

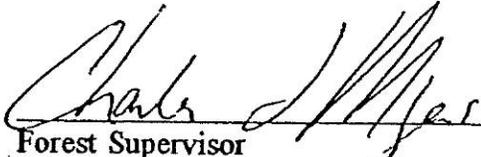
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
THE ROBBINS' CINQUEFOIL (*POTENTILLA ROBBINSIANA*)

The signatory parties to this Memorandum of Understanding mutually affirm the goal of sustaining a viable population of Robbins' cinquefoil (*Potentilla robbinsiana*) in the State of New Hampshire. To ensure the long-term conservation of this endemic species, these parties agree to protect, manage, and monitor Robbins' cinquefoil within its occupied and potential habitat on the White Mountain National Forest (Forest). An Oversight Committee with representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service will be established to review the Forest's protection efforts for this plant and its habitat. Management of the Robbins' cinquefoil populations and habitat will be governed by measures set forth in the most current Robbins' Cinquefoil Recovery Plan (as reflected in the Conservation Plan Measures that are included in this Memorandum of Understanding) coupled with existing management standards and guidelines established in the White Mountain Nation Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the advice of the Committee and the following parameters:

1. Essential Habitat -- Habitat designated as essential for Robbins' cinquefoil, specifically the habitat required to support Monroe Flats and isolated, self-sustaining populations as described in the recovery plan, will receive long-term protection on the Forest irrespective of the species' legal standing under the Endangered Species Act.
2. Monitoring -- In order to evaluate the effectiveness of protection and management efforts, as well as the species' long-term stability, a long-term monitoring program has been designed. The Committee will review and initiate the long-term monitoring by FY 95. Monitoring to assess stability and recruitment will be conducted at the four existing transplant locations: Graber's Camel Patch on Mt. Washington, the Franconia Ridge site, Boott Spur, and the Viewing Garden. If any or all of these transplant efforts show evidence of being self-sustaining over the long term, they will be afforded protection commensurate to that as stipulated in parameter 1.
3. The Committee will review proposed research and management activities that may affect Robbins' cinquefoil or its habitat on the Forest, oversee implementation of the conservation measures described in this Memorandum and otherwise contribute to the long-term conservation of this species.
4. After evaluating proposed activities that may affect Robbins' cinquefoil or its essential habitat, the Committee will render opinions and recommendations regarding such proposals. These conclusions will be considered and made part of the public record by the Forest Service in its decision-making process as to whether

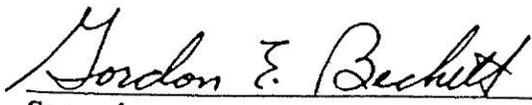
to proceed with a given activity. The Forest Service will supply project data, survey results, and biological information concerning proposed activities as early in the work planning process as possible. In turn, the Committee will be expeditious in its consideration of these proposals.

The Forest Service agrees to carry out these management measures, with the assistance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, both through the recovery period, and if and when Robbins' cinquefoil is removed from the list of federally endangered animals and plants, subsequent to the plant's delisting. The implementation of this Memorandum, which reflects the full protection Robbins' cinquefoil now receives, as well as the species' apparently stable status, should enable delisting of this species by the year 2000. The change in the species' legal status will not affect the Forest's commitment to implement management programs to promote long-term conservation of this sensitive species irrespective of its standing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. As recovery proceeds toward the species' delisting, this Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed and modified as necessary to ensure the continued conservation of the Robbins' cinquefoil based on the best possible scientific knowledge and understanding of its role in the ecosystem. In the spirit of the continued conservation of the Robbins' cinquefoil, once the species has been removed from the Federal list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, it should be retained on the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List in Region 9 of the Forest Service. This Memorandum of Understanding constitutes a long-term commitment to conservation of this important plant species.



Forest Supervisor
White Mountain National Forest
U.S. Forest Service

12/2/94
Date



Supervisor
New England Field Offices
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

12/2/94
Date

Conservation Plan Measures

1. Habitat Maintenance -- Robbins' cinquefoil is a long-lived perennial alpine plant endemic to the White Mountains with both a naturally restricted distribution and population size. The sole remaining viable population, is restricted to a barren 0.8 ha turf-banked alpine habitat with a southerly exposure that stays free of accumulated snow. Suitable potential habitat is scarce. Management activities will be designed to provide or perpetuate the appropriate habitat features for the species. Activities might include, but not be limited to, seed collection and germination, seed storage, and transplant of propagated plants to recolonize areas within the essential Monroe Flats habitat.
2. Protection from Take -- Robbins' cinquefoil must be vigorously protected against human disturbance, including specimen collecting and unregulated hiker disturbance, with the exception of scientific purposes for which a permit has been granted. Directing trail use away from the natural population and conducting patrols to prevent inadvertent disturbance will continue. Permitted scientific purposes may include research on its ecology with direct benefits for the long-term protection of this species. Collection of specimens for educational uses is not allowed.
3. Training for U.S. Forest Service and Other Personnel -- White Mountain National Forest and other appropriate personnel will be given training by knowledgeable personnel on the biology, habitat, threats, and management of the Robbins' cinquefoil. Workshops will be conducted as needed, particularly for new personnel.
4. Education and Interpretation -- The natural history of a rare plant such as Robbins' cinquefoil should be an important part of the Forest's public educational process. A number of techniques have been used to educate the hiking public and the scientific community about Robbins' cinquefoil. These activities will be subject to periodic review by the Committee to re-assess their efficacy. In general, the life history and current status of this plant on the Forest will be incorporated into materials explaining the natural history and management procedures for all sensitive species on the Forest as well as the importance of conservation efforts on behalf of the Forest's biodiversity and of the many uses of the Forest itself. Information on the rarity of the plant, its habitat, and the fragility of the community will be provided to educate the public about possible impacts of their activities.
5. Recreation -- Dispersed recreational uses such as hiking, hunting, backpacking, picnicking, and photography, in the general vicinity of Robbins' cinquefoil habitat may be compatible with the long-term conservation of the species, as long as activity within the plant's essential habitat is completely restricted. Access for approved activities in the vicinity of Robbins' cinquefoil will be restricted to existing trails per recovery plan specifications.