



**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** January 19, 2017

Dear Planning Partner:

The Francis Marion National Forest is releasing an updated Francis Marion Revised Land Management Plan (Revised Plan) and associated Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The Revised Plan and FEIS have been updated from their initial release in August 2016 to reflect the resolution of an objection to the Revised Plan and FEIS. The changes that were made as a result of the objection resolution include providing some additional standards and direction to the revised plan concerning the management of at-risk species and a clarification on the evaluation of ecological sustainability was added to Appendix E of the FEIS. For additional information on the changes that were made, see the objection resolution instructions from the Regional Office and the Washington Office posted in the objection section on the Francis Marion Forest Plan Revision website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/scnfs/fmplan>

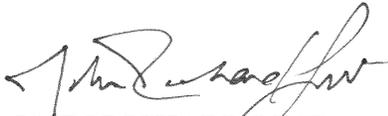
The updated Revised Plan and FEIS are available on the Forest's public website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/scnfs/fmplan>.

The Revised Land Management Plan will be approved by signing the Record of Decision (ROD) after a 30-day waiting period following the issuance of the *Notice of Availability* of the Plan's FEIS in the Federal Register (which is expected to be published on January 27, 2017). The release of the signed Record of Decision, along with the publication of a "*Notice of Approval*" in the Federal Register, will occur around February 28, 2017. The Revised Plan will then go into effect 30 days after the publication of the *Notice of Approval*. (So the Plan will become effective around the end of March).

When these steps are completed, printed and electronic copies of the Revised Plan, FEIS, FEIS Appendices, and Record of Decision will also be available upon request by calling 803-561-4000.

The Responsible Official for the Francis Marion Revised Plan is the Forest Supervisor. If you would like more information or have questions relating to the release of the Revised Plan and FEIS, and forthcoming Record of Decision, please contact Mary Morrison by email [mwmorrison@fs.fed.us](mailto:mwmorrison@fs.fed.us) or by phone at 803-561-4000.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN RICHARD LINT  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Mary Morrison

