

## AQUATIC NUISANCE PLAN COMPONENTS

### OBJECTION ISSUE SUMMARY

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DC-REC-6. “Aquatic nuisance species are controlled and managed according to Forest Service regional guidance and South Carolina state direction. Vegetation around ponds is sufficient to function as a sediment and pollutant filter to water bodies.”

### WHAT’S REQUIRED BY LAW, REGULATION AND/OR POLICY

NFMA 16 U.S.C. § 1604(g)(3)(B): provide for diversity of plant and animal communities based on the suitability and capability of the specific land area in order to meet overall multiple-use objectives.

36 CFR 219.9(b): *Additional, species-specific plan components.* (1) The responsible official shall determine whether or not the plan components required by paragraph (a) of this section provide the ecological conditions necessary to: contribute to the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species, conserve proposed and candidate species, and maintain a viable population of each species of conservation concern within the plan area. If the responsible official determines that the plan components required in paragraph (a) are insufficient to provide such ecological conditions, then additional, species-specific plan components, including standards or guidelines, must be included in the plan to provide such ecological conditions in the plan area.

36 CFR 219.7(e)(3) *Requirements for the set of plan components.* The set of plan components must meet the requirements set forth in this part for... plant and animal diversity (§219.9)...

### REMEDY(S) PROPOSED BY OBJECTOR

One of the key findings in the Assessment is that, “Nonnative invasive species have increased to threaten all ecological systems on the Forest” (p. 17). These include aquatic nuisance species. This plan component needs to be supplemented to incorporate the relevant guidance that is necessary to protect at-risk species. To meet its NFMA requirement for plan components to

provide for ecological integrity, the forest plan must incorporate the measures that are necessary to do so. In conjunction with the second sentence, plan components must provide some basis for determining what is sufficient.

## **FOREST SERVICE RESPONSE**

**Issue:** *The plan should include guidance for aquatic nuisance species.*

The final rule addresses invasive species in § 219.6, which requires information about stressors such as invasive species to be identified and evaluated, and in corresponding requirements in §§ 219.8 and 219.10. The FM Plan, 2.1.5 Stressors and Threats, DC-THR-1. Non-Native Invasive Species Management meets this requirement. However, aquatic invasive (nuisance) species are not mentioned specifically.