



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

White Mountain National Forest
Androscoggin and Evans Notch
Ranger Districts

300 Glen Road
Gorham, NH 03581-1399
Comm: (603) 466-2713
TTD: (603) 466-2856

File code: 1950-1

Date: March 9, 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to invite you to comment on the Dolly Copp Campground Rehabilitation Project. This project is being considered as a way to maintain and improve developed camping experiences within the Dolly Copp Campground by repairing failing water systems, toilet buildings, administrative facilities, and roads. Dolly Copp is located on lands managed by the White Mountain National Forest in the unincorporated township of Martin's Location, Coos County, New Hampshire. A detailed description of the Proposed Action, project area maps and instructions for how you can comment are included in the enclosed Scoping Report.

This document is also posted on our White Mountain National Forest web page:
www.fs.fed.us/r9/white.

I am interested in receiving your comments about our proposal, including any information about the project area that could help us improve our plans. Please be specific to the proposal and area described in the enclosed Scoping Report. Our environmental analysis will consider your comments as well as those provided by a Forest Service interdisciplinary team. Your comments are due by April 13, 2009.

I appreciate the time you take to review and comment on our project proposal. Please also take a minute to fill out and return the attached Response Form to help us manage our mailings and to meet your needs to remain informed about this project.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the White Mountain National Forest.

Sincerely,

/S/. KATHERINE W. STUART

KATHERINE W. STUART
District Ranger



White Mountain National Forest



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Eastern
Region



Dolly Copp Campground Rehabilitation Project

30-Day Public Comment Package

Town of Martin's Location

Coos County, NH

Androscoggin Ranger District

March 2009



For Information Contact: Tom Moore
Androscoggin Ranger District
White Mountain National Forest
300 Glen Rd
Gorham, NH 03581
Telephone 603 466-2713 ext 226
FAX 603 466-2856

Cover: Youthful campers. Back of photo reads: "July 1939 — Around campfire at Dolly Copp camp site on a very, very cold night."

Historical photos are courtesy of the Forest History Society, and of Jon Chew, Beacon Falls, CT, whose Dolly Copp web site is listed in the Literature Cited on page 10.

Figure 1. Postcard photo of Dolly Copp Campground.



**This document is available in large print.
Contact the
Androscoggin Ranger District
Phone 603 466-2713
TTY 603 466-2856**

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1 Purpose and Need

This Chapter outlines the Purpose and Need for Action and the agency’s proposal for achieving the Purpose and Need.

1.1 Introduction

One of the largest campgrounds in the National Forest System — and one of the most popular on the White Mountain National Forest — Dolly Copp Campground provides an ideal setting to offer a wide range of services to accommodate variations in visitor preferences without compromising the character of a National Forest campground — a place where rustic, secluded tent sites and more highly developed RV sites can easily coexist as they have for years.

However, major infrastructure components are falling into significant disrepair; especially the water and road systems and the existing toilet buildings (only one of which is universally accessible). District program managers identified the maintenance and repair of the Dolly Copp Campground as a priority need. Capital investment is required to respond to the short- and long-term needs, and action is required in recognition of changing demographics and visitor expectations

This document outlines our proposal to address this priority. You and other interested parties and stakeholders are formally invited to engage in the management of your National Forest and provide your comments, concerns, and ideas to assist with the decision making process for the rehabilitation of the Dolly Copp Campground.

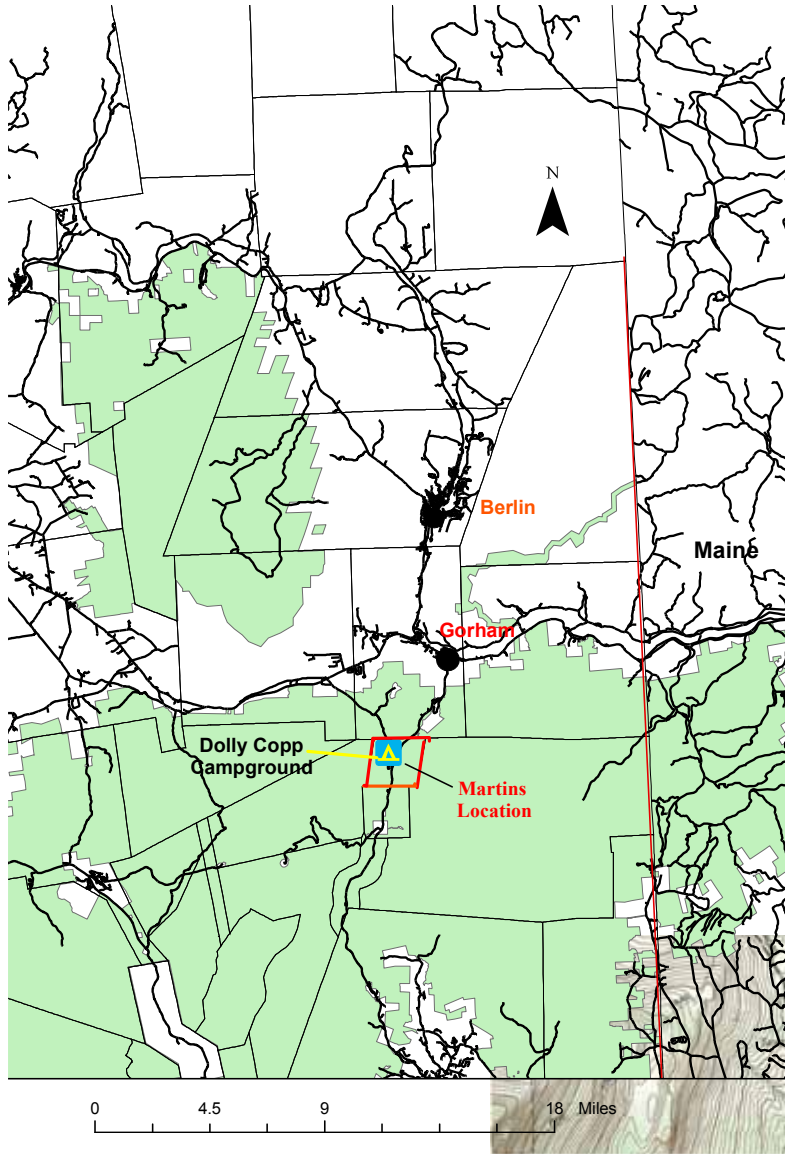
Project Area and Background

Dolly Copp Campground is located in Martin’s Location, Coos County, New Hampshire, on land that was homesteaded by settlers in the early and mid 1800s. Informal camping began to occur in the late 1800s and continued through the early part of the 1900s. In 1915, the Forest Service built a large fireplace (see Figure 2) and two toilets were provided.



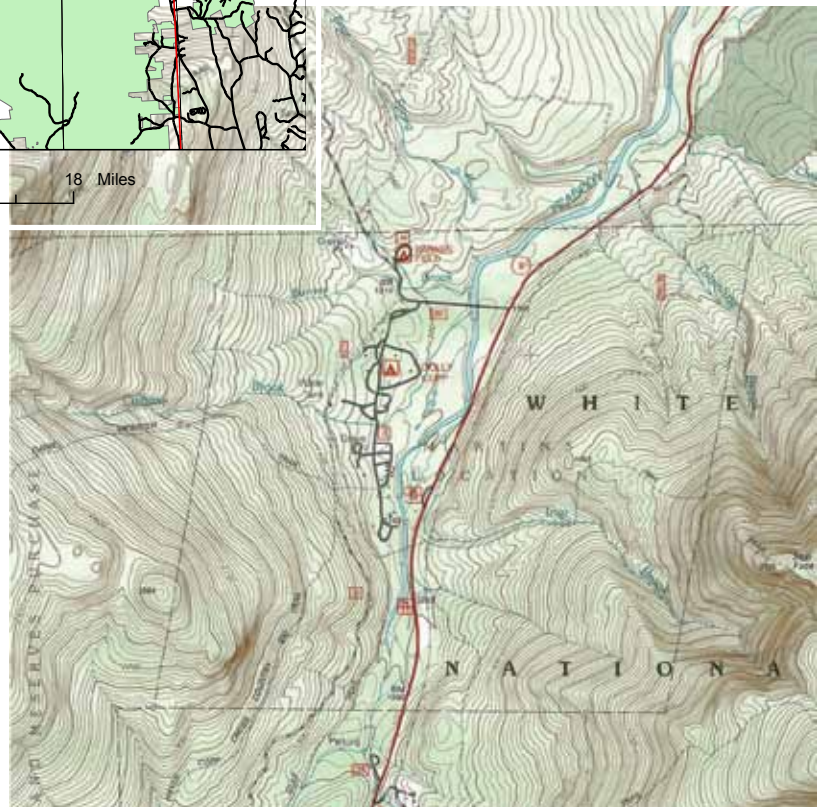
Figure 2. Large fireplace ca. 1915. Xeno Fontaine of the CCC stands at left. At right is Ranger Horace C. Currier (1879-1943) for whom Currier Mountain in the Dartmouth Range was named.

White Mountain National Forest — Androscoggin Ranger District



Map 1 (left). Project Area Vicinity.

Map 2 (below). Dolly Copp Campground Vicinity.



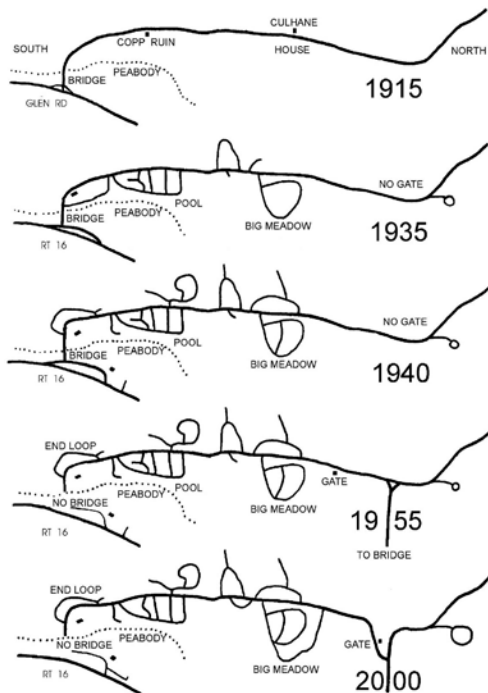


Figure 3. Dolly Copp Campground development, 1915–2000.

During the next 90 years, the campground continued to evolve as public demand for services and social and economic influences have affected site operations, services, site development, and campground management.

The land use history of Dolly Copp is well documented in the stories and folklore of determined settlers. It ranges from utilitarian activities like milling logs into lumber at a sawmill constructed along the adjacent Peabody River, to a campground offering memories for generations of families and campers who continue their traditions and return to Dolly Copp year after year. Dolly Copp is a place of special meaning for many, and over time, as land use has changed and recreation use has grown, the campground has evolved into what it is today: a destination and flagship campground.

Today, the facility includes 177 campsites along 3.5 miles of multiple loop roads and spurs, 12 flush toilet buildings, a historic log “visitor center,” a group campfire location, two trailheads, a nature trail, a gate house, an administrative service area, and housing for seasonal employees.

There is a pressurized water system with three wells and a holding tank. Grid electric power is available and runs to all 12 toilet buildings, as well as to the visitor center, gate house, and service/seasonal housing buildings. The campground is operated by a private concessionaire under a special use permit.

The site is a mix of open, grassy areas and hardwood and softwood stands. The Peabody River flows along the east side of the site, and Culhane Brook, which divides the campground roughly into northern and southern sections, continues to flow into the Peabody River. A vegetation management project was recently completed (January, 2009) in the area north of Culhane Brook to remove hazard trees, to perpetuate paper birch and aspen in the eastern half of the campground, and for softwood regeneration in the western half.

1.2 Purpose of and Need for Action

The purpose for action is to maintain and improve opportunities for a range of high-quality developed camping experiences in a scenic and historic location. The need for action is driven by the poor and failing condition of the water system, toilet buildings, and roads, as well as the lack of services many visitors find desirable such as a dump station and showers. Many road corridors and camping spurs are inadequate to accommodate modern vehicle sizes. Providing suitable RV accommodations improves our ability to recruit volunteers who assist with District programs.

1.3 Decision to be Made

The Androscoggin District Ranger, the Responsible Official, will consider comments received from the public during this 30-day comment period, in addition to information provided by resource specialists during the environmental analysis. This information will be acquired and used to inform project design, and

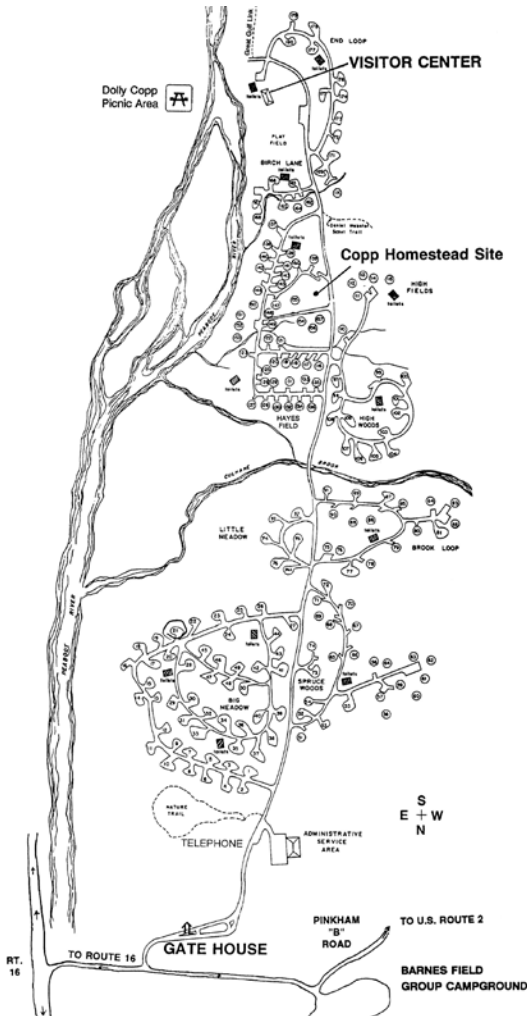


Figure 4 (left). Campground site map.

Figure 5 (above). 1908 post card of the Dolly Copp Campground.

Figure 6 (below). Dolly Copp Forest Camp and Imp Face 1920s



help make an informed decision on how to best proceed, or not to proceed, with the rehabilitation of the Dolly Copp Campground.

Specifically, the Deciding Official will make the following decisions:

- Which alternatives would best meet the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action while still maintaining consistency with the Forest Plan?
- Which alternatives would best address relevant issues raised by the public and Forest Service specialists?
- Which alternatives provides the least impact to Forest resources while still meeting the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action?

1.4 Public Involvement-30-Day Comment Package

The Forest Service has prepared this 30-Day Comment Package in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Appeals Reform Act of 1993 (ARA), and other relevant federal laws and regulations. This analysis is also tiered to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the 2005 White Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). This comment package discloses the proposed actions, alternatives, and potential issues related to the proposed action.

This Public Comment package is not the completed environmental analysis as it does not analyze the effects of the proposed action and alternatives yet it is similar to Chapters 1 and 2 of an Environmental Assessment (EA). The full analysis of environmental effects will be released in an EA when completed.

This document will be posted on our web page <www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white_mountain>. This project was also listed in the quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) for the White Mountain National Forest, in January, 2009.

Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR 215 dated 6/4/2003) direct us to “provide notice of the opportunity to comment on a proposed action implementing the land and resource management plan” for a 30-day period. This document is your opportunity to provide comments that might guide us in the completion of an environmental analysis document for the Dolly Copp Campground Rehabilitation Project.

A legal notice of the Public Comment Period and availability of this document is being published in the *New Hampshire Union Leader* and the *Lewiston Sun Journal*. This document is being mailed to persons on our mailing list who have expressed interest in overall Forest-wide projects, wildlife habitat, special uses, and recreation projects. Also, it is being mailed to state resource agencies, local outdoor clubs, local selectmen, a sampling of people who recreate at the Dolly Copp Campground, and adjacent landowners.

Comments about the proposed action and alternative should include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 215.2). Comments may be addressed to Katherine W. Stuart, 300 Glen Road, Gorham NH 03581. If you would like additional information or maps, please contact our office at (603) 466-2713.

If you wish to reference scientific literature in your comment letter, please send a copy of the entire reference you have cited, or attach it in an e-mail, and include rationale as to how you feel it is pertinent to the Dolly Copp Rehabilitation Project.

The completed decision documents will be made available by mail to all who respond during the public comment period, email, or available to all parties on the Forest web page <www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white_mountain>.

If you use electronic mail to submit comments during the Public Comment Period, we will assume that you will accept electronic notification of the completion of additional documents on our web site.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must provide the following with their comments: 1) name and address; 2) title of the proposed

action; 3) Sspecific comments on the proposed action along with supporting reasons the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision; and 4) signature or other verification of identity.

1.5 Issues

No resource issues have been identified at this time. There may be public concern for proposed development changes and concerns for protection of the cultural resources of this site. On-going field examinations, monitoring, and discussion among resource specialists, local governments, and the public will help the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) analyze these concerns and address them in the environmental analysis that will be shared concurrently with a Forest Service Design Team as they move forward with specific project design components.

Concerns can be addressed through project design and development. Concerns that cannot be resolved in this manner may be identified as “issues” and used to develop alternatives to the Proposed Action.



Figure 7. Dolly Copp campers; Imp Face in background. Photo from *The New Hampshire Troubadour*, August 1949.

2 Alternatives

This chapter provides a description of the agency’s Proposed Action, as well as alternative methods for achieving the stated purpose.

2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

While this alternative does not meet the Purpose and Need for Action, it does provide a basis for analyzing the effects of conducting no management activities in the project area, and comparing these effects with alternatives that do propose management activities.

The campground infrastructure would continue to degrade while public use continues. Ongoing maintenance work would continue. Choosing this alternative would not preclude proposing activities in this area later.

2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

This alternative is designed to respond to the Purpose and Need for Action by providing a wide range of recreational opportunities; managing the transportation system to meet administrative and public needs; providing for public health, safety, and sanitation; addressing resource concerns; and meeting Forest Plan goals.

The Proposed Action is to:

- Reconstruct failing water and wastewater systems.
- Realign and reconstruct the degraded paved road system, including replacement of one bridge and multiple culverts to better accommodate modern vehicle weights and sizes.
- Improve road and water systems to accommodate pedestal service hookups for at least two major campground loops; and install subsurface electrical and water lines to these sites.
- Install one sanitary dump station.
- Repair and upgrade up to nine toilet buildings; convert up to three remaining toilet buildings to include shower facilities.
- Repair and improve multiple campsites and minor constructed features.
- Re-grade the paved area in front of the shop administration building to enable water to drain away from the facility.

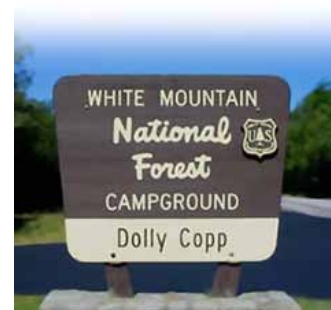
In addition to public comments, the Androscoggin District is considering these items during project design and development of the final proposed action:

- Consider improvements and renovations for the seasonal employee housing facilities.
- Retain the basic layout of the campground. Addition/removal of loops or general redesign of the existing layout is not viewed as necessary at this time.
 - Some adjustment of camping loop alignments or re-organization of sites within the loops may be appropriate.

Figure 8. “Dolly Copp Forest Camp” — 1930s entrance sign.



Figure 9. Entrance sign today.



- Retain a mix of grassy fields and wooded areas. Retain a number of water-side and walk-in sites.
- Retain log “visitor center” building and protect Copp homestead site.
- Install pedestal hookups for electricity and water only on loops on the eastern side of the campground, and not within the interior of Hayes Field.
- Retain site style and density within High Woods, Brook Loop, and Spruce Woods. The majority of sites should retain their current size, though some smaller sites (such as #51 and #53) may be appropriate for expansion.
- Develop between five and ten sites with hookups for use by District volunteers. Possible locations could include the vicinity of the seasonal quarters, behind the garage/administrative site with access from FR 72, or the vicinity of the nature trail east of the main entrance road.
- Consider what number of toilet and proposed shower facilities best serve the campground, especially given the changed condition of added service pedestals in certain loops. Consideration of alternative waste treatment systems may be appropriate.
- Consider locating the dump station near the entry/administrative service area.
- Consider the installation of a fence or improved natural screening between main entry road and the administrative service area.
- Nature trail could be renovated or relocated.
- Consider potential for limited parking to serve the Daniel Webster Scout trailhead, possibly on the east side of the main road.

4 Literature Cited

For a thorough historical review of the Dolly Copp Campground visit: <www.dollycopp.com/dollycopp1.php>

USDA. Forest Service. 2005a. Land and Resource Management Plan. Laconia, NH. USDA. Forest Service, Eastern Region, White Mountain National Forest.

USDA. Forest Service. 2005b. Environmental Impact Statement: White Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Laconia, NH. USDA. Forest Service, Eastern Region, White Mountain National Forest..

USDA. Forest Service, 2005d. Forest Plan Revision. Rationale for Developed Recreation Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines. Laconia, New Hampshire, pp18 and 30.

5 Response Form

Let us know if you want to stay informed about this project

If you do not return this form or contact us, you will be removed from this project mailing list (but you would remain on the master list for future projects).

To Stay Informed as the Dolly Copp Campground Environmental Analysis Continues:

Please Choose either Part A – OR – Part B

A. Email notification

Send e-mail notification when the Dolly Copp Campground Rehabilitation Project Environmental Assessment and final decision documents are available at <www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white_mountain/projects/projects>

My email address is:

You can request hardcopy documents after viewing them online if necessary.

B. Project Information by Mail

Check the notices you want to receive in the mail:

A letter that the Final Environmental Assessment and final decision documents are available

Or, chose to receive the full the **documents** in the mail:

Final decision documents (30+ pages)

Final Environmental Assessment (100+ pages)

Please print clearly or affix a return address label:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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