

***George Washington
National Forest
Plan Revision***

Plan Components

Desired Conditions or what the forest will look like.

Objectives - Measurable, time-specific intended outcomes to maintain or meet the desired condition.

Guidelines for project design and implementation.

Suitability of Areas for uses compatible with desired conditions and objectives.

Special Areas statutorily and/or administratively designated for the unique characteristics.

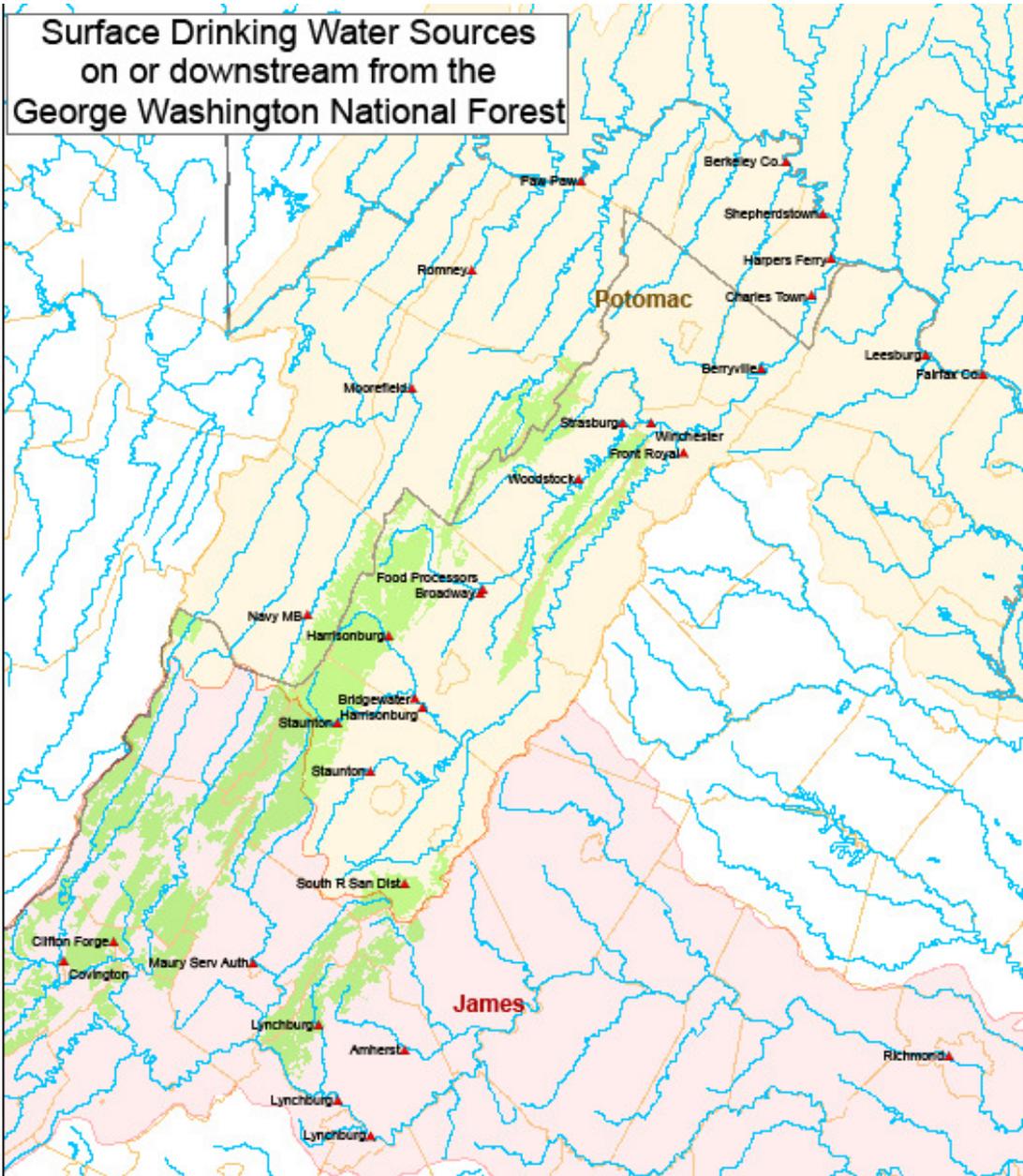
Water

Background: Always a key issue

Input: Still important - add direction for drinking water

Result: Change to Jefferson NF riparian guides

Component: Desired Condition and Guidelines



Water

Desired Condition

Abundant clean water is produced for uses on the Forest and for responding to the increasing public and resource needs in healthy watersheds draining from the Forest. A critical component of the downstream public need is drinking water, as many communities in Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia rely on the high quality water from the National Forest for their drinking water.

Endangered Species And Special Biological Areas

Background: Currently have about 90,000 acres

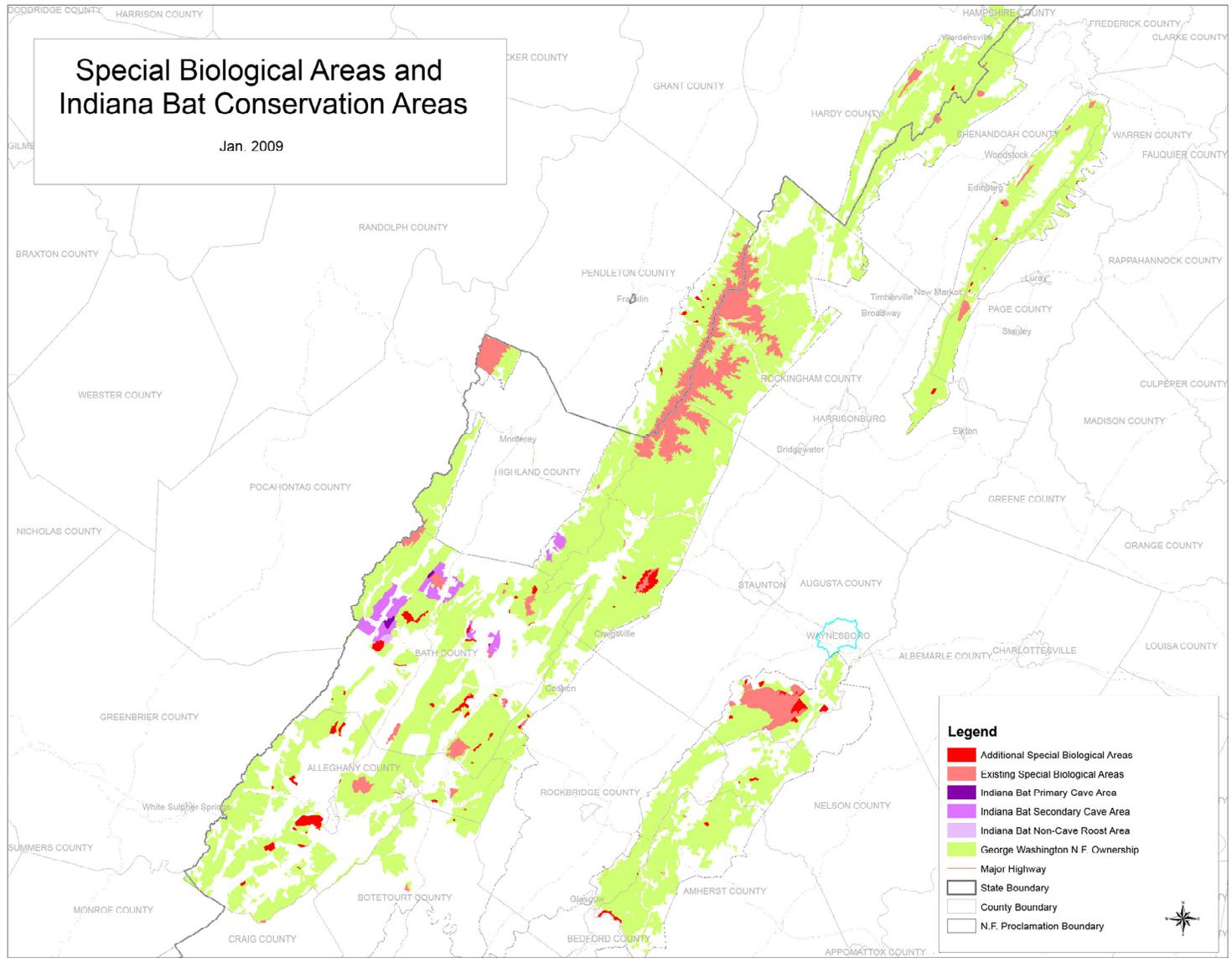
Input: Recommendations from Natural Heritage

Result: Add areas to total about 119,000 acres (~8,000 in Wilderness)

Component: Special Areas and Desired Condition

Special Biological Areas and Indiana Bat Conservation Areas

Jan. 2009



- Legend**
- Additional Special Biological Areas
 - Existing Special Biological Areas
 - Indiana Bat Primary Cave Area
 - Indiana Bat Secondary Cave Area
 - Indiana Bat Non-Cave Roost Area
 - George Washington N.F. Ownership
 - Major Highway
 - State Boundary
 - County Boundary
 - N.F. Proclamation Boundary



Endangered Species And Special Biological Areas

Desired Condition

Rare community characteristics are perpetuated. Habitat for existing individual plant or animal species that are of national, regional or state significance are perpetuated or increased.

Vegetation Management

Background: Emphasis on timber harvest for habitat mgt

Input: Need to manage more
Need to emphasize old-age, remote areas
DNR, VDGIF advocate more active management

Vegetation Management

Result:

- Provide remote, old-age, large blocks in the remote backcountry
- Add emphasis on prescribed fire to restore and create open woodland habitat in more areas
- Meld old management areas
- Establish open woodland desired condition
- Maintain suitable timber acres

Vegetation Management

Component:

Desired conditions
Objectives
Suitable uses

Vegetation Management

Desired Condition:

the landscape features structurally diverse forest communities. A mix of forest successional stages characterizes these areas. Fire-adapted and dependent ecosystems are plentiful. A minimum of 20% in late-successional forest types is maintained. Open woodland conditions occur on a minimum of 10% of forested land. Early-successional forest habitat occurs on 4 to 16 percent of suitable timberland.

Vegetation Management

	1993 Objective	Avg. annual 1993-2007	2007	New Objective
Timber harvest (acres)	3,100	1,632	732	1,000 - 1,800
Timber harvest (MMBF)	33	21	11	13 - 24
Acres of prescribed fire	3,000	4,050	3,335	15,000-20,000
Acres of land suitable for timber prod	350,000			350,000

Backcountry & Wilderness

Background:

Currently have 4 wilderness –
42,000 acres

1 National Scenic Area – 8,000 ac

3 Special Mgt Areas – 52,000

Remote Highlands – 141,000 ac

Backcountry & Wilderness

Input: There is enough wilderness
and backcountry
We need more wilderness and
more backcountry
Potential Wilderness Area Inventory
= 370,000 acres
Collaborative efforts

Backcountry & Wilderness

Result: Consider 4 recommended wilderness:

Ramseys Draft Addition (east side)~5,000 ac

Little River ~ 12,000 ac ?

Rich Hole Addition ~ 5,000 ac

St. Marys –west – 300 ac

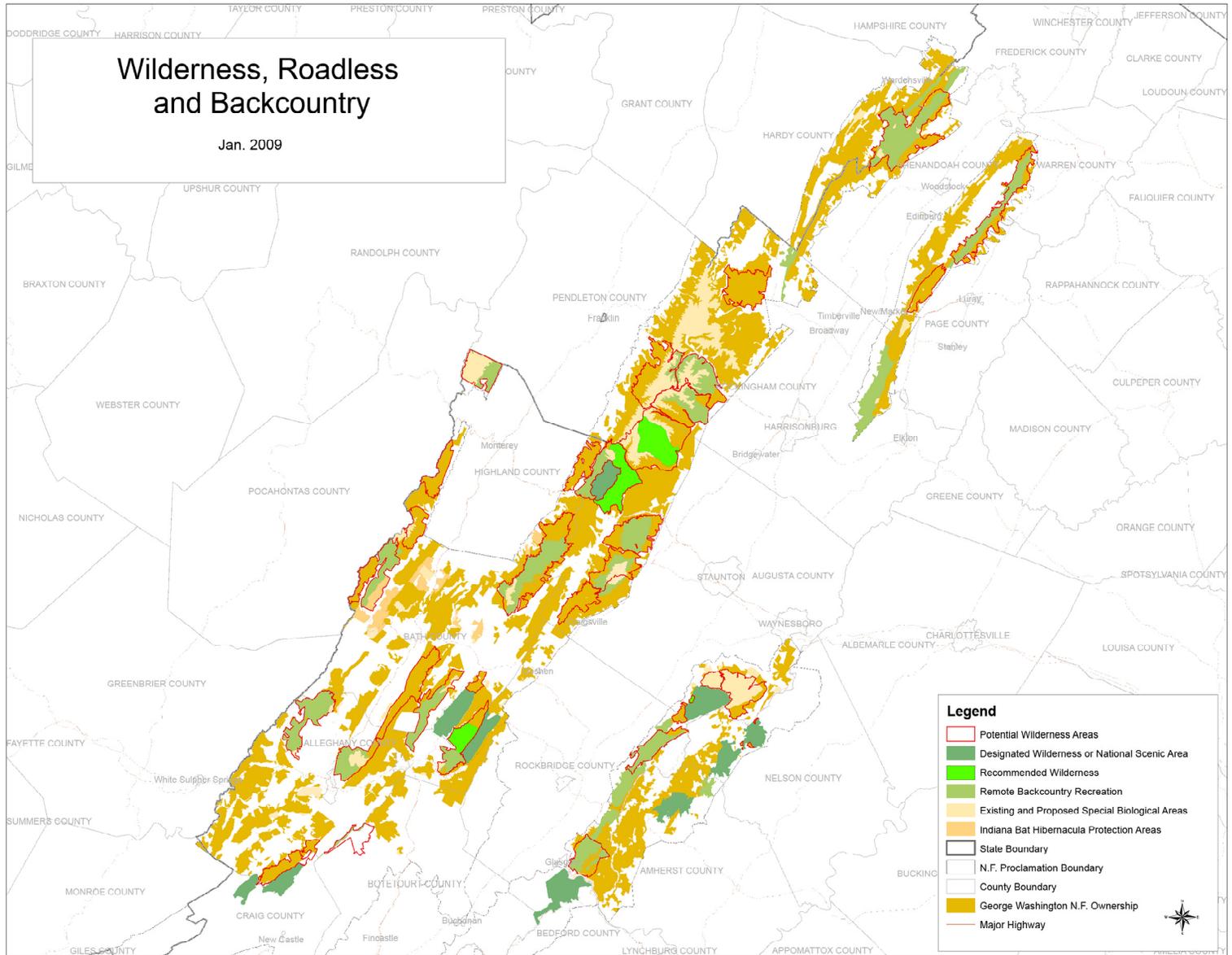
Remote backcountry ~ 177,000 ac

- Leave roaded areas available for
management

-Allow Salvage along perimeter

Wilderness, Roadless and Backcountry

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Backcountry & Wilderness

Components:

Desired Conditions
Guidelines
Suitability

Backcountry & Wilderness

	1993 condition	1993 Objective	Current Condition	New Objective
Acres of SPNM Inventory	167,000	150,000	198,300	194,000 - 202,000
Acres of SPM Inventory	203,000	208,000	212,000	208,000 - 216,000

Backcountry & Wilderness

National Scenic Areas

Backcountry & Wilderness

Laurel Fork

Kelley Mountain

Shenandoah Mountain

Appalachian Trail

Background: Have identified corridor

Input: Update guidelines per Jefferson NF

Result: Update the guidelines

Component: Desired conditions, guidelines, suitable uses

Non-Motorized Trails

Background: Have 1,066 miles mostly shared use trails

Input: Like more trails, trail maintenance is important, like more loop trails

Result: Likely to maintain current total miles of trails, will keep desire for loops in site plans

Component: objectives - strategy

OHV Roads

Background: Have 244 miles

Input: Like more trails and more challenging opportunities,

Result: While there is likely a need for more OHV roads, not recommending more due to maintenance, soil/water impacts

OHV Roads

Component: desired condition, objectives

ATV Trails

Background: Have 3 areas with 60 miles of trails

Input: Like more trails and more challenging opportunities, like more trails within current areas, reduce ATV trails do to conflicts

ATV Trails

Result: Maintain the current 3 areas
Drop the Archer Run area from 1993 plan for an additional area
Additional trails within current area would be site-specific decision

Component: desired condition, objectives

Scenic and Recreational Rivers

Background: Have 13 eligible
stream segments

Input: Protect the eligible rivers

Result: maintain as in current plan

Component: desired conditions,
guidelines

Roads

Background: Have 1872 miles

Input: Improve access to more
areas on the Forest

Eliminate roads due to resource
conflicts and lack of
maintenance funds

Roads

Result: maintain approximately the current road system

Add an objective to decommission roads

Maintain approximately the current level of open roads

Component: desired conditions, guidelines, objectives

Roads

	1993 condition	2007	1993 Objective	Current Condition	New Objective
Miles of road construction		0.2	5-8		N/A
Miles of road decommissioned					1.0 - 1.5
Miles of road	1,760			1,872	N/A
Miles of open roads	1,050			1,007	997 - 1,012
OHV roads	223		223	244	240-248
ATV Trails	60		75	60	60

Wind Energy

Background: No current direction

Input: allow wind development with conditions

Prohibit any wind energy development

Result: Identify areas that are unsuitable, but a consider options in other areas

Component: suitable uses

Old Growth

Background: Identified 180,000 acres in 10 forest types, Only type 21 (dry-mesic oak) available for harvest

Input: inventory for old growth
Do not harvest old growth
Manage more of the forest

Old Growth

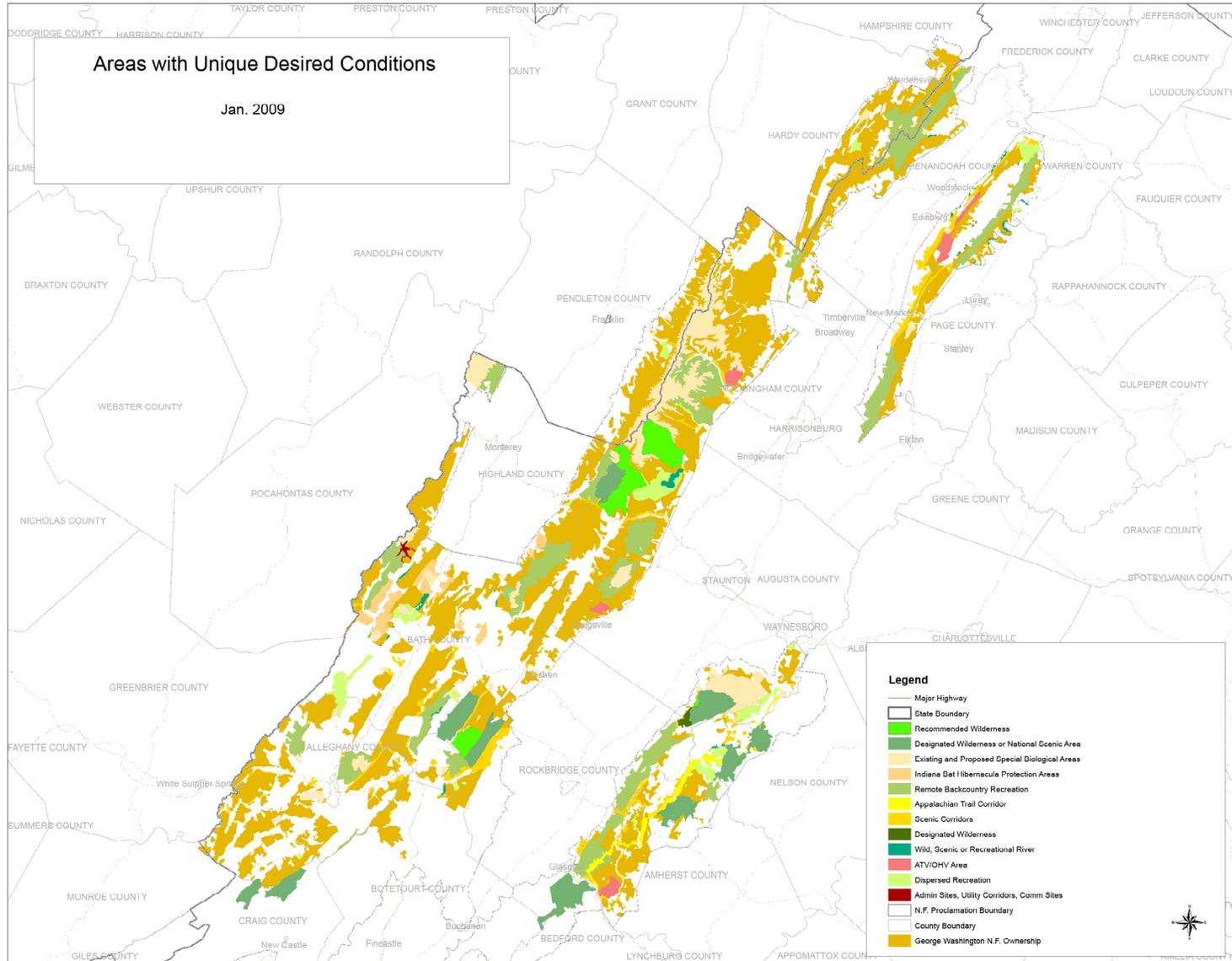
Result: Only old growth types 21 and 25 available for harvest, inventory before harvest

Component: objectives

Forest Type	Forest Plan Definition		R8 Guidance Definition	
	1993 Acres	Current Acres	Current Acres	New Objective
01 Northern Hardwood	0	0	1,049	2,501*
02a Conifer & North Hardwood	1,364	1,411	2,356	2,387*
02b White pine & North Hardwood	19	19	481	545*
02c Spruce & North Hardwood	71	308	118	239*
05 Mixed Mesophytic	680	1,060	4,004	6,864*
21 Dry-Mesic Oak	70,416	129,202	121,965	189,000 - 191,000*
22 Dry & Xeric Oak	0	85	331	422*
24 Xeric pine & Pine-Oak	78,239	112,581	46,612	96,792*
25 Dry & Dry-Mesic Oak-Pine	3,814	8,685	13,449	27,000 - 28,437*
28 Eastern Riverfront	5	22	6	6*
Total	154,608	253,373	190,371	325,756 - 329,193*

Areas with Unique Desired Conditions

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Tonight's Meeting

Questions

- We have just identified our ideas on putting information from our workshops together into plan components. What areas do you have major concerns about that you would like to discuss further this evening?
- What aspects of the plan components should be the top priority for monitoring?

Next Meetings

- Forest Plan Components
 - February 5 - Woodstock

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Visit Our Website

www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj