



File Code: 1950
Date: February 6, 2017

Dear Planning Partner:

On January 19, 2017, we released to the public an updated version of the Francis Marion's Revised Land Management Plan (Revised Plan) and associated Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). As a result of the transitioning process to a new presidential administration, these documents needed to be resubmitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which occurred on February 2. Consequently, it is anticipated that EPA's *Notice of Availability* of the Revised Plan and FEIS will be published in the Federal Register on February 10, 2017. The updated Revised Plan and FEIS are currently 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. The release of the signed Record of Decision, along with the publication of a "*Notice of Approval*" in the Federal Register, will occur around mid-March, 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 April.) 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 for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. 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 or by phone at 803-561-4000.

Sincerely,

JOHN RICHARD LINT
Forest Supervisor

cc: Mary Morrison

