

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHERN REGION

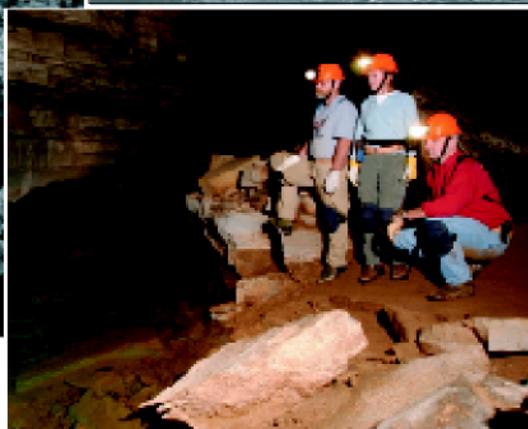
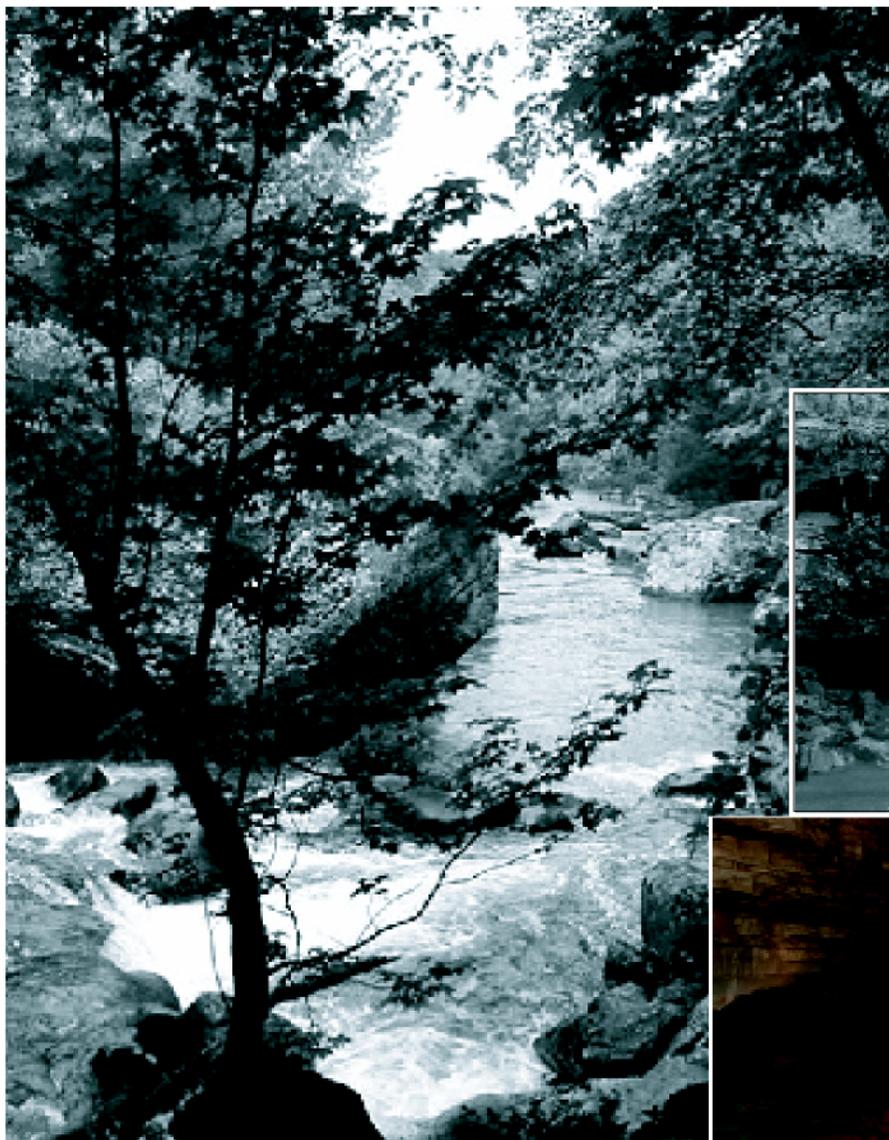
SEPTEMBER 2005

APPENDICES

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FOR THE

REVISED LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



MANAGEMENT BULLETIN R8-MB-125D



Ozark-St. Francis National Forest Offices

Supervisor's Office
605 West Main Street
Russellville, Arkansas 72801
479-964-7200

BAYOU RANGER DISTRICT

12000 SR 27
Hector, AR 72843
479-284-3150

BOSTON MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

1803 North 18th Street
Ozark, AR 72949
479-667-2191

BUFFALO RANGER DISTRICT

Highway 7 North
Jasper, AR 72641
870-446-5122

MT. MAGAZINE RANGER DISTRICT

3001 East Walnut Street
Paris, AR 72855
479-963-3076

PLEASANT HILL RANGER DISTRICT

259 Highway 21 North
Clarksville, AR 72830
479-754-2864

ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FOREST

2675 Highway 44
Marianna, AR 72360
870-295-5278

SYLAMORE RANGER DISTRICT

609 Sylamore Avenue
Mountain View, AR 72560
870-269-3228

CASS JOB CORPS

21424 Highway 23 North
Ozark, AR 72949
479-667-3686

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

APPENDICES OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FOR THE

REVISED LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

OZARK-ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS

Baxter, Benton, Conway, Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Madison, Marion,
Newton, Pope, Searcy, Stone, Van Buren, Washington, Yell, (Ozark National Forest)
Lee, and Phillips (St. Francis National Forest) Counties in Arkansas

US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

Lead Agency: USDA Forest Service

Responsible Official: Charles L. Myers, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service Southern Region
1720 Peachtree Road. NW
Atlanta, GA 30309

For Information: Michael Sanders, Forest Supervisor
Ozark-St. Francis National Forests
605 West Main Street
Russellville, Arkansas 72801
479-964-7200

Page Intentionally Left Blank

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Appendix A Summary of Public Involvement.....	A-1
Appendix B The Analysis Process.....	B-1
Appendix C Roadless Inventory.....	C-1
Appendix D Terrestrial Species Viability	D-1
Appendix E Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species	E-1
Appendix F Minerals	F-1
Appendix G Transition Projects	G-1
Appendix H References	H-1
Appendix I Responses to Public Comments.....	I-1

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public Involvement

In December 2001, the Planning Team for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests (OSFNFs) began having Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) meetings and coordination meetings with planning teams from the Ouachita National Forest, Mark Twain National Forest, the Region 8 Planning Staff, and the OSFNFs' Leadership Team. This marked the beginning of a process that would take about four years to get to the Revised Forest Plan.

Our goals of citizen participation throughout the process were rooted in 36 CFR 219.6. These goals included:

- ▶ A dynamic, continuous participation process of active listening, feedback, and dialog resulting in a broadened information base for collaborative decision-making.
- ▶ Long-term relationships based upon trust, respect, and credibility being fostered and maintained.
- ▶ The needs, values, attitudes, and beliefs of our diverse constituency being recognized and considered in all management decisions. In turn, the public have a better understanding of the management of the Forests and the subsequent effects on their livelihoods, values, and qualities of life.
- ▶ Citizens understanding the Mission of the Forest Service and the purpose and legitimacy of Land Management Planning as described in the National Forest Management Act and the process as described in the National Environmental Policy Act.
- ▶ Citizens understanding what problems exist in the Current Forest Plan and what problems will be addressed through Forest Plan Revision.
- ▶ Citizens understanding the key issues used to choose one alternative solution over another and then understanding the trade-offs in choosing one alternative over another.

The OSFNFs began involving citizens in the revision of the 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan in late 2001 and early 2002 by publishing the first two issues of the Planning Newsletter, *Ozark Connection*. In January and February 2002, the Planning Team hosted a series of public meetings. These meetings introduced the public to the planning process giving them the opportunity to share and understand

the multiple resources of the OSFNFs. In addition, the meetings gave a forum for the diverse and frequently conflicting values of citizens interested in management of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests.

Citizens were advised that the process toward forest plan revision had many legal steps that would take several years to accomplish before actually arriving at a Revised Forest Plan. They were invited to accompany the Forest Service through this process. It was explained that there would be times when they would be more actively involved than other times.

Initially, interested citizens were asked what changes were needed in the Current Plan. They were invited to help identify preliminary issues by participating in meetings and submitting comments that helped shape the five preliminary issues.

A Notice of Intent to revise the Current Forest Plan was published in the *Federal Register* in May 2002.

Through the newsletter *Ozark Connection*, the constituents were introduced to the preliminary issues. In public meetings held in May and June 2002, these issues were discussed at length and comment forms were supplied for anyone wishing to express their opinion on these issues. The official comment period ran from May 1 through August 2, 2002.

From August 2002 to March 2004, the Planning Team

- ▶ Recorded and analyzed comments received from the public during the comment period.
- ▶ Made presentations to partners showing the preliminary issues and asking for input to be considered on the way to the final alternatives.
- ▶ Participated in joint presentations with the Ouachita National Forest to co-operators such as The Wildlife Society.
- ▶ Met with Region 8 specialists in many fields to discuss the various Forest resource areas and the special needs to be considered for these areas.
- ▶ Compiled, studied, fine-tuned the information collected from the above sources, and developed five alternatives, one of which would become the Preferred Alternative and eventually the Revised Forest Plan.

The end of March 2004 saw another series of public meetings. A power point presentation accompanied by several information boards explained the issues and compared predicted outcomes of the five alternatives. Forest personnel were available for questions and discussions at each of the meetings.

From April 2004 through November 2004, internal work was being done. There were discussions with employees from the Supervisor's Office, individual districts (including the St. Francis NF), Regional Office, and partners. The Core Planning Team with the assistance of the IDT members prepared the Draft Plan, Draft Environmental

Impact Statement, Appendices, and Executive Summary. These draft documents were sent to the Regional Office (RO) the end of December 2004 for review.

Following edits from the RO, a Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the February 25, 2005, edition of the *Federal Register*. This began an official 90-day comment period running from February 25 through May 26, 2005.

March 2005 brought Issue #8 of the *Ozark Connection*. This issue discussed the importance of public involvement at this pivotal stage of the planning process. Dates and times of upcoming public open houses were given and constituents were encouraged to attend and make substantive comments. Guides were given on effective commenting and interested parties were advised that although all comments would be considered, only substantive comments would be addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Public open houses were held at six locations across the Forests in March and April 2005. Meetings with various interest groups and partners transpired during this period. Internal meetings at the district offices occurred. While gathering the information from these sources, it was evident that many parties felt they needed more time in order to submit pertinent, well-developed comments. In response, the Forest Service extended the comment period another 30 days. The final day to submit a comment was June 27, 2005.

The Final Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Appendices, and Executive Summary have been formulated from information retrieved from the public during comment period, partners, interest groups, and internal meetings.

The draft version of the final documents for the Revised Forest Plan were sent to the Regional Office for review in August 2005.

After evaluation by the Regional Office and Washington Office, the documents were sent to the Regional Forester for his signature. When signed, they became the official Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. The Notice of Availability will be published in the *Federal Register* in November 2005.

The Revised Forest Plan will lead forest management for the next 10 to 15 years.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Date	Activity	Purpose/Results
12/14/01	Newsletter, Issue #1 and pre-paid postcard for address info mailed to approx. 1,800 names	Explained Forest Plan Revision and the important part the public will play in the revision process. Responses to postcards allowed us to update our mailing list information for future mail-outs.
1/22/02	Newsletter, Issue #2 mailed to approx. 1,800 names	Posted locations and times of upcoming public meetings.
2/5/02	Public Meeting ATU/Pendergraft Library, Russellville	Power point presentation explaining the plan revision process. Team members answered questions following the presentation. Invited public to make comments and/or submit issues.
2/7/02	Public Meeting Newton Co. Senior Center, Jasper	Power point presentation explaining the plan revision process. Team members answered questions following the presentation. Invited public to make comments and/or submit issues.
2/12/02	Public Meeting Jones Center, Springdale	Power point presentation explaining the plan revision process. Team members answered questions following the presentation. Invited public to make comments and/or submit issues.
2/14/02	Public Meeting Ozark Fairgrounds Bldg., Ozark	Power point presentation explaining the plan revision process. Team members answered questions following the presentation. Invited public to make comments and/or submit issues.
2/19/02	Public Meeting Ozark Folk Center, Mountain View	Power point presentation explaining the plan revision process. Team members answered questions following the presentation. Invited public to make comments and/or submit issues.
2/26/02	Public Meeting St. Francis Work Center, Marianna	Power point presentation explaining the plan revision process. Team members answered questions following the presentation. Invited public to make comments and/or submit issues.
2/5 thru 4/30/02	Received comments from public and internal personnel	Following public and internal meetings held in Jan. & Feb., comments were received. These comments helped shape the five preliminary issues.
5/1/02	Notice of Intent Issued	Synopsis published in <u>Federal Register</u> . Official 90 day comment period began.

Date	Activity	Purpose/Results
5/8/02	Information mailed to Native American mail list (12 tribes & Terry Cole-Choctaw Nation.)	Information included: Letter signed by Forest Supervisor; <i>Ozark Connection</i> , Issue #3; "Issues Comment Form"; Copy of NOI published in Federal Register.
5/13/02	Newsletter, Issue #3 mailed to approx. 1,850 names	Included "Summary of Preliminary Issues"; Comment Form w/return address; list of upcoming public meetings.
6/13/02	Public Meeting ATU/Pendergraft Library, Russellville	Part of Scoping Process. Power point presentation discussing Preliminary Issues published in NOI. Question/answer session. Supplied Comment Forms.
6/18/02	Public Meeting Newton County Court Room, Jasper	Part of Scoping Process. Power point presentation discussing Preliminary Issues published in NOI. Question/answer session. Supplied Comment Forms.
6/20/02	Public Meeting Jones Center, Springdale	Part of Scoping Process. Power point presentation discussing Preliminary Issues published in NOI. Question/answer session. Supplied Comment Forms.
5/1 thru 8/2/02	Official Comment period (90-day)	Received & logged public comments. 135 comments received & 1 letter requesting that the name be removed from mailing list.
12/11/02	Presentation- AR Forestry Association	Deryl Jevons and Cary Frost went to Little Rock to make a presentation to the AR Forestry Assoc. Approx. 17 people attended. Power point presentation followed by Question/answer session.
1/15/03	Meeting w/Cooperators SO West, Russellville	Discussion of Species Viability. Attendees: AR Natural Heritage Com. (T. Foti); AR Game & Fish (M. Blaney); The Nature Conservancy (M. Fuhr, M. Anderson, B. Humber); Fish & Wildlife (S. Osborne, M. Harney); Ouachita Planning (B. Pell, A. Little, B. Crump, S. Hooks); Ozark Planning (D. Jevons, C. Frost, S. Duzan, K. King)
2/4/03	Newsletter, Issue #4 mailed to approx. 1,800 names	Gave summary of final issues; displayed pie chart that broke out the public comments received; explained the concept of alternatives.
3/5/03	Joint OSFNFs and Ouachita NF meeting with Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society	Meeting was devoted to Plan Revision and Viability Assessments for the three forests. A. Little gave a presentation on Plan Revision, S. Hooks on the ECS, Osborne on Viability Assessments. A panel to answer Plan Revision questions consisted of S. Best, S. Duzan and J. Davis. The meeting resulted in good discussion about plan revision and how the Wildlife Society members can best participate in plan revision.

Date	Activity	Purpose/Results
3/24/03	Meeting with RO Endangered Species Biologist/FWS	Planning team members, S. Duzan, A. Little and B. Crump met with G. Buekenhofer from the Regional Office and S. Osborne from FWS in Conway about addressing TES in the Plan and Viability Assessment.
10/6/03	Newsletter, Issue #5 mailed to approx. 1,800 names	Gave a summary of activities of each resource area since the last issue (1/03). Issues sent out in hard copy and e-mail format.
3/5/04	Newsletter, Issue #6 mailed to approx. 1,800 names	Described proposed alternatives; displayed a table comparing the five issues with the five alternatives; gave listing of the upcoming public meetings.
3/23/04	Public Meeting St. Francis NF Marianna, AR	Met with public. Displayed boards explaining the issues and comparing the results of each of the alternatives, showed comparison chart, presented power point, answered questions about proposed alternatives.
3/25/04	Public Meeting Buffalo Ranger District Jasper, AR	Met with public. Displayed boards explaining the issues and comparing the results of each of the alternatives, showed comparison chart, presented power point, answered questions about proposed alternatives.
3/29/04	Public Meeting Springdale, AR	Met with public. Displayed boards explaining the issues and comparing the results of each of the alternatives, showed comparison chart, presented power point, answered questions about proposed alternatives.
3/30/04	Public Meeting Russellville, AR	Met with public. Displayed boards explaining the issues and comparing the results of each of the alternatives, showed comparison chart, presented power point, answered questions about proposed alternatives.
4/29/04	Partners' Meeting Fort Smith Library Fort Smith, AR	Meeting. w/Ozark-St. Francis NFs, Ouachita NF, US Fish & Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, AR Game & Fish, AR Natural Heritage Com., OK Dept. of Wildlife. Discussed alternatives and partners' concerns. Advised we would send additional info for them to study and use for their responses.

Date	Activity	Purpose/Results
5/10/04	Partners who attended 4/29/04 meeting	FedEx'd CD containing: proposed alternatives, alternative comparison chart, Prescription Spectrum modeling, Management Prescriptions, Bat info, and maps.
5/11 thru 12/04	AR Game & Fish Com. DeGray Lake Resort State Park, Bismarck, AR	Charlie Richmond, Greg Hatfield, Deryl Jevons, Steve Duzan, Tracy Powers, Duane Rambo, Gary Monk, and Ralph Odegard attended Annual Cooperative Meeting with AR Game & Fish Commission. Gave presentation and answered questions.
6/17/04	Received Letter from Partners	OSFNs received a letter from AR Game & Fish Commission executing an agreement between the Forests and the AG&FC for continued development of the species viability evaluation.
7/2/04	Internal meeting Supervisor's Office	Planning Team met with Wildlife Staff and Timber Staff to discuss topics of interest that need to be represented in the Revised Plan.
7/7-8/04	Conference Calls - OSFNs & Ouachita with Regional Office	Richmond, Jevons, Newman, Little, P. Arndt, Roberta, C. Liggett. Discussion of timelines. Was determined that forests would continue working to meet the 10/25/04 deadline for DEIS/Draft Plan in RO for review. RO offered assistance from personnel to attain this goal.
7/22/04	IDT Meeting- SO West, Russellville	Frost, Odegard, Fryar, Weeks, Duzan, Rambo, Davis, Melville, King. Objective: To define "Forest Communities" so that all parties writing sections for Ch. 3/DEIS are using the same definitions and language.
7/26/04	Internal Meeting Russellville, AR	Frost, Duzan, Odegard, Jan Self, Keith Whalen. Objective: Discuss pasture & allotment protocol
9/13/04	Internal Meeting Russellville, AR	Planning Team met with SO Staff to go over standards that need to remain in the Plan throughout the revision process.
9/16/04	Internal Meeting Russellville, AR	Planning Team visited with Tammy Hocut to discuss maps needed for the draft phase of the revision process.
11/04	Newsletter, Issue #7 mailed to approx. 1,800 names	Issue asking the public to complete the questionnaire letting us know in which format they wanted to receive the Draft Plan, DEIS, Summary, and Appendixes. We asked that they respond before 11/29/04. This would help us determine the number of each of these documents that we needed to produce.

Date	Activity	Purpose/Results
11/10/04	Internal Meeting Fairfield Inn-Russellville	Planning Team met with Forest Supervisor and Staff Officers to discuss progress on Plan.
11/15/04	Newsletter Issue #7 posted to Forest website.	Issue #7 posted to Forest website. Persons on e-mail lists were informed that the newsletter was online and given the address where they could access it.
12/22/05	Posted revision documents to ftp site	Draft Plan, DEIS, Appendixes, and Plan Summary were posted to ftp site so RO staff could review draft documents prior to being printed and sent to public.
2/10/05	News Release	News release was issued advising public that the draft documents would soon be available to the public.
2/16/05	Posted draft documents to website.	Mailed notice to e-mail mailing lists that the Draft Plan, DEIS, Appendixes, and Executive Summary were posted to the Forests' web site. Gave them the web address so they could go to the documents and read them.
2/18/05	Field trip	Arkansas Wildlife Federation hosted a field trip on restoration and plan development. Personnel from the Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Arkansas Wildlife Federation and members of the Sierra Club and Arkansas Canoe Club attended.
2/23/05	Joint Presentation- Arkansas Tech University- Russellville, AR	The Ozark-St. Francis and the Ouachita Planning Teams gave presentations to the Wildlife and Fisheries Societies at Arkansas Tech in Russellville, AR. Each team highlighted the changes in their respective revised plans and answered questions.
2/25/05	Notice of Availability- Environmental Impact Statement	The Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the <u>Federal Register</u> . Official 90-day comment period began. Comment period is from February 25 through May 26, 2005.
3/9/05	Flyer mailed.	Flyers were mailed to libraries and internet cafes in the area. These flyers gave the address of the website where the Draft EIS, Draft Plan, and Executive Summary were located as well as dates to the upcoming open houses.
3/11/05	Newsletter Issue #8 mailed to approx. 1,800 persons	Issue #8 reviewed the plan revision process; discussed public involvement; gave the dates, times, and places of the upcoming public open houses; compared the current and draft revised plans; and gave tips on effective commenting.
3/20/05	Newsletter Issue #8 posted to Forest website.	Persons on E-mail lists were informed that the newsletter was online and given the address.

Date	Activity	Purpose/Results
3/28/05	Public Open House- Marianna, AR	Held public open house at Chamber of Commerce in Marianna. Had numerous information boards and many handouts. SO and district personnel were on hand to answer questions and have one-on-one discussions with individuals and groups.
3/29/05	Public Open House Mt. View, AR	Held public open house at Stone County Library in Mt. View. Had many information boards and several handouts. SO and district personnel were on hand to answer questions and have one-on-one discussions with individuals and groups.
3/31/05	Public Open House Jasper, AR	Held public open house at Newton County Senior Center in Jasper. Had numerous information boards and several handouts. SO and district personnel were on hand to answer questions and have one-on-one discussions with individuals and groups.
4/4/05	Meeting with AGFC-	Planning Team members Cary Frost and Steve Duzan met with members of Arkansas Game & Fish Commission to discuss the draft plan.
4/5/05	Public Open House Springdale, AR	Held public open house at Holiday Inn-Northwest Arkansas in Springfield. Had numerous information boards and several handouts. SO and district personnel were on hand to answer questions and have one-on-one discussions with individuals and groups.
4/6/05	Public Open House Clarksville, AR	Held public open house at Pleasant Hill RD in Clarksville. Had several information boards and numerous handouts. SO and district personnel were on hand to answer questions and have one-on-one discussions with individuals and groups.
4/7/05	Public Open House Russellville, AR	Held public open house at Lake Dardanelle State Park in Russellville. Had several information boards and numerous handouts. SO and district personnel were on hand to answer questions and have one-on-one discussions with individuals and groups.
4/12/05	Internal Meeting Mt. View, AR	Planning Team met with personnel from the Sylamore RD and St. Francis NF to explain differences between the current and revised Plan. The Planning Team displayed information boards and fielded questions and observations from forest personnel.

Date	Activity	Purpose/Results
4/13/05	Internal Meeting Paris, AR	Planning Team met with personnel from the Magazine RD to explain differences between the current and revised Plan. The Planning Team displayed information boards and fielded questions and observations from forest personnel.
4/16/05	Ozark Society Meeting Turner's Bend-Ozark, AR	Gary Knudsen and Cary Frost gave a presentation about the revised forest plan at the Ozark Society Meeting held in Ozark, AR.
4/18/05	Internal Meeting Jasper, AR	Planning Team met with personnel from the Buffalo RD to explain differences between the current and revised Plan. The Planning Team displayed information boards and fielded questions and observations from forest personnel.
4/20/05	Internal Meeting Ozark, AR	Planning Team met with personnel from the Magazine RD to explain differences between the current and revised Plan. The Planning Team displayed information boards and fielded questions and observations from forest personnel.
4/21/05	Internal Meeting Clarksville, AR	Planning Team met with personnel from the Pleasant Hill RD to explain differences between the current and revised Plan. The Planning Team displayed information boards and fielded questions and observations from forest personnel.
4/22/05	Internal Meeting Russellville, AR	Planning Team met with personnel from the Supervisor's Office to explain differences between the current and revised Plan. The Planning Team displayed information boards and fielded questions and observations from forest personnel.
5/2/05	Partners' Meeting Fort Smith, AR	Meeting w/Ozark-St. Francis NFs, Ouachita NF, US Fish & Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, AR Game & Fish, AR Natural Heritage Com., OK Dept. of Wildlife. Each forest listened to comments and discussed concerns from the partner agency about each forest's draft revised plan.
5/4/05	Meeting with Razorback Riders-Fayetteville, AR	Gary Frost met with members of the Razorback Riders ATV club to discuss the draft revised forest plan.
5/9/05	Meeting with Indian Creek Focus Group-Pleasant Hill RD-Clarksville, AR	Planning Team members (Gary Knudsen, Cary Frost, Kathy King) and Pl. Hill RD personnel (Pat Kowalewycz, James Bicknell, Greg Taylor) met with a group of citizens with interest in the Indian Creek Dispersed Recreation Area.

Date	Activity	Purpose/Results
5/27/05	Comment Period Extension	An extension of the official comment period for the draft plan revision documents was published in the May 25, 2005 <i>Federal Register</i> . This notice extends the comment period to June 27, 2005.
5/27/05	Meeting notes mailed to participants	A letter with attached meeting notes was mailed to the citizens that participated in the Indian Creek Dispersed Recreation Area meeting.
6/16/05	Meeting about cerulean warbler	Ralph Odegard and Steve Duzan met with Chris Kellner and Erin Combs from Arkansas Tech University and Leif Anderson with the Arkansas Audubon Society to discuss the draft plan and the Important Bird Acres (BIAs) required by the cerulean warbler.
6/27/05	Comment Period Ends	Official 120-Day Comment Period for comments on draft plan revision documents ends.
8/15/05	Copy of final documents posted on ftp site	Final Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Appendices for FEIS, and Executive Summary were posted so the Regional Office could access the files electronically and make recommendations on the final product before being sent to the Regional Forester for his signature.
9/05	Record of Decision	The Regional Forester signed the Record of Decision in preparation for publishing the Final Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement in the <i>Federal Register</i> in November 2005.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank