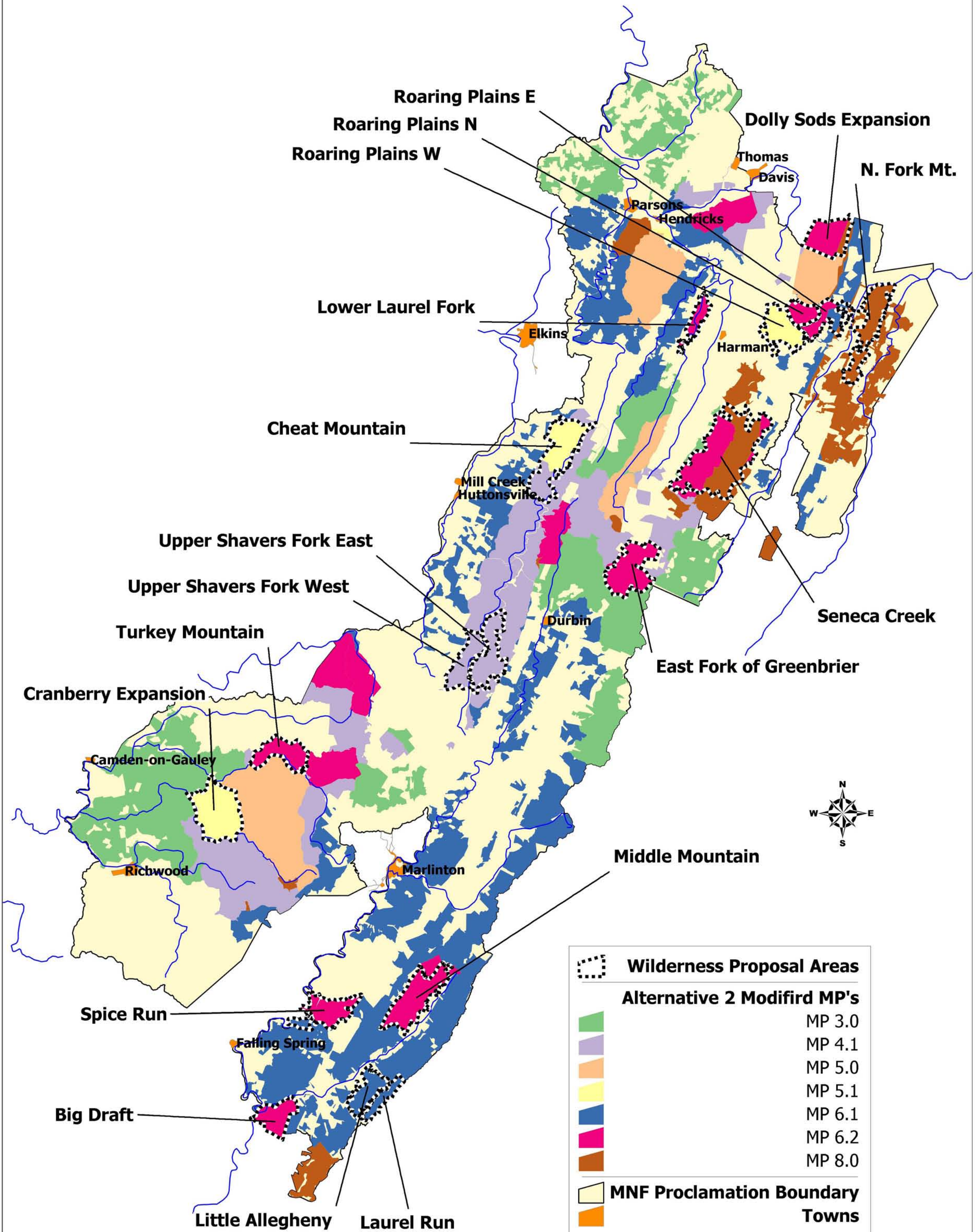


ALTERNATIVE 2 MODIFIED MPs



Management Prescriptions

Management Prescriptions (MPs) were assigned to National Forest System lands based roughly on category descriptions that the Forest Service has developed at the national level. The MPs represent management emphasis themes, ranging from areas with little or no development, such as Designated Wilderness (5.0) or Recommended Wilderness (5.1), to areas where a relatively high degree of development may be expected over time, such as Developed Recreation (7.0) or Age Class Diversity (3.0). Different combinations of MPs were assigned to alternatives to reflect the overall management themes and relative differences in the management emphasis of those alternatives. MPs are described below.

3.0 – Age Class Diversity. This prescription applies to lands managed primarily to create and maintain a variety of forest age classes to provide sustainable forest products and a range of recreational settings, visual landscapes, and wildlife habitat. This prescription is considered suited timberland, and forest products are provided through active management.

4.1 – Spruce and Spruce-Hardwood Restoration. This management prescription focuses on restoration and management of the red spruce and spruce-hardwood communities on the Forest. This prescription emphasizes passive and active restoration of spruce and spruce-hardwood communities, research on spruce restoration, recovery of community-related species of concern, and more active management of hardwood communities where the spruce component is negligible or absent. The portion of this prescription outside of suitable habitat for West Virginia northern flying squirrel is generally considered suited timberland.

5.0 – Designated Wilderness. This prescription applies to lands that are designated by Congress as Wilderness. The main management emphasis is preserving wilderness attributes, including natural appearance, natural integrity, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive recreation, and identified special features. The area is managed to allow natural processes to prevail, with little or no evidence of human development.

5.1 – Recommended Wilderness. This prescription applies to lands that the Forest Service recommends for Wilderness designation. The primary management emphasis is to maintain wilderness attributes until Congress decides to designate the areas as wilderness or release them to some other form of management. Although these areas do not fall under the authority of the Wilderness Act, they are managed to maintain wilderness attributes where feasible, and to generally allow natural processes to prevail.

6.1 – Wildlife Habitat Emphasis. This prescription applies to lands where vegetation management emphasizes wildlife habitat diversity and sustainable mast production. Generally low levels of disturbance for wildlife and fish species are provided through access restrictions and a network of security areas. The recreational setting is primarily non-motorized, though some areas are open for motorized opportunities. This prescription is considered suited timberland, and forest products are provided through active management.

6.2 – Backcountry Recreation. This prescription applies to lands that emphasize a semiprimitive, non-motorized setting with a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities. The area has a natural-appearing environment with relatively little sign of management-related disturbance. This prescription is considered not suited for timber production, and programmed timber harvest is not expected to occur.

8.0 – Special Areas. This prescription applies to lands that emphasize the preservation of special ecosystems, areas for scientific research, or areas with national significance. The areas included in this prescription are scattered throughout the Forest and are of various sizes. Their special characteristics are recognized by a variety of administrative designations. Areas in this prescription include Botanical Areas, Scenic Areas, National Natural Landmarks, candidate Research Natural Areas, the Fernow Experimental Forest, Grouse Management Areas, and the Spruce Knob – Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area (NRA).