

White Mountain National Forest



WMNF manages ~800,000 acres in New Hampshire and Maine



WMNF Lands

- 400-6000' elevation
- Several broad forest types
- <1% under age 10
- 51% mature, 38% old



Multiple Use Mandate

- Biodiversity
- Clean Water/Air
- Timber
- Recreation
- Heritage
- Scenery



LSOG Goals?

Late-successional and old growth forest are not specifically identified as management goals



Goals Benefiting LSOG

- Keep majority of WMNF in high quality mature and old forest habitat
- Increase amount of spruce-fir forest
- Maintain/enhance within-habitat features and processes
- Provide a natural-appearing and visually pleasing landscape

LSOG Strategies



- Reserves
- Retention
- Restoration

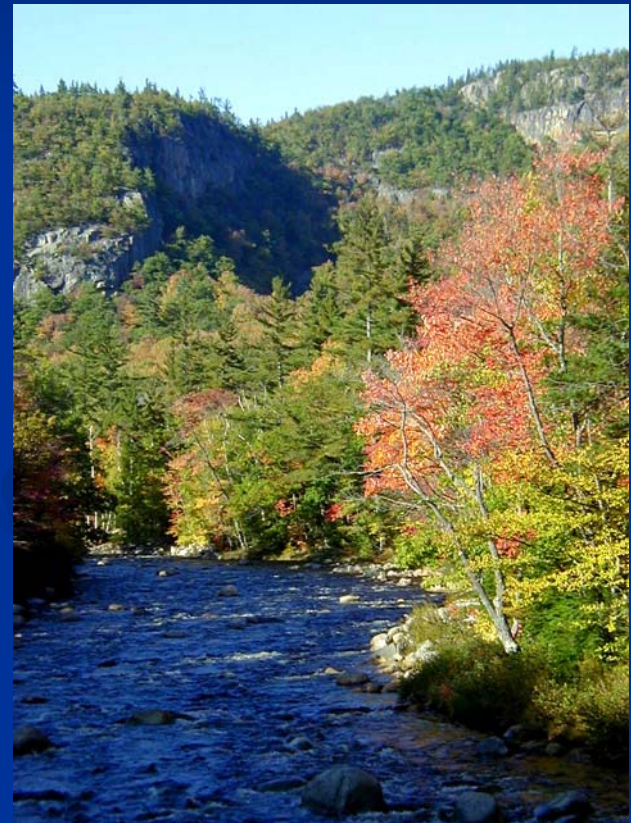
Reserves

- 53% of WMNF in allocations that prohibit timber harvest (420,000+ acres)
- Largely higher elevations; about 27% is lower elevation lands
- Majority of Forest's spruce-fir and aspen-birch, half of mixedwood, >1/3 of hardwoods
- 90% of reserve areas are mature or old forest

Retention / Restoration

Harvest prohibited in:

- Old growth
- 25' buffer on perennial streams, ponds, vernal pools
- >20% unsuitable for harvest



Retention / Restoration

In areas allowing harvest, need to retain:

- Largest snags, cavity trees, and logs
 - Uncut patches in even-aged regeneration
 - Individual trees or patches in other treatments
- Species diversity
- Structural diversity
- Rare species and important habitat features



Challenges

- Retention in areas allowing harvest
 - Identifying most important features at stand level
 - Uneven-aged management and thinning entries
- Retaining an effective harvest program
 - Public understanding of LSOG – biodiversity – harvest connections
- Balance across landscape

