

Collector's Journal

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2013 White Mountain National Forest Quarter - New Hampshire

Sixteenth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

The first of five 2013 Quarters in the America the Beautiful series honors White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire. It is also the sixteenth coin in the complete collection. The series honors the beauty and history of the United States by honoring a National Park or other national site within each state and territory.

Each America the Beautiful Quarter is a limited edition of only about 10 weeks. The coins are issued one-at-a-time, so the minting period for the White Mountain National Forest Quarter started only after the last Denali National Park Quarter was struck in late 2012. Production of the second coin in 2013 will not start until the last White Mountain coin has been struck.

The four additional coins to be issued in 2013 will feature Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Ohio, Great Basin National Park in Nevada, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Maryland, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota.

America the Beautiful Quarters are struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two distinct coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark under "In God We Trust" on the obverse.

There are no National Parks in New Hampshire, so White Mountain National Forest was chosen to represent the state's expansive wilderness. About 85 percent of New Hampshire is forested, and White Mountain is the state's only National Forest. Most of the forest is in northern New Hampshire, with a small portion in adjoining Maine.

The forest was created as a national site in 1918 to protect the region from extensive logging that was threatening to destroy the landscape. The original forest was only 7,000 acres, but it has grown over the decades to include the surrounding land and is now about 800,000 acres.



The most famous sights in White Mountain National Forest include Mount Washington, which is the highest peak in the Northeastern United States, and the region's stunning fall foliage. The reforested mountains and hillsides also provide 1,200 miles of hiking trails as well as scenic drives along the Kancamagus Scenic Byway and White Mountain Trail. Wildlife such as black bears, moose, deer, and dozens of bird species can be found in the forest.

The reverse of the White Mountain National Forest Quarter features Mount Chocorua, which is the easternmost peak of the Sandwich Range. The peak is viewed through a grove of birch (the state tree). The design highlights the best-known features of the National Forest: mountains and hills, trees, lakes, and unspoiled wilderness.

The U.S. Mint submitted four other White Mountain National Forest Quarter designs for consideration before the final design was selected. Two featured Mount Washington and birch trees, one of which included two deer in the foreground. The third design showed a bird perched on a tree within the forest, while the fourth depicted Mount Chocorua with a moose in the foreground.

The White Mountain National Forest Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in January 2013.

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