CHAPTER 4

MANAGEMENT AREA GOALS, DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS, STANDARDS, AND GUIDELINES

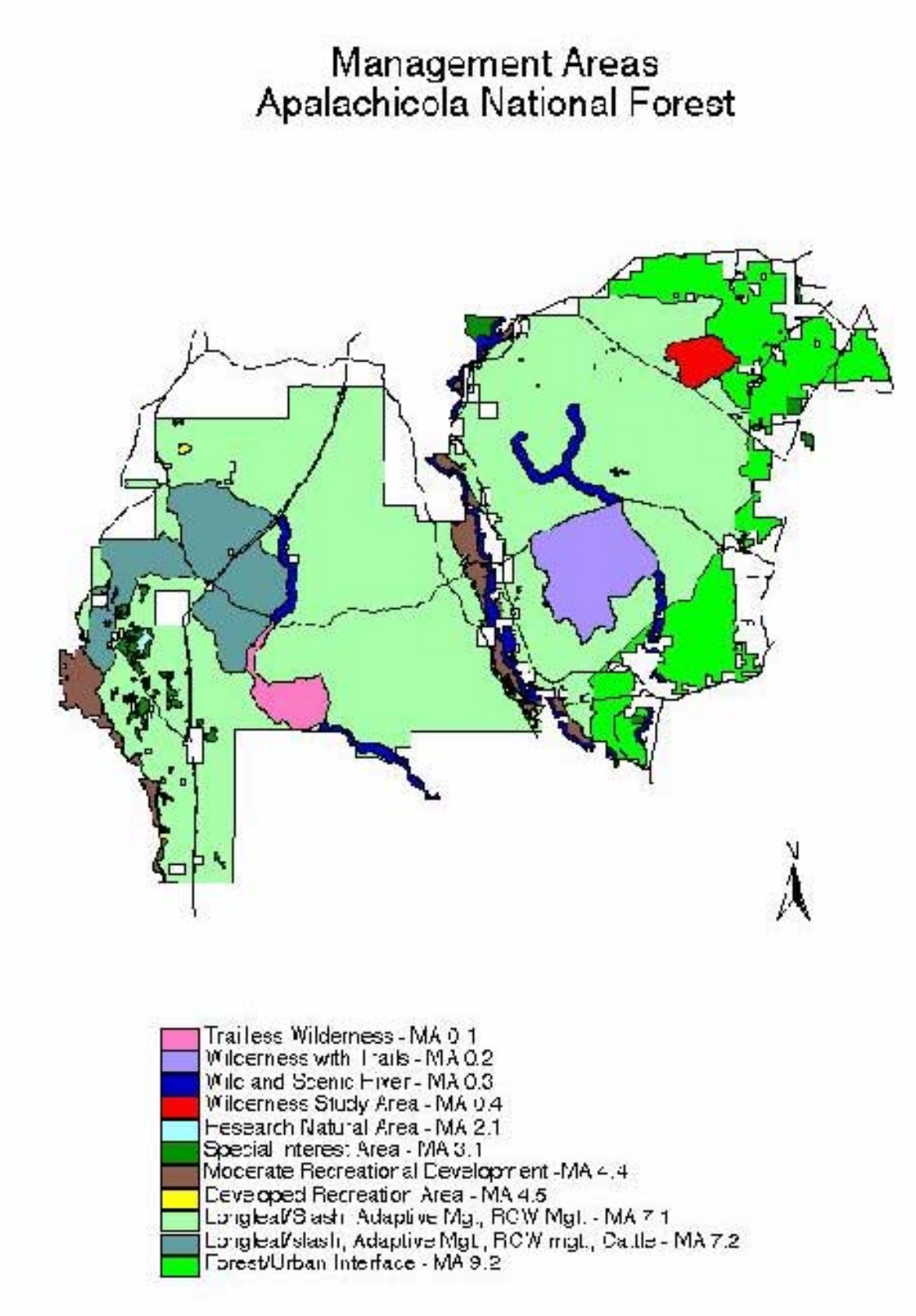
For planning purposes, the forests have been divided into management areas. This chapter describes direction specific to management areas on the national forests in Florida. Goals, desired future conditions (DFCs), standards, and guidelines provide management area (MA) direction. These goals and desired future conditions may take many years to reach. Due to past modification of the environment, it will take many years for stands to reach diversity of age classes with a high proportion of old trees. Forestwide goals, standards, and guidelines apply to all management areas unless specifically exempted or modified by management area direction.

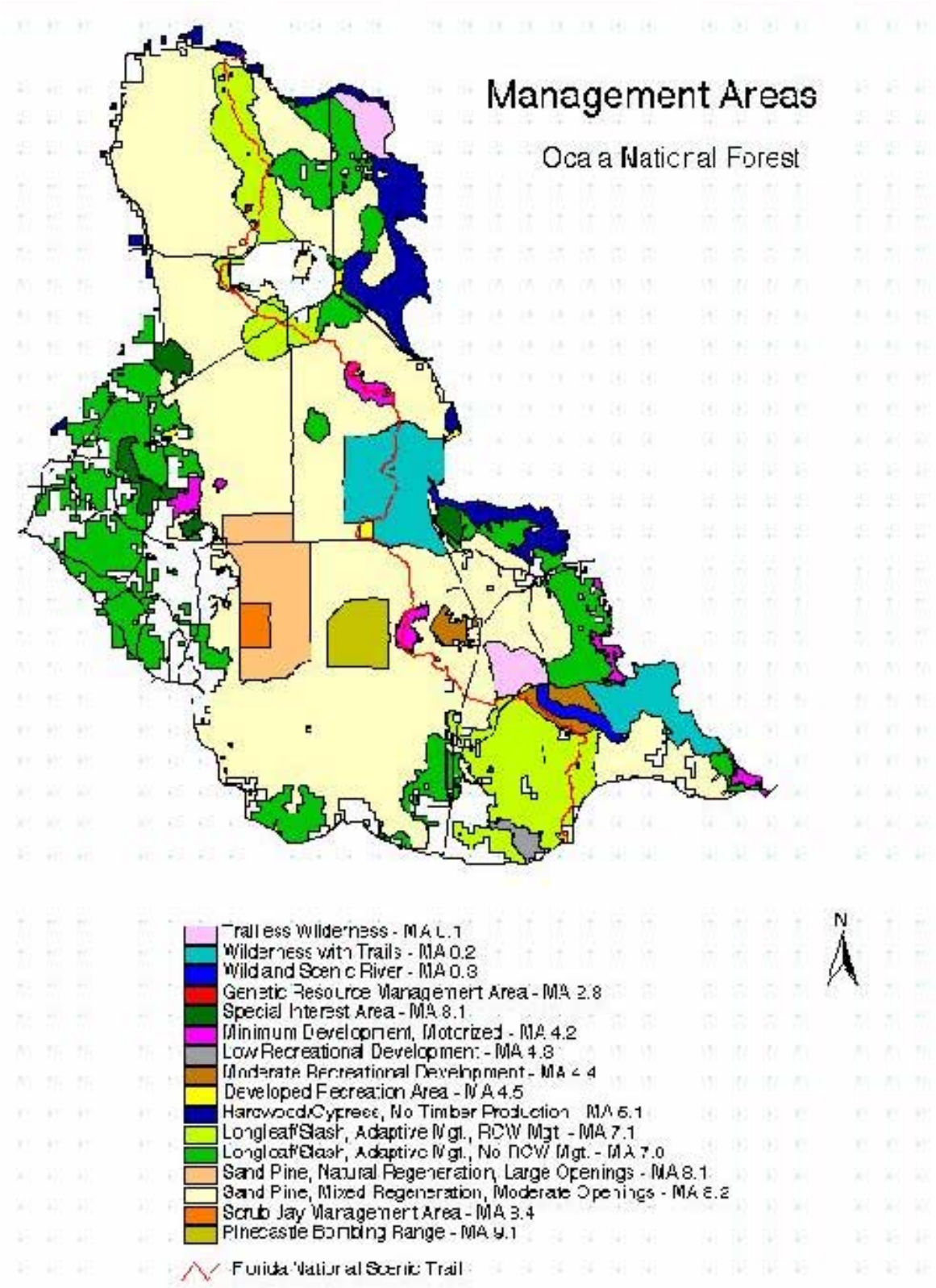
Management areas are synonymous with the desired future conditions found in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). In some cases, such as wilderness, legal boundaries for management areas are specified by congressional acts. In others, boundaries are identified using ecological units (such as landtype associations [LTAs], see Appendix D, ``Landtype Associations''), administrative boundaries, or other physical features. The location of management area boundaries during Forest Plan implementation may result in minor boundary adjustments to reconcile ground conditions with management area descriptions.

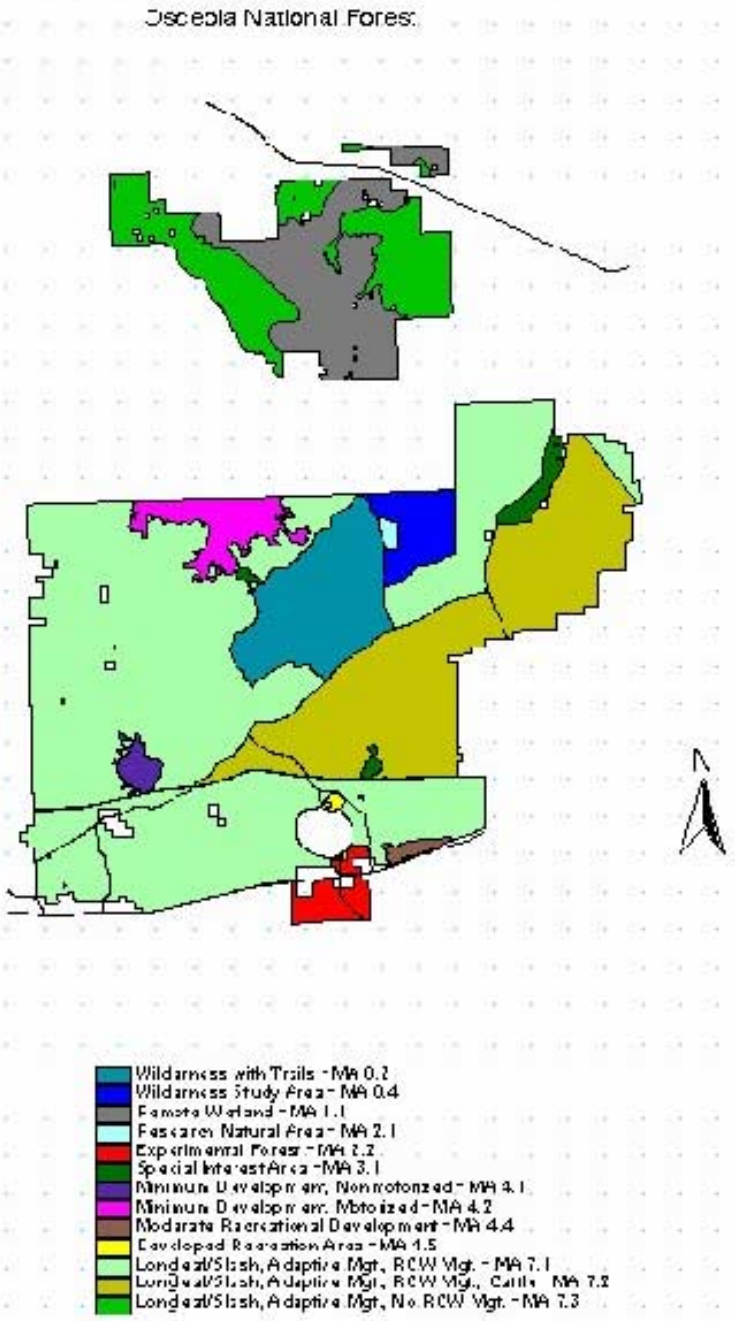
Interim Management Area Direction

Allocation of some management areas depends on decisions by others—such as Congress, the President of the United States, and the Chief of the Forest Service. These areas include research natural areas, wilderness, wilderness study areas (WSAs), and wild and scenic rivers. Clear Lake WSA is recommended for wilderness, and Natural Area WSA is recommended to be released as a study area. Until a final decision, Clear Lake and Natural Area will be managed as wilderness study areas (MA 0.4), and the candidate wild and scenic river corridors will be managed as part of the appropriate adjacent management area. In all cases, no activities will occur that could reduce the area's value as wilderness, wilderness study area, or wild and scenic river.

This chapter displays management area maps for each forest, followed by the goals, desired future conditions, standards, and guidelines for each management area.


Management Areas
Apalachicola National Forest
Trailess Wilderness - MA 0.1
Wilderness with Trails - MA 0.2
Wild and Scenic River - MA 0.3
Wilderness Study Area - MA 0.4
Research Natural Area - MA 2.1
Special Interest Area - MA 3.1
Moderate Recreational Development - MA 4.4
Developed Recreation Area - MA 4.5
Longleaf/Slash Adaptive Mgt., RCW Mgt. - MA 7.1
Longleaf/slash, Adaptive Mgt., RCW mgt., Cattle - MA 7.2
Forest/Urban Interface - MA 9.2


Management Areas
Ocala National Forest
Trailless Wilderness - MA 0.1
Wilderness with Trails - MA 0.2
Wild and Scenic River - MA 0.3
Genetic Resource Management Area - MA 2.8
Special Interest Area - MA 3.1
Minimum Development, Motorized - MA 4.2
Low Recreational Development - MA 4.3
Moderate Recreational Development - MA 4.4
Developed Recreation Area - MA 4.5
Hardwood/Cypress, No Timber Production - MA 6.1
Longleaf/Slash, Adaptive Mgt., ROW Mgt - MA 7.1
Longleaf/Slash, Adaptive Mgt., No ROW Mgt. - MA 7.0
Sand Pine, Natural Regeneration, Large Openings - MA 8.1
Sand Pine, Mixed Regeneration, Moderate Openings - MA 8.2
Scrub Jay Management Area - MA 9.4
Pinecastle Bombing Range - MA 9.1
Florida National Scenic Trail
N


Management Areas
Osceola National Forest
Wilderness with Trails - MA 0.2
Wilderness Study Area - MA 0.4
Remote Wetland - MA 1.1
Pascagoula Natural Area - MA 2.1
Experimental Forest - MA 2.2
Special Interest Area - MA 3.1
Minimum Development, Nonmotorized - MA 4.1
Minimum Development, Motorized - MA 4.2
Moderate Recreational Development - MA 4.4
Developed Recreation Area - MA 4.5
Longleaf/Slash, Adaptive Mgt., RCW Mgt. - MA 7.1
Longleaf/Slash, Adaptive Mgt., RCW Mgt., Cattle - MA 7.2
Longleaf/Slash, Adaptive Mgt., No RCW Mgt. - MA 7.3

0.0 Congressionally Designated Lands

These areas include wilderness, wild and scenic river corridors, and wilderness study areas.

Management Area 0.1
Trailless Wilderness

Apalachicola NF	1,023	acres in LTA 3
	682	acres in LTA 4
	6,385	acres in LTA 5
	8,090	**total acres**
Ocala NF	188	acres in LTA 1
	5,787	acres in LTA 6
	5,975	**total acres**

Visual Quality Objective (VQO) = 100% Preservation
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) = 100% Primitive
All acres unsuitable for timber production

0.1-Goal

To provide an essentially unmodified environment where native species respond to natural forces to which they are adapted and where human influences have minimal impact. To provide the opportunity for humans to experience solitude, closeness with nature, and self-reliance on wildland skills.

0.1-Desired Future Condition

Wilderness areas show little evidence of human disturbance. Vegetation is shaped by natural processes—such as floods, storms, insects, diseases, and fires. Prescribed fire helps replace the natural fires interrupted by human activity outside the area's boundaries. Barring natural disturbances, these forests are old. Blackened tree trunks are common in

the pine flatwoods and upland pine forests, where low-intensity fires are frequent. Plowed firelines to stop wildfires will be only used under the most extreme circumstances; and they will be rehabilitated. Snags and downed wood are present throughout the area. Wildlife species here enjoy little human disturbance with large areas of uninterrupted habitat, including mature forest environments. Water, soil, and air are in near pristine condition. Rivers, streams, and cross-country travel provide the only access into these areas. There are no roads or trails. Visitors may be nature enthusiasts, hunters, or canoeists. They are usually isolated from the sights and sounds of human activity, and few, if any, other people are encountered. There are no facilities. Motorized equipment and motorized or mechanical vehicles are never encountered, except in cases of extreme emergency. Interpretive displays may be found at off-site locations. The area provides large-sized (greater than 2,500 acres) and mid-sized (100-2,499 acres) patches of old growth. About 35 percent of the area would be designated as old growth in the cypress/tupelo swamp and hardwood wetland communities.

0.1-Standards and Guidelines

Access

0.1-1—Prohibit motorized equipment and motorized or mechanical vehicles, except as allowed in FSM 2326.1.

Fire

0.1-2—Permit use of aerial ignition for prescribed fire and aerial suppression of wildfire over the area. Do not permit aircraft to land, except in cases of extreme emergency.

0.1-3—Construct firelines with hand tools by scraping a line of variable width down to mineral soil. Hose lays, foam, and wetting agents may be used to control fire.

0.1-4—Only allow exceptions to the restrictions on the use of motorized equipment and motorized or mechanical vehicles in cases of extreme emergency during wildfire suppression. Exceptions can be allowed by District Ranger, except tractor-plow use requires Regional Forester approval.

0.1-5—Scout area to be burned by air when aerial ignition for prescribed fire is planned in order to provide for public safety.

0.1-6—Use minimal impact suppression techniques on all wildfires, when possible.

Infrastructure

0.1-7—Revegetate roads and remove buildings and structures. If buildings or structures are 50 years or older, follow guidelines under ``Heritage Resources."

Insects and Diseases

0.1-8—Control insect or disease outbreaks only to prevent unacceptable damage to resources on adjacent land or to protect threatened or endangered species. Aerial detection may be used to locate these infestations. Permitted control measures may

be found in the *Record of Decision, Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Suppression of the Southern Pine Beetle, Southern Region* (FEIS SPB R8).

Law Enforcement/Search and Rescue

0.1-9—Only allow exceptions to the restrictions on the use of motorized equipment and motorized or mechanical vehicles in cases of extreme emergency (FSM 2326.1).

0.1-10—Do not permit aircraft to land, except in cases of life-threatening emergency.

Minerals

0.1-11—Legislatively withdrawn or unavailable for mineral lease.

Range

0.1-12—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

0.1-13—Permit dispersed camping in undesignated sites and prohibit recreational development—no trails, facilities, camping areas, or interpretive structures.

Vegetation

0.1-14—Prohibit harvesting of special forest products and salvaging of dead stands.

0.1-15—Classified as unsuitable for timber production. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

Wildlife and Fish

0.1-16—Prohibit cultivated wildlife openings and artificial structures for non-PETS (proposed, endangered, threatened, or sensitive) species.

Management Area 0.2
Wilderness with Trails

Apalachicola NF	23,774	acres in LTA 4
	838	acres in LTA 5
	24,612	**total acres**
Ocala NF	8,759	acres in LTA 1
	4,015	acres in LTA 2
	437	acres in LTA 4
	9,011	acres in LTA 6
	22,222	**total acres**
Osceola NF	19	acres in LTA 3
	7,222	acres in LTA 4
	6,419	acres in LTA 5
	13,660	**total acres**

VQO = 100% Preservation
ROS = 100% Primitive
All acres unsuitable for timber production

0.2-Goal

To provide an essentially unmodified natural environment where native species respond to natural forces to which they are adapted and where human influences have minimal impact. To provide the opportunity for humans to experience solitude, closeness to nature, and primitive recreational activity. Clear Lake WSA is recommended for wilderness and will be MA 0.2 upon congressional approval.

0.2-Desired Future Condition

Wilderness areas show little evidence of human disturbance. Vegetation is shaped by natural processes—such as floods, storms, insects, diseases, and fires. Prescribed fire helps replace the natural fires that are interrupted by human activity outside the area's boundaries. Barring natural disturbances, these forests are old. Blackened tree trunks are common in the pine flatwoods and upland pine forests, where low-intensity fires are frequent. Scrub areas will show less frequent signs of fire. However, fires in these areas will be intense and could be relatively large in size. Fires in scrub habitat will set the vegetation back to an early successional stage which will be inhabited by scrub-jays. Plowed firelines to stop wildfires will be only used under the most extreme circumstances. They will be rehabilitated. Snags and downed wood are present throughout the area. Wildlife species here enjoy little human disturbance with large areas of uninterrupted habitat, including mature forest environments. Soil, water, and air are in near pristine condition. Rivers, streams, and foot or horse trails provide access. Visitors may be nature enthusiasts, hunters, canoeists, hikers, or horseback riders. They are isolated from the sights and sounds of human activity, and only occasionally are other people encountered while passing through the area. Facilities encountered are marked trails, primitive boat access sites, and fire-ring camping areas. Motorized equipment and motorized or mechanical vehicles are never encountered, except in case of extreme emergency. Instrepretive displays about the area may be found at off-site locations. The area provides large-sized (greater than 2,500 acres) and mid-sized (100-2,499 acres) patches of old growth. Approximately 40 percent of the area is designated as old growth in the upland longleaf pine, southern wet pine/woodland, cypress/tupelo swamp, hardwood wetland, and dry and xeric oak community types.

0.2-Standards and Guidelines

Access

0.2-1—Prohibit motorized equipment and motorized or mechanical vehicles, except as allowed in FSM 2326.1.

Fire

0.2-2—Permit use of aerial ignition for prescribed fire and aerial suppression of wildfire over the area. Do not permit aircraft to land, except in cases of extreme emergency.

0.2-3—Construct firelines with hand tools by scraping a line of variable width down to mineral soil. Hose lays, foam, and wetting agents may be used to control fire.

0.2-4—Only allow exceptions to the restrictions on the use of motorized equipment and motorized or mechanical vehicles in cases of extreme emergency during wildfire suppression. Exceptions can be allowed by District Ranger. Tractor-plow use requires Regional Forester approval.

0.2-5—Scout area to be burned by air when aerial ignition for prescribed fire is planned to provide for public safety.

0.2-6—Use minimal impact suppression techniques on all wildfires, when possible.

Infrastructure

0.2-7—Revegetate roads and remove buildings and structures. If buildings and structures are 50 years or older, follow guidelines under ``Heritage Resources."

Insects and Diseases

0.2-8—Control insect or disease outbreaks, as necessary, to prevent unacceptable damage to resources on adjacent land or to protect threatened or endangered species. Aerial detection may be used to locate these infestations. Permitted control measures may be found in the FEIS SPB R8.

Law Enforcement/Search and Rescue

0.2-9—Only allow exceptions to the restrictions on the use of motorized equipment and motorized or mechanical vehicles in cases of extreme emergency (FSM 2326.1).

0.2-10—Do not permit aircraft to land, except in cases of life-threatening emergency.

Minerals

0.2-11—Legislatively withdrawn or unavailable for mineral lease.

Range

0.2-12—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

0.2-13—Permit only hiking, horse, and canoe trails. Do not develop trailheads.

0.2-14—Permit only primitive boat access sites.

0.2-15—Permit camping areas at development level 1 only. Permit dispersed camping in undesignated sites.

0.2-16—Do not allow interpretive facilities.

Vegetation

0.2-17—Prohibit harvesting of special forest products and salvaging of dead stands.

0.2-18—Classified as unsuitable for timber production. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

Wildlife and Fish

0.2-19—Prohibit cultivated wildlife openings and artificial structures for non-PETS species.

Management Area 0.3
Wild and Scenic River

Apalachicola NF	2,277	acres not inventoried
	5,060	acres in LTA 3
	5,222	acres in LTA 4
	5,970	acres in LTA 5
	18,529	**total acres**
Ocala NF	162	acres in LTA 1
	2,158	acres in LTA 6
	2,320	**total acres**

VQO = Scenic Segment - 100% Retention
VQO = Recreational Segments - 75% Retention & 25% Partial Retention
ROS = Semiprimitive - 100% Motorized
All acres unsuitable for timber production on the Ocala NF
4,945 acres suitable for timber production on the Apalachicola NF

Table 4.1

Wild and Scenic River Segment Classification and Length

	County	Miles	Classification
Alexander Springs			
Segment A	Lake	7	Scenic
Segment B	Lake	3	Wild
Juniper Springs			
Segment A	Marion	7	Wild
Segment B	Marion	3	Scenic
New River			
Segment A	Liberty	7	Not Eligible
Segment B	Liberty	6	Scenic
Segment C	Liberty	10	Wild
Segment D	Franklin	29	Scenic
Ochlockonee River	Leon, Liberty, & Wakulla	59	Scenic
Sopchoppy River			
Headwaters	Wakulla	13.6	Scenic
Bradwell Bay	Wakulla	6.0	Wild
Monkey Creek	Wakulla	3.4	Scenic
Sopchoppy	Wakulla	19.1	Recreational
St. Marks	Wakulla	5.5	Scenic
TOTAL		**178.6**	

0.3-Goal

To provide an essentially unmodified natural environment along *wild* segments of wild and scenic rivers and a predominantly natural environment along *scenic* segments.

0.3-Desired Future Condition

This area consists of river corridors, so the predominant ecosystem is floodplain wetlands. Higher ridges with drier ecosystems—such as pine flatwoods, upland pine, and sand pine scrub—may be occasionally included in the half-mile-wide corridors. Adjacent to the river, the area rarely burns, though snags killed by lightning may occur. Evidence of wildfires and prescribed fires on higher ridges in the corridor may be seen. Along wild segments, essentially there is no evidence of recent human activity. Along scenic segments, the shoreline is mostly undeveloped, but it is accessible in places by roads or trails. The area provides mid-sized patches of old growth (100-2,499 acres). Approximately 20 percent of the area is designated as old growth in the river floodplain hardwood, hardwood wetland, and dry and dry mesic oak/pine communities.

Water and air meet State and Federal quality standards. Soil erosion occurs naturally along river banks. Visitors use the river primarily for recreation activities, such as boating and fishing. In wild segments, they are often isolated from the sights and sounds of other human activity and encounter few other users. In scenic segments, they are more likely to encounter other users, including those walking or motoring to the shoreline. Boat access sites of all different levels of development may be encountered.

In wild segments, roads are not encountered. In scenic segments, roads are encountered occasionally. Most roads have native surfacing and conform in height to the surrounding ground. They are of a low standard and may be difficult to travel with a low-clearance vehicle. A few roads, however, may have sand-clay, limerock, or paved surfacing. They provide access to the river during most of the year.

0.3-Standards and Guidelines

Rivers in this management area are proposed as wild and scenic rivers and will be managed such that no activities will occur that could reduce the area's value as a wild and scenic river. Guidance is found in FSH 1909.12, *Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook*, Chapter 8.12, ``Interim Management of Study Rivers." Also in Chapter 8.2, ``Assessment of Study Rivers," are USDI-USDA Interagency Guidelines for wild rivers, scenic rivers, and recreational rivers.

General

0.3-1—Apply all restrictions associated with the underlying management area to the river corridor.

Infrastructure

0.3-2—Screen roads from the river.

Lands

0.3-3—Limit utilities, such as pipelines and power lines, to short reaches of the river corridor. Locate and construct utilities to lessen their negative effects on the scenic, recreational, fish, wildlife, and other values of the river corridor. Prohibit new utility corridors in wild segments. Use existing corridors to meet valid public interests.

Minerals

0.3-4—Conduct mineral development in a manner that reduces surface disturbance, sedimentation, and visual impairment.

Range

0.3-5—Screen range structural improvements from the river.

Recreation

0.3-6—Prohibit rifle ranges.

0.3-7—Screen recreational structures from the river, or make them modest and unobtrusive.

Vegetation

0.3-8—Scenic segments along the Sopchoppy River and New River are suitable for timber production. All wild segments and remaining scenic segments are unsuitable for timber production.

0.3-9—In all vegetation management activities, maintain the VQO or scenery management standard of the river.

Wildlife and Fish

0.3-10—In all wildlife and fish management activities, maintain VQO or scenery management standard of the river.

Management Area 0.4
Wilderness Study Area

Apalachicola NF	299	acres in LTA 1
	4,869	acres in LTA 4
	467	acres in LTA 5
	5,635	**total acres**
Osceola NF	1,185	acres in LTA 4
	3,211	acres in LTA 5
	4,396	**total acres**

VQO = 90% Preservation & 10% Retention
ROS = Semiprimitive - 100% Nonmotorized
All acres unsuitable for timber production

0.4-Goal

These lands are wilderness study areas (Clear Lake on the Apalachicola NF and Natural Area on the Osceola NF), managed to protect their wilderness character until a final determination of use is made by Congress. Clear Lake is recommended for wilderness, and Natural Area is recommended to be released as a wilderness study area.

0.4-Desired Future Condition

Water, soil, and air are in near pristine condition. Old roads, hiking trails, and horse trails provide access into the area. Visitors may be nature enthusiasts, hikers, horseback riders, or hunters. They are isolated from the sights and sounds of human activity, and only occasionally are other people encountered while passing through the area. The only facilities might be marked trails, old logging roads, primitive boat access sites, and fire-ring camping areas. Motorized vehicles may be encountered. Displays, presentations, and publications about the area may be found at off-site locations. The area provides mid-sized (100-2,499 acres) patches of old growth. Approximately 25 percent of the area is designated old growth in the upland longleaf pine community.

0.4-Standards and Guidelines

Fire

0.4-1—Construct firelines with hand tools by scraping a line of variable width down to mineral soil. Hose lays, foam, and wetting agents may be used to control the fire.

0.4-2—Ground-based mechanical equipment must stay on open, numbered roads and unmarked travelways.

0.4-3—Scout area to be burned by air when aerial ignition for prescribed fire is planned to provide for public safety.

Infrastructure

0.4-4—Maintain existing infrastructure at its current level. Do not construct new roads or buildings.

Minerals

0.4-5—Legislatively withdrawn or unavailable for mineral lease.

Range

0.4-6—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

0.4-7—Until Congress acts to determine the area's classification, do not construct new trails or trailheads.

0.4-8—Only permit camping areas at development level 1.

0.4-9—Do not permit interpretive facilities and recreational facilities, except primitive boat access sites.

Vegetation

0.4-10—Prohibit harvesting of special forest products and salvaging of dead stands.

0.4-11—Classified as unsuitable for timber production. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

0.4-12—If a restoration project involves the replacement of an off-site tree species, do not create temporary openings larger than 25 acres.

Wildlife and Fish

0.4-13—Prohibit cultivated wildlife openings and artificial structures for non-PETS species.

1.0 Remote Areas

These areas are predominantly remote wetlands.

Management Area 1.1
Remote Wetland

Osceola NF 17,116 acres all acres not inventoried

VQO = 90% Preservation & 10% Retention
ROS = Semiprimitive - 50% Motorized & 50% Nonmotorized
All acres unsuitable for timber production

1.1-Goal

To provide conditions suitable for the recovery of proposed, endangered, threatened, and sensitive species that require remote undisturbed habitat within large, predominantly wetland areas.

1.1-Desired Future Condition

Ecosystems are found in their natural condition with little evidence of human disturbance. The area provides large-sized (greater than 2,500 acres) and mid-sized (100-2,499 acres) patches of old growth. Approximately 10 percent of the area is designated as old growth in the cypress/tupelo swamp community. The occasional natural disturbances—including storms, insects, diseases, and fires that sweep across the area during prolonged droughts—shape the vegetation patterns. The usually wet conditions make fires rare, but snags and lightning-struck trees are visible. Infrequently the landscape may be interrupted by narrow road corridors.

The area is a still-water swamp dominated by fetterbush and greenbriers. Scattered bay and pond pine trees can be seen. Small areas of open-water glades are scattered throughout. In these areas, there are plants such as maidencane and bloodroot. Glades can be formed by the action of fire during droughts. Fire burns into the peat, leaving an empty depression. When water returns, it becomes a site of shallow, open water and emergent herbs invade it. Over many years the organic layer builds up again and the site becomes dry enough for shrubs, vines, and occasionally a tree. The density of shrubs compared to glades depends on the length of time since the last fire.

Islands, representing slight changes in elevation, are scattered throughout. They support sparse pond and slash pine overstories. Understory is closed and dense, with mixtures of small trees and shrubs—including bay species, blueberry, gallberry, and palmetto.

Wildlife characteristics of the area are those that thrive in large remote wetlands.

Water, soil, and air are in near pristine condition. Roads and trails are very few and maintained only at a low level. Since understory can be hard to penetrate, travel can be difficult. Visitors are isolated from the sights and sounds of human activity and encounter few, if any, other people. There are no facilities. Interpretive material (displays and publications) about the area may be found at off-site locations.

Roads are seldom seen. They may have water-filled ditches and lie above the surrounding ground. Low-water drainage points (bay crossing, streams, etc.) do not have any

improvements. These roads are of very low standard and are very rough and irregular. Travel with low-clearance vehicles is difficult.

1.1-Standards and Guidelines

Range

1.1-1—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

1.1-2—Permit only minor trailheads (recreational development level 2).

1.1-3—Do not allow recreational facilities, except primitive boat access sites.

1.1-4—Permit dispersed camping in undesignated sites, but do not develop camping areas.

1.1-5—Prohibit interpretive facilities.

Vegetation

1.1-6—Prohibit harvesting of special forest products and salvaging of dead stands.

1.1-7—Classified as unsuitable for timber production on a regulated basis. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

Wildlife and Fish

1.1-8—Do not cultivate wildlife openings.

2.0 Research Areas

These areas include research natural areas, experimental forests, and genetic resource management areas.

Management Area 2.1
Research Natural Area

Apalachicola NF	489	acres in LTA 2
	489	**total acres**
Osceola NF	358	acres in LTA 4
	23	acres in LTA 5
	381	**total acres**

VQO = 90% Preservation & 10% Retention
ROS = Semiprimitive - 75% Motorized & 25% Nonmotorized
All acres unsuitable for timber production

2.1-Goal

To preserve areas that typify important botanic, aquatic, geologic, or similar natural situations that have special or unique characteristics of scientific interest and to help form a national network of ecological areas for research, education, and maintenance of biological diversity.

2.1-Desired Future Condition

In these areas, ecosystems are shaped by natural forces and, in some cases, by human management intended to mimic natural forces altered by human activity outside the area's boundary. These areas provide mid-sized (100-2,499 acres) patches of old growth. Approximately 25 percent of the area is designated old growth in the cypress/tupelo swamp community. Species vary by the type of ecosystem that is present. Water, soil, and air are in near pristine condition. Nearby roads may range from very rough to paved. At one extreme, access may require cross-country travel; at the other, a well-developed interpretive trail may provide access. Visitors may be nature enthusiasts, researchers, or hunters. The likelihood of encountering other people varies with the site. There may be interpretive displays.

Roads provide access to the area but are not within the boundaries. Roads are placed so they do not degrade the unique features of the area. They are maintained at a level that does not lead to overuse. Designated areas include:

1. Natural Area (Osceola NF). This area (about 400 acres) is a stand of cypress mixed with black gum, red maple, and slash pine. Cypress are unusually old, ranging from 3 to 4 feet in diameter. This area is designated a research natural area.

2. Savannah (Apalachicola NF). This is a wet prairie with a dense ground cover of grasses and herbs. It is typically wet for 2 to 3 months of the year and naturally burns every 2 to 4 years. The species diversity of wetland herbs and grasses is very high.

2.1-Standards and Guidelines

Access

2.1-1—Restrict motorized vehicles to open, numbered roads (forest development roads) except for administrative use, and activities under contract or permit.

Fire

2.1-2—Construct firelines with hand tools by scraping a line of variable width down to mineral soil. Hose lays, foam, and wetting agents may be used to control fire. Only use plowlines in cases of extreme emergency.

2.1-3—Ground-based mechanical equipment must stay on open, numbered roads and marked travelways, except in cases of extreme emergency.

Recreation

2.1-4—Do not permit recreational facilities.

2.1-5—Prohibit camping.

Vegetation

2.1-6—Prohibit harvesting of special forest products and salvaging of dead stands.

2.1-7—The area is classified as unsuitable for timber production.

Wildlife and Fish

2.1-8—Prohibit cultivated wildlife openings and artificial structures.

Management Area 2.2
Experimental Forest

Osceola NF	293	acres in LTA 1
	2,509	acres in LTA 5
	2,802	**total acres**

VQO = 25% Partial Retention, 50% Modification, & 25% Maximum Modification
ROS = 100% Rural
All acres unsuitable for timber production

2.2-Goal

To provide lands for conducting research to achieve the goals and objectives of the Southern Research Station.

2.2-Desired Future Condition

In this area, alteration of the landscape is readily apparent and occurs primarily through human intervention. Vegetation patterns are the result of timber harvests that create many

openings (varying from small to large) in the forest canopy. Once in a while the visitor sees the effects of natural disturbances (fires, storms, insects, and diseases). Snags and lightning-struck trees are seen occasionally. Most of the tree trunks are blackened to various degrees. Evidence of firelines around previous fires is encountered at a moderate rate. In addition, the landscape may be interrupted by narrow road corridors. Remnants of roads leading from permanent roads to openings can be seen. Evidence of research activities—in the form of signs, stakes, tree tags, and paint on trees—is often seen.

The ecosystem is primarily mesic flatwoods, with strand swamp inclusions. In flatwoods, dominant trees are a mix of longleaf and slash pine, and saw palmetto dominates the understory. The appearance of the pine forest may vary from somewhat open and parklike in the oldest stands to closed and dense in the younger stands. From one location to the next, trees may vary in size. In some stands, trees are uniformly spaced in rows, but other stands may show random distribution of the trees. Green stumps may be found throughout the forest.

Wildlife species are those that tolerate a certain amount of human disturbance and live in predominantly longleaf pine forests.

The quality of water, soil, and air is high. Roads are common, and some are easily passable. Visitors are not isolated from the sights and sounds of human activity. They may encounter other people. There are few trails and no recreational facilities, though there may be interpretive displays.

The low-standard roads have native surfacing and conform in height to the surrounding ground. Some low-drainage points along these roads (bay crossing, streams, etc.) have low-water rock crossings. Travel with low-clearance vehicles is difficult. Some higher-standard roads have sand-clay surfacing, are higher than the surrounding ground, and have ditches. Drainage structures consist of culverts. Roads may not be stable during bad weather conditions. A few roads have paved surfaces and are stable and smooth.

2.2-Standards and Guidelines

Range

2.2-1—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

2.2-2—Permit only minor trailheads.

2.2-3—Do not develop recreational facilities.

Vegetation

2.2-4—Classified as unsuitable for timber production. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

Management Area 2.3
Genetic Resource Management Area

Ocala NF	81 acres in LTA 1
	81 total acres

VQO = 100% Modification
ROS = not applicable
All acres unsuitable for timber production

2.3-Goal

To provide lands that promote genetic conservation and propagation of sand pine and as a basis for genetic conservation of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species.

2.3-Desired Future Condition

In this area, alteration of the landscape is readily apparent and occurs primarily through human intervention. Rows of vigorous sand pine trees are found with an herbaceous understory. Once in a while the visitor sees the effects of natural disturbances (fires, storms, insects, and diseases). The orchard is interrupted by a few narrow road corridors. Evidence of research activities—signs, stakes, tree tags, and paint on trees—may be seen. Research and equipment storage buildings are on site. There are offspring from a variety of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.

Wildlife species are those that tolerate some human activity and primarily inhabit sand pine scrub or upland pine ecosystems.

The quality of water, soil, and air is high. An improved road provides access to buildings, and unimproved roads provide access to the sand pine orchards. Visitors are not isolated from the sights and sounds of human activity. They may encounter other people. There are no trails or recreational facilities, though there may be interpretive displays.

2.3-Standards and Guidelines

Access

2.3-1—Restrict motorized vehicles to open, numbered roads (forest development roads), except for administrative use and activities under contract or permit.

Recreation

2.3-2—Close area to public use, but interpretive tours may be available.

Vegetation

2.3-3—Prohibit harvesting of special forest products.

2.3-4—Classified as unsuitable for timber production. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

3.0 Special Interest Area

These areas have special aquatic, biotic, geologic, historic, paleontologic, or scenic values.

Management Area 3.1
Special Interest Area

Apalachicola NF	1,365	acres not inventoried
	634	acres in LTA 1
	4397	acres in LTA 2
	11	acres in LTA 3
	210	acres in LTA 4
	1,042	acres in LTA 5
	7,659	**total acres**
Ocala NF	150	acres in LTA 1
	427	acres in LTA 2
	3,677	acres in LTA 5
	1,178	acres in LTA 6
	5,432	**total acres**
Osceola NF	1,550	acres in LTA 2
	189	acres in LTA 3
	322	acres in LTA 5
	2,061	**total acres**

VQO = 25% Preservation, 65% Retention, & 10% Partial Retention
ROS = Semiprimitive - 65% Motorized & 25% Nonmotorized, & 10% Roaded Natural
All acres unsuitable for timber production

3.1-Goal

To maintain a predominantly natural environment in which areas with special aquatic, biotic, geologic, historic, paleontologic, or scenic values can be preserved and interpreted for public enjoyment, study, and use.

3.1-Desired Future Condition

In all areas, except historic sites, ecosystems are in natural conditions. Natural forces predominate and may have been supplemented by management activities intended to replace interrupted natural forces. The area provides mid-sized (100-2,499 acres) patches of old growth. Approximately 30 percent of the area is designated old growth in the upland longleaf pine, cypress/tupelo swamp, river floodplain hardwood, and hardwood wetland communities. Physical site characteristics and vegetative features make the site unique. Wildlife species vary accordingly. Water, soil, and air are in near pristine condition. There may be heritage resource sites. These may be degraded by natural forces—such as storms, fires, and root growth—but management activities, such as logging and road construction, have little affect. Actions are taken to reduce potential for looting and vandalism.

Some areas do not have access roads. In other areas, access roads range from unimproved dirt to paved. These roads are designed and maintained to avoid degradation of the unique features of the area. There may be nonmotorized loop trails with both interpretive facilities and facilities for comfort and safety. In areas developed for interpretation, visitors may encounter other people. At the other extreme, undeveloped areas may be remote and may lack facilities.

3.1-Standards and Guidelines

General

3.1-1—Restrict management activities to those consistent with the preservation of special attributes for which the area was established.

Access

3.1-2—Restrict motorized vehicles to open, numbered roads (forest development roads) and designated trails.

Range

3.1-3—If a special interest area exists within a range allotment, do not permit structural and nonstructural range improvements within the special interest area.

Recreation

3.1-4—Permit only hiking and horse trails and major and minor trailheads unless prohibited in specific areas.

3.1-5—Permit only picnic areas and primitive boat access facilities unless prohibited in specific areas.

3.1-6—Prohibit camping unless allowed in specific areas.

Vegetation

3.1-7—Prohibit harvesting of special forest products.

3.1-8—Classified as unsuitable for timber production. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

3.1-9—If a restoration project involves the replacement of an off-site tree species, to maintain the visual quality, do not create temporary openings larger than 10 acres.

Wildlife and Fish

3.1-10—Do not cultivate wildlife openings.

3.1-Standards Applied to Each Area

1. **Savannahs** (Apalachicola NF). These wet prairies range from 10 to 500 acres. They are home to an unusually diverse array of herbs and grasses that can tolerate being under water several months every year and being burned every 2 to 4 years.

   Recreation

   3.1-11—Prohibit picnic facilities.

   Vegetation

   3.1-12—Prohibit salvaging of dead stands.

2. **Bradwell Tract** (Apalachicola NF). This 1,500-acre area of upland pine borders the Ochlockonee River. In the last century, it was managed as a private game farm. The area is scenic and has some sites and buildings of historic interest.

   Recreation

   3.1-13—Permit shoreline improvement facilities.

   Wildlife and Fish

   3.1-14—Permit cultivated wildlife openings.

3. **Lake Bradford Tract** (Apalachicola NF). This area is managed for education, interpretation, and recreation in partnership with the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science.

4. **Rocky Bluff** (Apalachicola NF). Located on a bluff overlooking the Ochlockonee River, this 225-acre area has some large specimens of bottomland hardwood trees, as well as dogwoods and redbuds.

   Recreation

   3.1-15—Permit primitive camping and nonmotorized trails.

Vegetation

3.1-16—Prohibit salvaging of dead stands.

5. **Morrison Hammock** (Apalachicola NF). This 300-acre area near the banks of the Sopchoppy River is a well-developed hardwood hammock with specimen trees of spruce pine and loblolly pine. The area also contains spring boils.

Recreation

3.1-17—Permit primitive camping and nonmotorized trails.

6. **River Sinks** (Apalachicola NF). This 350-acre parcel encompasses a good example of a sinkhole in a karst plain. The lack of human activity in the immediate vicinity has kept the sinkhole in near-natural condition.

Recreation

3.1-18—Permit primitive camping.

7. **Leon Sinks** (Apalachicola NF). Several outstanding limestone sinks and many other smaller ones make this 640-acre area unique. The sinks vary. One is sheer-walled with a beautiful pool below. Another is shallow with a clear pool. A third one is dry and has several large magnolias inside.

Recreation

3.1-19—Permit shoreline access improvements.

8. **Middle Prong of the St. Mary's River** (Osceola NF). This corridor along the St. Mary's River, an Outstanding Florida Water, is a well-developed example of a creek swamp, with large bays, black gums, loblolly pine, and red maples. Dogwoods and azaleas provide spring bloom along this meandering scenic river.

Recreation

3.1-20—Permit primitive camping.

9. **Drew Grade Oak Hammock** (Osceola NF). This 350-acre area encompasses a scenic mature live oak grove.

Recreation

3.1-21—Prohibit picnic facilities.

3.1-22—Permit primitive camping.

10. **Fanny Bay** (Osceola NF). This cypress swamp, about 350 acres, includes individual cypress trees 3 feet or more in diameter. Located adjacent to a rest stop on Interstate 10, it offers a good opportunity for interpretation and education.

Recreation

3.1-23—Prohibit picnic facilities.

11. **Mud Lake** (Ocala NF). This shallow, 500-acre lake has an unusual set of conditions that leads to a thick ooze developing on the bottom. This kind of ooze is the forerunner of oil-rich shale.

    Vegetation

    3.1-24—Prohibit salvaging of dead stands.

12. **Lake Charles and Redwater Lake** (Ocala NF). These two scenic lakes are surrounded by mature hardwood bottomlands and swamps with large trees.

    Recreation

    3.1-25—Permit primitive camping, rustic boat access sites, and nonmotorized trails.

13. **North Prairie** (Ocala NF). This is a wetland in an otherwise dry scrub that is relatively undisturbed.

    Recreation

    3.1-26—Permit primitive camping and nonmotorized trails.

14. **Davenport Landing** (Ocala NF). This is a prehistoric village and historic riverboat landing site.

    Recreation

    3.1-27—Permit primitive camping and nonmotorized trails.

15. **Mormon Branch** (Ocala NF). This is a subtropical swamp with a population of impressive Atlantic white cedars.

    Recreation

    3.1-28—Permit multiple-use trails.

    Vegetation

    3.1-29—Permit salvaging of dead stands if evaluation indicates no adverse effects on Atlantic white cedar or on threatened and endangered species.

16. **Bowers Bluff** (Ocala NF). This mature hardwood hammock overlooks the St. Johns River.

17. **Disappearing Creek** (Ocala NF). This is a sinkhole with a scenic, mature hardwood hammock.

    Recreation

    3.1-30—Permit camping areas up to development levels 1 and 2.

4.0 Recreation Emphasis Areas

These areas are managed with an emphasis on varying degrees of recreational opportunities.

Management Area 4.1
Minimum Development, Nonmotorized

Osceola NF	1,089	acres in LTA 4
	192	acres in LTA 5
	1,281	**total acres**

VQO = 50% Preservation & 50% Retention
ROS = 100% Semiprimitive, Nonmotorized
All acres unsuitable for timber production

4.1-Goal

To provide a predominantly natural environment that gives a strong feeling of remoteness and in which there are opportunities to practice wildland skills and feel self-reliant. To provide opportunities for nonmotorized recreation.

4.1-Desired Future Condition

The most common vegetative community in this area is the basin swamp. The landscape is predominantly natural, with little remaining evidence of historical human disturbance.

Vegetation patterns are shaped by natural processes—such as floods, fires (including prescribed fire), storms, insects, and diseases. Little active timber management occurs here. Snags and downed wood are common. There may be evidence of fire, but since the area is predominantly wetland, fires are not common. Barring natural disturbance, the forest is old. The area provides mid-sized patches of old growth (100-2,499 acres). Approximately 90 percent of the area is designated as old growth in the cypress/tupelo swamp community. The area is interrupted occasionally by a narrow road or a trail corridor, and facilities such as primitive camping areas may be encountered.

The quality of soil, water, and air is high. Nonmotorized trails provide the only public access into the area. People using the area may be canoeing, hiking, horseback riding, or hunting. Visitors are usually isolated from the sights and sounds of human activity. Few, if any, other people are encountered. A few level 1 camping areas and a few interpretive signs may occur.

A few roads may exist in the area, but vehicles seen may be for administrative purposes. Most roads have native surfacing and are level with the surrounding ground. In low areas, roads may have ditches or be above the surrounding ground. A few low-drainage points (bay crossing, streams, etc.) have low-water rock crossings.

4.1-Standards and Guidelines

Access

4.1-1—Restrict motorized vehicle use to administrative vehicles and activities related to contracts or permits.

Fire

4.1-2—Use minimal impact suppression techniques on all wildfires, when possible.

Infrastructure

4.1-3—Do not construct roads. Maintain existing roads that are needed for management of the area at traffic service level D.

Range

4.1-4—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

4.1-5—Develop trails for nonmotorized use only. Do not develop trailheads.

4.1-6—Prohibit recreational facilities, except primitive boat access sites.

4.1-7—Only allow camping areas at development level 1.

Vegetation

4.1-8—Prohibit salvaging of dead stands.

4.1-9—Classified as unsuitable for timber production on a regulated basis. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

4.1-10—If a restoration project involves the replacement of an off-site tree species, to maintain the visual quality, limit temporary openings to 10 acres.

Wildlife and Fish

4.1-11—Do not cultivate wildlife openings

Management Area 4.2
Minimum Development, Motorized

Ocala NF	239	acres in LTA 1
	2,571	acres in LTA 2
	980	acres in LTA 5
	1,782	acres in LTA 6
	5,572	**total acres**
Osceola NF	4,527	acres in LTA 3
	613	acres in LTA 5
	5,140	**total acres**

VQO = 25% Preservation & 75% Retention
ROS = 100% Semiprimitive, Motorized
All acres unsuitable for timber production

4.2-Goal

To provide a predominantly natural environment that gives the visitor a feeling of remoteness, where there are opportunities to practice wildland skills and achieve feelings of self-reliance. To provide opportunities for motorized recreation, where there are few roads.

4.2-Desired Future Condition

The landscape is predominantly natural with some evidence of human disturbance. Vegetation patterns are shaped by natural processes—such as floods, fires (including prescribed fire), storms, insects, and diseases. The area provides mid-sized (100-2,499 acres) patches of old growth. Approximately 30 percent of the area is designated old growth in the cypress/tupelo swamp and hardwood wetland communities. In addition, there are a few small openings in the forest where vegetation has been modified to enhance recreational pursuits—such as off-highway vehicle use, hunting, nature photography, and wildlife viewing. Occasionally, the landscape is interrupted by narrow road and trail corridors and small rustic facilities such as campsites.

The quality of soil, water, and air is high. Access is provided by a few unpaved roads, trails, and rivers and streams with a few primitive and rustic boat access sites. People using the area are usually there for recreation activities, both motorized and nonmotorized. At the few rustic facilities that exist, visitors may find level 1 camping areas, interpretive kiosks, and brochures.

On the roads that exist in the area, traffic may be occasionally encountered. Roads have native surfacing and conform in height to the surrounding ground. In low areas, roads may have ditches or be raised. A few low-drainage points (bay crossing, streams, etc.) have low-water rock crossings. Most roads are rough and irregular, and travel with low-clearance vehicles is challenging. Some old roads may be used as motorized-use trails.

4.2-Standards and Guidelines

Fire

4.2-1—Use minimum impact-suppression techniques on all wildfires, when possible.

Infrastructure

4.2-2—Allow traffic service level C or D roads.

Range

4.2-3—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

4.2-4—Allow only minor trailheads.

4.2-5—Prohibit recreational facilities, except shoreline improvements and primitive and rustic boat access sites.

4.2-6—Allow camping areas only at development level 1.

Vegetation

4.2-7—Prohibit salvaging of dead stands.

4.2-8—Classified as unsuitable for timber production on a regulated basis. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

4.2-9—If a restoration project involves replacement of an off-site tree species, to maintain the visual quality, do not create temporary openings larger than 10 acres.

Wildlife and Fish

4.2-10—Do not cultivate wildlife openings.

Management Area 4.3
Low Recreational Development

Ocala NF	132	acres in LTA 1
	1,230	acres in LTA 6
	1,362	**total acres**

VQO = 25% Preservation & 75% Retention
ROS = 100% Roaded Natural
All acres unsuitable for timber production

4.3-Goal

To provide a largely unmodified natural environment with a low level of recreational development that may be experienced by people via motorized access into the area.

4.3-Desired Future Condition

Ecosystems are in largely unmodified conditions where natural forces predominate and evidence of human influence is muted. Natural processes—such as fires (including prescribed fire), storms, insects, and diseases—shape vegetation patterns. Roads are dense enough to modify the natural forest with frequent, artificial edges and corridors. In many of the areas, the forests have old trees.

Soil, water, and air quality are high. Heritage resource sites are likely to occur here. Roads are the primary access. The visitor may not become completely isolated from the sights and sounds of other people. Primitive and rustic boat access sites are present, as are trails. People using them may be driving for pleasure, hiking, horseback riding, riding motorized recreation vehicles, or hunting. Both motorized and nonmotorized camping occurs at level 1 and level 2 camping areas. Signing, safety, and sanitation facilities may be present, as well as displays, presentations, and publications.

Most roads have native surfacing and are the height to the surrounding ground. In low areas, roads may have ditches. Low-drainage points usually have low-water rock crossings. These roads are rough and irregular, making travel with low-clearance vehicles difficult. Other roads have a sand-clay surfacing, are higher than the surrounding ground, and have ditches. These roads are apt to have culverts or bridges at water crossings. Although roads are of fair standard, they may not be stable during bad weather. Rutting, roughness, and dust are present most of the time. There may be a few higher-standard roads, with limerock or paved surfacing. These are stable and smooth most of the time.

4.3-Standards and Guidelines

Range

4.3-1—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

4.3-2—Do not permit boat access sites more developed than the rustic level.

4.3-3—Only allow camping areas at development level 1 or 2.

Vegetation

4.3-4—If a restoration project involves replacement of an off-site tree species, to maintain the visual quality, do not create temporary openings larger than 10 acres.

4.3-5—Classified as unsuitable for timber production on a regulated basis. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

Management Area 4.4
Moderate Recreational Development

Apalachicola NF	287	acres in LTA 2
	12,365	acres in LTA 3
	2,270	acres in LTA 4
	1,684	acres in LTA 5
	16,606	**total acres**
Ocala NF	520	acres in LTA 1
	1,417	acres in LTA 2
	2,042	acres in LTA 6
	3,979	**total acres**
Osceola NF	673	acres in LTA 1
	15	acres in LTA 5
	688	**total acres**

VQO = 50% Preservation & 50% Retention
ROS = 100% Roaded Natural
All acres unsuitable for timber production

4.4-Goal

To provide a predominantly natural-appearing environment with a moderate level of recreational development that may be experienced by people via motorized access into the area.

4.4-Desired Future Condition

The landscape appears largely natural. Vegetation patterns are mostly determined by natural processes—such as fires (including prescribed fire), storms, insects, and diseases. However, roads are common and create unnatural patterns on the landscape. The occasional recreational facilities—such as boat access sites, picnic areas, and camping areas— also create unnatural patterns on the landscape. Trees may reach a very old age, and some may have become snags. The area provides mid-sized (100-2,499 acres) patches of old growth. Approximately 35 percent of the area is designated old growth in the cypress/tupelo swamp, hardwood wetland, dry and dry mesic oak/pine, and upland mesic hardwood communities. Occasionally the visitor sees a lightning-struck tree. Fires are rare in wetter areas, but blackened tree trunks may be seen in drier areas, where low-intensity fires are frequent.

The quality of soil, water, and air is high. Heritage resource sites are likely to occur here. Access is provided primarily by roads. Recreation often centers around water—either lakes, rivers, or streams. Visitors often see others involved in recreation activities. There is a feeling of freedom and independence but with little challenge and risk. Within forested areas, nature enthusiasts and hunters are present occasionally. Motorized- and nonmotorized-use trails may be seen, particularly adjacent to water. Along these trails, facilities exist for the comfort and convenience of the user. Primitive, rustic, and developed boat ramps provide access to water. There are often on-site controls. Artificial nest structures (wood duck boxes) may be seen along and near the shoreline. Levels 1-3 camping areas can be found in the area.

Most roads are built to a low standard, have native surfacing, and conform in height to the surrounding ground. In low areas, they may have ditches and be above the surrounding ground. A few low-drainage points have low-water rock crossings. These roads are rough and irregular, making travel with low-clearance vehicles difficult. Higher-standard roads have a sand-clay surfacing, are higher than the surrounding ground, and have ditches. Drainage structures on these roads are culverts and, occasionally, bridges. These roads may be unstable during bad weather conditions. They have some rutting, roughness, and dust or mud present most of the time. There are a few higher-standard roads, with limerock or paved surfacing. These are stable and smooth most of the time.

4.4-Standards and Guidelines

Range

4.4-1—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

4.4-2—Only allow camping areas at development level 1, 2, or 3.

Vegetation

4.4-3—Classified as unsuitable for timber production on a regulated basis. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

Management Area 4.5
Developed Recreation Area

Apalachicola NF	111	acres not inventoried
	246	acres in LTA 1
	36	acres in LTA 2
	107	acres in LTA 3
	11	acres in LTA 4
	229	acres in LTA 5
	740	**total acres**
Ocala NF	843	acres in LTA 1
	83	acres in LTA 2
	32	acres in LTA 3
	10	acres in LTA 4
	23	acres in LTA 5
	442	acres in LTA 6
	1,433	**total acres**
Osceola NF	1	acres in LTA 2
	276	acres in LTA 5
	277	**total acres**

VQO = 25% Preservation, 25% Retention, & 50% Modification
ROS = 100% Rural
All acres unsuitable for timber production

4.5-Goal

To provide a substantially modified setting in which recreation facilities are designed to allow a high degree of social interaction.

4.5-Desired Future Condition

In this area, the environment appears to have been modified. From a distance the vegetation patterns appear to be shaped by natural forces, but on closer inspection, many alterations have occurred and often the result is a landscaped look. Trees may be old, adding character to the site. Improvements—such as road and trail corridors, recreation facilities, and power lines—are common. Within the primary recreation use area, a brushy understory may exist and function as a screen between camping units to create a more enclosed environment, or the area may be open and parklike with swimming beaches and picnic tables. Snags are uncommon, but tree trunks may be somewhat blackened from prescribed fires. There may be some nonnative vegetation. There may be wildlife and fish habitat improvements (including fishing piers, boat launches, and fish structures). Also, wood duck nesting boxes may be seen on small water bodies throughout the area. There may be species that tolerate human activity.

The quality of soil, water, and air is high. Identified heritage sites are protected and interpreted. Roads of a high standard provide the main access. For people using the area, social interaction is high and is a key component of the experience. Isolation from the sights and sounds of other humans is rare. The primary use area may have many facilities. They are designed for the convenience of the user—such as boat access sites, buildings, campsites, interpretive features and services, paved and unpaved parking areas, sanitary structures, signs, and utility structures. Fishing piers, short interpretive trails, swimming beaches, and picnic facilities (including group shelters) may be provided. Campsite facilities may be present within a wide range of design standards to accommodate a full spectrum of camping vehicles. Structures to protect soil, water, and vegetation are evident. They may include barrier posts, gates, gabions, and water bars.

Most roads have paved surfacing, are slightly above the height of the surrounding ground, and have ditches. Drainage structures consist of culverts. These roads are very high standard, are stable and smooth, and have little or no dust. Other roads have sand-clay or limerock surfacing but otherwise conform to the description of paved roads.

4.5-Standards and Guidelines

Infrastructure

4.5-1—Install all new utilities underground.

Prescribed Fire

4.5-2—Schedule prescribed fires during periods of low recreation use.

Range

4.5-3—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

4.5-4—Construct and maintain to a minimum of level 3 any spur trails or interpretive trails inside or adjacent to this management area.

4.5-5—Manage recreation areas at full-service management.

4.5-6—To maintain visual quality, use herbicide only around signs, poles, buildings, and facilities where mowers or trimmers cannot accomplish the objective. Use only spot application of the herbicides.

4.5-7—Permit horses and pack animals and the use of off-highway vehicles in designated areas.

4.5-8—To maintain visual quality, preserve desirable screening or space-defining understory vegetation.

Vegetation

4.5-9—Prohibit harvesting of special forest products.

4.5-10—Classified as unsuitable for timber production on a regulated basis. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

5.0 Hardwood/Cypress Forest

These are areas of predominantly bottomland hardwood and cypress/gum swamps.

5.0-Desired Future Condition

Ecosystem is bottomland hardwood bordering a river and cypress/gum swamps, with slightly elevated ridges that have an overstory of scattered pine. Bottomlands are covered by a closed-canopy forest of tall, straight trees. These include cypress, loblolly bay, red maple, river birch, southern magnolia, spruce pine, sweetgum, tupelo, and several oak species. Understory may be either open—with ferns, herbs, and grasses—or dense and shrubby. Shrubs may include azaleas, briers, dahoon holly, dogwoods, poison ivy, silverbells, and wax myrtle. The elevated ridges support a sparse pine overstory of slash and pond pine with a dense understory of bay, blueberry, gallberry, and palmetto. Wildlife species are those that thrive in riverine wetlands.

Roads, rivers, and trails provide access to the area. Visitors may find a feeling of freedom and independence but with little challenge and risk. The sense of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans ebbs and flows with the coming and going of river traffic. Within forested areas, wildlife viewers and hunters are present occasionally. Motorized- and nonmotorized-use trails may be seen, particularly adjacent to rivers. Along these trails, facilities exist for the comfort and convenience of the user. Primitive, rustic, and developed boat ramps provide access to the river. Interpretive displays and signs may be present. Wood duck boxes may be seen along the river's shoreline.

Soil, water, and air quality are high. Most roads are low standard and may be difficult to travel with low-clearance vehicles. These have native surfacing. In low areas, they may have ditches or low-water rock crossings. Travel with low-clearance vehicles may be difficult. A few higher-standard roads have a sand-clay surfacing, are higher than the surrounding ground, and have ditches. In low areas, these have culverts or, occasionally, bridges. Even these roads may not be stable during bad weather conditions, and they have some rutting and dust or mud most of the time.

Management Area 5.1
No Hardwood/Cypress Timber Production

Ocala NF	217	acres in LTA 1
	16,923	acres in LTA 6
	17,140	**total acres**

VQO = 25% Preservation, 65% Retention, & 10% Modification
ROS = Semiprimitive - 50% Motorized & 25% Nonmotorized, & 25% Roaded Natural

Table 4.2
MA 5.1 Suitability for Timber Production

	Acres
Nonforestland	1,608
Not Capable	163
Inadequate Information	2,121
Developed Recreation Sites	41
Special Interest Areas	109
Threatened & Endangered Species Sites	2,097
Unsuitable Hardwood	6,311
Streamside Management Zones	118
Total Acres Unsuitable for Timber Production	**12,459**
Total Acres Suitable for Timber Production (pine only)	**4,681**

5.1-Goal

To retain bottomland hardwood forests with minimum disturbance, while providing for harvest of pine islands and ridges in the area and along its margins. To provide habitat for healthy populations of bald eagles.

5.1-Desired Future Condition

Bottomlands are found in their natural condition with little evidence of human disturbance. Vegetation patterns are shaped by natural processes—including floods, storms, insects, and diseases. The area provides mid-sized (100-2,499 acres) patches of old growth. Approximately 30 percent of the area is designated old growth in the cypress/tupelo swamp, river floodplain hardwood, hardwood wetland, and dry and xeric oak communities. Fires are rare in wetlands, so evidence of them—such as blackened tree trunks and plowed firelines—is almost nonexistent. Snags are often seen. Barring natural disturbance, bottomland forests are old. The slightly elevated pine ridges, by contrast, show evidence of human activity, including openings created by timber harvest. Here, fire is more common, and blackened tree trunks are evident. Infrequently the landscape may be interrupted by narrow roads.

Bald eagle and osprey nests are abundant in the elevated pine inclusions and dominant cypresses. Habitat is provided for 40 or more bald eagle nesting territories.

Openings in the pines are scattered here and there. In some of these openings, there may be green stumps of recent origin, piles of bark and branches, and broken shrubs. The size of the openings and the patterns of seedlings and saplings growing up in them match the pattern seen in nearby pine-dominated parts of the forests. Within recently harvested areas, patches of bare soil may exist.

5.1-Standards and Guidelines

Range

5.1-1—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

5.1-2—Do not permit rifle ranges.

5.1-3—Only allow camping areas at development level 1, 2, or 3.

Vegetation

5.1-4—Permit timber production only outside wetland areas in pine management types.

5.1-5—Manage pines the same as in the adjacent management area suitable for timber production.

7.0 Longleaf and Slash Pine, Adaptive Management

These areas are predominantly longleaf and slash pine forests that are managed with a focus on an adaptive approach in maintaining or restoring ecosystem health. A diverse patch size structure ranging from ¼ to 80 acres are found here.

7.0-Desired Future Condition

An adaptive management approach is emphasized in this area. Regeneration methods that have limited operational application are applied and tested here. Monitoring and close coordination with research provide feedback for adjustments in the desired future condition.

During the next two decades, portions of the longleaf pine forests are characterized by patches ranging between ¼ and 2 acres where longleaf pine regeneration is found. These areas will begin to take on an uneven-aged structure. Patches up to 80 acres are found in other areas where longleaf pine is restored. These areas will have an even-aged structure. A few patches up to 80 acres in size are found in the slash pine and loblolly pine forest types with a two-aged appearance.

After the next two decades, the area may take on another appearance. Monitoring and research may show that operational application of regenerating longleaf pine in small patches or regenerating slash and loblolly pine under canopies does not provide the conditions envisioned. The vision for the area may change to a different mixture of patch sizes and stand structures. As the forest ages, there will be more opportunities to provide two-aged patches of slash, loblolly, and longleaf pine. Even-aged patches of longleaf pine restoration up to 80 acres may continue to occur.

The area contains a mosaic of plant communities, depending mostly on the moisture conditions. Drier sites are upland pine dominated by longleaf pine, with an understory of wiregrass, low oak shrubs, and a variety of herbs. Patches of medium to large hardwood, especially oak, are scattered throughout. On wetter sites are pine flatwoods where longleaf pine is apt to be joined by slash, loblolly, and pond pine. Understory vegetation is commonly dominated by palmetto and gallberry, though there is wiregrass present. Along drainages and in basins are black gum, cypress, red maple, and other hardwood with titi and wax myrtle in the understory and along the margins.

The different plant communities are not separated by sharp boundaries, but change from one type to another gradually in response to fluctuations in water level and fire history. Occasionally fires may enter wetlands. Vegetation patterns are primarily the result of fire (including prescribed fire), hydrology, and timber-cutting activities. The pine canopy is open and parklike. Stumps are scattered throughout the forest, or they occur in groups in canopy openings. Pine regeneration is found in a variety of patch sizes from ¼ to 80 acres. The oldest, largest pine trees are flattopped, and many exceed 200 years in age. There are snags, downed trees, and lightning-struck trees. Much of the area would have old-growth conditions at any one time. The area provides small-sized patches of old-growth (1-99 acres) unsuitable for timber production.

Wildlife includes species that prefer mature longleaf and slash pine forests. Birds include Bachman's sparrows, brown-headed nuthatches, red-bellied woodpeckers, red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCWs), and southeastern kestrels. Mammals include black bears, bobcats, gray foxes, raccoons, and white-tailed deer. Gopher tortoises live here, along with numerous other species that share their burrows. Black racers, fence lizards, narrowmouth toads, oak toads, and red rat snakes are also found here. Basin wetlands attract species that like water—such as a variety of salamanders and frogs, snakes (including cottonmouths and mud snakes), and birds (including barred owls and wood ducks).

The quality of soil, water, and air is high. There may be smoke from prescribed fire. Wetlands show no evidence of draining, vehicular activity, or manipulation. Heritage resource sites may be dispersed throughout the area.

Generally, the area is large and continuous. Roads provide the main access. In some places, visitors may encounter other people and activities of various sorts. While in other places, visitors may be quite isolated. Recreational facilities—such as camping areas, fishing access sites, and trails—are found occasionally. Some of these have signs, interpretive displays, and other facilities for the comfort and safety of the user.

Most of the roads have native surfacing and are rough and irregular. In low areas, these usually have ditches and are above the surrounding ground. Many low-drainage points have low-water rock crossings. Travel with low-clearance vehicles is difficult. Other roads have a sand-clay surfacing, are higher than the surrounding ground, and have ditches. In low areas, these may have culverts or bridges. These roads may not be stable during bad weather conditions. Rutting, roughness, and dust are present most of the time. There will be a few higher-standard roads with limerock surfacing or pavement. These

are stable and smooth all the time. Remnants of roads leading from permanent roads to small openings can be seen.

Management Area 7.1
Longleaf/Slash Pine, Adaptive Management, RCW Management

Apalachicola NF	2,476	acres not inventoried
	378	acres in LTA 1
	23,036	acres in LTA 2
	1,216	acres in LTA 3
	227,932	acres in LTA 4
	121,448	acres in LTA 5
	376,486	**total acres**
Ocala NF	31,996	acres in LTA 1
	129	acres in LTA 2
	3,652	acres in LTA 6
	35,777	**total acres**
Osceola NF	2,581	acres in LTA 1
	1,482	acres in LTA 2
	481	acres in LTA 3
	934	acres in LTA 4
	89,999	acres in LTA 5
	95,477	**total acres**

VQO = 25% Retention & 75% Partial Retention
ROS = Semiprimitive - 15% Motorized & 10% Nonmotorized, & 75% Roaded Natural

Table 4.3
MA 7.1 Suitability for Timber Production

	Apalachicola NF	Ocala NF	Osceola NF
Nonforestland	3,126	641	818
Physically Unsuitable	104,196	0	185
Inadequate Information	512	540	291
Developed Recreation Sites	561	0	12
Special Interest Areas	0	50	0
Threatened & Endangered Species Sites	13,860	1,333	3,622
Unsuitable Hardwood	62,150	2,202	26,348
Streamside Management Zones	983	73	329
Total Acres Unsuitable for Timber Production	**185,588**	**4,839**	**31,605**
Total Acres Suitable for Timber Production	**190,898**	**30,938**	**63,872**

7.1-Goal

To allow or mimic natural processes and patterns to maintain a rich diversity of native plants and animals, including recovery of the red-cockaded woodpecker. To produce poletimber and large pine sawtimber. To provide a wide range of opportunities for people to use and experience the forest.

7.1-Desired Future Condition

The vision for this area is the same as in DFC 7.0 except this area is within an RCW habitat management area (HMA). Mature flattop longleaf and slash pines with woodpecker cavities are seen throughout the pine forests. Much of the area would have

old-growth conditions at any one time. The area provides small-sized patches of old growth (1-99 acres) unsuitable for timber production. Approximately 1 percent of the area is designated old growth in the upland longleaf pine and southern wet pine communities. Frequent, low-intensity fires are indicated by blackened tree trunks and open, parklike stands with little or no midstory near RCW clusters. Grazing cattle are not found here.

7.1-Standards and Guidelines

Range

7.1-1—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

7.1-2—Only allow camping areas at development level 1, 2, or 3.

Vegetation

7.1-3—The area is an RCW HMA, follow standards established in the *Record of Decision, Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Management of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and its Habitat on National Forests in the Southern Region*, except for deviations noted in Chapter 3.

Management Area 7.2
Longleaf/Slash Pine, Adaptive Management, RCW Management, Cattle

Apalachicola NF	9,811	acres in LTA 2
	30	acres in LTA 3
	7,938	acres in LTA 4
	26,292	acres in LTA 5
	44,071	**total acres**
Osceola NF	287	acres in LTA 2
	34,662	acres in LTA 5
	34,949	**total acres**

VQO = 25% Retention & 75% Partial Retention
ROS = Semiprimitive - 15% Motorized & 10% Nonmotorized, & 75% Roaded Natural

Table 4.4
MA 7.2 Suitability for Timber Production

	Apalachicola NF	Osceola NF
Nonforestland	335	129
Physically Unsuitable	7,692	9
Inadequate Information	160	0
Developed Recreation Sites	0	0
Special Interest Areas	0	0
Threatened & Endangered Species Sites	3,044	873
Unsuitable Hardwood	8,525	8,776
Streamside Management Zones	115	39
Total Acres Unsuitable for Timber Production	**19,871**	**9,826**
Total Acres Suitable for Timber Production	**24,200**	**25,123**

7.2-Goal

To allow or mimic natural processes and patterns to maintain a rich diversity of native plants and animals, including recovery of the red-cockaded woodpecker. To produce poletimber and large pine sawtimber. To provide forage for cattle grazing. To provide a wide range of opportunities for people to use and experience the forest.

7.2-Desired Future Condition

The vision for this area is the same as in DFC 7.0, except that this area is within an RCW HMA and cattle grazing is allowed. Mature flattop longleaf and slash pine with woodpecker cavities are seen throughout the pine forests. Much of the area would have old-growth conditions at any one time. The area provides small-sized patches of old growth (1-99 acres) unsuitable for timber production. Approximately 2 percent of the area is designated old growth in the upland longleaf pine and southern wet pine communities. Frequent, low-intensity fires are indicated by blackened tree trunks and open, parklike stands with little or no midstory near RCW clusters.

7.2-Standards and Guidelines

Range

7.2-1—Require the permittee to use practices that lessen the risk of introducing invasive weeds. For example, hay should come from a source free of invasive weeds or their seeds and new cattle should be penned for several days to allow gut evacuation before they are released on the forest.

7.2-2—To prevent introduction of disease into wild bird populations, do not allow use of poultry litter as a feed supplement or fertilizer.

7.2-3—When cattle are determined to be detrimental, keep them out of progeny test areas, savannahs, sensitive heritage sites, streams, ponds, herb bogs, and areas with endangered or threatened species.

7.2-4—Schedule prescribe fire in the allotments to include growing-season burns as needed for ecosystem management and to improve forage.

7.2-5—Do not create new range strips; existing range strips may be maintained.

Recreation

7.2-6—Only allow camping areas at development level 1, 2, or 3.

Vegetation

7.2-7—The area is an RCW HMA; follow the standards established in the *Record of Decision, Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Management of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and its Habitat on National Forests in the Southern Region*, except for deviations noted in Chapter 3.

Management Area 7.3
Longleaf/Slash Pine, Adaptive Management, No RCW Management

Ocala NF	22,480	acres in LTA 1
	1,628	acres in LTA 2
	10,857	acres in LTA 3
	7,934	acres in LTA 5
	15,645	acres in LTA 6
	58,544	**total acres**
Osceola NF	16,504	acres not inventoried
	16,504	**total acres**

VQO = 25% Retention & 75% Partial Retention
ROS = Semiprimitive - 15% Motorized, 10% Nonmotorized, & 75% Roaded Natural

Table 4.5
MA 7.3 Suitability for Timber Production

	Ocala NF	Osceola NF
Nonforestland	5,496	0
Physically Unsuitable	325	0
Inadequate Information	371	9,155
Developed Recreation Sites	375	0
Special Interest Areas	3	0
Threatened & Endangered Species Sites	809	0
Unsuitable Hardwood	7,473	3,455
Streamside Management Zones	570	0
Total Acres Unsuitable for Timber Production	**15,422**	**12,610**
Total Acres Suitable for Timber Production	**43,122**	**3,894**

7.3-Goal

To allow or mimic natural processes and patterns to maintain a rich diversity of native plants and animals. To produce poletimber and large pine sawtimber. To provide a wide range of opportunities for people to use and experience the forest.

7.3-Desired Future Condition

The vision for this area is the same as in DFC 7.0, except that this area is not within an RCW HMA. Grazing cattle are not found here. Much of the area would have old-growth conditions at any one time. The area provides small-sized patches of old growth (1-99 acres) unsuitable for timber production. Approximately 6 percent of the area is designated old growth in the upland longleaf pine, dry and dry mesic oak/pine, and upland mesic hardwood communities.

7.3-Standards and Guidelines

Range

7.3-1—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

7.3-2—Only allow camping areas at development level 1, 2, or 3.

8.0 Sand Pine and Oak Scrub

These areas are predominately sand pine and oak scrub that are found on the Ocala NF.

8.0-Desired Future Condition

Sand pine scrub is an ecosystem where disturbance of the landscape is readily apparent. The ecosystem is adapted to go through a cycle in which intense wildfires kill all above-ground vegetation, then the vegetation grows up, only to burn again in 20 to 80 years. Species native to this ecosystem depend on the cyclic opening and regrowth to find their special habitats. In this area, natural wildfires are suppressed and openings are primarily created by timber harvests. These are similar in their effects to wildfires, though they are usually smaller than wildfires and leave less deadwood on the site. The pattern of the landscape is largely the result of human activity. Wildfires and, occasionally, prescribed fires done for experimental purposes are responsible for some patches of blackened, dead trees and burned understory. Plowed firelines may be encountered around these patches. In addition, the landscape is interrupted often by narrow road corridors.

Plants that typify this ecosystem are sand pine and shrubs—such as Chapman's oak, myrtle oak, palmetto, rosemary, rusty lyonia, sand live oak, scrub oak, and the endemic Calamintha. Herbs in the young scrub include beakrush, milk pea, and several rare species, including Florida bonamia, scrub buckwheat, and small Lewton's milkwort. This area is notable for having the highest diversity of rare scrub plant species. Also noteworthy are the animals that are scrub endemics, such as the Florida mouse, Florida scrub-jay, Florida scrub lizard, and sand skink. In addition, the sand pine-scrub oak community contains wildlife common to disturbed forested conditions.

In recent openings, there are green stumps, broken shrubs, and piles of bark and branches, left behind to fertilize the site as they decay. Some live trees remain, left behind to provide perches and cavities for birds. Soil surface is mostly bare sand. Within 3 years, the opening is full of knee-high shrubs, especially oaks, and small sand pine seedlings can be found among them. In this young scrub, flowering herbs add splashes of color.

Ten years later, the sand pine has begun to overgrow the oak shrubs and the area may be impenetrable. Herbs die back as the ground becomes too shaded for them. In 20 more years, sand pine trees are 60 feet tall and shrub understory is 10 feet tall. The ground becomes covered with leaf litter and lichens. In the following few decades, trees become a little thicker and Spanish moss hangs on them. Most stands of trees are harvested in this stage, and the cycle begins again for them. If a fire or timber harvest did not start the cycle over, sand pine trees gradually would die out by age 70 to 90, leaving an oak-dominated scrub that would grow into an oak hammock.

The quality of water, soil, and air is high. Heritage resource sites are not common in this ecosystem.

Roads provide the primary access. People riding in or driving off-highway vehicles are common users and may be encountered on the frequent tracks in the area. Occasionally administrative and timber harvest vehicles are seen. Few facilities are found; but there may be some interpretive displays, signs, and facilities for the comfort and convenience of the user.

Most roads have native surfacing, conform in height to the surrounding ground, and have no ditches. These roads are of low standard, rough, and irregular. Travel with low-clearance vehicles is difficult. Other roads have a sand-clay surfacing and have ditches. Drainage structures consist of culverts. These roads are of a fair standard but may not be stable during bad weather conditions. Rutting, roughness, and dust are present most of the time. There will be a few higher-standard roads, with limerock or paved surfacing. The limerock roads are stable and smooth most of the time. Paved roads are stable and smooth all the time. Remnants of roads leading from permanent roads to openings can be seen.

Management Area 8.1
Sand Pine, Natural Regeneration, Large Openings

Ocala NF	14,736	acres in LTA 1
	74	acres in LTA 2
	14,810	**total acres**

VQO = 10% Preservation & 90% Modification
ROS = 20% Semiprimitive, Nonmotorized & 80% Roaded Natural

Table 4.6

MA 8.1 Suitability for Timber Production

	Acres
Nonforestland	151
Unsuitable Hardwood	353
Streamside Management Zones	4
Total Acres Unsuitable for Timber Production	**508**
Total Acres Suitable for Timber Production	**14,302**

8.1-Goal

To produce pine pulpwood under conditions that promote the growth and perpetuation of the species endemic to the Big Scrub area within the Ocala NF. To provide a wide range of opportunities for people to use and experience the forest.

8.1-Desired Future Condition

Approximately one-fifth of the area contains scattered openings up to 320 acres in size. Most seedlings are the result of natural regeneration, so they are not in rows and their density can be variable from site to site. About 5 percent of the stands are left to grow older. In these, trees start to lean and some die, giving the stand an increasingly open, crooked, and picturesque look, as well as retaining an important habitat component. Each opening of up to 320 acres provides contiguous suitable habitat for 8 to 13 Florida scrub-jay territories.

8.1-Standards and Guidelines

Range

8.1-1—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

8.1-2—Only allow camping areas at development level 1, 2, or 3.

Vegetation

8.1-3—Make clearcuts as large as possible, up to a maximum size of 320 acres. Openings may be placed next to each other up to the maximum size of 320 acres. Stands contiguous with occupied scrub-jay territory are highest priority for harvest. Once the opening size reaches 320 acres, do not allow further clearcutting adjacent to it until the youngest stand reaches 3 years of age. Manage toward a minimum stand size of 80 acres.

8.1-4—Emphasize site preparation for prescribed fire. Delay burning if active nesting is present. When needed, mechanical site preparation is permitted.

8.1-5—Use natural regeneration, wherever possible. If this fails, use artificial seeding with seed from the general forest area.

Wildlife and Fish

8.1-6—Following timber harvest, establish 1 acre stands of scrub for every 25 acres of clearcut to provide nesting habitat for scrub-jay. Protect the 1 acre stands during site preparation.

8.1-7—Do not site prepare understocked stands 3 years old and older if scrub-jays are present in the stand.

Management Area 8.2
Sand Pine, Mixed Regeneration, Moderate Openings

Ocala NF	171,507	acres in LTA 1
	9,157	acres in LTA 2
	14,609	acres in LTA 3
	74	acres in LTA 5
	5,796	acres in LTA 6
	201,143	**total acres**

VQO = 10% Preservation & 90% Modification
ROS = 20% Semiprimitive, Motorized & 80% Roaded Natural

Table 4.7
MA 8.2 Suitability for Timber Production

	Acres
Nonforestland	8,704
Inadequate Information	724
Developed Recreation Sites	79
Special Interest Areas	52
Threatened & Endangered Species Sites	226
Unsuitable Hardwood	11,955
Streamside Management Zones	846
Total Acres Unsuitable for Timber Production	**22,586**
Total Acres Suitable for Timber Production	**178,557**

8.2-Goal

To produce pine pulpwood under conditions that balance efficient timber production practices with practices that promote the growth and perpetuation of species native to the Big Scrub area within the Ocala NF. To provide a wide range of opportunities for people to use and experience the forest.

8.2-Desired Future Condition

Approximately one-fifth of the area contains openings up to 160 acres scattered here and there, creating a mosaic of different aged stands that vary over time. Most seedlings are the results of artificial regeneration, while some seedlings are the result of natural regeneration, so they are not in rows and their density can be variable from site to site. About 5 percent of the stands are left to grow older. In these, trees start to lean and some die, giving the stand an increasingly open, crooked, and picturesque look, as well as providing an important habitat component. Each opening of up to 160 acres provides contiguous suitable habitat for 3 to 6 Florida scrub-jay territories.

8.2-Standards and Guidelines

Range

8.2-1—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

8.2-2—Only allow camping areas at development level 1, 2, or 3.

Vegetation

8.2-3—Clearcut sizes should range from 80 to 160 acres. Manage toward a minimum stand size of 80 acres. Place openings next to each other up to the 160-acre maximum size. Stands contiguous with occupied scrub-jay territory are highest priority for harvest. Once the opening size reaches 160 acres, do not allow further clearcutting adjacent to it until the youngest stand reaches 3 years of age.

8.2-4—Do not protect from prescribed fire isolated sand pine stands in Ponded Mosaic Landtype Association that are less than 80 acres.

Wildlife and Fish

8.2-5—Following timber harvest, establish 1 acre stands of scrub per 25 acres of clearcut to provide earlier nesting habitat for scrub-jay. Protect the 1 acre stands during site preparation.

8.2-6—Do not site prepare or prescribe burn understocked stands 3 years old and older if scrub-jays are present in the stand.

Management Area 8.4
Scrub-Jay Management Area

Ocala NF	1,874	acres in LTA 1
	1,874	**total acres**

VQO = 100% Modification
ROS = 100% Semiprimitive, Motorized
All acres unsuitable for timber production

8.4-Goal

To provide conditions favorable to perpetuate Florida scrub-jay and other species that require young oak scrub and inhabit the Big Scrub area within the Ocala NF.

8.4-Desired Future Condition

In this area, the vegetation patterns consist of a mosaic of oak scrub patches, each about 80 to 200 acres in size and each a different age than its neighbor. Each patch is burned at 10- to 20-year intervals. This is done to keep the oak shrubs 3 to 10 feet tall and to expose bare sand on the ground. The area looks different from the sand pine scrub in other management areas, because this area has only a very low density of sand pine overstory. Sand pine is deliberately removed by clearcutting, followed by frequent prescribed burns that kill sand pine seedlings as they try to establish. These conditions remain suitable for Florida scrub-jays for the next 15 to 20 years, but they gradually deteriorate as the shrubs fill in and the bare sand becomes covered with litter. At this point, the patch is burned to reset the conditions for the scrub-jay and other species. Evidence of plowed firelines around previous fires is frequently encountered. The landscape is rarely interrupted by narrow road corridors.

Roads and trails provide access. Visitors may encounter others along these roads and trails, off-road vehicle users and horseback riders among them. A loop interpretive trail with displays may be found in the area, which attracts nature enthusiasts. However, other sorts of recreation facilities, such as camping and picnic areas, are not found here.

Most roads have native surfacing, conform in height to the surrounding ground, and have no ditches. These roads are low standard and are rough and irregular. Travel with low-clearance vehicles may be difficult.

Each opening of up to 200 acres provides contiguous suitable habitat for 4 to 10 Florida scrub-jay territories.

8.4-Standards and Guidelines

Range

8.4-1—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

8.4-2—Only allow camping areas at development level 1, 2, or 3.

Vegetation

8.4-3—In this management area, the desired future condition can best be achieved by having 80 percent of the merchantable sand pine stands clearcut within the first decade after this Forest Plan goes into effect.

8.4-4—After clearcutting, prescribe burn the area to start natural regeneration of scrub oak. Prescribe burn when the vegetation has grown so old that its quality as scrub-jay habitat is degraded. Delay burning if active nesting is present.

Wildlife and Fish

8.4-5—Do not cultivate wildlife openings.

9.0 Special Administration

These are areas with special administrative conditions such as the Pinecastle Bombing Range, the forest/urban interface, and small tracts of land administered by the Forest Service on Eglin Air Force Base.

Management Area 9.1
Pinecastle Bombing Range

Ocala NF	5,698	acres in LTA 1
	5,698	**total acres**

VQO = 25% Modification & 75% Maximum Modification
ROS = not applicable
All acres unsuitable for timber production

9.1-Goal

To provide an area with frequent disturbance, managed for rare scrub endemic species such as Florida scrub-jay, that may be used for training air squadrons in air-to-ground warfare.

9.1-Desired Future Condition

Vegetation patterns are primarily the results of activities associated with prescribed fire, wildfire, or live ordnance. Together, these create openings in the sand pine canopy, some of which can be very large in the target area. These openings are filled with scrub vegetation in various stages of recovery from having been burned. Since this ecosystem is adapted to a high level of disturbance, especially by intense wildfires, bombing activities leave it more natural than might be expected. In places, evidence of fires is seen in the form of dead trees, both standing and fallen. In addition, the landscape is interrupted occasionally by narrow road corridors, observation towers, and bomb targets consisting of vehicle hulks, tanks, mock airstrips, aircraft hulks, gun emplacements, banners, cleared areas, and concentric circles with large poles. Bombs, both practice and live, may lie on the ground or beneath the surface for a period of time.

Plants typical in this community include one tree species (sand pine) and a variety of shrubs—such as Chapman's oak, sand live oak, myrtle oak, palmetto, rosemary, and rusty lyonia. These all reestablish quickly after a fire activity, so their size and the amount of bare soil depends on the length of time since the disturbance. Herbs also thrive in this

disturbance, growing up quickly while the area is still open. These include several rare plants such as Florida bonamia, Calamintha, scrub buckwheat, and small Lewton's milkwort, as well as the more common beakrush and milk pea.

Rare endemic wildlife species occur here—including Florida scrub-jay, Florida mouse, Florida scrub lizard, and sand skink. Prescribed fires provide abundant young scrub habitat. Scrub-jay may be especially abundant in areas that remain in young scrub-oak habitat due to the relatively frequent fire activity. This community contains wildlife common to disturbed or open-forested conditions—such as Carolina wrens, bobwhite quail, nighthawks, rufous-sided towhees, white-tailed deer, eastern cottontails, gray foxes, eastern coachwhips, scarlet snakes, racers, southern toads, and southern fence lizards. In addition to these, some less common wildlife are loggerhead shrikes, great crested flycatchers, brown thrashers, indigo snakes, Florida pine snakes, southern hognose snakes, gopher tortoises, pinewoods and barking tree frogs, fox and gray squirrels, and bobcats.

The quality of water, soil, and air is high. Patches of bare soil may cover 100 percent of a site where a live bomb has struck and in the target area. Bare soil is common in the early stages of vegetation regrowth. Heritage resource sites are unlikely to occur here, since the scrub vegetation has always been uninviting for humans. If sites do occur, they are likely to be dispersed, not clustered. They may have been degraded by both natural forces (storms, fires, and root growth) and human activities of road construction and explosives.

Roads provide access but are closed except to authorized individuals. Depending on the training schedule, the public may be either isolated or exposed to loud noises. Trails or recreational facilities do not exist here. Interpretive displays and publications about the area may be found at off-site locations.

Most roads in the area have native surfacing, conform in height to the surrounding ground, and have no ditches. These roads are rough and irregular. Travel with low-clearance vehicles is difficult. A few roads have a sand-clay or limerock surfacing and have ditches. These roads are of a fair standard, but most roads are travelable by four-wheel-drive vehicles. For public safety, the area is closed to public use.

9.1-Standards and Guidelines

Fire

9.1-1—Coordinate prescribed fire with the U.S. Navy.

9.1-2—Responsibility for wildfire suppression lies with the U.S. Navy. Requests for help from the U.S. Navy may be honored.

Heritage Resources

9.1-3—Do not allow volunteers.

9.1-4—Do not use ground-disturbing equipment in archeological survey, testing, excavation, and research.

Law Enforcement

9.1-5—Coordinate with U.S. Navy when law enforcement officers need to enter the bombing range.

Range

9.1-6—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

9.1-7—Close to the public.

Vegetation

9.1-8—Prohibit harvesting of special forest products.

9.1-9—Coordinate all salvage harvests with U.S. Navy.

9.1-10—Coordinate all timber harvests with U.S. Navy.

Wildlife and Fish

9.1-11—Prohibit cultivated wildlife openings and artificial structures for non-PETS species.

Management Area 9.2
Forest/Urban Interface

Apalachicola NF	27,357	acres in LTA 1
	19,339	acres in LTA 4
	25,876	acres in LTA 5
	72,572	**total acres**

VQO = 25% Preservation & 75% Retention
ROS = Semiprimitive - 15% Motorized & 10% Nonmotorized, & 75% Roaded Natural

Table 4.8

MA 9.2 Suitability for Timber Production

	Acres
Nonforestland	805
Physically Unsuitable	218
Inadequate Information	1,016
Developed Recreation Sites	669
Special Interest Areas	38
Threatened & Endangered Species Sites	1,357
Unsuitable Hardwood	19,413
Streamside Management Zones	251
Total Acres Unsuitable for Timber Production	**23,767**
Total Acres Suitable for Timber Production	**48,805**

9.2-Goal

To allow or mimic natural processes and patterns to maintain a rich diversity of native plants and animals, including the red-cockaded woodpecker. To produce poletimber and large pine sawtimber. To provide a high level of opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized recreation. To maintain cooperative relationships with other jurisdictional governments.

9.2-Desired Future Condition

An adaptive management approach is emphasized in this area. Harvest methods that have limited operational application are applied and tested here. Monitoring and close coordination with research provide feedback for adjustments in the desired future condition.

During the next two decades, portions of the longleaf pine forests are characterized by patches ranging between ¼ and 2 acres where longleaf pine regeneration is found. These areas will begin to take on an uneven-aged structure. Patches up to 80 acres are found in other areas where longleaf pine is restored. These areas will have an even-aged structure. A few patches up to 80 acres in size are found in the slash pine and loblolly pine forest types with a two-aged appearance.

After the next two decades, the area may take on another appearance. Monitoring and research may show that operational application of regenerating longleaf pine in small patches or regenerating slash and loblolly pine under canopies does not provide the conditions envisioned. The vision for the area may change to a different mixture of patch sizes and stand structures. As the forest ages, there will be more opportunities to provide two-aged patches of slash, loblolly, and longleaf pine. Even-aged patches of longleaf pine restoration up to 80 acres may continue to occur.

The area contains a mosaic of plant communities, depending mostly on moisture conditions. Drier sites are upland pine dominated by longleaf pine, with an understory of wiregrass, low oak shrubs, and a variety of herbs. Patches of medium to large hardwood, especially oaks, are scattered throughout. On wetter sites are pine flatwoods where longleaf pine is apt to be joined by slash, loblolly, and pond pine. Understory is commonly dominated by palmetto and gallberry, though there is wiregrass present. Along drainages and in basins are cypress, black gum, red maple, and other hardwoods with titi and wax myrtle in the understory and along the margins. The different plant communities are not separated by sharp boundaries, but change from one type to another gradually in response to fluctuations in water level and fire history. Much of the area would have old-growth conditions at any one time. The area provides small-sized patches of old growth (1-99 acres) unsuitable for timber production. Approximately 5 percent of the area is designated old growth in the upland longleaf pine, southern wet pine, dry and dry mesic oak/pine, and dry and xeric oak communities.

Wildlife includes species that prefer mature longleaf pine-wiregrass forest, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker. Mature flattop longleaf and slash pines with woodpecker cavities are seen throughout the pine forests.

The quality of water, soil, and air is high. There may be smoke from prescribed fire. Fire and hazardous fuels are managed in close cooperation with State and county agencies. Wildfire is aggressively suppressed when it threatens life or property. Wetlands show no evidence of draining, vehicular activity, or manipulation. Heritage resource sites may be dispersed throughout the area rather than clustered. Natural disturbances (fires, storms, and root growth) are apt to have degraded them. Actions are taken to prevent looting and vandalism.

Roads and trails provide access. Trail systems are coordinated with other local agencies. Trails are linked to other management areas, developed sites, and other nearby trails. Visitors may encounter other people, activities of various sorts, and residential developments on intermingled private land. Recreational use of these areas may be restricted where necessary to reduce conflicts between landowners and visitors. Trails and recreational facilities, such as fishing access sites and picnic areas, are common. These often have signs, interpretive displays, and other facilities for the comfort and safety of the user. New facilities (trailheads, parking areas, designated sites, and developed sites) are located in areas that minimized conflicts.

Most roads have native surfacing and are rough and irregular. In low areas, these roads usually have ditches and are above the surrounding ground. Many low-drainage points have low-water rock crossings. Travel with low-clearance vehicles is difficult. Other roads have sand-clay surfacing, are higher than the surrounding ground, and have ditches. In low areas, these may have culverts or bridges. These roads may not be stable during bad weather conditions. Rutting, roughness, and dust are present most of the time. There will be a few higher-standard roads with limerock surfacing or pavement. These are stable and smooth most of the time. Remnants of roads leading from permanent roads to small openings can be seen.

9.2-Standards and Guidelines

Access

9.2-1—Restrict motorized vehicles to open, numbered roads and designated trails, administrative use, and activities under contract or permit.

Law Enforcement

9.2-2—Emphasize law enforcement activities.

Range

9.2-3—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

9.2-4—Only allow camping areas at development level 1, 2, or 3.

Vegetation

9.2-5—Follow standards established in the *Record of Decision, Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Management of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and its Habitat on National Forests in the Southern Region*. Deviation can be approved only by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Management Area 9.3
Choctawhatchee Lands

Choctawhatchee NF 1,153 acres not inventoried

VQO = 50% Preservation & 50% Modification
ROS = 100% Roaded Natural
All acres unsuitable for timber production

9.3-Goal

This area is managed at a custodial level. Because the area consists of isolated, small parcels, they are considered for exchange. The area is managed under a Memorandum of Understanding with Eglin Air Force Base. A map of the Choctawhatchee does not appear in this document because of the large scale that is required to show the small amount of scattered acres. Maps are maintained in the Supervisor's Office.

9.3-Standards and Guidelines

Range

9.3-1—Prohibit range allotments.

Recreation

9.3-2—Open area to the public. Allow dispersed camping, but do not allow trails, recreational facilities, or designated camping areas.

Vegetation

9.3-3—Prohibit harvesting of special forest products and salvaging of dead stands.

9.3-4—This area is classified as unsuitable for timber production. Trees may be cut for other resource objectives.

Wildlife and Fish

9.3-5—Prohibit cultivated wildlife openings and artificial structures for non-PETS species.