

Media Advisory
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**Appalachian Mountain Club Representatives Available
To Comment on White Mountain National Forest Management Plan**

The U.S. Forest Service is slated to release its proposed management plan for the White Mountain National Forest between Nov. 18 and Nov. 25.

Following release of that plan, representatives of the Appalachian Mountain Club will be available to comment on the plan's recommendations. The plan is intended to guide management decisions on the forest, which spans the border of New Hampshire and Maine, over the next 10 to 15 years. The plan is expected to recommend acreage to be designated as Wilderness and to lay out guidelines for recreation and timber management on the national forest.

AMC's role in the White Mountain National Forest

The Appalachian Mountain Club was among the most ardent supporters for the creation of the White Mountain National Forest, which was enabled through the Weeks Act of 1911.

As the nation's oldest conservation and recreation organization, the AMC works in partnership with the White Mountain National Forest to provide trail maintenance, educational programs, scientific research, backcountry lodging, search and rescue assistance, and a wide range of visitor and information services for national forest visitors. AMC operates seven mountain huts, the Camp Dodge volunteer center, and Pinkham Notch Visitor Center for use by the public, under special-use permits from the Forest Service. The AMC is also publisher of the "AMC White Mountain Guide," and recently released its first forest-wide White Mountain National Forest recreation map.

AMC's staff includes experts on forest ecology, hiking trail maintenance, outdoor education, land conservation, roadless areas in the WMNF, and other topics who are available to speak with media representatives on national forest management issues.

What's At Stake

The forest plan will set the direction for the future management of the 796,400-acre forest, a landscape that is managed for such multiple uses as outdoor recreation, timber

harvesting, Wilderness area management, watershed protection, and wildlife habitat management.

Some of the specific questions expected to be addressed in this plan include:

- What additional lands in the White Mountain National Forest should be recommended for Wilderness designation?
- How much of the forest should be available for timber harvesting?
- Should all-terrain vehicles be allowed in the White Mountain National Forest?

AMC is particularly focused on opportunities a new forest plan can provide to:

- Help conserve large, wild landscapes
- Appropriately balance multiple uses on the national forest
- Protect the values that provide for high-quality human-powered recreation in the national forest.

Please contact AMC Public Affairs Director Rob Burbank at (603) 466-2721, ext. 195 for more information, or to set up an interview. For background on the AMC and White Mountain National Forest issues, see: www.outdoors.org/conservation.