

Amended 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.~~

Amended 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.

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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**.

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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.

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Wildlife and Fish

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

8.1-4—Emphasize prescribed fire for site preparation. If prescribed fire does not, or is not expected to adequately remove large biomass and incorporate it into the soil, or is not feasible, mechanical site preparation is allowed.

Wildlife and Fish

8.2-7—Emphasize prescribed fire for site preparation. If prescribed fire does not, or is not expected to adequately remove large biomass and incorporate it into the soil, or is not feasible, mechanical site preparation is allowed.

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.

8.1-6 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. To regenerate the stands, use one or more of the following seeding techniques.

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.

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.~~

8.2-5 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.**

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.

Table 5.1

Monitoring Program

Goals	Objectives	Standards & Guidelines	Question	Item to Measure	Acceptable Range	Report Frequency
1,5	4	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?	Acres type-converted from slash pine to other spp.	10,000-15,000 acres by clearcut and 8,000 acres by removal in 10 years	Annual
			Has soil disturbance been minimized in preparing longleaf and slash pine sites for tree regeneration?	Percent of the area treated with soil displacement	No more than 10% of the area treated with soil displacement	Annual
			Are we collecting data on understory structure?	CISC report data on understory field	Increasing trend in stands with data collected	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?	Acres of upland pine burned	3-year average interval over 10-year period	Annual
			In what months have they been burned?	Acres burned by month	Increasing trend toward 50% between March 15 and Sept. 30 and 20% between May 1 and July 31	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

N/A – not applicable

CISC – Continuous Inventory of Stand Conditions

DFC – desired future condition

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? How many miles of Florida National Scenic Trail have been certified for public use?	Miles of trails, by type and condition # miles of Florida National Scenic Trail certified	Baseline ≥ 750 miles for 10 years	Annual 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

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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

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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.*

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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.*

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

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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

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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

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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.

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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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Add revised Osceola acres of Management Area 1.1

Osceola NF	19,693 acres	all acres not inventoried
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