Appendix C

West Maury DEIS

Riparian Management Objectives (RMOs)

The Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFISH) states, "Apply silvicultural practices for Riparian Conservation Areas (RHCAs) to acquire desired vegetation characteristics where needed to attain Riparian Management Objectives (RMOs)..." It also states burn projects are to be designed to, "contribute to the attainment of the Riparian Management Objectives" and to "minimize disturbance of riparian ground cover." All harvest, silvicultural, and fuels practices are to enhance the riparian condition.

The following RMOs were derived from the INFISH standards and have been refined to add specificity related to existing conditions in the West Maury project area. RHCAs are measured from the edge of the channel on streams and the edge of riparian vegetation on wetlands.

The following general RMOs were derived from INFISH Table A-1:

1. All treatments in RHCAs will meet of State Water Quality Standards.
2. There will be no measurable increase in water temperature due to management activities in streams in the West Maury Project Area.
3. Pool frequency varies with width but will be consistent with Rosgen channel type.
4. Large Woody Debris (LWD) densities in streams, wetlands and upper riparian zones will be consistent with the Desired Future Condition plant communities and channel type. No timber will be removed from the RHCA until these densities are met.
5. Greater than 80 percent of stream banks in stream reaches will be stable. Greater than 90 percent should be stable.
6. Lower bank angle on greater than 75 percent of stream banks on non-forested reaches will be less than 90 percent (i.e. overhanging banks).
7. Width to depth ratio will be consistent with the potential Rosgen channel type.

The following RMOs were developed for the West Maury planning area from the West Maury NEPA process and the Maury Watershed Analysis:

8. There will be adequate LWD recruitment potential to maintain LWD levels within one (1) site potential tree height of the stream or wetland.
9. Moderate growth rates should be maintained in RHCAs within one (1) site potential tree height to provide future LWD recruitment, but stand densities will normally be higher than in the uplands.
10. Where prescribed, burning, thinning and/or harvest will be accomplished to maintain the larger trees in the RHCAs or to accelerate the recruitment of large trees. Existing large old trees in the RHCAs will be maintained (i.e. > 21 inches DBH). If they pose an

unacceptable risk due to disease or safety, they may be killed or felled but will not be removed from the RHCA.

11. Representative plant communities consistent with channel type, morphology, moisture, flood regime, and substrate, will be maintained in the RHCAs across the area.
12. Hardwoods (aspen, cottonwood, willow, alder, dogwood, etc.) consistent with site potential will become an integral part of riparian community and where excluded by past management actions, will be actively reintroduced. A variety of age classes will be present.
13. Within streams and wetland RHCAs, habitats will be maintained or enhanced to maintain viable populations of dependent plant and animal species.
14. RHCAs will be kept free of noxious weeds. Infestations will be controlled where they occur.
15. Meadow systems will be maintained across the landscape and the encroachment of conifers should be contained or reduced to maintain diversity of plant communities and wildlife habitats.
16. Based on the plant association group, fuels loading will be maintained within RHCAs at a level and distribution to allow fire to function as a natural disturbance factor at intensities within the Historic Range of Variability (HRV) while still maintaining vegetation, shade, and large wood to support other RMOs.
17. Infiltration, surface drainage, and interflow (shallow subsurface flow), will be maintained. If they have deteriorated due to past management activities, they will be reestablished where practical.

Considerations within RHCAs:

Wetlands – Primary considerations: surface flows, sediment delivery, historic range of variability (HRV)

Class IV Streams – Primary considerations: large woody debris (LWD), LWD recruitment, bank stability, and sediment delivery

Class III Streams – Primary considerations: Shade, bank stability, sediment delivery; 0-100 feet – LWD and LWD recruitment; 100-150 feet- stand health and HRV

Class I and II Streams – Primary considerations: Bank stability and sediment delivery; 0-100 feet – LWD and LWD recruitment; 0-200 feet – Shade; 100-300 feet – stand health and HRV; 200-300 feet – protecting the inner RHCA from high intensity fire and wind.