

Non-significant Amendment #9

to the

1996 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

January 2008

This non-significant amendment incorporates the Travel Management Rule regulations (36 CFR Parts 212, 251, 261, and 295) prohibiting the unrestricted cross-country use of motor vehicles in Management Areas (MA) MA-1 Upland Forests Ecosystems and MA-2 Red-cockaded Woodpecker Emphasis on the Angelina, Davy Crockett, and Sabine National Forests, and restricting such use to designated roads, trails, and areas. The 1996 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (the *Plan*) is amended as follows.

Commonly Used Acronyms and Abbreviations (Inside Front Cover of the *Plan*)

Add:

OHV Off-highway Vehicle

Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines

On page 74 of the *Plan*, replace the language under FW-162 with the following language:

- FW-162 Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use will be evaluated, managed, and monitored to minimize damage and ensure sustainability and integrity of all resources. OHV use will be permitted only on designated roads, trails, and areas in accordance with the Travel Management Rule regulations (36 CFR Parts 212, 251, 261, and 295) as follows:
- a. *Utilize guidelines provided in Plan Appendix E for OHV inventory, management, and monitoring.*
 - b. *There will be no areas open to cross-country use of motor vehicles unless designated on a motor vehicle use map pursuant to 36 CFR 212.56.*
 - c. *Areas may be designated for motor vehicle use on only the following National Forest Management Areas (MA): the Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine, and Sam Houston National Forests MA-1 and MA-2.*

Trails may be designated for motor vehicle use on only the following National Forest Management Areas (MA): the Davy Crockett, Sabine, and Sam Houston National Forests MA-1, MA-2, MA-4 (crossings only), MA-9a, and MA-9b Management Areas, and the Angelina National Forest MA-1, MA-2, MA-4 (crossings only), MA-6, MA-9a, and MA-9b.

- d. Roads may be designated for motor vehicle use on any National Forest and National Grassland Management Area except MA-7 Wilderness.*

MA-1 Upland Forests Ecosystems

Management Emphasis

On page 88 of the *Plan*, replace the first paragraph and with the following paragraph:

Portions of this management area contain land physically suited for many forms of dispersed recreation use including off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on designated roads, trails, and areas. Motor vehicle use opportunities will be provided only on designated roads, trails, and areas. Management direction will ensure considerations for wildlife, recreation use, water quality, soil productivity, and biological diversity while providing commercial production of forage and timber, and exploration for and extraction of minerals.

Recreation Management

On pages 92-93 of the *Plan*, replace the language under MA-1-52 with the following language:

- MA-1-52 Manage for a wide spectrum of dispersed recreation use opportunities.
- a. Provide hiking, horseback, mountain bike, and motorized trail opportunities.*
 - b. Provide trailhead parking areas for trail users.*
 - c. Provide OHV opportunities only on designated roads, trails, and areas.*

MA-2 Red-cocked Woodpecker Emphasis

Secondary Management Emphasis

On page 101 of the *Plan*, replace the five paragraphs under **Secondary Management Emphasis** with the following five paragraphs:

Portions of this management area contain lands physically suited for many forms of dispersed recreation use including off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on designated roads, trails, and areas.

Motor vehicle use opportunities will be provided only on designated roads, trails, and areas within the Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine, and Sam Houston National Forests.

Recreational fishing opportunities will be provided in all suitable ponds and streams. Interpretive facilities such as informational trailhead and parking areas

will be provided; all will include maps, brochures, and/or signs to help the recreationist locate public lands, identify unique plant and animal communities, and key recreation attractions. Semi-primitive motorized or roaded-natural recreation opportunities will be available. Management direction will ensure considerations for wildlife, recreation use, water quality, soil productivity, and biological diversity while providing commercial production of forage and timber, and exploration for and extraction of minerals.

This area is managed to provide quality wildlife habitat, particularly for threatened and endangered species, and quality recreation opportunities while affording environmentally sensitive commodity production.

Specific activities are centered around consumptive and nonconsumptive use of land and water areas including timber harvest and production, limited grazing, mineral exploration and production, hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, motor vehicle use, canoeing, nature study, camping, boating, and mountain biking.

Recreation Management

On page 105 of the *Plan*, replace the language under MA-2-42 with the following language:

- MA-2-42 Manage for a wide spectrum of dispersed recreation use opportunities.
- a. Provide hiking, horseback, mountain bike, and motorized trail opportunities.*
 - b. Provide trailhead parking areas for trail users.*
 - c. Provide OHV use in areas that do not disturb RCW clusters. OHV use will be permitted only on designated roads, trails, and areas.*

MA-6 Longleaf Ridge Special Area

Recreation

On pages 173-174 of the *Plan*, replace the first five paragraphs under **Recreation** with the following five paragraphs:

This management area contains lands physically suited for many forms of dispersed recreation use including off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on designated roads and trails.

Motor vehicle use opportunities will be provided only on designated roads and trails.

Recreational fishing opportunities will be provided in all suitable ponds and streams. Interpretive facilities such as informational trailhead and parking areas will be provided; all would include maps, brochures and/or signs to help the recreationist locate public lands, identify unique plant and animal communities,

and key recreation attractions. Semi-primitive motorized or roaded-natural recreation opportunities will be available. Management direction will ensure considerations for wildlife, recreation use, water quality, soil productivity, and biological diversity while providing commercial production of forage and timber, and exploration for and extraction of minerals.

This area is managed to provide quality wildlife habitat, particularly for threatened and endangered species, and quality recreation opportunities while affording environmentally sensitive commodity production.

Specific activities are centered around consumptive and nonconsumptive use of land and water areas including timber harvest and production, limited grazing, minerals exploration and production, hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, motor vehicle use, canoeing, nature study, camping, boating, and mountain biking. The goals of this management area are to:

Recreation Management

On page 177 of the *Plan*, replace the language under MA-6-42 with the following language:

- MA-6-42 Manage for a wide spectrum of dispersed recreation use opportunities.
- a. Provide hiking, horseback, mountain bike, and motorized trail use.*
 - b. Provide trailhead parking areas for trail users.*
 - c. Provide OHV use in areas that do not disturb RCW clusters, sensitive species, or their habitat. OHV use will be permitted only on designated roads and trails.*

MA-9a Developed Recreation Sites

Recreation Management

On page 267 of the *Plan*, replace the language under MA-9a-112 with the following language:

- MA-9a-112 Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use shall be permitted when vehicles are highway legal with licensed operators on designated roads pursuant to 36 CFR 212.56.

MA-9b Minimally Developed Recreation Sites

Recreation Management

On page 274 of the *Plan*, replace the language under MA-9b-113 and MA-9b-114 with the following language:

- MA-9b-113 Motor vehicle use will be permitted only on designated roads and trails.
- MA-9b-114 Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use will be permitted only on designated roads and trails and scheduled to minimize user conflicts.

Plan Appendix E

On page 7 of the *Plan* Appendix E, replace the subtitle **Definition and Classes of ORVs** with **Definition and Classes of OHV** and add:

The terms “off-road vehicle” and “ORV” should be considered synonymous and interchangeable with the terms “off-highway vehicle” and “OHV”. As per the final Travel Management Rule (70 FR 68264; November 9, 2005), the definition of “off-highway vehicle” (OHV) is consistent with the definition of “off-road vehicle” (ORV) in E.O. 11644.

On page 8 of the *Plan* Appendix E, replace the subtitle **ORV Management** with **OHV Management** and replace the language under the subtitle with the following:

1. Provide for off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on the NFGT in accordance with the Travel Management Rule regulations (36 CFR Parts 212, 251, 261, and 295) as follows:
 - a. *There will be no areas open to cross-country use of motor vehicles unless designated on a motor vehicle use map pursuant to 36 CFR 212.56.*
 - b. *Areas may be designated for motor vehicle use on only the following National Forest Management Areas (MA): the Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine, and Sam Houston National Forests MA-1 and MA-2.*
 - c. *Trails may be designated for motor vehicle use on only the following National Forest Management Areas (MA): the Davy Crockett, Sabine, and Sam Houston National Forests MA-1, MA-2, MA-4 (crossings only), MA-9a, and MA-9b Management Areas, and the Angelina National Forest MA-1, MA-2, MA-4 (crossings only), MA-6, MA-9a, and MA-9b.*
 - d. *Roads may be designated for motor vehicle use on any National Forest and National Grassland Management Area except MA-7 Wilderness.*

On page 9 of the *Plan* Appendix E, replace the first paragraph under **Other Open Area Closures** with the following:

The cross-country use of motor vehicles off of designated roads and trails on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas is prohibited unless areas are designated for such use pursuant to 36 CFR 212.51.