



White Mountain National Forest

*A wonderful place to visit...
any time of the year*

Welcome!

Welcome to the White Mountain National Forest! The landscape ranges from mountainous hardwood forests to majestic alpine peaks. Come experience the breathtaking scenery, clear mountain lakes and streams, wildlife, and outdoor recreation opportunities year round.

What is a National Forest?

National Forests were established to provide clean water sources and continuing forest resources for the nation while protecting and managing the land for future generations. The Forest Service manages these public lands to conserve resources through a balance of activities and uses, including wildlife habitat, Wilderness, recreation, clean water, timber and forest products. Each National Forest is part of the larger National Forest System that includes more than 150 Forests from Alaska to Puerto Rico. Each is yours to enjoy.

History of the White Mountain National Forest

The White Mountain National Forest was established in 1918 after public outcry over uncontrolled logging and fires forced passage of the Weeks Act in 1911, allowing the federal government to purchase private land east of the Mississippi River. Today, the Forest has grown to almost 800,000 acres in New Hampshire and western Maine, and is one of the most popular in the country — with upwards of 6 million visitors annually. The White Mountain National Forest is within a day's drive of 70 million people.

FOREST FEATURES

Mt. Washington is the highest peak north of the Smokey Mountains and east of the Mississippi River. You can see more than 100 miles from the top on a clear day.

Heritage comes alive through the historic Brickett Place in Stow, ME, and Russell Colbath Homestead in Albany, NH.

White Mountain Trail Scenic Byway provides scenic driving through the heart of the White Mountains.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Ranger Station

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Forest Facts

Recreation

Recreation activities draw visitors to the White Mountain National Forest year round. People enjoy

- 1200 miles of hiking trails
- 400 miles of snowmobile trails
- 160 miles of the Appalachian Trail
- 23 developed campgrounds
- 6 ski touring areas
- 4 alpine ski areas

Wilderness

There are six Congressionally designated Wildernesses totaling 149,500 acres.

Water

Protecting and ensuring the quality of water resources is a priority. The forest continuously restores and revitalizes the vast water resources, including

- 12,000 acres of wetlands
- 4,750 miles of streams
- 67 lakes
- 35 watersheds

Wildlife, Fish, and Plants

The White Mountain National Forest provides habitat for

- Federally listed Threatened and Endangered plants and animals.
- Big and small game such as moose, white tail deer and ruffed grouse.
- Almost 200 species of birds, including Bicknell's Thrush, considered one of the of the top priority species for conservation. The National Forest has the largest block of breeding habitat for Bicknell's Thrush in the northeast.
- Partnerships with natural resource agencies and conservation and sportsmen groups are an important part of habitat management.