

DECISION NOTICE
and
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for
Revised Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment 2

USDA, Forest Service
Southern Region
National Forests in Florida
Baker, Columbia, Franklin, Lake, Leon, Liberty, Marion, Putnam, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla and Wilton
Counties, Florida

INTRODUCTION

The 1999 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment Environmental Assessment (EA) discloses the environmental, social, and economic effects of a proposal to remove or modify four standards, delete six ineffective monitoring questions, and allocate an acquired tract of land to an appropriate management area.

DECISION – Proposed Action with Modification

Based upon the analysis and evaluation described in the EA and associated record and comments received from interested parties, it is my decision to implement Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) with three modifications.

The first modification is a clarification of Management Area standard 8.1-6 and 8.2-5 to specify that the standards only apply to seeding techniques, and in no way was intended to preclude the use of prescribed fire in any site preparation activities.

The second modification is rewording the proposed Forest-wide Standard VG-32 to delete reference to “numerous” and “limited” snags since these are ambiguous terms.

The third modification was to drop the proposal to remove the monitoring question “Are we collecting data on understory structure?” Because the revised database for vegetation information has not yet been fully implemented, I believe it is premature to drop the question at this time. This monitoring item will be reviewed again in the future.

These changes are within the range of alternatives considered and are in response to public input. They do not represent a change requiring additional public review in a revised EA.

Under this proposal, six amendment items would be made.

- 1) Remove reference to specific time frame for restricted access areas to go into effect.
- 2) Remove reference to specific time frame for the scenery management system to go into effect.
- 3) Modify Forest Plan Standard VG-32, which says:

“Remove snags only in the following locations:

1. Developed recreational sites where they pose a hazard.
2. Where the snag may fall into the travel corridor of a designated trail or a level A, B, or C road.

3. Adjacent to utility rights-of-way.

4. Where snags hinder fire management or create hazardous conditions for fire fighters.”

By changing the wording to:

“Snags can pose a hazard to humans and property when they occur adjacent to roads, trails, utility lines, buildings and other improvements. However, snags are important as homes to cavity nesting birds. Most cavity nesting birds occupy snags from March through October. In order to reduce impacts to these birds, the following direction applies to snag removal:

Remove snags any time of the year only in the following locations:

1. Developed recreational sites where they pose a hazard.
2. Where the snag may fall into the travel corridor of a designated trail or a level A, B, or C road.
3. Adjacent to utility rights-of-way.
4. Where snags hinder fire management or create hazardous conditions for fire fighters.

Any harvest of snags not posing an immediate hazard will be limited to the months of November through February to avoid the peak breeding season for cavity nesting birds. Exceptions may be made to this standard when catastrophic events, such as hurricanes, insect infestations, or extreme fire behavior, produce large numbers of hazardous or salvageable dead trees and it is not prudent to wait until the non-nesting season to take action.”

4) Replace Management Area standard 8.1-6, and 8.2-5:

“Following timber harvest, establish 1 acre stands of scrub for every 25 acres of clear-cut to provide nesting habitat for scrub-jay. Protect the 1 acre stands during site preparation”

with:

“Following timber harvests, improve the quality and extend the period of suitability of sand pine scrub habitat for Florida scrub-jays, scrub lizards, gopher tortoises and other species requiring open, early successional scrub, by reducing coarse woody debris, increasing occurrence of bare sand surfaces, and creating areas with fewer sand pine and wider-spaced scrub oak using one or more of the following seeding techniques singly or in combination. These may be carried out independent of, or in combination with prescribed fire.

1. *Delay machine seeding by 1 year to determine if natural regeneration meets minimum seeding levels and eliminates need to artificially seed.*
2. *Conduct seeding in an every-other-row pattern.*
3. *Select core areas of at least 2 acres each and totaling more than 5% of stand area, to exclude from machine seeding. Log landings are inappropriate for core areas.*
4. *Select core areas of more than 2 acres each and totaling more than 5% of stand*

area, to treat with 2 passes of a drum-chopper, and exclude from machine seeding. Log landings are inappropriate for core areas.

- 5) Delete the following monitoring questions:
 - a. *Are people satisfied with service from the National Forests in Florida?*
 - b. *How much public participation do we have?*
 - c. *Have partnerships been strengthened?*
 - d. *Do forest visitors understand Forest Service practices and do they value and respect the resource being interpreted?*
 - e. *What are the effects of cattle grazing on vegetation?*
- 6) Allocate the acquired tract shown in Figure 2 to Management Area 1.1 and 3.1 (see Figure 2). This will add 2,577 acres to Management Area 1.1 (Remote Wetland) and 2, 678 acres to Management Area 3.1 (Special Interest Area).

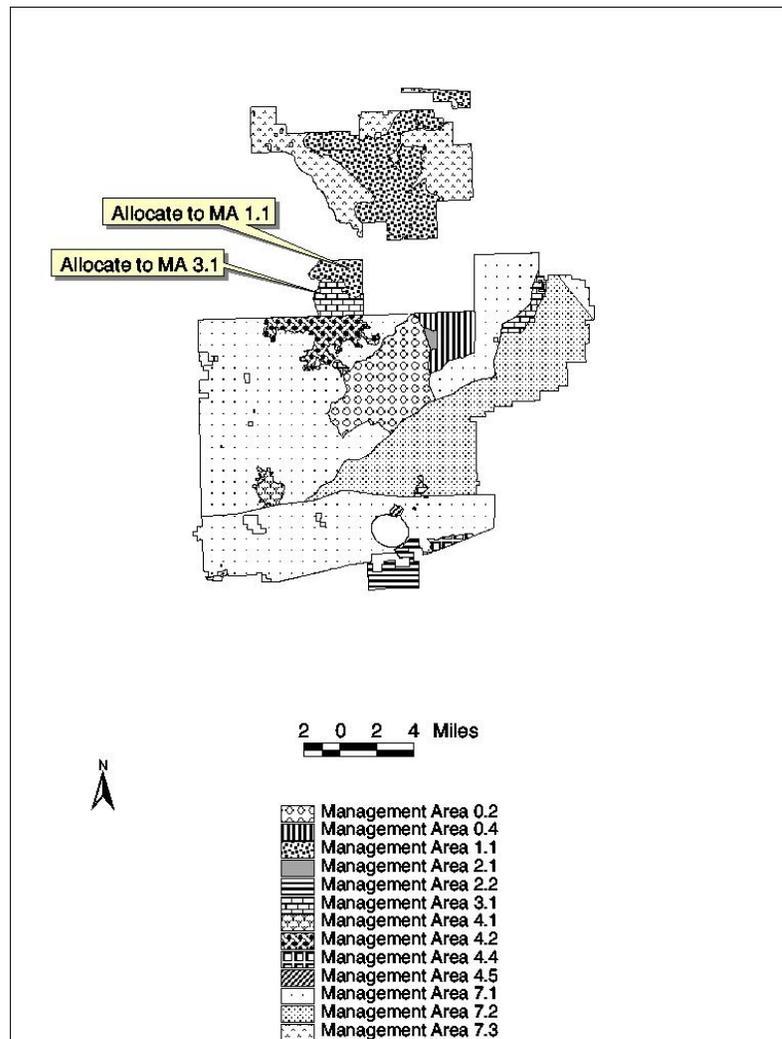


Figure 2. Alternative 2. Proposed Management Area Allocation.

The NEPA decision and effects analysis would not apply to the editorial changes and error corrections, but to changes in the Forest Plan direction including standards and guidelines, monitoring strategies and management area allocations.

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The purpose of this action is to amend the Forest Plan to adapt to changing needs. This action is needed, because we have acquired land that needs to be officially allocated to a management area in the Forest Plan. Some standards need to be modified to better address their original intention. In addition, there are several monitoring items that have not proved to be as useful as first anticipated and these need to be modified, replaced or deleted. The Forest Plan pages with the proposed changes are listed in Appendix A of the Environmental Assessment.

Some editorial changes are also needed to correct minor errors and clarify direction. These editorial changes would occur under all alternatives and are listed in Appendix B of the Environmental Assessment.

The NEPA decision and effects analysis would not apply to the editorial changes and error corrections, but to changes in the Forest Plan direction such as standards and guidelines, monitoring strategies and management area allocations.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The proposal was listed in the Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions beginning in January 2002. A letter was mailed on May 6, 2002 notifying 595 individuals, groups or agencies of our intention and requesting they respond with a post card indicating their interest. The proposal was mailed to 181 respondents for comment on June 16, 2002 with comments due July 31, 2002. We received eight written responses and four telephone responses. Using the comments from the public and other agencies, the interdisciplinary team developed a list of issues to address.

In August of 2003, an Environmental Assessment was prepared and made available for a 30 day public comment period. Three letters were received during this comment period. Responses to the comments and questions can be found in Appendix E of the Environmental Assessment.

ISSUES

The Forest Service identified five significant issues during the scoping process. These issues included:

- Is the time frame for the Access Designation more than an editorial change? What should the time frame be for completion of the process? What is the policy in these areas until a decision is made on Access Designation?
- Should there be criteria for determining the immediate and unacceptable hazard to human life or property for snag removal? Should snags be surveyed for cavity nesters prior to removal?
- Should Roller chopping be used as a tool to enhance habitat for Florida scrub-jays?
- Has monitoring been done to determine effects of cattle grazing and determined no significant effects? If monitoring has not been done, should the question be deleted?
- Should the newly acquired tract on the Osceola NF be allocated to a management area that does not allow motorized access (MA 4.1)? Should this area be allocated as an extension of the management area to the north (MA 1.1)? Should the Buck Lake area be allocated as a special interest area (MA 3.1)?

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION CONSIDERED

In addition to the Proposed Action, the Forest Service considered the following alternatives.

Alternative 1 (No Action)

Fulfilling NEPA requirements, 40 CFR 1502.14(d) and Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, 14.1, the no action alternative was considered in the Environmental Assessment. Under this Alternative, no Forest Plan amendment would be made.

Alternative 3

In this alternative, the time frame for the access process would be changed from 2 years to no time frame, the time frame for the scenery management system would be changed from 3 years to no time frame and the standard and guideline and monitoring strategy changes would be the same as in Alternative 2. The standard and guideline for snags would be the same as Alternative 2. The standard for Florida scrub-jay nest areas would be the same as alternative 2. The management area allocation would be as shown in Figure 3.

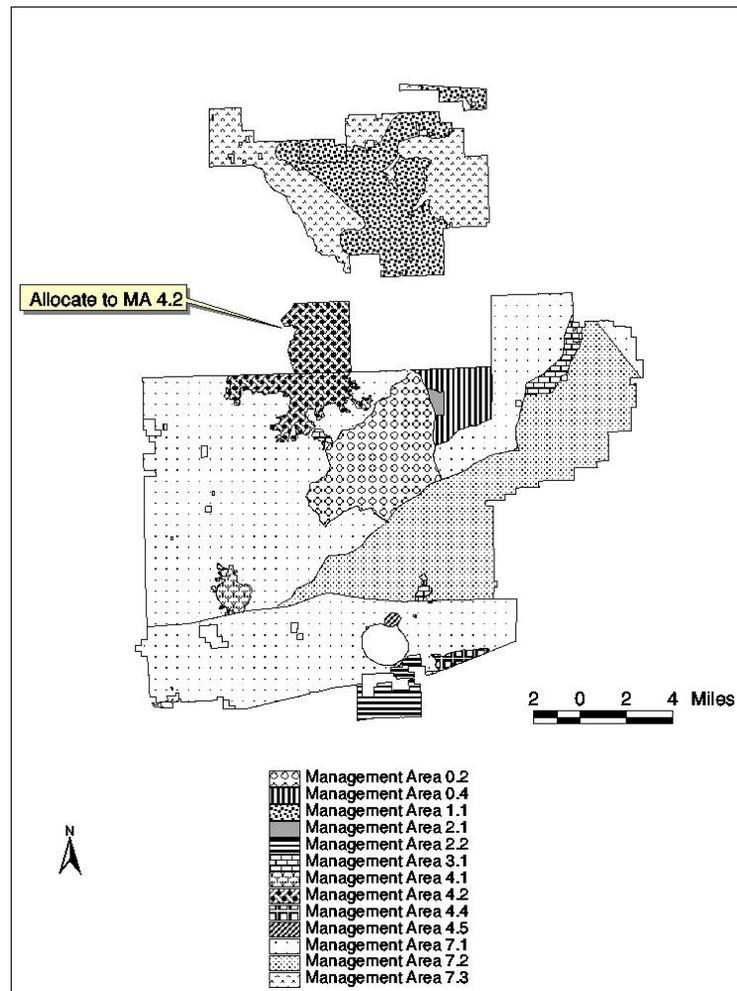


Figure 3. Alternative 3. Proposed Management Area Allocation .

Alternative 4

In this alternative, the time frame for the access process would be changed from 2 years to no time frame and the time frame for the scenery management system would be changed from 3 years to no time frame. The standard for snag removal would be the same as in Alternative 2 except prior to cutting or pushing over the tree a check would be made to determine if it has any cavities presently in use by wildlife. If there is current use and the snag does not pose a hazard it would not be felled. The standard for Florida scrub-jay nest areas would be the same as Alternative 2 except there would be no roller-drum chopping allowed. The monitoring question for cattle grazing would not be deleted. The Management Area allocation would be as shown in Figure 4.

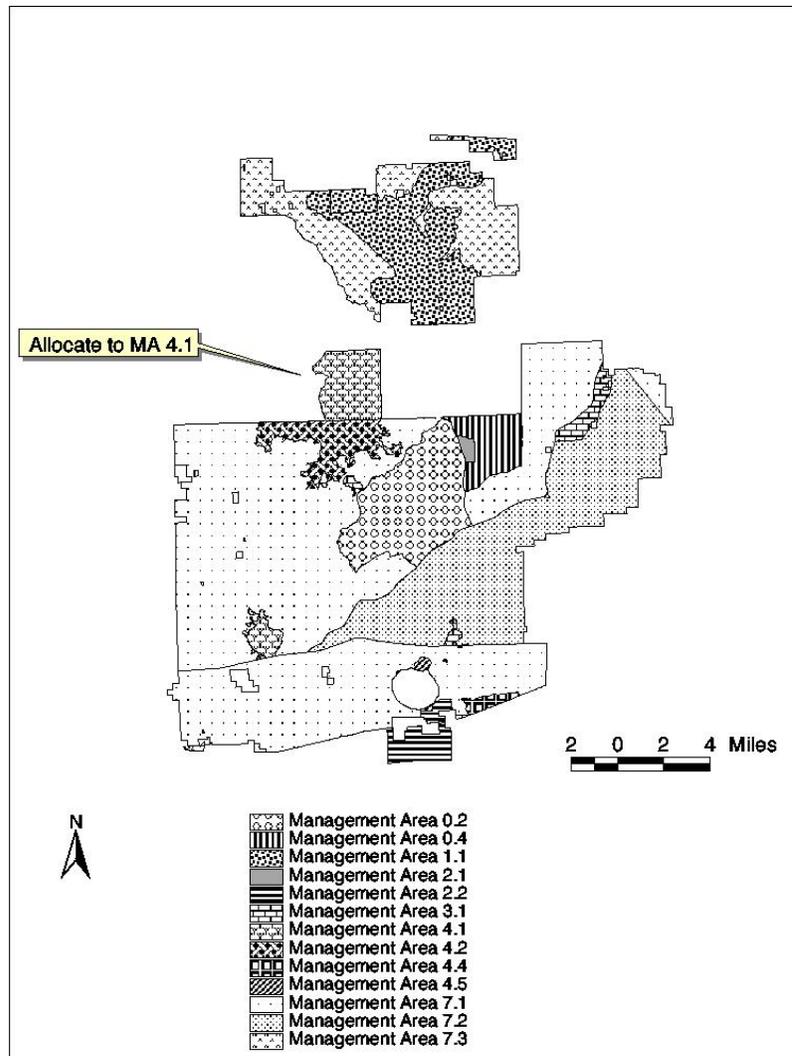


Figure 4. Alternative 4. Proposed Management Area Allocation

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

This decision implements only those management actions that were found to be connected or similar and could be analyzed in a single NEPA document.

The Proposed Action with modification was chosen over the other alternatives for the following reasons.

Access

- The Proposed Action will allow additional time to fully analyze the access system in restricted areas as identified in the 1999 LRMP. Since the 1999 Forest Plan Revision, unmanaged recreation use has become a National issue and the Chief of the Forest Service has made it one of four overall priorities for the Forest Service. This emphasis will ensure that the access designation process continues as fast as possible. The Forest Service has made substantial progress in the Access designation process, but needs more time to finalize the system. Strictly limiting the Access process to two years could result in public confusion of access restrictions and further complicate efficient implementation with frequently changing regulations.

Scenery

- The Proposed Action will allow conversion to the Scenery Management System (SMS) to proceed as time and funding allows. Continued use of the Visual Management System (VMS) will not have any impact on the scenic resources on the forest. Both are scenery classification systems which provide a graduated scale for ranking different scenery types. Until the SMS system is in place, the VMS system will continue to be used during all project activities. Removing the time frame would provide consistency for all objectives and standard to be implemented within the planning period and leave implementation schedules and priorities to be determined based on annual budgeting.

Snag Removal Standard

- The Proposed Action will improve the protection of cavity nesting birds by clarifying the importance of snags and specifying time frames, which under normal circumstances, will reduce potential impacts to cavity nesting birds by limiting removal during peak breeding season.

Scrub-jay Standard

- The Proposed Action will result in areas with greater variation of vegetation densities including areas with fewer sand pine and wider spaced scrub oak. As documented in the Environmental Assessment, this amendment provides seeding methods that silviculturists can use to create a more open scrub community that will serve as habitat for Florida scrub-jays for a longer period of time. Scrub oaks that are spaced apart and interspersed with patches of bare sand are characteristics of quality habitat for many species that are dependent on early successional scrub, including Florida scrub-jays, Florida mice, scrub lizards, and gopher tortoises. Prescribed burning will continue to be a valuable tool for improving scrub-jay habitat.

Monitoring Questions

- The Proposed Action will help the forest focus limited monitoring funding on high priority areas that will provide the most useful information for the time and investment required to complete. The proposed action will have little or no effect on resource conditions on the forest.

My rationale for each monitoring question follows:

a) *Are people satisfied with service from the National Forests in Florida?* - The Forest Service strives to provide a wide variety of services to the public. Surveys for determining public satisfaction are generally initiated at the National level, and are often driven by current funding levels. Removing this item will not effect user satisfaction or the degree to which the Forest Service implements user surveys.

b) *How much public participation do we have?* - The Forest Service is required by regulation to provide opportunities for public involvement during the project planning process. Methods of involving the public vary greatly and are generally designed based on the type of project proposed, and the level of public interest. As such, this monitoring question only provides a count of Forest Service projects being considered each year and does not provide meaningful information on public involvement. Removing this monitoring item will not change the methods, or the degree to which the Forest Service will involve the public during project planning.

c) *Have partnerships been strengthened?*- Partnerships are a tool frequently utilized in Forest Service Management activities. Many of the regulations which the Forest Service operates under foster a high degree of public involvement. The frequency and type of partnerships are generally driven by current activities, public interest, and funding. As such, removing this monitoring question will not have any effect on partnerships with the Forest Service.

d) *Do forest visitors understand Forest Service practices and do they value and respect the resource being interpreted?*- The Forest Plan goal this monitoring question is tied to is intended to ensure that the Forest carries out interpretive efforts to improve public understanding of forest ecosystems and management practices. Removing this monitoring question will not effect our efforts in public education or how well the public understands our management practices.

e) *What are the effects of cattle grazing on vegetation?*- Due to the limited amount of grazing currently taking place on the forest and the limited potential for future demand, removal of this monitoring item will not result in potentially adverse conditions going undetected on the forest. Through normal permit administration any potential effects would be minimized.

Management Area Allocation of aquired Osceola tract

- Allocation of the Osceola tract to MA 1.1 (Remote Wetland) and MA 3.1 (Special Interest Area), meets the purpose of the Pinhook Purchase Unit which is to connect large blocks of federally managed land for large wide-ranging animals and increase the amount of wetlands under federal protection. The proposed action provides a higher level of wetland protection by reducing developed camping areas and interpretive facilities primarily in the wetland areas.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

After considering the environmental effects described in the EA, I have determined that these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). Thus, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. I base my finding on the following:

1. My finding of no significant environmental effects is not biased by the beneficial effects of the action.
2. There will be no significant effects on public health and safety, because this decision only affects programmatic direction in the Forest Plan. (see EA pages 2-5).
3. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area, because this decision only affects programmatic direction in the Forest Plan. (see EA pages 2-5).
4. The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial, because this decision only affects programmatic direction in the Forest Plan. (see EA pages 2-5).
5. We have considerable experience with the types of activities to be implemented. The effects analysis shows the effects are not uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risk (see EA pages 2-5 and 29-43).
6. The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects, because this decision only affects programmatic direction in the Forest Plan. (see EA pages 2-5). In addition, this document is tiered to the FEIS completed for the 1999 Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the National Forests in Florida.
7. The cumulative impacts are not significant (see EA pages 29-43).
8. The action will have no significant adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, because this decision only affects programmatic direction in the Forest Plan (see EA pages 2-5). The action will also not cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources, because this decision only affects programmatic direction in the Forest Plan (see EA pages 2-5).
9. The action will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species act of 1973, because this decision only affects programmatic direction in the Forest Plan (see EA pages 2-5). Standards proposed for modification are designed to improve habitat for Florida scrub-jay.
10. The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Applicable laws and regulations were considered in the EA (see EA pages 29-43).

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS

The Proposed Action complies with other laws and regulations such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. There will be no adverse effects on any threatened or endangered species or on cultural resources.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Implementation of this decision may occur after seven calendar days following publication of the legal notice of the decision.

APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9, and be filed in duplicate with the Regional Forester within 45 days after the date of the published legal notice. Appeals should be sent to the following address:

USDA Forest Service
ATTN: Regional Forester
1720 Peachtree Rd., N.W., Suite 811N
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-9102

The Appeal Deciding Officer is Robert T. Jacobs, Regional Forester. The appeal may also be faxed to (404) 347-5401. Hand-delivered appeals must be received within normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed on federal holidays.

Any notice of appeal must include at a minimum:

- A statement identifying the document as a Notice of Appeal pursuant to 36 CFR Part 217.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the applicant.
- Identification of the document in which the decision is contained, by title and subject, date of the decision, and name and title of the Deciding Officer.
- Identification of the specific portion of the decision to which the appeal is being made.
- The reason(s) for appeal, including issues of fact, law, regulation, or policy.
- Identification of the specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks.

The Forest Plan Amendment Project Record is available for public review at the National Forests in Florida Forest Supervisors Office, 325 John Knox Road, Suite F-100, Tallahassee FL 32303. To review the Project Record contact David Harris at Supervisors Office. Copies of the Environmental Assessment and questions concerning this document can be directed to David Harris, 325 John Knox Road, Suite F-100, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or (850) 523-8582.

 /s/ Marsha Kearney
MARSHA KEARNEY
Responsible Official

 07/1/2004
DATE

National Forests in Florida
Revised Land and Resource Management Plan
Amendment #2

July 1, 2004

This amendment modifies the following standards, objectives, and monitoring items. Deletions are shown with strikethroughs and additions shown in bold.

Forest Plan, page 2-5, objective 10

10. Complete the inventory of existing scenic conditions and proposed scenic classes and implement updated Scenery Management System ~~within 3 years of the adoption of this plan.~~

Forest Plan, page 2-6, objective 13

13. ~~Within 2 years of Forest Plan approval, develop implementation plans for~~ **Designate** a system of ~~designated~~ trails and ~~marked, numbered~~ open, **classified** roads in areas where motorized vehicles and bicycles are restricted (*see* Access Maps, Appendix A). This process will incorporate existing travelways as much as possible and include public participation and collaboration with local user groups.

Forest Plan, page 3-2

The following standard, which apply to motorized vehicles and bicycles, will go into effect ~~2 years after Forest Plan approval~~ **upon completion of a site-specific designation process**. This delayed implementation period will allow time for a system of trails and ~~marked, numbered~~ **classified** roads to be designated in restricted areas. This process will incorporate existing ~~travelways~~ **unclassified roads** as much as possible and include public participation and collaboration with local user groups.

AC-2—There are three categories of areas where bicycle and motorized vehicle use varies. These areas are shown on the Access Maps in Appendix A.

1. Areas where motorized vehicles and bicycles are prohibited.
2. Areas where motorized vehicles and bicycles are restricted to open, ~~marked, numbered~~ **classified** roads and designated trails specified for their use.
3. Areas where motorized vehicles and bicycles are permitted to travel on open, ~~marked numbered~~ **classified** roads, designated trail specified for their use, and ~~unmarked travelways~~ **unclassified roads**.

Salvage and Snags

When trees are killed by a natural cause, the District Ranger may sell some of the dead trees, depending on the management direction for the area and site-specific analysis.

Snags can pose a hazard to humans and property when they occur adjacent to roads, trails, utility lines, buildings and other improvements. However, snags are important as homes to cavity nesting birds. Most cavity nesting birds occupy snags from March through October. In order to reduce impacts to these birds, the following direction applies to snag removal:

Snags

VG-32—Remove **snags any time of the year** only in the following locations:

1. Developed recreational sites where they pose a hazard.
2. Where the snag may fall into the travel corridor of a designated trail or a level A, B, or C road.
3. Adjacent to utility rights-of-way.
4. Where snags hinder fire management or create hazardous conditions for fire fighters.

Any harvest of snags not posing an immediate hazard will be limited to the months of November through February to avoid the peak breeding season for cavity nesting birds. Exceptions may be made to this standard when catastrophic events, such as hurricanes, insect infestations, or extreme fire behavior, produce large numbers of hazardous or salvageable dead trees and it is not prudent to wait until the non-nesting season to take action.

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.

Following timber harvests, improve the quality and extend the period of suitability of sand pine scrub habitat for Florida scrub-jays, scrub lizards, gopher tortoises and other species requiring open, early successional scrub, by reducing coarse woody debris, increasing occurrence of bare sand surfaces, and creating areas with fewer sand pine and wider-spaced scrub oak using one or more of the following seeding techniques singly or in combination. These may be carried out independent of or in combination with prescribed fire.

- 1. Delay machine seeding by 1 year to determine if natural regeneration meets minimum seeding levels and eliminates need to artificially seed.**
- 2. Conduct seeding in an every-other-row pattern.**
- 3. Select core areas of at least 2 acres each and totaling more than 5% of stand area, to exclude from machine seeding. Log landings are inappropriate for core areas.**
- 4. Select core areas of more than 2 acres each and totaling more than 5% of stand area, to treat with 2 passes of a drum-chopper, and exclude from machine seeding. Log landings are inappropriate for core areas.**

Forest Plan, page 4-47

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.~~

Following timber harvests, improve the quality and extend the period of suitability of sand pine scrub habitat for Florida scrub-jays, scrub lizards, gopher tortoises and other species requiring open, early successional scrub, by reducing coarse woody debris, increasing occurrence of bare sand surfaces, and creating areas with fewer sand pine and wider-spaced scrub oak using one or more of the following seeding techniques singly or in combination. These may be carried out independent of or in combination with prescribed fire.

- 1. Delay machine seeding by 1 year to determine if natural regeneration meets minimum seeding levels and eliminates need to artificially seed.**
- 2. Conduct seeding in an every-other-row pattern.**
- 3. Select core areas of at least 2 acres each and totaling more than 5% of stand area, to exclude from machine seeding. Log landings are inappropriate for core areas.**
- 4. Select core areas of more than 2 acres each and totaling more than 5% of stand area, to treat with 2 passes of a drum-chopper, and exclude from machine seeding. Log landings are inappropriate for core areas.**

Forest Plan, Page 5-4. **Table 5.1 Monitoring Program**

Goals	Objectives	Standards & Guidelines	Question	Item to Measure	Acceptable Range	Report Frequency
1,5	1	N/A	Are people satisfied with service from the national forests in Florida?	Public survey Public inquiries	Baseline	5-Year Review
2	N/A	N/A	How much public participation do we have?	Status Report	Baseline	Annual
3-4	2	N/A	Have partnerships been strengthened?	Status Report	Baseline	Annual
5	N/A	N/A	How are we contributing to the socioeconomic well-being?	Returns to counties, indirect benefits through timber, recreation, range allotments, status report on rural development programs	Baseline	Annual
6, 8-10	3	VG-16 VG-18	How much off-site slash pine has been restored to other types? Has soil disturbance been minimized in preparing longleaf and slash pine sites for tree regeneration? Are we collecting data on understory structure?	Acres type-converted from slash pine to other spp. Percent of the area treated with soil displacement CISC report data on understory field	10,000-15,000 acres by clearcut and 8,000 acres by removal in 10 years No more than 10% of the area treated with soil displacement Increasing trend in stands with data collected	Annual Annual Annual
6, 8-9	7	DFC 8.2-4	How much off-site sand pine has been restored, and to what other types?	Acres type-converted from off-site sand pine to other species	500-1,000 acres in 10 years	Annual
6, 8-10	4	N/A	What is the burning interval of upland pine acres? In what months have they been burned?	Acres of upland pine burned Acres burned by month	3-year average interval over 10-year period Increasing trend toward 50% between March 15 and Sept. 30 and 20% between May 1 and July 31	Annual Annual
6, 8-10	5	N/A	How many acres have been offered for thinning?	# acres thinning harvest offered	45,000 to 50,000 acres in 10 years	Annual
6, 8-10	6	N/A	How many acres have we initiated uneven-aged management harvest on?	# acres offered with uneven-aged harvest	30,000 to 33,500 acres in 10 years	Annual

Forest Plan, page 5-5 **Table 5.1** (cont.)

Goals	Objectives	Standards & Guidelines	Question	Item to Measure	Acceptable Range	Report Frequency
6, 8-10	18	N/A	How many acres have we initiated irregular shelterwood harvest?	# acres offered with irregular shelterwood harvests	1,800 to 2,000 acres in 10 years	Annual
6, 8-10	19	N/A	How many acres of sand pine have had a regeneration harvest?	# acres offered with sand pine regeneration harvest	39,000 to 41,000 acres in 10 years	Annual
11	N/A	N/A	Do forest visitors understand Forest Service practices and do they value and respect the resource being interpreted?	# of opportunities and facilities (signs, talks, brochures) per district and quality	≥ 2 facilities at each district that met MM standards	Annual
12	11	N/A	What percent of each type of recreation site (at least 1 swimming, 1 hiking, 1 fishing) is accessible? (Level 3 and above)	% of accessible by type of recreation site	(Level 3 and up) ≥ 20%	Annual
13	12	N/A	Are developed recreation facilities providing MM standard for safety, cleanliness, and service? Do they reflect quality and customer service?	Evaluations of each facility component are define by MM standards and customer survey forms	Compliance to MM standards and 90% customer satisfaction	Annual
14	13, 14	N/A	What system of trails has been designated on the ground, and are they maintained at appropriate level?	Miles of trails, by type and condition	Baseline	Annual
			How many miles of Florida National Scenic Trail have been certified for public use?	# miles of Florida National Scenic Trail certified	≥ 750 miles for 10 years	Annual
15	N/A	N/A	Have rivers been recommended as wild and scenic, and what is their status?	Status of Record of Decision/Legislative EIS	Recommend = yes	Annual
16	N/A	N/A	Has wilderness character been protected?	% of land in primitive and semiprimitive Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes, trail use data Ecosystem plots	Baseline	Annual
5-6	N/A	N/A	Has Natural Area wilderness study area been recommended for release?	Status of Record of Decision/Legislative EIS	Recommend = yes	Annual
18	16-17	Lands Standards & Guidelines	Have land purchases and exchanges met the objectives established in the Forest Plan?	Itemized by map what has been gained and what has been exchanged Miles of landlines maintained	≥ Itemized list in objectives Average 7-year cycle.	Annual

Table 5.1 (cont.)

Goals	Objectives	Standards & Guidelines	Question	Item to Measure	Acceptable Range	Report Frequency
14	13	AC-1, AC-2	Is the access policy having the desired effect of protecting the resources?	Photopoints at areas of resource concern	Improving site conditions; i.e., less bare soil, less disturbed vegetation, more vegetation	Annual
6-7	N/A	N/A	Are aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems being impaired by acid deposition?	Change in water chemistry regarding acid neutralization	No significant decline in neutralization capacity	5-Year Sampling
6-7	N/A	WL-21	Which water bodies were fertilized?	Report which water bodies were fertilized	Lakes itemized in standards and guidelines	Annual
5	N/A	VG-33	How much of each "special forest product" did we give permits to be collected and in what locations?	Quantity of each type, ranger district and compartment	Baseline	Annual
5	N/A	VG-29	How much timber was offered for sale?	MCF of timber offered annually by type, product, and forest	Not to exceed 103 MMCF in 10 years	Annual
6-9	N/A	FI-7, FI-8	How many miles of firelines were plowed for prescribed fire and wildfires? How many miles were restored?	Miles of plowed firelines for each purpose Miles of plowed firelines restored	Decreasing trend Increasing trend	Annual Annual
N/A	N/A	LA-8 through LA-15	Are special-use permits in compliance and if not, what actions are taken?	# cases of noncompliance actions taken	Evaluation of actions taken	Annual
7, 15	N/A	WA-1 through WA-7	Is water quality being maintained?	Fecal coliform—swim sites; drinking water—recreation areas & admin. sites; chemistry—State well sites	Within State water quality criteria	Annual
6	N/A	WA-8, WA-9	Is air quality being maintained?	Particulates Ozone	Within State air quality standards	Annual
6	N/A	N/A	What are the effects of cattle grazing on vegetation?	Biotic index along a transect, include a transect across fence lines	No significant change in vegetation over time	5-Year Report
5	N/A	N/A	How many miles of roads have been converted to another use or otherwise closed?	Miles of roads closed and deleted in transportation inventory system updates	2-3% of long-term goal closed annually	5-Year Report

The following are proposed **editorial changes** in the Forest Plan. Deletions are shown by strikethroughs and additions shown in bold.

Pages 3-1 and 3-2.

Change **Forest development road** to: ***National Forest System Road*** – a road wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving a part of the National Forest System and which has been included in a forest transportation atlas.

Change definition of **Marked, numbered road** to: *a National Forest System Road that is marked on the ground.*

Change definition of **Designated trail** to: *a National Forest System Trail wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving a part of the National Forest System and which has been included in a forest transportation atlas and marked on the ground.*

Change **Unmarked travelway** to: ***Unclassified Road*** – Roads on National Forest System lands that are not managed as part of the forest transportation system, such as unplanned roads, abandoned travelways, and off-road vehicle tracks that have not been designated and managed as a trail; and those roads that were once under permit or other authorization and were not decommissioned upon the termination of the authorization.

Add **Road** – A motor vehicle travelway over 50 inches wide, unless designated and managed as a trail. A road may be classified, unclassified, or temporary.

Add **Classified Road** – Roads wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving a part of the National Forest System lands that are determined to be needed for long-term motor vehicle access, including State Roads, county roads, privately owned roads, National Forest System Roads, and other roads authorized by the Forest Service.

Add **Temporary Road** - Roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, other written authorization, or emergency operation not intended to be part of the forest transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management.

Page 3-24, Standard WA-1, replace reference to *1993 Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual* with reference to the *Revised 2000 Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual*.

Page 4-5 and Page 4-7, add the names and acres of wilderness on each Forest as follows:

Management Area 0.1, Trailless Wilderness

Apalachicola NF – Mud Swamp/New River – 8,090 acres

Ocala NF – Little Lake George – 2,883 acres

Billies Bay – 3,092 acres

Management Area 0.2, Wilderness with Trails

Apalachicola NF – Bradwell Bay – 24, 602 acres

Ocala NF – Juniper Prairie – 14,283 acres

Alexander Springs – 7,941 acres

Osceola NF – Big Gum Swamp – 13,660 acres

Page 4-12, add the names and acres of wilderness study areas.

Management Area 0.4, Wilderness Study Areas

Apalachicola NF – Clear Lake – 5,635 acres

Osceola NF – Natural Area – 4,396 acres

Page 4-35, change the title of Management Area 5.1 from “No Hardwood/Cypress Timber production” to “*Hardwood/Cypress, No Timber Production*”. This will match the title in the map legend.

Forest Plan Page 4-15

Add revised Osceola acres of Management Area 1.1

Osceola NF 19,693 acres all acres not inventoried

Forest Plan Page 4-21

Add revised Osceola acres of Management Area 3.1

Osceola NF	1,550 acres in LTA 2
	189 acres in LTA 3
	322 acres in LTA 5
	<u>2,678</u> Not Inventoried
	4,739 total acres

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