

Errata #2

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan National Forests in Alabama

September 9, 2005

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This errata sheet provides clarification and corrects minor errors published in the January 2004 National Forests in Alabama document entitled **Revised Land and Resource Management Plan**, related to Management Prescription 7.B. While, **Errata #1** initially clarified that the management prescription only applies to National Forest Lands, there was continued confusion related to the affected lands under the management prescription. This errata sheet provides further clarification of Management Prescription 7.B. and the prescription is renamed to more accurately describe its purpose. A definition of this management prescription is added to the Glossary, Appendix B. None of these corrections affect the analyses conducted, prescribed management activities, or the decisions made.

1. Management Prescription 7.B, Pages 3–25 through 3-27: Make the following changes (the language in *[italics in brackets]* is being added, while the language with the “~~strikethrough~~” is being deleted):

7.B. SENSITIVE-VIEWSHEDS [GATEWAY FOREST]

Emphasis: *[This prescription applies to National Forest Lands within a designated gateway forest boundary.]* The *[management]* emphasis is on providing, ~~through maintenance or restoration and design~~, high-quality scenery *[on National Forest lands]* in very sensitive recreational and travel way settings. *[The concept of this prescription is to enhance, through restoration or maintenance and design, the scenic quality of these public lands as seen from road and trails and as viewed from interspersed private lands.]* Examples include *[National Forests]* ~~areas~~ adjacent to *[the]* “gateway” communities; areas around lakes, rivers, and streams; and “backdrop” areas viewed from State-designated byways, ~~and~~ major travel ways *[and from adjacent private lands and developments].*

Desired Condition: Visitors will view high-quality scenery in a setting conducive to a variety of recreational experiences. Human modifications will be subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Landscape restoration and rehabilitation to meet high-quality scenic conditions will be a high priority. *[Designation and]* management of ~~sensitive viewsheds~~ *[Gateway Forests]* occurs on National Forest lands only.

The [*National Forest*] landscape is predominantly natural appearing and is generally an intact, continuous forest canopy. Understory vegetation includes a variety of native deciduous and evergreen flowering trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. Some views into park like stands to highlight larger diameter trees and scenic water features may be present. ~~The sensitive-viewshed~~ [*Gateway Forest*] may also be a natural appearing open area, bald, or a pastoral landscape. Areas may show evidence of forest resource management activities but [*management activities*] are visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Restoration of areas with predominantly off site species ~~may be restored~~ [*is permitted*].

Non-motorized and motorized recreation may occur in this prescription area as long as it does not negatively impact the scenic value of the area as viewed from sensitive travel ways, [*private and other public*] use areas, and gateway communities. Hiking, mountain biking, and horse trails are appropriate throughout the prescription area. OHV trails may be present, but new OHV trails are not constructed, except where desired to link existing trail systems. Facilities are designed to fit the character of the specific sites where they are located. Facilities might include roads, pullouts, overlooks, parking areas, trailheads, bulletin boards, interpretive kiosks, rail fences, signs, rest rooms, and picnic sites. Trails may be highly developed, including hardened trails for a high level of accessibility for persons of all abilities. Facilities will be designed to harmonize with the desired landscape setting.

Biological communities are maintained or improved to provide an attractive setting for visitors, complement the recreational and scenic values, and provide varied plant communities, structural stages, and associated wildlife. Management and protection of rare communities and species associates will be provided, along with the management and protection measures for population occurrences of TES and locally rare species. This will provide a high likelihood that species within these associations will continue to persist on National Forest System lands. High quality watershed conditions are provided resulting in secure aquatic ecosystems/habitats on ~~NFS~~ [*National Forest System*] lands.

~~Areas~~ [*Gateway Forests*] may show evidence of [*multiple-use*] management activities but [*these activities*] are visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. ~~The area is~~ [*National Forest System lands within the designated Gateway Forest will be maintained*] primarily in mid- and late- successional condition, with much of the vegetation in old growth conditions. ~~Lands~~ [*These lands*] can be classified as either suited or unsuited for timber production depending ~~on~~ [*upon*] local conditions and goals and objectives of the ~~Management Area~~ [*management within the area*].

The landscape character [*of the Gateway Forest and surrounding area*] will predominantly be variations of natural appearing landscapes. ~~Scenic integrity objectives will be in the upper values of high to moderate.~~ The recreational opportunity spectrum will range from semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-

primitive motorized, roaded natural, to rural. *[Scenic integrity objectives for National Forest lands will be in the upper values of high to moderate.]*

Standards:

- 7.B-01. Vegetation Management: Slash treatment zones will be established for 50 feet from the edge of trail, on both sides. Slash will be removed from this zone, or lopped to no higher than 2 feet above ground level. Conserve flowering trees during any vegetation manipulation activities. Vegetative manipulation will only be allowed for public safety, TES habitat improvement, private land protection, elimination of off site species (restoration), and scenic enhancement. Clearcuts and regeneration harvest units will only be used to open up vistas, create spatial diversity along travelways, decrease straight line effect of cleared utility corridors, for insect and disease suppression, for scenic rehabilitation, or on a limited basis, restoration. Clearcuts and regeneration harvest units will be 25 acres or less.
- 7.B-02. Prescribed Fire: Firelines will be rehabilitated to blend in with surrounding landscape for at least 50 feet from each side of trails, *[roads and common viewing areas]*.
- 7.B-03. Recreation: New structures, including but not limited to buildings, signs, kiosks, walls, towers, and fences, will conform to the USDA Forest Service BEIG.
- 7.B-04. OHV: New OHV trails are not compatible except to link existing OHV trail systems.
- 7.B-05. Federal Minerals: Leases will be issued with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. Mineral material authorizations with conditions to protect the area may be permitted.
- 7.B-06. Roads: Design and construct new roads to meet the scenic integrity of high.
- 7.B-07. ROS Settings: Roded Natural *[on National Forest lands]*.
- 7.B-08. Scenery: Scenic integrity objectives range from high to moderate.

2. Add a new entry to glossary:

Gateway Forest – Designated federally-owned National Forest System lands on which increased management priority is placed on visual resource management because of their location in very sensitive recreational, travel way, and community settings.

3. Change Scenic Viewsheds to Gateway Forests as it occurs elsewhere throughout the Forest Plan, and on maps.

- a) Table of Contents, p. ii.
- b) Appendix J, p. J-2.
- c) Maps – Talladega National Forest, Talladega Ranger District, Shoal Creek Ranger District; Tuskegee National Forest.

The following, for your convenience, is a “clean” version of Management Prescription 7.B. with all the changes incorporated in it:

7.B. GATEWAY FORESTS

Emphasis: This prescription applies to National Forest Lands within a designated gateway forest boundary. The management emphasis is on providing, high-quality scenery on National Forest lands in very sensitive recreational and travel way settings. The concept of this prescription is to enhance, through restoration or maintenance and design, the scenic quality of these public lands as seen from road and trails and as viewed from interspersed private lands. Examples include National Forests adjacent to the “gateway” communities; areas around lakes, rivers, and streams; and backdrop areas viewed from State-designated byways, major travel ways and from adjacent private lands and developments.

Desired Condition: Visitors will view high-quality scenery in a setting conducive to a variety of recreational experiences. Human modifications will be subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Landscape restoration and rehabilitation to meet high-quality scenic conditions will be a high priority. Designation and management of Gateway Forests occurs on National Forest land only.

The National Forest landscape is predominantly natural appearing and is generally an intact, continuous forest canopy. Understory vegetation includes a variety of native deciduous and evergreen flowering trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. Some views into park like stands to highlight larger diameter trees and scenic water features may be present. The Gateway Forest may also be a natural appearing open area, bald, or a pastoral landscape. Areas may show evidence of forest resource management activities but management activities are visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Restoration of areas with predominantly off site species is permitted.

Non-motorized and motorized recreation may occur in this prescription area as long as it does not negatively impact the scenic value of the area as viewed from sensitive travel ways, private and other public use areas, and gateway communities. Hiking, mountain biking, and horse trails are appropriate throughout the prescription area. OHV trails may be present, but new OHV trails are not constructed, except where desired to link existing trail systems. Facilities are designed to fit the character of the specific sites where they are located. Facilities might include roads, pullouts, overlooks, parking areas,

trailheads, bulletin boards, interpretive kiosks, rail fences, signs, rest rooms, and picnic sites. Trails may be highly developed, including hardened trails for a high level of accessibility for persons of all abilities. Facilities will be designed to harmonize with the desired landscape setting.

Biological communities are maintained or improved to provide an attractive setting for visitors, complement the recreational and scenic values, and provide varied plant communities, structural stages, and associated wildlife. Management and protection of rare communities and species associates will be provided, along with the management and protection measures for population occurrences of TES and locally rare species. This will provide a high likelihood that species within these associations will continue to persist on National Forest System lands. High quality watershed conditions are provided resulting in secure aquatic ecosystems/habitats on National Forest System lands.

Gateway Forests may show evidence of multiple-use management activities but these activities are visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. National Forest System lands within the designated Gateway Forest will be maintained primarily in mid- and late- successional condition, with much of the vegetation in old growth conditions. These lands can be classified as either suited or unsuited for timber production depending upon local conditions and goals and objectives of the management within the area.

The landscape character of the Gateway Forest and surrounding area will predominantly be variations of natural appearing landscapes. The recreational opportunity spectrum will range from semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, to rural. Scenic integrity objectives for National Forest lands will be in the upper values of high to moderate.

Standards:

7.B-01. Vegetation Management: Slash treatment zones will be established for 50 feet from the edge of trail, on both sides. Slash will be removed from this zone, or lopped to no higher than 2 feet above ground level. Conserve flowering trees during any vegetation manipulation activities. Vegetative manipulation will only be allowed for public safety, TES habitat improvement, private land protection, elimination of off site species (restoration), and scenic enhancement. Clearcuts and regeneration harvest units will only be used to open up vistas, create spatial diversity along travelways, decrease straight line effect of cleared utility corridors, for insect and disease suppression, for scenic rehabilitation, or on a limited basis, restoration. Clearcuts and regeneration harvest units will be 25 acres or less.

- 7.B-02. Prescribed Fire: Firelines will be rehabilitated to blend in with surrounding landscape for at least 50 feet from each side of trails, roads and common viewing areas.
- 7.B-03. Recreation: New structures, including but not limited to buildings, signs, kiosks, walls, towers, and fences, will conform to the USDA Forest Service BEIG.
- 7.B-04. OHV: New OHV trails are not compatible except to link existing OHV trail systems.
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- 7.B-06. Roads: Design and construct new roads to meet the scenic integrity of high.
- 7.B-07. ROS Settings: Roaded Natural on National Forest lands.
- 7.B-08. Scenery: Scenic integrity objectives range from high to moderate.