

## Chapter I

### INTRODUCTION

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE FOREST PLAN

The purpose of the following Plan chapters are as follows.

Chapter I describes the Forest Plan content and characteristics of the Forest.

Chapter II compares the Forest supply potential with the projected demand for resource outputs as if the 10-15 year Forest Plan direction were continued over the five decade demand analysis periods.

Chapter III describes the significant issues, concerns, opportunities and assumptions on which the management direction is based. Management problems and opportunities are identified and explored. Research needed to improve and enhance resource management is identified.

Chapter IV presents the management direction which guides the natural Resource management practices applied to the Forest. Forest-wide standards and guidelines are presented. Management prescriptions are described along with their standards and guidelines. Major proposed management practices during the 10 year plan period and projected management practices for the subsequent 10 year period are described.

Chapter V displays the planned monitoring and evaluation to be used to Measure Plan effectiveness.

Chapter VI contains appendix items which further support or explain Forest Plan direction.

#### FOREST LOCATION

The Mark Twain National Forest spreads across southern Missouri. It extends throughout the Missouri Ozarks encompassing an area 285 miles east to west and 100 miles north to south. In addition, one unit is located in central Missouri. The Forest is divided into thirteen ranger districts located in 9 contiguous blocks or units.

It is the only National Forest in Missouri. Based on 1980 data the Forest consists of 1,461,639 acres of National Forest System land within a gross proclamation area of 3,081,606 acres. This relationship provides an average of 49 percent ownership.

National Forest System lands are located in the following 29 counties:

Barry	Dent	Phelps	Taney
Bollinger	Douglas	Pulaski	Texas
Boone	Howell	Reynolds	Washington
Butler	Iron	Ripley	Wayne
Callaway	Laclede	Ste. Genevieve	Wright
Carter	Madison	St. Francis	
Christian	Oregon	Shannon	
Crawford	Ozark	Stone	

More than 45 million people reside within a day's drive of the Forest. The metropolitan areas of St. Louis, Missouri, population 2,356,460; and Springfield, Missouri, population 207,704; are located at the northeast and southwest ends of the Forest respectively. They are within an hour's drive or less. The Kansas City metropolitan area, population 1,327,106, lies 180 miles to the northwest. The Memphis, Tennessee metropolitan area with 913,472 people is located about 200 miles southeast. Access is good from population centers to all parts of the Forest.

The Forest is located in the transition zone of several major ecological plant associations. The oak-hickory, oak-hickory-pine, cedar glades, southern floodplain forest, and the bluestem prairie all converge within the Forest. Not only must this diverse vegetation be recognized, but the effects of management activities on it must be understood. Managing this complex situation demands diverse methods and ecologically sound vegetative management techniques. Life history requirements of many of the 750 species of animals native to Missouri must be considered and safeguarded.

The Forest contains a high concentration of Missouri's more popular float streams, seven Wildernesses including the largest ones in Missouri, and many other unique features.

The Forest contributes substantially to the Missouri timber industry. It is the largest single ownership of forest land in Missouri. It represents approximately 3.3 percent of total land in the state and 10 percent of the forest land. Timber production on the Forest in 1980 was approximately 5.5 percent of the total state-wide output. This production was approximately 27 percent softwoods and 73 percent hardwoods.

The interspersed military and National Forest lands within the boundaries of Fort Leonard Wood requires cooperation with the U.S. Army. Coordination with the Missouri National Guard also is required for National Forest lands used for National Guard training.

The Viburnum Trend, the premier area for U.S. lead mining and milling is located mostly within the Forest. It produces about 90 percent of the National annual lead ore production. Over 50 percent of this annual production comes from federally owned minerals on the Forest. In 1980, there were 80,504 acres of National Forest System lands with the underlying minerals privately owned (outstanding mineral rights). The potential for future mineral development is high. A substantial portion of Region 9 National Forest receipts come from mineral operations on the Mark Twain National Forest (approximately 15 million dollars in 1980).