and Pemigewasset Rivers.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 8,942 acres of suitable land.

There are three permit applications on file with the White Mountain National Forest for mineral exploration and development of this Inventoried Roadless Area. Approximately 50 percent of the permit application areas lie in the southeast portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area Sugar Hill and Lily Pond along the Kancamagus Highway.

There are no mineral rights reservations in this Inventoried Roadless Area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the area, 42 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 5 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey. Especially interesting for management is Liberty Spring Shelter, Zealand Hut (AMC), Garfield Pond Shelter, Greenleaf Hut (AMC), and the Little River nineteenth century logging railroad operation remains.

Land Uses

The AMC huts within the Inventoried Roadless Area are owned by AMC, but they are located on White Mountain National Forest lands and are therefore subject to the terms and conditions of special use permits currently in effect (see Recreation, above).

Schools and camps from throughout New England bring small groups of backpackers and hikers to the area, particularly during summer and fall months. This use is dispersed throughout the Inventoried Roadless Area and is regulated through outfitter/guide permits issued by the White Mountain National Forest.

Arethusa Falls lies in a 28-acre parcel of Crawford Notch State Park that extends into the area. Currently, state management of this trail and scenic attraction is consistent with Wilderness management guidelines. It is anticipated that if the Inventoried Roadless Area were designated as

Wilderness, state management would continue in concert with White Mountain National Forest Wilderness management policies for resource protection. Wilderness criteria for isolation and solitude would likely not be met along the trail within this parcel.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. Current vegetative types and lack of historic fire weather seem to preclude large wildfires as a potential problem. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

**Site-Specific
Wilderness
Evaluation**

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support for the protection of roadless areas. Of all comments received, 729, or nearly 5 percent of comments, specifically addressed the Pemigewasset extension. All of these indicate that the Inventoried Roadless Area should be preserved; 90 percent indicate that the Inventoried Roadless Area should be preserved as Wilderness.

It is important to note the Inventoried Roadless Area receives such high use that, independently, it would only marginally meet Wilderness criteria for solitude and isolation. Critical non-conforming and long-standing uses include resource protection facilities such as tent platforms and outhouses, an observation tower, campground, etc. The commercial services and activities at the AMC-operated huts are significant intrusions to the Wilderness experience. These intrusions are particularly noteworthy around the intensely developed Guyot and Garfield tent sites, and around the Galehead and Zealand Huts

Designating the AT corridor as Wilderness would create myriad management challenges and inconsistencies. Complicating this area's potential Wilderness designation are the AMC-owned and operated huts. This non-conforming use is well established and regionally recognized as an anticipated component of the AT corridor. Careful consideration of this use and the implications of potential modifications to their operations would be a priority for further consideration of this Inventoried Roadless Area for Wilderness designation.

While Wilderness values are adequately represented in the adjacent Pemigewasset Wilderness, the AT corridor is more appropriately managed to provide backcountry experiences. The AT corridor's high level of use and historic non-conforming uses do not meet the criteria for Wilderness with regard to maximizing primitive character and providing solitude while minimizing human presence.

The Inventoried Roadless Area's highest value is as an adjunct to the existing Wilderness. Designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area, with the noted boundary changes in the Franconia Falls complex and to exclude the AT corridor, as suggested above, would provide important enhancements of the adjacent Pemigewasset Wilderness while providing consistent management standards for existing uses.

Changes from
Draft

A thorough review of decisions made on specific boundary locations of various inventoried roadless areas was conducted, based on public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This review resulted in approximately 13,000 acres being added to four of the existing inventoried roadless areas, consistent with our original roadless area criteria.

Presidential Range-Dry River

Inventoried Roadless Area #22691 through 22693

Overview

Acres

	Pres.- Dry River 1 (22691)	Pres.- Dry River 2 (22692)	Pres.- Dry River 3 (22693)
Gross Acres	7207	4915	3837
Net Acres	7207	4915	3837
% NFS	100	100	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

There are three distinct sections of this Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA): the north section lies to the northwest of the existing Presidential Range-Dry River Wilderness and east of Route 4; the south section lies in two parts whose corners meet at Maple Mtn., east of the Presidential Range-Dry River Wilderness.

Presidential-Dry River 1: This section of the Inventoried Roadless Area is located in Coos County, in the towns of Beans Grant, Chandlers Purchase, and Sargents Purchase, New Hampshire. Mt. Washington is on the northeast corner of this section. The Mt. Clinton Base Station Road and the Mt. Washington Cog Railway is north of the area. The area is within the Ammonoosuc-Pemigewasset Ranger District.

Presidential-Dry River 2: This section of the Inventoried Roadless Area is located in Carroll County, in the towns of Jackson and Bartlett. The northeast part of Inventoried Roadless Area lies from the Boott Spur Trail to Route 16, and south along the Ellis River to Meserve Road.

Presidential-Dry River 3: The remainder of the Inventoried Roadless Area lies from the summit of Maple Mtn. west to the Wilderness boundary, and along a poorly defined mid-slope south to the White Mountain National Forest boundary, north of Route 302, north of Barlett.

Roads: (miles)	Pres-Dry River 1	Pres-Dry River 2	Pres-Dry River 3
Improved Roads	0.0	0.4	1.1
Trails: (miles)			
Hike	20.3	5.2	4.9
Snowmobile	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cross-country Ski	0.0	6.0	1.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The maximum elevation in the Inventoried Roadless Area is 5,780; the minimum is 680.

Presidential-Dry River 1: There are five major peaks over 4,000 feet, including Mt. Clinton, Mt. Eisenhower, Mt. Franklin, Mt. Jackson, and Mt. Monroe. Mt. Washington, the highest peak in the Northeast, is a short distance north of the boundary. The characteristic landscape includes very steep topography with deep ravines and cascading streams. Two highly scenic lakes, the Lakes of the Clouds, are located between Mt. Monroe and Mt. Washington.

There is an area of alpine zone, with associated plants and animals, along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) corridor. Dense spruce and fir occur in the sub-alpine zone. Lower slopes, below 3,000 feet, consist of mixed hardwoods. The Gibbs Brook Scenic Area (also a Candidate Research Natural Area) in the southwest corner of the area, contains unique large old-growth red spruce.

Presidential-Dry River 2 and 3: Several streams flow from the area but are small, except where the Rocky Branch, a major tributary of the Saco River, flows through Presidential-Dry River 3. The characteristic landscape consists mostly of a moderate gradient mid-slope to ridgeline setting with an easterly aspect. The southern most section has a generally southerly aspect.

Vegetation in this section consists mainly of northern hardwoods.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 18 ELTs in Presidential 1, 16 in Presidential 2, and 14 in Presidential 3. Oak and alpine areas are notable. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	4.4
20- 39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	2.1	0.0	3.3
40- 59	19.7	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	14.8	0.0	35.1
60- 79	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.5	0.5	11.2	0.0	13.8
80- 99	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.3	8.4	4.4	0.0	14.0
100-119	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2	7.6	12.4	0.0	20.5
120+	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	8.2	0.0	8.9
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 2.8 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgey, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA			% of IRA*		
		Pres.- Dry River 1	Pres.- Dry River 2	Pres.- Dry River 3	Pres.- Dry River 1	Pres.- Dry River 2	Pres.- Dry River 3
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech, and yellow birch.	4	215	750	0	2	6
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch, and softwood.	250	515	266	2	4	2
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	1,142	974	517	9	7	4
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech, and white ash.	0	614	0	0	5	0
Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgey	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	0	76	95	0	1	1
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	0	50	13	0	0	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

The Inventoried Roadless Area No. 1 is characterized by heavy backpacking and day use, particularly along the AT in the north section of the area. The AT, the 4,000 foot peaks, Mt. Washington, and the surrounding ski areas and attractions draw visitors from around the world. Presidential-Dry River 1 hosts some of the highest visitor use on the Forest and, regionally, among the most heavily used sections of the National Forest System.

Presidential-Dry River 1: For over 100 years, this area's spectacular scenery has attracted hikers, campers, and skiers. This has led to a well-developed trail system and associated facilities. The AT traverses the eastern portion of the North Section for eight miles. The historic Crawford Path originates at Crawford Notch near the western edge of the area and joins the AT about three miles upslope near Mt. Clinton. Other significant trails, such as Ammo Ravine, Edmands Path, Mizpah Cutoff, and Webster Cliff, provide access to the Presidential Range Summits. The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) operates Lakes of the Clouds Hut and Mizpah Spring Hut along the AT, with total overnight accommodations for 150 people. Nauman Tentsite is adjacent to Mizpah Spring Hut, and has a capacity of 30 people.

The Lakes of the Clouds and Mizpah Spring huts are located on NFS lands and are operated by the AMC as a commercial use under special use permit authorization from the White Mountain National Forest.

Presidential-Dry River 2 and 3: Several less heavily-used, short sections of trails cross this portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area, including the Rocky Branch Trail, Stairs Col Trail, Mt. Stanton Trail, The Boott Spur Trail, the Gulf of Slides Ski Trail, and the Avalanche Brook Ski Trail. The Rocky Branch Trail provides the major southern entry point to the existing Wilderness. The trail receives moderate snowmobile use up to Rocky Branch Shelter #1. The Mt. Parker Trail runs along the western boundary. There is a shelter near Mt. Langdon.

The Gulf of Slides Ski Trail provides a relatively uncommon backcountry skiing opportunity for experienced skiers. The Avalanche Brook Ski Trail provides ungroomed cross-country skiing opportunities.

Two special use permits are issued for the maintenance and commercial use of cross-country ski trails in the vicinity of Maple Mtn., Popple Mtn., and Meserve Road, as well as north of Bartlett off the Cave Mountain Road. These trails are machine groomed, and fees are charged for their use.

There is a proposed timber sale in the vicinity of Popple Mountain.

There are also six shelters and tent platform sites within the Inventoried Roadless Area, and there are no mineral rights reservations.

Within this Inventoried Roadless Area, lands designated as suitable for timber harvest and designated in MA 2.1 are as follows:

Presidential-Dry River 1	1,197
Presidential-Dry River 2	2,221
Presidential-Dry River 3	1,546

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

In other words, approximately 35 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area is currently suitable.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is (acres):

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Pres-Dry River 1	0	1,396	0	0	0	3,817	0	1,064	0	930	0
Pres-Dry River 2	0	329	0	2,113	1,103	0	0	1,369	0	0	0
Pres-Dry River 3	12	614	0	1,028	144	2,017	0	0	0	0	0

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

Presidential-Dry River 1: The section of the Inventoried Roadless Area appears as a rugged mountainous landscape with deep ravines and portions above tree line. Despite a long history of timber harvest in the lower elevation, the area is largely reforested and is generally naturally appearing. Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, numerous trails, and the evidence of heavy visitor use detract from the area’s natural appearance, particularly along the AT and near the huts.

To the east, the core of the adjacent Wilderness is not as heavily used. This area is farther from surrounding trailheads, making access more difficult. The key attractions of the area, and the majority of the peaks and vistas, are along the AT corridor.

Presidential-Dry River 2 and 3: This area appears much like other lower elevations, mid-slope sections of the White Mountain National Forest. Previously harvested areas are well re-forested; the area is generally natural appearing. Land disturbances are not apparent except for the trails themselves. Because the preponderance of attractions, including high peaks and vistas, are to the north of the adjacent Wilderness, use in this area is light to moderate. The use varies seasonally.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
Pres.-Dry River 1						
acres	63	0	5,881	125	1,262	0
% of IRA	<1	0	82	2	16	0
Pres.-Dry River 2						
acres	2,308	0	0	0	2,607	0
% of IRA	50	0	0	0	50	0
Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
Pres.-Dry River 3						
acres	1,786	787	975	11	267	0
% of IRA	47	21	20	<1	7	0

Key Attractions

The key attractions within the Inventoried Roadless Area are the AT and its associated huts, shelters, trails, and peaks, and the unparalleled scenic vistas from the alpine zones in area number 1. The Inventoried Roadless Area and Wilderness contain 7 of the 48 4,000 foot summits. Gibbs Brook Scenic Area, noted for its old-growth red spruce, and Saco Lake are attractions within the Inventoried Roadless Area and adjacent to heavily traveled highways. There is a rock climbing site at Popple Mountain, on the east side of the Inventoried Roadless Area, as well as backcountry skiing in the Gulf of Slides and along the Gulf of Slides Ski Trail. There is cross-country skiing available on the Avalanche Brook Ski Trail. There are no major attractions in the south section of the Inventoried Roadless Area; overnight use focuses on the Mt. Langdon Shelter and the Rocky Branch Shelter #1. Cross-country skiing is very popular on the machine groomed trail systems currently managed under special use permits in the southern portion of the area.

The White Mountain National Forest contains the most significant acres of alpine communities in the Northeast and eastern Canada. This Inventoried Roadless Area contains isolated alpine and sub-alpine communities at or near the peaks of Mts. Monroe and Franklin. The White Mountain National Forest contains approximately 3,912 alpine acres; this Inventoried Roadless Area contains 1,049 acres of alpine communities.

An isolated population of Robbins' cinquefoil (*potentilla robinsiana*) is found in the Inventoried Roadless Area in the vicinity of Lake of the Clouds. This species was recently removed from the federal Endangered Species list. It will remain on the USFS Regional Forester's sensitive species list. There are scattered occurrences of other rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area.

Wilderness Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

The Inventoried Roadless Area was logged extensively at lower elevations in the 1800s and burned in the early 1900s.

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

Harvest history during the last two decades within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

Presidential-Dry River 1	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	0	0	0	0
Intermediate	0	0	0	0
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	32	0	299	4
Intermediate	0	0	112	2
Total Harvest/Decade	32	0	411	6

Presidential-Dry River 2	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	115	2	65	1
Intermediate	71	1	0	0
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	0	0	0	0
Intermediate	0	0	0	0
Total Harvest/Decade	186	4	65	1

Presidential-Dry River 3	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	204	5	19	0
Intermediate	115	3	106	3
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	0	0	0	0
Intermediate	0	0	0	0
Total Harvest/Decade	319	8	125	3

Total Harvest for IRAs #22691, 22692, and 22693				
	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
	537	< 1%	601	< 1%

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.

- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

Cumulatively, less than 2 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area has been harvested within the last two decades. These recently-harvested areas appear as a reforested area with a recognizable change of texture from that of the surrounding landscape.

The road density within Presidential-Dry River 1 is 0.13, within Presidential-Dry River 2, 0.08, and within Presidential-Dry River 3, 0.29 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

Overall, the most significant and enduring effects to the area’s natural integrity are those associated with its heavy recreation use in area number 1. These include an extensive trail system, including the AT, the highly visible huts, shelters, and outhouses, and highly worn trails.

The Cog Railway and pulp mill in Berlin cause occasional odor and visibility intrusions. Neither is owned or managed by the White Mountain National Forest or practical for consideration for removal.

Other developments in the Inventoried Roadless Area include the AMC-operated huts (see Recreation, below, regarding options and implications of modification or removal of these facilities).

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge)

When assessing the area’s appearance, it is prudent to consider it in combination with the adjacent Presidential-Dry River Wilderness. The Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 10,876 acres of semi-primitive non-motorized core land area divided as follows:

Presidential-Dry River 1	5,340
Presidential-Dry River 2	2,908
Presidential-Dry River 3	2,628

Presidential-Dry River 1: The trails within the north section of the Inventoried Roadless Area and the adjacent Wilderness host some of the highest alpine trail use on the White Mountain National Forest. Visitor use occurs almost exclusively on the existing trail system. There is severely limited opportunity for solitude within the existing systems of trails, huts, shelters, and tent platforms. The outstanding views and 4,000 foot peaks are regional and national attractions, and focus most visitor use on the AT corridor along the west side of the area. While there are moderate opportunities for off-the-trail solitude midslope in the Inventoried Roadless Area, these are rarely enjoyed. Rugged topography and dense vegetation provide effective screening as well as major obstacles to off-trail use. Intrusions that diminish the solitude of the area include the Cog Railway, Mt. Washington summit buildings, traffic on the adjacent highways, the network of trails, the huts, the high concentration of use in the vicinity of the huts, and the helicopter supply traffic to the huts.

There are ample opportunities for challenge and excitement in this section for the area. Extreme weather conditions, steep and rugged terrain, and large, exposed areas above treeline contribute to a sense of risk and accomplishment.

Presidential-Dry River 2 and 3: The south section of the Inventoried Roadless Area has significantly higher opportunities for solitude. The key attractions are generally far to the northwest. Even in summer months, there are moderate opportunities for solitude along the trails and ample opportunities for solitude when traveling off-trail. The rugged topography and dense vegetation, however, pose challenges to off-trail travel.

This section of the Inventoried Roadless Area does not pose a significant level of summer visitor risk. The trails follow more gentle topography and stay well below treeline. Crossing the Rocky Branch during high flows is extremely dangerous, and can pose risks to hikers. Other environmental challenges, including weather and irregular footing, are similar to those found commonly elsewhere on the White Mountain National Forest.

Winter use of the area, particularly in the Gulf of Slides and along the Gulf of Slides Ski Trail, poses significant challenge, spirit of adventure, and self reliance due to extreme weather conditions, snow depth, etc.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

Rare plants occur throughout the White Mountain National Forest and likely within this area. Regardless of MA designation, requisite compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

The Gibbs Brook and Pinkham Notch Scenic Areas includes 1,763 acres within the area. Tuckerman's Ravine, located within the Pinkham Notch Scenic Area to the north of the Inventoried Roadless Area, is a unique landform that has attracted the most capable and daring hikers and skiers for more than 100 years.

The most notable special feature of the Inventoried Roadless Area and its adjacent Wilderness are the AT corridor and associated peaks, scenic vistas, huts and shelters. The unique old-growth red spruce in the Gibbs Brook Scenic Area is protected by that areas special status.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

Because of damage to vegetation and sensitive soils, Forest Protection Areas (FPAs) where no camping is permitted have been designated along many high-use trails and on all areas above timberline. These restrictions would continue if the Inventoried Roadless Area were designated as Wilderness.

Managing the AT corridor and huts for Wilderness characteristics poses challenges related to the area's heavy use, both volume and type. Existing motorized, non-conforming uses related to ski trail grooming under special use permit, and snowmobile use to the Rocky Branch #1 shelter, are current non-conforming uses in the south section of the area. The adjacent Wilderness does not pose management conflicts with the area.

Boundary Conditions

Modifying the north and west boundaries of the Inventoried Roadless Area to exclude non-conforming uses (i.e., AMC-operated huts) may be an effective approach for separating incompatible uses. An effective boundary modification would exclude the Presidential-Dry River 1 Inventoried Roadless Area from Wilderness. This includes the area west of the eastern boundary of the AT corridor, from its border with Crawford Notch State Park to the west to its border with Pinkham Notch Scenic Area to the east.

A permutation of this would be to exclude the AT corridor in Presidential-Driver 1, but to designate as Wilderness the remaining portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area northwest of the corridor. This would create a narrow slice of Wilderness disjoint from any surrounding Wilderness and cause impractical management situations; visitors would travel from non-Wilderness, through Wilderness, through the non-Wilderness AT corridor, and the back into the Presidential Range-Dry River Wilderness. This approach does not present a viable management solution to the challenges of incompatible uses.

Another approach for separating incompatible uses from Wilderness designation would be the creation of “islands” of non-Wilderness around the highly developed and highly impacted areas at and around the huts. While this may appear as an effective strategy, the huts are highly visible, and are focal points for the entire Inventoried Roadless Area and adjacent Wilderness. The effects of their operations, including helicopter support, would unavoidably affect the surrounding Wilderness. Previous analysis, including the environmental analysis in support of the Record of Decision for permitting The Appalachian Mountain Club Huts and Pinkham Notch Visitor Center in the White Mountain National Forest, Jan. 1999, determined that this approach is problematic and does not meet the objectives for maintaining and protecting Wilderness character.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

As a permitted commercial use, AMC-hut operation within the Inventoried Roadless Area is an integral component of the Club’s business infrastructure located in and adjacent to the White Mountain National Forest. To AMC, the huts provide an income stream, employment opportunities, important public contact points, and venues and staging grounds for AMC-sanctioned activities.

The huts also provide some level of resource protection in fragile areas hosting extremely high volumes of visitor use. This attraction/protection relationship offers myriad challenges for Wilderness management.

The AMC’s recently completed Highland Center is located in a small, private inholding in Crawford Notch State Park, immediately adjacent to the area. The Highland Center provides hotel, restaurant, meeting, outfitting, guiding, and educational facilities to AMC members as well as to the general public.

While the Center is located outside the Inventoried Roadless Area, its activities highlight visitor use and enjoyment of the surrounding White Mountain National Forest and the facilities and infrastructure, including the AMC-operated huts, within this area. The long-standing relationships shared among the resource, the USFS, the AMC, and the public render modification, limitation, or elimination of the hut system highly problematic and controversial. Such changes would have significant economic, social, and resource protection implications. Modification, limitation, or elimination of the facilities or services provided by the AMC-operated huts would be highly controversial.

The Rocky Branch Snowmobile Trail enters the Inventoried Roadless Area as far as the Rocky Branch Shelter #1. The shelter is a popular destination for snowmobiles, with no easily discernable alternate terminus outside of the area. Curtailing use outside the Inventoried Roadless Area may be difficult and controversial; a boundary adjustment to exclude the shelter could be considered.

Cross-country ski trail grooming, currently under special use permit as described in Current Uses, above, would be curtailed. Rock climbing utilizing fixed anchors would be curtailed at Popple Mountain.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (2.8 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area only contains 6 stands of aspen/paper birch totaling 129 acres (or 0.18 percent of the Forest total). Loss of this stand (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations because it is such a small proportion of the total.

There are no wildlife openings currently being maintained in this Inventoried Roadless Area; therefore, there would be no effect to this type of habitat if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies, including Breton Woods Resort, the Mt. Washington Cog Railway, and the State Park at the summit of Mt. Washington. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 1,197 acres of suitable land in Presidential Dry River 1; 2,221 acres of suitable land in Presidential Dry River 2; and 1,546 acres of suitable land in Presidential Dry River 3.

There are no commercial mineral removal permits on file with the White Mountain National Forest for the area. There are no mineral rights reservations in this area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, 16 Registered Cultural Sites, one prehistoric and 15 historic, have been identified. Approximately 25 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey. Especially interesting for management are Lakes of the Clouds and Mizpah Springs Huts (AMC), Nauman Tent site (AMC), Mt. Langdon Shelter, and Rocky Branch Shelter #1.

Land Uses

The AMC huts within the Inventoried Roadless Area operate under special use permit. While the structures are owned by AMC, they are located on White Mountain National Forest lands and therefore are subject to the terms and conditions of the special use permit for these sites (see Recreation, above).

Two special use permits are issued for machine grooming and commercial use of cross-country ski trails in the vicinity of Maple Mtn., Popple Mtn., and a loop near the Cave Mountain Road north of Bartlett.

Schools and camps from throughout New England bring small groups of backpackers and hikers to the Inventoried Roadless Area, particularly during summer and fall months. This use is dispersed throughout the Inventoried Roadless Area, and is regulated through outfitter guide permits issued by the White Mountain National Forest.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

**Site-Specific
Wilderness
Evaluation**

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support the protection of roadless areas in general. Thirty-six comments, or 0.25 percent of comments received, request the restoration of three river valleys, among them this area. Two comments specifically refer to this Inventoried Roadless Area as part of a broader request for additional roadless designation.

Presidential-Dry River 1 includes spectacular scenery, unique alpine communities, and world-class vistas. This part of the Inventoried Roadless Area is dominated by the AT, the 4,000 foot peaks, and the AMC huts. The presence of the huts and their support systems, including helicopter use, are non-conforming uses that are difficult to mitigate or modify (see Recreation, above). Excluding the AT corridor from Wilderness in all practicality precludes the entire Presidential-Dry River 1 from Wilderness designation.

The resources, attractions, and attributes found in Presidential-Dry River 2 and 3 are well represented in roadless and Wilderness areas elsewhere within the White Mountain National Forest. The Inventoried Roadless Areas contain several non-conforming uses, including special use permits for cross-country skiing. This use would be curtailed if the areas were designated as Wilderness. The use of fixed anchors on new climbs would be prohibited.

Sandwich

Inventoried Roadless Areas, # 22671 through 22676

Overview

Acres

	Sandwich 1 (22671)	Sandwich 2 (22672)	Sandwich 3 (22673)	Sandwich 4 (22674)	Sandwich 5 (22675)	Sandwich 6 (22676)
Gross Acres	771	186	1,364	21,400	9,630	339
Net Acres	771	186	1,364	21,400	9,630	339
% NFS	100	100	100	100	100	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

These Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) are located on the southern edge of the White Mountain National Forest. Portions of the area are in Carroll County in the towns of Sandwich and Albany, New Hampshire. Other portions are in the Grafton County towns of Waterville Valley and Livermore. The Saco and Pemi Ranger District borders divide the area. NH Route 112 (the Kancamagus Highway, a National Scenic Byway) lies to the north. The Sandwich Notch Road borders the Inventoried Roadless Areas to the southwest, Route 49 to the west, Route 113A to the southeast, and numerous secondary and primitive roads approach the Inventoried Roadless Areas from all directions.

Roads: (miles)*	Sandwich 1	Sandwich 2	Sandwich 3	Sandwich 4	Sandwich 5	Sandwich 6
Improved Roads	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.0	3.5	0.1
Trails: (miles)*						
Hiking	2.0	0.6	0.0	27.8	9.0	0.6
Snowmobile	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5	0.9	0.0
Cross-Country Ski	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	1.0	0.0

*Rounded to one decimal place.

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

Landforms within the Inventoried Roadless Areas form a pattern of valleys, glacial cirques, and high mountain passes. Guinea Pond is the lowest point of elevation at 1,000 feet, while several mountain peaks approach or exceed 4,300 feet. There are numerous ponds throughout the area, including Guinea, Kiah, East, and Greeley Ponds. There are numerous streams and cascades.

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

Vegetation is typical of this area and elevation: spruce-fir on ridgetops and northern hardwoods on the lower slopes. There are more diverse mixes of species near and around Guinea Pond, Greeley Pond, and the wet areas along some stream bottom areas.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. The number of ELTs within each of the Inventoried Roadless Areas is:

	Sandwich 1	Sandwich 2	Sandwich 3	Sandwich 4	Sandwich 5	Sandwich 6
No. of ELTs	8	4	9	8	13	8

All landscape positions are represented by these ELTs; oak is notable.

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). These Inventoried Roadless Areas contain approximately 2 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the categories in the table on the preceding page, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. See the table on the preceding page.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.1
20- 39	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.0	0.0	2.3
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.3	0.0	2.9
60- 79	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	5.6	0.0	7.3
80- 99	0.3	0.0	0.1	2.3	11.0	25.5	0.0	39.3
100-119	0.6	0.2	0.0	2.2	6.3	19.0	0.0	28.4
120+	0.2	0.1	0.0	2.5	3.6	12.3	0.0	18.7
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA*											
		Sandwich 1		Sandwich 2		Sandwich 3		Sandwich 4		Sandwich 5		Sandwich 6	
		Acres	% of IRA	Acres	% of IRA	Acres	% of IRA	Acres	% of IRA	Acres	% of IRA	Acres	% of IRA
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1,348			0	0
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	97	13	36	19	518	38	2,384	1,377	14		26	8
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	259	34	111	60	57	4	2,940	2,319	24		143	42
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	66	9	0	0	8	1	651	388	4		101	30
Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgey	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest.	39	5	26	14	136	10	60	660	7		1	0
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	0	0	0	0	16	1	41	83	1		0	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

Current Uses

The primary uses of the Inventoried Roadless Areas include summer hiking, backpacking, and mountain biking, and winter snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

Hiking trails access the area from most directions; trail standards range from high standard to low standard. Cooperator-maintained snowmobile trails parallel the east boundary of Inventoried Roadless Area 1, and traverse the northwest section of Inventoried Roadless Area 4. A locally-popular snowmobile trail defines a non-Wilderness corridor or “cherry stem” from the Guinea Pond Trail to the Flat Mountain Trail and shelter, between the boundaries of Inventoried Roadless Areas 3 and 5. Inventoried Roadless Area 5 is adjacent to a network of cross-country ski trails originating at Waterville Valley Ski Area; some cross-country skiers continue into the Inventoried Roadless Area from Waterville Valley.

The dam on Flat Mountain Pond forms a portion of the boundary between the Wilderness and Inventoried Roadless Area 3. There are seasonal fishing opportunities on this and several other ponds within the area.

Rock climbing opportunities in Sandwich 4 occur at Hedgehog Mountain, Square Ledge, and Mt. Osceola.

There are no existing non-recreation special uses permitted in the Inventoried Roadless Areas. There are no mineral rights reservations in these areas.

Commercial outfitter guiding is permitted within the areas.

Within these Inventoried Roadless Area, the following acres are suitable for timber harvest:

	Suitable Acres
Sandwich 1	419
Sandwich 2	0
Sandwich 3	522
Sandwich 4	4,091
Sandwich 5	2,715
Sandwich 6	167

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Sandwich 1	0	461	0	0	309	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandwich 2	0	183	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandwich 3	7	823	0	0	0	0	536	0	0	0	0
Sandwich 4	0	4,669	0	1,417	4,139	8,992	1,339	844	0	0	0
Sandwich 5	9	3,142	0	3,057	1,544	1,877	0	0	0	0	0
Sandwich 6	0	282	0	0	0	56	0	0	0	0	0

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics Of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The Inventoried Roadless Areas generally appear as a natural forest environment with diverse vegetation and terrain, numerous ponds, and minimal signs of past disturbances not readily apparent to the casual observer. There is heavy visitor use and traffic, and several popular hiking trails along the Kancamagus Highway which parallels the northern boundary of Inventoried Roadless Area 4. Elsewhere, particularly in the interior of the areas, the landscape appears largely undisturbed.

The Inventoried Roadless Areas are distinct components that, taken together, nearly encircle the Sandwich Wilderness. The Inventoried Roadless Areas are not noted for outstanding unique features; these have been included in the adjacent Sandwich Wilderness. To the exterior, Sandwich 1 is bounded to the east by a snowmobile trail between it and the Chocorua Inventoried Roadless Area. To the north, Sandwich 4 is bounded by the Kancamagus Highway, on the other side of which is the Pemigewasset Wilderness. To the southwest, Sandwich 5 is bounded by Route 49, the Sandwich Notch Road, and the Sandwich Notch Road, Guinea Pond, and Flat Mountain Pond snowmobile trails. The Waterville Inventoried Roadless Area lies to the west, across Route 49.

Inventoried Roadless Areas 1, 2, 3, and 6 are bounded by private land to the south.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
Sandwich 1	434	0	336	0	0	0
Sandwich 2	0	0	0	0	174	0
Sandwich 3	0	0	0	0	1,273	0
Sandwich 4	6,340	1,317	3,540	0	10,183	20
Sandwich 5	5,020	0	1,859	7	2,369	373
Sandwich 6	0	0	320	0	7	0

Key Attractions

Greeley Pond Scenic Area, Guinea Pond, Black Mountain Pond, Black Mountain, and numerous other mountain peaks all are attractions in these Inventoried Roadless Areas. The scenic values in the Osceola area are exceptional.

Rock climbing opportunities at Hedgehog, Square Ledge, and Osceola are good, but not as popular as other rock climbing sites on the Forest.

Wilderness
Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Early logging in the area occurred during the period from 1900 to the late 1920s. Additional sales were harvested during the 1940s. In 1950, the Flat Mountain Pond Sale logged a large portion of the area. More recently, the Whiteface Brook Sale (1970) built roads into and harvested 40 acres within this area.

Harvest activity in the last two decades has occurred in two of the six portions of the Sandwich Inventoried Roadless Area. This activity is quantified below:

Sandwich 4	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	313	1	66	0
Intermediate	74	>1	132	1
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	29	>1	307	1
Intermediate	0	0	0	0
Total Harvest/Decade	416	1	505	2

Sandwich 5	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	245	>3	30	0
Intermediate	166	2	0	0
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	0	0	244	3
Intermediate	0	0	0	0
Total Harvest/Decade	411	4	274	3

	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Total Harvest for Inventoried Roadless Areas #22674 and 22675	827	3	779	3

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.

- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

Road density, as measured in miles of road per 1,000 acres are as follows:

Road density (miles of road per 1,000 acres)	
Sandwich 1	0.06
Sandwich 2	0
Sandwich 3	0.27
Sandwich 4	0.05
Sandwich 5	0.36
Sandwich 6	0.32

Roads and old railroad beds in many parts of this area remain obvious. A log and concrete dam on the pond's south end controls the water level on Flat Mountain Pond near the northern boundary of Inventoried Roadless Area 3. Minor modifications have occurred where roads and railroad grades have been constructed.

The vegetative recovery from the past logging activities of the early 1900s is good, and most users would perceive the areas as natural in appearance. There is evidence of a large-scale fire in the area, dating back to the same early-1900s period.

With the possible exception of the fish stocked in Flat Mountain Pond and remnant non-native plant populations at old homestead sites and along forest roads, there are no known non-native species of flora or fauna in this area.

The Inventoried Roadless Areas and surrounding area are managed for a spectrum of resource objectives. Dispersed camp sites, numerous trails, snowmobiling, fishing, etc. occur within the area. Developed recreation sites, including a large regional ski area (Waterville Valley), are found outside the areas to the north and west. There has been limited recent timber harvest within the areas.

The high scenic value of the Greeley Ponds area is protected in the 896-acre Greeley Pond Scenic Area in Inventoried Roadless Area 4. Nearby, The Bowl, a 1,556 acre Research Natural Area, is included in the adjacent Sandwich Wilderness. The Osceola area, in the northwest of the Inventoried Roadless Area, has outstanding scenic value.

Sandwich 4 lies generally east/west as a long, narrow appendage to the Sandwich Range Wilderness. Wilderness values and characteristics diminish in direct correlation to distance from the designated Wilderness core. This erosion of Wilderness values in the western extremes of this Inventoried Roadless Area are most notable where the Inventoried Roadless Area abuts Loon Snow Park and its associated condominium developments, highway noise, lift towers, etc. associated with the high levels of roadside camping and timber harvest activity along the Tripoli Road, located south of Sandwich 4.

The northern boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area 4 is coincident with the boundary of the Kancamagus Highway National Scenic Byway. Extensive day-use hiking and picnicking, as well as traffic noise from the Highway, may compromise the natural integrity and opportunities for solitude within the area.

The dam on Flat Mountain Pond, adjacent winter ORV use, fixed-anchor rock climbing on new climbs, and fish stocking are known non-conforming uses and structures in Inventoried Roadless Area that could compromise its primitive character and opportunities for solitude. The many miles of trails, old railroad beds, and shelters may also be considered as non-conforming uses.

Two major regional ski centers are adjacent to Sandwich Inventoried Roadless Area: Waterville Valley at the northwest end of Sandwich 5 and Loon Mountain to the northwest of Sandwich 4.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge)

The Inventoried Roadless Areas have diverse relief, which provide significant topographic screening. The areas are characterized by dense vegetation, but are open enough to allow travel and camping in isolated sites along trails. The distance from the perimeters to the core of each area is approximately 1 to 3 miles. There are many off-site intrusions visible from higher vantage points. These intrusions include timber sales, fields, towns, roads, powerlines, and other temporary and permanent visual impacts.

The opportunities for solitude are high along the interior trails, and very high off-trail. Seasonally, opportunities for solitude are highest in non-summer months. Along the northern perimeter, near the Kancamagus Highway, opportunities for solitude are encumbered by road noise and heavy visitor traffic to sites in close proximity to this highly traveled Scenic Byway.

The diverse terrain, dense vegetation, moderate travel distances, ponds, streams, moderate amounts of development, outstanding vistas, numerous trails, and large area lead to a rating of high for primitive recreation opportunity. There is limited opportunity for backcountry challenge in this area, but it is average for the Forest. Features such as ledges, potential debris slides, cliffs, climate, and fast spring runoff provide unforeseen challenges to the user.

When assessing the area's appearance, it is prudent to consider it in context with this adjacent area. When the Inventoried Roadless Area is considered cumulatively with the adjacent Wilderness, there are approximately 44,150 acres of semi-primitive non-motorized area. Components of the Inventoried Roadless Area contain the following semi-primitive non-motorized acres:

Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Acres	
Sandwich 1	334
Sandwich 2	70
Sandwich 3	401
Sandwich 4	13,790
Sandwich 5	4,711
Sandwich 6	142

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

The 860-acre Greeley Pond Scenic Area is entirely within Inventoried Roadless Area 4.

Interest continues in incorporating low elevation softwood forest communities into a management area where natural processes predominate. On the White Mountain National Forest, approximately 39,574 acres of softwood capable lands are currently in this category. These Inventoried Roadless Areas would contribute approximately an additional 6,799 acres of land capable of supporting low elevation softwood forest communities.

A nesting population of peregrine falcons has returned and has occupied the Square Ledge area in Inventoried Roadless Area 4 for many years. Although the falcon has been removed from the endangered species list, these mating pairs continue to be monitored and protected from human disturbance. The Forest Service continues to work with rock climbers to mitigate peregrine nesting disturbance.

Ecological land types supporting oak forest cover, which is uncommon on most of the White Mountain National Forest and rare to the north and west, can be found in the southeastern-most portion of Inventoried Roadless Area 1. Conditions favorable to oak exist in young stands on shallow or rocky midslope soils.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within these Inventoried Roadless Areas. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The Inventoried Roadless Areas could provide management efficiency to the Sandwich Wilderness by providing more distinct and recognizable boundaries and more efficient access. At the same time, Inventoried Roadless Area 4’s shared boundary with the highly-traveled Kancamagus National Scenic Byway poses significant challenges, including heavy visitor traffic, party size, expectation of visitor experience, noise, parking, etc. Mitigation may include boundary adjustments or “buffers” along the Kancamagus Highway, and the restriction of snowmobiles on the Bolles Trail to the east of Sandwich 1, the East Pond Trail within Sandwich 4, and the Flat Mountain

Pond Trail to the south in Sandwich 5. Wilderness trailhead parking facilities are currently small in size and number; additional Wilderness designation may require resolution of this issue.

There are no mineral rights reservations in this area.

Boundary Conditions

The heavy day use around Hedgehog Mountain and the conflicting snowmobile use around Flat Mountain Pond could make inclusion of these two areas problematic for Wilderness management. In order to maintain Wilderness attributes, Hedgehog Mountain and Flat Mountain Pond would be most effectively managed outside of Wilderness designation.

If the dam on Flat Mountain Pond were entirely included in Wilderness, it would be considered for removal and would be the subject of intense public scrutiny and controversy.

There is limited parking available along Sandwich Notch Road. Boundary location should consider the construction of new trailhead parking facilities along this road.

Designation of Sandwich 3 and 5 as Wilderness would result in a “cherry stem” boundary situation. This designation would create a narrow motorized-use corridor of nearly two miles and a potentially difficult management situation for providing solitude and maintaining Wilderness values.

**Availability for
Wilderness
Designation**

Recreation, Including Tourism

If designated as Wilderness, the following current activities would be curtailed within these Inventoried Roadless Areas: mountain biking, fixed-anchor rock climbing on new climbs, snowmobiling, and grooming of cross-country ski trails. Outfitter/guide permits would likely be affected. Group size would likely be reduced to a maximum party size of 10, as is the maximum in other Wilderness areas. Party size reduction would have the greatest impact in the popular Hedgehog Mountain area.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (2.0 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow

timber harvest, these Inventoried Roadless Areas only contain 25 stands of aspen/paper birch totaling 305 acres (or 0.4 percent of the Forest total). Loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations because they are such a small proportion of the total.

Oak forest is an uncommon component on the White Mountain National Forest that occurs in the southeast corner of Inventoried Roadless Area 1. Oak retention is considered desirable for wildlife habitat management as a source of mast.

There is one wildlife opening, approximately 10 acres in size, currently being maintained in this Inventoried Roadless Area; this opening would no longer be maintained if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

These Inventoried Roadless Areas contain at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Mating pairs of peregrine falcons have historically occupied and used the Square Ledge area.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in these Inventoried Roadless Areas may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness. There are no municipal water supply intakes in these areas.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There is no known livestock use of these Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in these Inventoried Roadless Areas within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of the Inventoried Roadless Areas would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on the following acres of suitable land in each of the Inventoried Roadless Areas:

Suitable Acres	
Sandwich 1	419
Sandwich 2	0
Sandwich 3	522
Sandwich 4	4,091
Sandwich 5	2,715
Sandwich 6	0

The area is considered to have mineral importance. There are presently six mineral prospecting permit applications on file with the White Mountain National Forest; one lies in Sandwich 1, five in the Sandwich 4, and two in Sandwich 5. Less than 30 percent of the land area covered by each permit lies within the Inventoried Roadless Areas.

There are no mineral rights reservations in this area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Areas, 37 Registered Cultural Sites, including 2 prehistoric and 35 historic, have been identified. Approximately 5-10 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Areas has received some heritage survey. Especially interesting for management is the abandoned nineteenth century Sandwich Notch community, and proximity to the 1801 Sandwich Notch Road.

Land Uses

There are no known rights of way, pipelines, electronic sites, or special uses that would require modification should the areas be designated as Wilderness.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in these Inventoried Roadless Areas is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

Site-Specific
Wilderness
Evaluation

There has been interest in protecting most of this area with Wilderness designation since as early as 1983. Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan

Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support the protection of roadless areas in general. Approximately 5 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed this area. Of these, 90 percent expressed support for the additions to the Sandwich Range Wilderness; the remainder express support for retention of the area in roadless designation.

There has been little unified opposition to this proposal, however, existing snowmobile trails are important. Opposition to restriction of this use is expected to be strong.

This Inventoried Roadless Area is not specifically representative of any known unique feature or attribute, but it does incorporate more of the lowland hardwood forest that is otherwise less common in the existing Wildernesses on the Forest. The Inventoried Roadless Areas' highest value is their proximity to the Sandwich Range Wilderness, which would facilitate more efficient management of the area and enhance the characteristics for which the Wilderness was designated.

The Sandwich Range Wilderness currently has a very irregular and serpentine boundary in some areas. This presents management problems both to the Wilderness itself and to adjoining National Forest lands. Some of the proposed roadless area additions would correct this problem by smoothing out or straightening the boundaries, and providing a more uniform width to the Wilderness.

As discussed earlier in this evaluation, two of the six disjunct extensions have other needs or issues that could be problematic if designated for Wilderness study. They are:

Sandwich 1 and 6: Ecological land types favoring oak forest exist in this area. The oak type is desirable for wildlife habitat, but is more easily maintained in young first generation stands. The ability to use forest management tools to retain oak in this area may be advisable.

Sandwich 3: Inclusion of this area in its entirety would result in a cherry-stem motorized trail extending approximately 1.7 miles into Wilderness.

Sandwich 4: Exclusion of the western extremities of this Inventoried Roadless Area will result in appropriate protection of its Wilderness values. The East Pond Trail is an adequate boundary that is recognizable on the ground. This boundary adjustment would provide enhancement to the current Sandwich Range Wilderness while preserving an area with its own intrinsic Wilderness values and characteristics (see Wilderness Capability, Natural Integrity, and Appearance, above).

Sawyer River

Inventoried Roadless Area #22694

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	6,718
Net Acres	6,718
% NFS lands	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

The Sawyer River Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is located near the center of the White Mountain National Forest, in the New Hampshire towns of Bartlett and Hart's Location (in Carroll County), and Livermore (in Grafton County). The area is bounded by Forest Road 513 and Sawyer River on the north, Sawyer River Trail on the west, and Bartlett Experimental Forest on the east. Access is via Highway 302 and Sawyer River Road (Forest Road 34) from the north, and Bear Notch Road and Forest Road 44 from the east. A number of other Forest roads, including the Rob Brook Road system, provide access to the boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

The Sawyer Pond Scenic Area lies close to the very middle of this inventoried roadless area. Trails accessing the area include the Sawyer Pond Trail, Brunell Trail, and the Mount Tremont Trail.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	1.5
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	5.8
Snowmobile	0.0
Cross-country Ski	0.1

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The maximum elevation in the Inventoried Roadless Area is 3,371 feet; the minimum is 820 feet. The highest peak in the area, Mount Tremont, has an elevation of 3,371 feet. The area is characterized by its three most prominent peaks: Mount Tremont (3,371'), Owls Cliff (2,940'), and Greens Cliff (2,926'). These three peaks form a saddle which is occupied by Sawyer Pond. The northwest half of the area is drained by Sawyer River, which is a major headwaters tributary of the Saco River. The slopes of the southeast half of the area drain into Rob Brook, which flows into the Swift River, another major tributary of the Saco River. Sawyer Pond and one lesser connected pond are the only ponds in the area.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs

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represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 11 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	1.9
20- 39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.2	0.0	11.2
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	7.7
60- 79	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	3.3	0.0	3.9
80- 99	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.9	32.3	0.0	39.2
100-119	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.6	0.0	6.6
120+	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	25.8	0.0	29.5
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). Approximately 1.9 percent of the forest in this Inventoried Roadless Area is in the 0-19 year age-class. Approximately 75 percent of the forest in the Sawyer area is 80 years or older.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	0	0
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	1,920	29
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine	882	13
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	376	6
Softwood/ Hardwood Wet or Ledyg	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	84	1
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	83	1

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

The primary use of the Inventoried Roadless Area is day hiking and backpacking along Sawyer Pond Trail and the Mount Tremont Trail, and camping and fishing within the Sawyer Pond Scenic Area, located in the middle of the Inventoried Roadless Area. Public access is gained via the roads that bound this area on three sides: Sawyer River Road, Highway 302, and Bear Notch Road.

Sawyer Pond Scenic Area fills a unique recreation niche among the recreation sites on the Forest, in that it offers a high quality semi-primitive social recreation experience in the backcountry for a relatively short hike. It lies entirely within a semi-primitive non-motorized ROS class, and has been managed under the 1986 Forest Plan to retain the scenic characteristics of the area. The pond itself is a desirable scenic destination. The easy access to Sawyer Pond from either of two trailheads makes it a popular destination for campers seeking to find backcountry fishing and camping with modest exertion or risk. For that reason it is popular with families and small groups looking for a mixture of social interaction and solitude. Improvements at the Pond include a trail shelter, five tent platforms, and toilets. The site receives moderate-to-high levels of recreation use from the opening of fishing season through the fall, particularly on weekends.

The Scenic Area is bisected by the *Sawyer Pond Trail*, which receives occasional high use, primarily as an ingress and egress to the Pond. Motorized and mechanized travel, are not permitted within the scenic area.

Sawyer Rock Picnic Area is a Forest Service-managed carry-in/carry-out day use facility along Highway 302. It is comprised of a gravel parking area, an accessible vault toilet building, and CCC-constructed picnic shelter. It receives low-to-moderate three-season use that spikes on weekends.

A Forest Service-maintained *lagoon-sewage treatment plant* lies near the north corner of the area. It receives and treats the sewage pumped from vault toilets throughout the Forest.

Mount Tremont Trail in the northeast quadrant of the Inventoried Roadless Area is a trail to the ledgy summit of Mount Tremont that provides excellent views of the Presidential Range and Crawford Notch. It features easy trailhead access on Highway 302 and a very steep hike to the summit (2.8 miles). Mount Tremont Trail receives low-to-moderate use.

The *Brunel Trail* is an alternate route to Mount Tremont. It approaches the summit from the south, passing within a short spur trail hike of Owl’s Cliff. The trail receives low use because of its length and relatively poor access .

Snowmobile use is heavy along the trails that abut the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary on three sides. The snowmobile trails in this area receives heavy use, particularly in the early winter, because the Bear Notch area frequently receives early snow and is open for snowmobiling earlier than most other nearby areas. These trails include the Bear Notch Road and Sawyer River Road (FR 34), which are not plowed in the winter, as well as snowmobile trails in the Rob Brook area to the south, including the Meadowbrook snowmobile trail. The trails are groomed.

Much of the area is also popular for hunting and fishing, and Sawyer Pond is stocked (trout). Stream fishing is moderately heavy along Sawyer River, with the increasingly popularity of its native Brook Trout population. Other streams within the area receive low fishing use. Sawyer River Road (FR 34) is the primary entry route for fishermen to Sawyer River and Sawyer Pond.

There are opportunities for rock climbing at Greens Cliff and Owl’s Cliff, and low use by a small number of mostly local climbers. Both areas are out-of-the-way and require long hikes, and Greens Cliff is a smooth face requiring bolts. For that reason, use is currently low, though gradually increasing at both sites. The Bartlett/Haystack climbing area is adjacent to the southeast corner of the area.

Within this Inventoried Roadless Area approximately 2,755 acres (41 percent of the area) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Sawyer	0	1,278	0	2,067	1,511	707	0	1,154	0	0	0

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

As with most of the White Mountain National Forest, much of the area was harvested in the mid-1800s and early 1900s, with the exception of the upper elevations and steeper slopes near Owl’s Cliff and Green Cliff.

Several timbers sales have occurred in portions of the Area, including two within the last 2-3 years. These various harvests have been in the vicinity of Stony Brook, lower Sawyer River, Douglas Brook, and Green’s Cliff. All of these sales have been closed and the area revegetated. Views of the Inventoried Roadless Area from various vantage points reveal that it is largely naturally-appearing. The forest canopy is intact throughout the area, as most forestry practiced in this area is either greater than 10 years old, or has featured uneven-aged management. Small clearcuts visible from Rt. 302 lay at the north edge of the roadless area, but their irregular shape and advancing regeneration will obscure their visibility over time. All of the vegetation within the Sawyer Pond Scenic Area is natural-appearing, the result of years of management as a designated Scenic Area. No harvest is permitted within the Scenic Area.

The appearance of the surrounding area includes very little evidence of logging as the upper Saco River watershed is dominated by existing Wilderness (the Presidential-Dry River and Pemigewasset Wildernesses to the north and west). Views also include residential and commercial development (including alpine ski areas) concentrated in the towns of Bartlett, Jackson, and Glen to the east. Bartlett Experimental Forest abuts the area and features many forms of forest treatment being studied there. Views to the south are dominated by solid forest cover in the Swift River valley and Kancamagus Highway.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	3,435	229	536	0	2,518	0
% of IRA	51	3	8	0	38	0

Key Attractions

Sawyer Pond (camping shelter, tent platforms, and fishing), Sawyer River (fishing), Sawyer Rock Picnic Area, Mount Tremont and Owl’s Cliff (hiking), and the trails are the major attractions of the area. The snowmobile trails that nearly encircle the Inventoried Roadless Area also attract heavy seasonal use to the perimeter of the area.

Wilderness Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Harvest history over the last two decades within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

Sawyer River	1985-1994		1995-2004	
	Acres	% of IRA	Acres	% of IRA
Even Age				
Regeneration	72	1	0	0
Intermediate	0	0	0	0
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	0	0	0	0
Intermediate	0	0	0	0
Total Harvest/Decade	72	1	0	0

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.22 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

Prior to 1910, most of the area was heavily logged by large timber companies who owned the land. No railroad grades were constructed within this IRA during that era; logs were dragged by ox or horse to the nearest railroad routes (Sawyer River Road and Bear Notch Road). The lands were acquired by the White Mountain NF in the 1920s and 1930s. The area does not have a history of large fires and the incidence of wildfire is very low.

There was active harvest again in the 1950s and 60s as the Forest Service attempted to apply forestry and sanitation practices to the area. In 1976, the White Mountain NF completed and approved the *Kancamagus Unit Plan and EIS*, which placed much of this area outside of the Sawyer Pond Scenic Area into “Management Area 1”, with the objective to “maximize sustained yield timber production under an even-aged management system”. In the 1970s and early 80s, the Forest Service did additional regeneration harvest and sanitation cutting in the lower elevation areas. Consequently, much of the area outside the scenic area has a young forest appearance. Remnant traces of old temporary roads and skid routes used for these various harvests are still evident, particularly in the south and west quadrants of the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Constructed improvements within the Inventoried Roadless Area are limited to the shelter, tent pads, and toilets at Sawyer Pond, the toilet and picnic shelter at Sawyer Rock Picnic Area, and a handful of trail bridges on Sawyer Pond Trail.

Despite its history of intensive management, the landscape in this IRA has a mostly natural appearance as viewed from vantage points on the Kancamagus Highway, Highway 302, and various mountaintops. The natural integrity of the area is relatively intact; in large part because the northeast boundary of the IRA does not abut Highway 302, Sawyer Rock Picnic Area, or the Forest Service-operated sewage lagoon off Route 302.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge)

There are moderate opportunities for solitude in the Inventoried Roadless Area. While there are relatively few visitors, its relatively small size and notable attractions focus nearly all visitors into concentrated areas near Sawyer Pond and Sawyer Rock. Heavy vehicle traffic on State Highway 302 and recreation use of the Saco River and Sawyer Rock Picnic Area diminish the opportunities for solitude in the northeast quadrant of the IRA, and on the northeast slopes of Tremont Mountain. There is also a low probability of experiencing a sense of isolation due to the small size of the Inventoried Roadless Area. And there is little opportunity for solitude within the middle of the Sawyer River IRA unless use of Sawyer Pond Scenic Area is restricted and the shelters, toilets, and other improvements removed. Due to the dense spruce and birch thickets on the sides of Mount Tremont and Owls Cliff, cross-country travel is very difficult, and cross-country foot travel is almost completely confined to trails.

There are minor opportunities for challenge and unique experiences, because the area is small, well serviced by trails, shelters, and toilets, and nearly surrounded by nearby roads. Rock climbing offers some challenge, but the presence of rock bolts does detract from wilderness integrity. Use of the rock climbing areas may result in unauthorized trail and campsite creation that could demand management action.

Otherwise, the topography is moderate and the peaks do not offer the physical, environmental, or climatic challenges offered by other areas on the White Mountain National Forest.

Approximately 3,027 acres, or 45 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

As with many of the steep ledges in the White Mountains, there is some likelihood of rare plants, lichens, or biological communities populating the cliff faces of Owl's Cliff and Green's Cliff. No surveys have been completed in this area to confirm or dismiss this. No peregrine falcons have been known to nest on the cliffs, although they may be suited for possible future nesting.

The Inventoried Roadless Area includes no known historic features that are locally important, as it is comprised almost entirely of land that was timber company woodlands and was never settled.

The Inventoried Roadless Area includes the adjacent Sawyer Pond Scenic Area in its entirety. The Scenic Area is approximately 1,200 acres in size.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The Inventoried Roadless Area's size and configuration present many challenges for Wilderness management. Its small size and proximity to well-traveled roads and snowmobile trails could diminish the wilderness values of privacy, solitude, and quiet near the boundaries.

Current non-conforming structures include the recreation improvements at Sawyer Pond and on the Sawyer Pond Trail. Recreation use at the site is well-established. Although the Scenic Area is semi-primitive, the recreation visitors come to Sawyer Pond expecting a more social recreation setting than is typical of the more primitive Wilderness areas. The presence of the shelter, tent pads, and toilets probably encourages this. Removal of the shelters, toilets, or observation tower would be met with strong local opposition.

Boundary Conditions

The area's small size detracts from its potential to provide visitors with the full range of Wilderness characteristics. The boundaries cannot be extended to the east and south because of State Roads, Forest Roads, recreation facilities, and the presence of the Bartlett Experimental Forest. Though potential may exist to expand this Sawyer River area to the northwest and combine with the Pemigewasset Wilderness, that would require the full closure of the Sawyer River Road (FR 34), connected roads, trailhead parking areas, the snowmobile trail, and other associated recreation improvements. As a critical segment of the Bear Notch snowmobile trail system, closure of this trail would meet with considerable public resistance. The trail is a popular early- and late-season snowmobile route.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

Facilities that would be considered for removal include the shelter, toilets, and tent pads at Sawyer Pond Scenic Area. Foot bridges and trail structures on the Sawyer Pond Trail might be subject to removal.

Wildlife and Fish

All wildlife species which characterize the major forest types occur within this area. Populations are comparable to other surrounding forest areas.

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of

roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (1.4 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. Although aspen and birch do exist in the Sawyer River drainage as a small component (<5 percent) of hardwood stands, this Inventoried Roadless Area contains no stands dominated by aspen/paper birch. Therefore, loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations.

There is one maintained wildlife openings within this area; the opening is approximately one acre in size. This opening would no longer be maintained if the area was designated as Wilderness.

The Sawyer River area is a popular hunting area, due to the road access and history of timber management which has supported healthy deer, bear, moose, turkey, and small game populations. Designation as Wilderness would eliminate timber harvest and close roads, and that in turn would likely curtail hunting.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this Inventoried Roadless Area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area will reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 2,755 acres of suitable forest land.

There are no mineral rights reserved within this Inventoried Roadless Area. There is no history of livestock use in this area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project

compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Approximately 50 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area has received some heritage survey. Only three Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. These include a foundation/cellar hole and an old water supply reservoir site. They are all concentrated near the northwest boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area, in the vicinity of where the now-extinct community of Livermore once existed.

Land Uses

There are no known rights of way, pipelines, electronic sites, or special uses that would require modification should the area be designated as Wilderness. Wilderness designation would have no effect on land uses, other than those managed by the Forest Service (i.e. recreation at Sawyer Pond).

Management Consideration (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. There is currently no need for prescribed fire to maintain wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

Site-Specific Wilderness Evaluation

The 1,200-acre *Sawyer Pond Scenic Area* in the heart of the Sawyer Inventoried Roadless Area is already subject to many of the management restrictions and limitations that a Wilderness designation might provide. By virtue of its long-established status as a Scenic Area, Sawyer Pond is already subject to prohibitions on timber management, additional recreation development, road and trail construction, motorized travel.

Conversely, most of the existing recreation improvements and activities in Sawyer Pond Scenic Area would need to be removed or eliminated if the area were subject to meeting Wilderness requirements. It is likely that these changes would be met with significant public opposition.

Outside of Sawyer Pond Scenic Area, the remainder of this roadless area is approximately 61 percent in management areas that would allow active management and harvest, and 45 percent is in semi-primitive non-motorized management. The area provides a balance of management objectives and multiple use which would not occur if the Inventoried Roadless Area was designated as Wilderness.

NH State fish and game agencies may be concerned if Wilderness designation results in restrictions on managing fish populations in Sawyer Pond.

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support the protection of roadless areas.

Very few comments were received that specifically addressed the Sawyer area.

The Sawyer River Inventoried Roadless Area has issues, described above, which may collectively reduce its suitability for Wilderness designation. These issues include the size of the area, opportunities for solitude, and the presence of Sawyer Pond Scenic Area that currently is managed as a semi-primitive non-motorized area and appears to meet a significant public recreation need. If changed to a Wilderness, there would likely be public concerns with: 1) established recreation uses (camping, hiking, fishing, and snowmobiling adjacent to the area); 2) the existence of roads and non-conforming improvements, such as shelters, toilets, tent pads, and trail structures; 3) its relatively small size combined with a narrow shape, bounded by roads and snowmobile trails, and creating an area where opportunities for solitude are relatively few.

It has been suggested that there is potential to enlarge the contiguous Wilderness on the Forest by merging this Sawyer River IRA with the adjoining 45,000-acre Pemigewasset to the north. However, this would necessitate closure of roads, snowmobile trails, and recreation improvements in the Sawyer River drainage that currently receive significant public use. It would also require absorption of managed forest lands that do not currently meet roadless definitions.

In view of the issues discuss above, and in view of the fact that other areas have greater capacity to meet the requirements and objectives of Wilderness without significant management changes, the Sawyer River Roadless Area is rated as a poor candidate for designation as Wilderness.

Changes from
Draft

Based on public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, a field verification was conducted of improved roads that could have an effect on the size of existing inventoried roadless areas. This review demonstrated that most roads were correctly mapped in the original inventory, but that a few roads no longer meet the improved road criteria. These have been dropped from our improved road GIS map layer. This field verification resulted in the addition of the Sawyer River Inventoried Roadless Area.

Table Mountain

Inventoried Roadless Area #2279

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	15,628
Net Acres	15,628
% NFS lands	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) lies on the southeastern edge of the White Mountain National Forest between Bear Notch Road and the Forest boundary, 2 miles west of Conway, 50 miles north of Concord, and one mile south of Bartlett, New Hampshire. Numerous state and National Forest roads provide access to the area, including Bear Notch Road, Falls Pond Road (F.S. #209), Kancamagus Highway (Route 112), Deer Brook Road (F.S. #28), Big Brook Road (F.S. #602), Moat Mtn. Road (F.S. #380), and Red Ridge Road (F.S. #379).

Roads and features forming the boundaries are the Bear Notch Road on the western edge, and the base of the Moat Range slope to the east. The Kancamagus Highway determines the southern boundary, and the Forest boundary is the north boundary of the area.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	3.8
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	14.0
Snowmobile	0.5
Cross-country Ski	3.5

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

Topographic features include several major mountain peaks of the Bear, Attitash, and Moat Mtn. Ranges. Elevations range from 3,180 feet (Bear Mtn.) to 520 feet along Bartlett Brook. Most mountain slopes are sharply dissected by numerous steep drainages.

Vegetation varies from low sub-alpine shrubs to predominately hardwood covered slopes, and mixed hardwoods/conifer in the valley bottoms. Dense spruce/fir vegetation occupies the summits of Bear, Table, and Attitash Mtn. Fire and other natural forces have denuded the remaining summits.

Vegetative types are generally unbroken, and change abruptly from one class type to another.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 19 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.4
20- 39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	4.3
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	2.9
60- 79	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	3.3	0.0	3.6
80- 99	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.8	6.4	18.0	0.0	26.4
100-119	0.0	2.9	0.6	0.7	6.3	12.2	0.0	22.8
120+	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.2	6.3	31.3	0.0	38.5
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 1.4 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgey, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	0	0
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	2,763	18
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine	1,770	11
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	1,110	7
Softwood/ Hardwood Wet or Ledyg	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	136	1
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	116	1

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

The east slopes of Moat Mountain have some of the heaviest and diverse recreation uses on the Forest, with day hiking and mountain biking predominant. The area is accessed by few trails. The Moat Mtn. Trail and, to a lesser extent, the Attitash Trail are day-use trails that access the interior portions of the area.

Popular related day uses include hobby rock collecting of smokey quartz and topaz in the eastern portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area, and blueberry picking.

Mountain bike use is heavy. Area enthusiasts have established partnerships with the White Mountain National Forest to maintain several mountain bike trails within the area, and they are publishing a map of the trails. Mountain bike use is particularly heavy on the Wenonah and Wenunchis Trail Loops.

The Lower Nanamocomuck Trail and the Wenonah and Wenunchis Trail Loops serve also as popular cross-country ski trails, and are managed and groomed (packed by snowmobile) by the Forest Service.

Rock climbing occurs on Painted Wall, primarily in winter, as well as (in non-winter months) on Rainbow Slab, Bear Mtn., Table Mtn. in the south central part of the roadless area, Mineral Site Crag and Crag Y in the eastern part of the roadless area, and Woodchuck Ledge. Several of these routes have an established network of fixed anchors.

Permitted outfitter/guiding occurs in the area.

There are no existing non-recreation special uses permitted in the area.

A proposed expansion of several hundred acres of the Bartlett Experimental Forest is included within the northeast section of the area boundary. Bartlett Brook, with its headwaters within the Table Mtn. area, is the primary municipal water source for the town of Bartlett, NH.

Within this Inventoried Roadless Area, 4,966 acres (approximately 32 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Inventoried Roadless Area overlaps MA 9.2, potential ski area expansion, in this case in conjunction with Attitash Ski Area.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Table Mtn	17	2,288	0	3,936	8,811	0	0	1	599	0	0

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

Mountain slopes and valleys are dominated by extensive unbroken stands of northern hardwoods. Dense stands of spruce/fir are found only on the major mountain peaks. An apparent timberline, partially due to a history of past fires, is evident on the three Moat Peaks and Red Ridge.

The mountains within this area are massive and quite rounded. Steep sided ravines with mountain streams break the side slopes. This mountain range lacks the characteristic slope gradations, and appears to “pop out” of the Saco and Swift River Valleys.

The Swift and Saco River Valleys, and the cut of Bear Notch in the west surround the area. The Bartlett Experimental Forest abuts the Inventoried Roadless Area to the west.

Echo Lake, Cathedral and White Horse Ledges are within nearby Echo Lake State Park, and the waterfalls of Diana’s Bath all lie within two miles to the east, and serve as additional attractions to this area. The Mt. Attitash Winter Sports Area to the north of the Inventoried Roadless Area is also a destination point for many Forest visitors. Residential developments and the town of North Conway abut National forest land on the northern and eastern boundaries of the area. To the south, the Kancamagus Highway borders the area with high levels of motor traffic, camping, hiking, picnicking, sight seeing, and cross-country skiing.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the existing character of the landscape being viewed. The normal frame of reference for the Forest is a natural appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management or other management activities that occur on the landscape. It can also be caused by natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	9,741	0	620	0	4,362	578
% of IRA	62	0	4	0	28	4

Key Attractions

Attractions within this area are primarily the mountain peaks traversed by the Moat Mountain and Attitash trail systems. The cliffs north of Lower Falls have also become a popular rock and ice climbing area. The scenic opportunities from South Moat Mountain to the west are outstanding; the viewed landscape appears undeveloped. Hobby mineral collecting also draws visitors to the area. Mountain biking and cross-country skiing are popular seasonally within the area.

Wilderness Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

This area was impacted by extensive logging at the turn of the century, followed by clearing for agricultural purposes. These practices left subtle vegetative type changes, with the change to softwood on mountain summits marking the upward limit of the merchantability at the turn of the century. This line, and the remains of farmsteads and stone walls in the Big Brook, Dry Brook, and Red Ridge areas, is not apparent to the casual forest visitor, however. Most of the elevated areas west of Moat Mountain have not had any recent logging, and they appear undisturbed to the casual observer. The east slopes of Moat Mountain, which are highly visible from the scenic overlooks in North Conway, have been harvested in recent years. Although this included several clearcuts, these are not noticed by the casual observer. The surrounding areas, however, appear to have been more significantly impacted by developed recreation, including ski areas, roads, and residential development.

Air quality is good within this area, although visibility may be reduced at times due to the effects of regional haze. Water quality is good.

There are no known non-native flora or fauna.

The Inventoried Roadless Area and the surrounding areas are managed for a range of recreation objectives.

Harvest history during the last two decades within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

Table Mountain	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	259	2	43	0
Intermediate	165	1	344	2
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	0	0	32	0
Intermediate	0	0	0	0
Total Harvest/Decade	424	3	419	3

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.25 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (E.g. Solitude And Challenge)

Opportunities for other than day use are limited by the lack of available water resources. The existing trail system is also limited, although opportunities exist to add short connector trails, and thereby provide additional day use options within the area.

Opportunities for solitude are limited by the views and sounds from the nearby towns of Bartlett and Conway to the east. Adjacent timber harvest activities have a similar impact. The best opportunities for solitude occur in the Bear Mtn. vicinity.

Opportunities for challenge are limited by the area’s small size and configuration, as well as the number of steep drop-offs. The weather on the exposed ridge tops can be more severe than the valleys below, but it does not match the weather extremes on the Presidential Range.

Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are limited along the established trail and at the mineral collecting sites. Off-trail, there are more opportunities for solitude; however, the Inventoried Roadless Area’s small size, proximity to noise and rugged terrain limit these amenities.

Approximately 9,050 acres, or 58 percent of the area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

The presence of numerous mineral crystals, such as smokey quartz and topaz, is of interest to collectors. The climbing cliffs provide recreation opportunities, and, as stated above, scenic quality of views to the west are high.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

The Inventoried Roadless Area includes less than one acre of the adjacent Rocky Gorge Scenic Area.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

Because of the Inventoried Roadless Area's small size and proximity to the Kancamagus Highway, Echo Lake and Cathedral Ledge State Parks, and private land, management of the area as Wilderness is problematic. Visitors would be in frequent sight and sound of development. The unavoidable visible and audible intrusions from the highways, towns, shopping areas, and developments in the surrounding region detract from the solitude of this area. The size of the area precludes mitigation of these impacts.

Current non-Wilderness status provides management flexibility regarding the regulation of smokey quartz and topaz mineral collecting, mountain biking, fixed anchor rock climbing, and groomed cross-country ski trails. Wilderness designation may encumber the Forest's ability to accommodate these established uses.

Boundary Conditions

The area's small size detracts from its potential to provide visitors with Wilderness characteristics. The boundaries cannot be extended because of state roads, residential development, etc. Reducing the area's size will further compromise its capacity to provide Wilderness experiences and values. Potential expansion of Bartlett Experimental Forest would severely impact the size and manageability of the area.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

The USFS has formed partnerships with local mountain biking organizations to maintain bike trails. These trails would no longer be maintained for bike use.

Groomed cross-country ski trails in the southern portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area would be curtailed.

Managed snowmobile use would likely be curtailed on the east slopes of Moat Mountain and in the Red Eagle Brook area. Fixed anchor rock climbing on new climbs would also be affected.

Wildlife and Fish

All wildlife species which characterize the major forest types occur within this area. Populations are comparable to other surrounding forest areas.

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (1.4 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area only contains 7 stands of aspen/paper birch totaling 111 acres (or 0.15 percent of the Forest total). Loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations because they are such a small proportion of the total.

There are no wildlife openings being maintained in this area.

The Moat Mountain area is one of the most popular and heavily hunted areas in the Conway area, due to the abundant road access and history of timber management which has supported healthy deer and small game populations. Designation as Wilderness would eliminate harvest and close roads, and therefore would likely curtail hunting.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

One of the limitations of the area for primitive recreation is its lack of water sources in the area where camping is desirable.

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

At one time, grazing occurred on the lower slopes, and Barbary Sheep were grazed at upper elevations. Today there is no grazing, and there is very little potential.

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of the Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 4,966 acres of suitable land.

Portions of this area have geological terrain with commercial mineral potential. If major tin deposits occur in New Hampshire, they are probably associated with the Mesozoic Conway Granite, some of which occurs within this roadless area (see Wilderness Mineral Potential – Volume 2, U.S. Geological Survey Paper 1,300). Unknown quantities of smokey quartz and other minerals attract hobby mineral collectors.

There are six mineral prospecting permits on file for this area. All of the permits are along the eastern boundary of the area. There are no mineral rights reservations in this area.

The hobby collecting that occurs in the Inventoried Roadless Area is extensive in some areas. If designated as Wilderness, this use would be discontinued.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the Inventoried Roadless Area, 4 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 5-10 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey.

Land Uses

There are no known rights of way, pipelines, electronic sites, or special uses that would require modification should the area be designated as Wilderness.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

There are no concerns about insects and disease hazard in this area.

Although fire has had a past impact on the area, it is not considered a natural occurring influence of this ecosystem. The risk of significant fire in the Inventoried Roadless Area is low.

The need for prescribed fire is limited to its possible use as a means of maintaining wildlife openings.

Site-Specific
Wilderness
Evaluation

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support the protection of roadless areas. No comments were received that specifically addressed this area.

There are no recognizable unique features that are not represented in other nearby roadless and Wilderness areas, and no measurable need for this Inventoried Roadless Area to be designated as Wilderness; this Inventoried Roadless Area would not offer experiences that are uniquely different from those currently available on lands outside of Wilderness or in previously designated nearby Wilderness areas.

Designation as Wilderness would affect the expansion of Bartlett Experimental Forest and any consideration of a portion of MA 9.2 for inclusion as an expansion of Attitash Ski Area.

As described above, the amount of established recreation and management activity in this area, when combined with its proximity to high urban populations and construction activity in the North Conway area, would pose formidable management challenges should Table Mountain be designated as Wilderness. It is controversial that the area has the requisite qualities of solitude, size, and undeveloped character.

Waterville

Inventoried Roadless Area #2271

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	13,395
Net Acres	13,395
% NFS lands	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

The Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) lies in the southern section of the White Mountain National Forest, east of Interstate Highway 93, within the towns of Waterville Valley, Thornton, and Livermore New Hampshire. The Inventoried Roadless Area is bounded by the Mad River and State Highway 49 corridor on the south. An irregular boundary lies on the west near private parcels adjacent to the White Mountain National Forest proclamation boundary. On the north, the boundary follows the Tripoli Road through Thornton Gap, then follows the Tecumseh Trail to the summit of Mt. Tecumseh, and south on Hardy Brook.

The Inventoried Roadless Area interfaces with nearby areas of intensive timber management, roadside car camping along the Tripoli Road, downhill ski development, and nearby high density recreation home developments. The regionally significant Waterville Valley Ski Area/Mt. Tecumseh abuts the Inventoried Roadless Area to the east.

Access to the Inventoried Roadless Area is via town roads in Thornton, Hix Mountain Road, Tripoli Road (Forest Road #30), State Highway 49, Hardy Brook Road, Orris Road, Hazelton Brook Road, Hackett Brook Road, and Johnson Brook Road.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	4.0
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	6.8
Snowmobile	0.7
Cross-country Ski	0.0

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The maximum elevation in the Inventoried Roadless Area is 4,004; the minimum is 760.

Mt. Tecumseh dominates the northern portion of this Inventoried Roadless Area, with an elevation of 4,004 feet, while Dickey Mtn. and Welch Mtn. dominate the southern portion. A mountainous ridge connects these peaks. The terrain is varied, and ridge tops are rocky and exposed.

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

The lower slopes were logged in the 1800s. The Inventoried Roadless Area is predominantly composed of mixed northern hardwoods combined with typical high country spruce-fir forests.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 17 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.3	0.0	2.5
20- 39	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	1.6	0.0	2.1
40- 59	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.8
60- 79	0.1	0.1	0.0	1.4	0.8	9.7	0.0	12.1
80- 99	0.4	0.1	0.1	1.7	10.8	19.4	0.0	32.6
100-119	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.5	14.7	18.4	0.0	35.5
120+	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	4.0	10.1	0.0	14.5
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately .9 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	2,403	18
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	1,590	12
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	2,226	17
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	452	3
Softwood/ Hardwood Wet or Ledyg	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	298	2
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	25	<1

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

Current uses of the Inventoried Roadless Area include timber harvest, day hiking, hunting for deer, bear, and moose, and hobby mineral collecting on Fisher Mountain. The Brown Ash Swamp Mountain Bike Trail is a system trail maintained by the Forest Service. It connects the Welch-Dickey Trailhead and the Tripoli Road. A system snowmobile trail follows the northwest boundary of the Inventoried Roadless Area along Hix Mountain Road, but a short section falls within the roadless area. There is one active timber sale in the north of the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary, near Eastman Brook. Dickey Mountain, in the southern part provides popular rock climbing opportunities. The Welch-Dickey Loop Trail is an extremely popular day hiking opportunity. Limited bushwhacking occurs in the area.

There are no mineral rights reservations in this area.

Within this area, 4,190 acres (approximately 31 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Waterville	23	1,901	0	5,093	431	5,948	0	0	0	0	0

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The Inventoried Roadless Area is more naturally-appearing than its surroundings due to the ski area development on the east, timber harvest on the west and north, and surrounding residential development. Although it was harvested in the 1800s, the remaining evidence is comprised of a network of old haul roads. Although these old roads can be discerned, they are fully reforested.

From a landscape perspective, the Inventoried Roadless Area appears as a generally undeveloped, semi-primitive area, surrounded by high intensity recreation use and residential and commercial development.

The Inventoried Roadless Area is bounded by NFS lands to the north and south, the Waterville Valley Ski Area to the east, and private lands to the west. This private land continues to be developed as home sites and associated facilities.

The predominant management emphasis of the surrounding NFS lands is multiple use, with recent past and future proposed harvest in the immediate vicinity.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	10,417	0	2,638	0	310	9
% of IRA	78	0	20	0	1	<1

Key Attractions

The key attractions include the Mt. Tecumseh Trail, the Welch-Dickey Loop Trail, the Brown Ash Swamp Mountain Bike Trail, Mt. Tecumseh (one of the 4,000 foot peaks), and the snowmobile trail in the northern portion of the area. Of special note is that the Welch-Dickey Loop Trail is one of the highest day use trail loops on the White Mountain National Forest.

Welch Mountain is one of New Hampshire’s five documented sites for Jack Pine. There is also a documented occurrence of round-leafed sandwort within the area.

**Wilderness
Capability**

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Harvest history during the last two decades within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

Waterville	1983-1992		1993-2002	
	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Even Age				
Regeneration	490	4	0	0
Intermediate	557	4	0	0
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	29	<1	135	1
Intermediate	23	<1	0	0
Total Harvest/Decade	1,090	8	135	1

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Evenage system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.3 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

Hazleton Brook Road and the southern terminus of Hix Mountain Road would be decommissioned if the Inventoried Roadless Area were designated as Wilderness. An abandoned trailer that once serviced a harvesting operation is located in the southeast portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area near the Mad River; it would be removed if the area were designated as Wilderness.

Several invasive plants abut the west boundaries of the Inventoried Roadless Area, near Johnson Brook and Haselton Brook. Sheep sorrel, an invasive plant, is found on the Dickey Mountain Trail.

A significant impact on the scenic integrity of the Inventoried Roadless Area is the adjacent ski area, lift towers, ski slopes, etc.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge)

There are moderate opportunities for solitude in the area. Topographic screening is moderate; vegetative screening is dense. The size of the Inventoried Roadless Area is relatively small and the distance from the perimeter to the core is relatively short. Because of the area’s small size and proximity to high-traffic areas, highway traffic sound from Interstate 93, State Route 49 is routinely audible from within the area. Motorized recreation including high-intensity roadside camping and seasonal snowmobile use on the Tripoli Road further contribute to sound disturbances. Snowmaking on the east-facing slopes of Mt. Tecumseh is

seasonally audible. Activities on surrounding private lands are both visible and audible.

Away from the Welch-Dickey Trail, however, dense vegetative screening provides opportunity for solitude. Seasonally, weekend use on the Mt. Tecumseh Trail will offer limited opportunities for solitude. Non-summer or weekday use in this area offers moderate to high opportunities for solitude.

Frequent overflights by the National Guard disturb the Wilderness character of the area.

Rock climbing within the Inventoried Roadless Area offers limited opportunities for challenge. Elsewhere, the environment does not offer notable challenges to the visitor.

Approximately 6,463 acres, or 48 percent of the area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

Welch and Dickey Mountains provide outstanding scenic opportunities. Shell Cascade on Hardy Brook is a minor waterfall and flume that is locally popular. Mt. Tecumseh is a fully-forested peak, and offers limited views.

Welch Mountain has a remnant population of jack pine and state endangered round-leafed sandwort. There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The Inventoried Roadless Area size and configuration is conducive to Wilderness management. The adjacent private lands, which abut approximately 20 percent of the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary, pose some risk to the integrity of the area's Wilderness characteristics.

Boundary Conditions

The Inventoried Roadless Area's relatively small size detracts from its potential to provide visitors with Wilderness characteristics. The boundaries cannot be extended because of state roads, residential development, the ski area, private property, etc. Reducing the area's size will further compromise its capacity to provide Wilderness experiences and values. Changing the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary to separate incompatible activities would substantially reduce the size and viability of its Wilderness attributes.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

The Brown Ash Swamp Bike Trail would be eliminated. Snowmobile use along the Hix Mountain Road would be eliminated. Fixed anchors on new climbing routes would be prohibited.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation. The amount of acreage currently less than 20 years old (0.9 percent of the Forest total) could be created with reasonable effort elsewhere, with little effect to most wildlife species.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area only contains 21 stands of aspen/paper birch totaling 426 acres (or 0.6 percent of the Forest total). Loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) would result in no effect to wildlife populations because they are such a small proportion of the total.

There is one wildlife opening, totaling approximately 5 acres, currently being maintained in this area; this would no longer be maintained if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in one or more watersheds in this Inventoried Roadless Area is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness. There are no municipal water supply intakes in the area.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of the Inventoried Roadless Area would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 4,190 acres of suitable land.

There are three mineral prospecting permit applications on file with the White Mountain National Forest; all three occur in the easternmost portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area, including and adjacent to the Waterville Valley Ski Area. There are no mineral rights reservations in this area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the area, 14 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 25 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey.

Land Uses

There are no known facilities, contracts, or special uses within the Inventoried Roadless Area that would be modified if designated Wilderness. Motorized camping along the Tripoli Road is operated under a concessionaire agreement with ProSport, Inc. Site-specific location of the boundary may eliminate some sites from roadside camping use, affecting the agreement. Likewise, high intensity roadside camping immediately adjacent to the Inventoried Roadless Area's northern boundary may adversely affect the area's wilderness characteristics.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings.

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees reach maturity their susceptibility increases.

**Site-Specific
Wilderness
Evaluation**

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 90 percent expressed support for the protection of roadless areas; no comments were received that specifically addressed this area.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains several characteristics of Wilderness, including restricted access, largely naturally-appearing landscape, and moderate opportunities for solitude. There are, however, no outstanding, unique characteristics in the Inventoried Roadless Area not adequately represented by other areas on the White Mountain National Forest. Attributes of the Inventoried Roadless Area that are noteworthy and would normally be preserved with Wilderness designation are adequately protected under National Forest management.

The Brown Ash Swamp Bike Trail is a popular mountain bike trail, construction for which was completed in 2000. Removal of this recreational opportunity due to Wilderness designation would be controversial among many forest users.

**Changes from
Draft**

A thorough review of decisions made on specific boundary locations of various inventoried roadless areas was conducted, based on public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This review resulted in approximately 13,000 acres being added to four of the existing inventoried roadless areas, consistent with our original roadless area criteria.

Wild River

Inventoried Roadless Area #2264

Overview

Acres

Gross Acres	71,387
Net Acres	71,387
% NFS lands	100

Location, Vicinity, and Access

This Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) encompasses most of the area between NH Route 16 to the west, Maine Route 113 to the east and US Route 2 to the north. The southern boundary approximates a line connecting a point on NH Route 16 near the Rocky Branch Trailhead to a point south of the Baldface Trailhead on Maine Route 113. This southern line generally follows the ridgeline, passing through Perkins Notch and between South Baldface and Sable Mountain. The area includes almost the entire Wild River watershed and, surrounding that in descending order, portions of Peabody River, Cold River, Wildcat Brook, Bog Brook, and East Branch watersheds. The area is within Coos and Carroll counties, New Hampshire, in the towns of Shelburne, Beans' Purchase, Jackson, and Chatham. A portion of the Inventoried Roadless Area is in Oxford County, Maine, in the town of Batchelder's Grant. Vehicle access is from the north, off Route 2, from the east from the Evans Notch Highway (Route 113), and from the west via Route 16. Wild River Road, a gravel road leading to Wild River campground, accesses the inner portion of the area. Other Forest Service graveled roads approach the boundaries of the area from different directions, with the largest system at the southern boundary.

Roads: (miles)	
Improved Roads	10.7
Trails: (miles)	
Hike	112.8
Snowmobile	5.4
Cross-country Ski	3.8

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The central portion of the IRA, The Wild River Valley, is a bowl surrounded by the Carter-Moriah Range and the Baldface-Royce Mountain Ridge. Out of these mountain ranges flow numerous streams, which converge in a broad valley floor to form the Wild River. The main streams are Cedar, Red, Spruce, Cypress, Moriah, Bull, and Blue Brooks.

The remaining parts of the IRA include the steep slopes from the Carter-Moriah Ridge running westerly to NH Route 16, the steep slopes running

easterly from the Baldface-Royce ridge to Maine Route 113, and the generally more gradual slopes running southerly from the southern ridge connecting the Carter-Moriah and Baldface-Royce ridges. Numerous headwater streams drain these slopes feeding the Peabody River, Cold River, Wildcat Brook, Bog Brook and the East Branch of the Saco Rivers. These include the headwaters of the East Branch of the Saco, Wildcat, Mill, Charles, Bog, 19-Mile, Cowboy, Townline, Clay, Stony, Pea, Josh, East, and Connor brooks, along with the Rattle and Wildcat rivers. Water volumes from the tributaries and in the main stem may fluctuate rapidly from seasonal showers, particularly during spring snowmelt.

The maximum elevation in the Inventoried Roadless Area is 4,832 feet atop Carter Dome; the minimum is about 800 feet on Wild River. The Carter-Moriah Range contains five mountains with elevations over 4,000 feet, with Carter Dome the highest point at 4,832 feet. Elevations of the peaks within the Royce Mountains exceed 3,000 feet.

Vegetation found in the Wild River Inventoried Roadless Area is typical of the White Mountain National Forest, with high quality northern hardwoods and white pine in the lower and mid-slopes, and spruce and fir at higher elevations. Exposed mountaintops exhibit a wide variety of plants dominated by heaths (mountain blueberries and cranberries), mosses, lichens, stunted spruce, and birch. Marshy grasslands exist in the Perkins Notch section.

An Ecological Land Type (ELT) is a land classification that depicts the forest communities that would reside in an area if natural processes were to dominate. The number of different ELTs in an Inventoried Roadless Area is one measure of its richness. Size of an area is a factor in the number of ELTs represented, within the Inventoried Roadless Areas. ELTs range from a minimum of 4 to maximum of 42. There are 42 ELTs in this Inventoried Roadless Area. Oak and northern hardwoods are notable. All landscape positions are represented.

Percent of Age Class Distribution by Species Group in IRA.

Age-Class	Aspen	Hemlock	Oak-Pine	Paper Birch	Spruce-Fir	Northern Hardwds	Other	Total*
0- 19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.5	0.0	1.6
20- 39	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	2.1	0.0	2.7
40- 59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	2.8	0.0	3.1
60- 79	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	2.7	0.0	3.2
80- 99	1.9	0.0	0.0	4.6	2.2	6.8	0.0	15.5
100-119	4.1	0.1	0.0	2.9	9.1	20.1	0.0	36.4
120+	2.7	2.2	0.0	4.5	7.1	21.0	0.0	37.5
								100.0

*Values rounded to one decimal place, accordingly, row totals include values less than 0.05 percent.

Appendix C – Inventoried Roadless Area Evaluations

The most limited age-class on the White Mountain National Forest is regeneration (0-9 years) and young (10-19 years). This Inventoried Roadless Area contains approximately 5.4 percent of the total acres of these age-classes on the Forest.

Forest land productivity can be classified in six ecological groups based on land productivity. Each of the following categories, except the Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy, produces about ½ cord per acre per year, which is considered adequate growth for planned timber harvest lands. Softwood/Mixed and Enriched may be a little greater, while Northern Hardwood and Beech-Red Maple may be a little less. Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledge produces substantially less than ½ cord per acre per year. These ELT groups include:

Ecological Land Type Groups	Description	Acres in IRA	% of IRA*
Northern Hardwood	High quality sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.	5,801	8
Beech-Red Maple	Moderate quality hardwoods; beech, red maple, paper birch and softwood.	3,971	6
Softwood/Mixed	Good quality softwood stands; red spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, intermittent white pine.	10,049	14
Enriched	Highest quality northern hardwoods; sugar maple, beech and white ash.	972	1
Softwood/Hardwood Wet or Ledgy	Generally unsuitable land, occasionally non-forest lands.	536	1
Cliffs and Talus	Isolated areas of very steep land that is primarily non-forest.	88	0

*This represents the area within the Inventoried Roadless Area with timber productivity and terrain making them capable for planned timber management.

The Enriched and Northern Hardwood Ecological Land Type groups provide the best potential for the growth of high value sawtimber. These are the sites that are capable of producing large, well formed sugar maple and yellow birch.

Current Uses

Use of the Inventoried Roadless Area is primarily recreational. There are more than 100 miles of hiking trails, and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) travels generally north-south on the western side, following the length of the Carter-Mariah ridgeline. The AT receives the most intense hiking use in the area; it is most often accessed from Route 16 or Route 2. Carter Notch Hut, run by the AMC under special use permit authority, lies on this trail, and is the oldest existing Hut on the White Mountain National Forest. There are also 6 shelters hosting overnight backpackers: Rattle River, Blue Brook, Spruce Brook, Perkins Notch, Baldface, and Imp. There is also an old New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game camp (Spider Camp).

The Wild River and some of its tributaries offer excellent fishing on a seasonal basis.

The Wild River bisects the central part of the area. Several popular trails follow old railroad grades up-river. There is mountain biking on the Wild River Trail, across the Spider Bridge, returning on the High Water Trail; it is popular throughout the rest of the roadless area as well.

Rock climbing and seasonal ice climbing opportunities exist on the eastern side of the area, near Route 113.

Cross-country skiing is popular within the area, including an interesting route followed by skiers who ride the Wildcat Ski Area lift to the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary, then ski through the area to the Carter Notch Road or to Route 16 near Jackson. Portions of this trail system are authorized under permit to Jackson Ski Touring Foundation.

Snowmobile trails are coincident with the east and southeast boundaries of the Inventoried Roadless Area. In the winter, Route 113 is left unplowed, and it serves as an important north-south Corridor snowmobile route in this part of Maine and New Hampshire.

Geocaching occurs sporadically throughout the area. Wild River Campground is a popular overnight attraction for fisherman and hunters.

Within this area, 15,479 acres (approximately 22 percent) are suitable for timber harvest.

The Management Area distribution within the Inventoried Roadless Area is:

Area	MA										
	Non-WMNF	2.1	2.1A	3.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	8.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
Wild River	222	9,640	0	12,060	3,488	38,954	880	1,071	0	0	5,035

*MAs 5.1 and 7.1 are not found in Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Appearance of the Area/Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The Inventoried Roadless Area landscape comprises two distinct areas. At the center is a broad river valley and its tributary streams, surrounded by moderate to steep mountains. Outside this central bowl is a peripheral area, with slopes leading from the ridge toward New Hampshire Route 16 to the west, Maine Route 113 to the east, and the East Branch drainage to the south. The vegetation appears as an unbroken canopy of mature trees of both conifer and hardwood species. The area is a naturally-appearing, mid-slope to ridgeline forested setting, with some bare rock outcrops and vistas. The numerous streams draining from the area dissect side slopes. The Inventoried Roadless Area is bordered by private land on its north and southeast boundaries. A segment of the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness lies across Route 113 to the east, and the Great Gulf Wilderness lies to the west, beyond but not abutting Route 16.

Scenic Integrity is an indication of the deviation from the naturally appearing landscape. Deviation is generally the result of vegetation management, other management activities, or natural events. A higher scenic integrity level indicates a more naturally appearing landscape.

Scenic Integrity	High	Low	Medium	N/A	Very High	Very Low
acres	24,691	0	5,434	908	39,249	1,723
% of IRA	34	0	8	1	55	2

Key Attractions

Outstanding scenery can be found along the streams in the area, including small canyons and rock overhangs. Carter Dome and the bare summit of North Baldface Mtn. are the two best-known landmarks in the area. The low-lying No. Ketchum Pond region and wide vistas of the surrounding mountains, Perkins Notch, Moriah Brook Gorge, and the Wild River are other notable features.

The White Mountain National Forest contains the most significant acres of alpine communities in the Northeast and eastern Canada. There are small alpine and sub-alpine communities found in this area.

The numerous peaks, some over 4,000 feet, the hut and shelters, the trail system, the vistas, Carter Lake, and remote fishing spots are all attractions in this Inventoried Roadless Area.

The Inventoried Roadless Area encompasses the headwaters of the Wildcat Wild and Scenic River.

**Wilderness
Capability**

Natural Integrity and Appearance

From a distance, the Inventoried Roadless Area is predominantly naturally-appearing. The casual observer would generally not be aware of past management activities. Upon closer scrutiny, the area shows residual impacts of past human activity as well as current roading and recreation facilities. An extensive network of old logging roads and railroad grades lace the area. There is a profusion of artifacts of logging activity, including remnants of the railroad and structures from the town of Hastings, in close proximity to the Wild River. There has been harvest activity in the Twin Brook area within the last 10-15 years. Near Imp Trail and adjacent to Conner Brook, there has been timber sales activity within the last 10 years.

There are impressive views of the Presidential Range from the AT at the Wildcat Ski Area to the west. Views to the northwest include substantial residential and commercial development associated with Gorham. Views to the north include a preponderance of private, heavily harvested timberlands and the Androscoggin River. The areas immediately adjacent to the AT corridor, the near view, appear natural. In the distance, the Mt. Washington Auto Road is visible, as well as all of the Mt. Washington summit buildings. Visitors to the Inventoried Roadless Area can hear and see the final section of the Cog Railway on Mt. Washington. The view from eastern sections of the Inventoried Roadless Area appear undeveloped. Small,

scattered sections of the forest have been harvested, but appear predominantly natural.

Removal of the hut and shelters would be difficult and controversial. The fire tower foundation on Carter Dome, and the debris scattered in the vegetation nearby, is a non-conforming remnant of previous human activity that could be considered for removal.

There are no known non-native species of flora or fauna in the area.

Harvest history during the last two decades within the Inventoried Roadless Area is summarized below:

Wild River	1983-1992		1993-2002	
Even Age	acres	% of IRA	acres	% of IRA
Regeneration	540	>1	16	>1
Intermediate	1,006	>1	50	>1
Uneven Age				
Regeneration	224	>1	330	>1
Intermediate	165	>1	109	>1
Total Harvest/Decade	1,935	3	505	1

Harvest Activity Descriptions:

- *Even Age Regeneration* harvest activities include Clearcuts, Patch Clearcuts, and Shelterwood Seed Cuts that result in natural regeneration in an Even-age system.
- *Even Age Intermediate* harvest includes Shelterwood Preparation, Shelterwood Removal or Thinning designed to enhance the growth and quality of the residual stand.
- *Uneven Age Regeneration* harvest includes Individual Tree or Group Selection harvest that result in natural regeneration in an Uneven Age System.
- *Uneven Age Intermediate* harvest develops a residual stand of Uneven Age structure.

The road density within the Inventoried Roadless Area is 0.15 miles of road per 1,000 acres.

Opportunities for Experiences Often Unique to Wilderness (e.g. solitude and challenge)

There are good opportunities for solitude in portions of the Inventoried Roadless Area that are away from the valley floor, the AT, and Routes 16 and 113. In these areas, dense vegetative screening and, especially in the central portion, the favorable topography enhance the sense of isolation and solitude.

During the busy summer periods, however, the AT and the huts and shelters attract heavy recreation use. In the winter months, Carter Notch Hut remains open in a self-serve capacity. There is extensive snowmobile use and associated noise and traffic near the boundaries of the area. There are other off-site intrusions, including highways, towns, Mt. Washington, and timber operations at lower elevations.

Wild River Road runs for five miles up-river from the valley bottom and terminates at a Forest Service campground. The ease of access, the campground, and the attractions of the river limit the opportunities for solitude along the valley bottom. In the winter months, snowmobilers use the valley floor along Route 113 and westward, between and parallel to Route 2 and the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary.

Several trails away from the AT could provide many days of solitary hiking, while the AT sees near-constant seasonal use from April through November.

In the winter months, Route 113 is closed, limiting use to snowmobilers, skiers, dog sledders, and snowshoers.

Rock and ice climbing at Basin Pond and elsewhere provide significant challenges within the area.

The climate, fast stream and river water, cliffs, steep slopes, low standard trails, and travel distance provide a challenging experience for visitors. The size of the area allows opportunities for expedition-type outings and the use of survival skills.

These recreation experiences and opportunities for solitude and challenge are not unique on the White Mountain National Forest, however, and are well-represented in other areas.

Approximately 55,178 acres, or 77 percent of the area, are designated as semi-primitive non-motorized core land.

Special Features (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, wildlife, and plants)

The Wildcat Wild and Scenic River is a special feature which includes 643 acres within the southeast portion of the area. Basin Pond is a unique area, including a campground and day use areas, that lies just outside the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary. The area offers several rock climbing and sight-seeing opportunities. Scenic Moriah Gorge, near the center of the area, is characterized by waterfalls and gorges. The Bald Face Mountains are unique in that they are barren peaks easily recognized from vistas throughout the White Mountains. Bonney Cave, near the Wild River climbing area, is another special feature. A portion of the Pinkham Notch Scenic Area, including part of the AT, is within the area, near its western boundary.

Incorporating low elevation softwood forest communities into a management area where natural processes predominate continues to attract interest. On the White Mountain National Forest, approximately 39,574 acres of softwood-capable lands are currently in this category. The Inventoried Roadless Area would contribute approximately an additional 13,166 acres of land capable of supporting low elevation softwood forest communities.

High quality northern hardwood forest products are an important niche for the White Mountain National Forest. The Inventoried Roadless Area includes 7,269 acres capable of supporting high quality northern hardwood forests.

There are scattered occurrences of rare plants throughout the White Mountain National Forest, and likely within this Inventoried Roadless Area. Regardless of MA designation, compliance with Forest-wide standards and guidelines provides adequate and effective protection of these species.

At the turn of the 20th century, much of the Wild River drainage was logged, and the timber removed by means of a railroad. A large forest fire in 1903 followed the logging. Though fire is not a natural ecological force in this area, it did greatly influence the existing vegetative composition. The loss of soil following the 1903 fire led to less productive sites, and consequently a change in species composition. In 1914, the land was acquired from the Hastings Lumber Company, and has recovered from the effects of those early activities. Only traces of the old railroad beds remain. Logging involving horses, and then-primitive truck roads, occurred during the 1950s and 1960s on about 7,000 acres, the largest timber sale in the history of the White Mountain National Forest.

Description (size, shape, and location) and Management Requirements

The boundaries of the Wild River Inventoried Roadless Area are generally distinct features which are easy to identify and advantageous for Wilderness management, but there are two distinct configurations. The roadless area borders roads with views upslope to the ridgetops. The central area, from the ridges to the Wild River Valley, would be more advantageous for Wilderness management. This central valley represents a well-defined bowl separated from roads and associated developments by the ridges. One exception to this central area is the Wild River Road into the locally-popular, 15-site Wild River Campground. While it would enhance Wilderness manageability to close and remove the road and campground improvements, it is anticipated that this would meet with strong opposition.

The boundary excludes the adjacent Wildcat Ski Area. This boundary alignment is unavoidable; it surrounds the ski area except for that portion along Route 16.

Other private lands bordering the Inventoried Roadless Area are primarily in residential status or in forest management.

Boundary Conditions

Boundary changes should be considered that provide some distance from major roads and high use areas.

Wilderness management of the Inventoried Roadless Area would be enhanced if Wild River Road were closed, creating a more cohesive management unit. This proposal would, however, meet with strong public resistance, as use patterns, including vehicle access along this road and to the Wild River Campground and adjacent fishing opportunities, are well established.

The AT could be excluded with Wilderness designated on either side of the AT. However, this would create a narrow slice of Wilderness disconnected from any surrounding Wilderness, and cause impractical management situations. Visitors would travel from non-Wilderness through Wilderness, through the non-Wilderness AT, and then back into Wilderness. This approach does not present a viable management solution to the challenges of incompatible uses.

Availability for
Wilderness
Designation

Recreation, Including Tourism

The Carter Notch Hut and six other shelters and tent platforms in the Inventoried Roadless Area would be non-conforming structures, and may be considered for removal. Mountain biking and fixed anchor rock climbing on new climbs would be non-conforming activities if the Inventoried Roadless Area were designated as Wilderness. The Moriah Brook Bridge, 2.5 miles within the Inventoried Roadless Area boundary, crosses the Wild River. It would be a non-conforming structure and would be considered for removal.

Wildlife and Fish

Designation of an individual roadless area as Wilderness would likely cause little change to populations of wildlife and plants. Although Wilderness designation may alter site-specific habitat conditions, these changes would not independently warrant either Wilderness designation or retention of roadless area designation.

Aspen and paper birch are important tree species for wildlife and are rapidly declining across the Forest. They require frequent disturbance (generally timber harvest or fire) to maintain the regeneration stem densities preferred by many wildlife species. In the management areas that currently allow timber harvest, this Inventoried Roadless Area contains 62 stands of aspen/paper birch totaling 1,599 acres (or 2.2 percent of the Forest total). Loss of these stands (e.g., as a result of Wilderness designation) might cause local wildlife shifts, but would result in no effect to larger wildlife populations because the acreage is such a small proportion of the total on the White Mountain National Forest.

There are 8 wildlife openings, totaling approximately 35 acres, currently being maintained in this area; these would no longer be maintained if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness.

This Inventoried Roadless Area contains at least one deeryard. Timber harvest is often prescribed to maintain suitable stand conditions for wintering deer. Designation of this area as Wilderness would prohibit such management options, and may result eventually in the reduced suitability of the deeryard. Because the most limiting factor for deer in northern New England is winter cover, overwinter survival may, therefore, be diminished locally.

The Wild River is stocked annually with brook trout. This activity, while not regulated by the Forest Service, may be a non-conforming use if the Inventoried Roadless Area was designated as Wilderness.

Conditions suitable for lynx habitat occur throughout this area. Lynx require, among other factors, abundant snowshoe hare densities in order to persist. Snowshoe hare, in turn, require vegetative disturbances (e.g., timber harvest) and subsequent revegetation. Curtailing vegetation management in this

Inventoried Roadless Area may reduce the snowshoe hare populations on which lynx depend.

Water Availability and Use

Water originating in this Inventoried Roadless Area's watershed is used in public water supplies. No adverse change in water quality is anticipated if the Inventoried Roadless Area were to be designated as Wilderness. The Inventoried Roadless Area is a municipal water intake for Camp Dodge, an AMC operated facility under permit from the Forest Service, serving hundreds of seasonal users. There is also a small dam and penstock on 19-mile Brook that is operated by Great Glen Trails for their use.

The Inventoried Roadless Area contains several main tributaries to the Androscoggin River. It fully contains the portions of the Wildcat Wild and Scenic River located on National Forest lands.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There is no livestock use of the area.

Timber stand improvement prescriptions have been implemented in this Inventoried Roadless Area within the previous two decades (see Natural Integrity and Appearance, above). These prescriptions, and the costs associated with their implementation, facilitated the growth of high quality sawlogs intended for future harvest. Wilderness designation of the Inventoried Roadless Areas would preclude the recovery of these investments, as well as ultimately preclude harvest on 15,479 acres of suitable land.

There is a two to three acre pile of blasted rock rubble remaining from past mineral activity at the Baldface Mine site.

There is no current mining activity, and there are no applications on file with the White Mountain National Forest for commercial mineral removal from this area. There are no mineral rights reservations in this area. There is incidental hobby collecting in the area.

Cultural Resources

Completed heritage surveys have focused on above-ground resource discovery in support of specific White Mountain National Forest project compliance with NEPA and NHPA Section 106. Heritage surveys completed to date have not focused on subsurface testing.

Within the area, 43 Registered Cultural Sites, all historic, have been identified. Approximately 2 percent of the proposed area has received some heritage survey. Especially interesting for management are the Imp Shelter (AMC), Perkins Notch Shelter, Rattle River Shelter, Blue Brook Shelter, Spruce Brook Shelter, and McKeen Cemetery. Carter Notch Hut (AMC) has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register (11/4/97). Built in 1914, it stands as perhaps the least altered of any of the AMC huts from that general time period.

Land Uses

There is an existing “Warden’s Cabin” (the relocated Spider Camp) on the Wild River near the Spruce Brook Shelter. This access was deeded to the NH Fish and Game Department and recorded in 1973.

There are no other known rights of way, pipelines, electronic sites, or special uses that would require modification should the area be designated as Wilderness.

Management Considerations (fire, insects/disease, and non-federal lands)

The risk of fire in this Inventoried Roadless Area is considered low. The need for prescribed fire would be limited to its possible use in maintaining wildlife openings

The risk of insects and disease is currently considered to be low. There is no foreseen need for control of insects and disease; however, as trees reach maturity, their susceptibility increases.

There are no anticipated effects of Wilderness designation to non-federal land management surrounding the area.

**Site-Specific
Wilderness
Evaluation**

Approximately 44 percent of comments received in response to the White Mountain National Forest Forest Plan revision NOI addressed roadless areas. Of these, 796, or more than 5 percent of all comments, commented specifically on this area. Ninety percent of the comments on this Inventoried Roadless Area indicated that the area should be protected as Wilderness, and an organization has formed to actively solicit support for Wilderness designation. Several opposing comments advocated retention of road access and argued against Wilderness designation.

The area is well suited for backcountry activities, including hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, rock climbing, and snowmobiling. The Inventoried Roadless Area is representative of the broad range of human activity and interaction with the White Mountain National Forest. It contains a portion of the AT, other lesser-known trails, several shelters, and a long history of resource use and extraction. The Inventoried Roadless Area is adjacent to a developed ski area (Wildcat) and a locally-popular developed campground, and is circumscribed by a federal highway (US Route 2) and several state and Forest roads, as well as several important snowmobile trails. Portions of the Inventoried Roadless Area offer opportunities for solitude, while other areas are heavily traveled and impacted by visitor use. While this Inventoried Roadless Area is representative of much of the White Mountain National Forest, other Forest Wilderness areas offer a more pristine landscape. Non-conforming uses, notably huts and shelters, as well as encroachment from activity related to adjacent roads, bridges, the campground, and the ski area, offer significant challenges to Wilderness management.

The AT is more appropriately managed to provide backcountry, rather than “Wilderness,” experiences. The AT’s high level of hiker traffic and history of non-conforming uses do not meet the criteria for Wilderness with regard to maximizing primitive character and providing solitude while minimizing human presence. Designation of this Inventoried Roadless Area, with the noted boundary changes to exclude the AT as suggested above, would provide only one manageable Wilderness, the central bowl.

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