

The Meeting Notes that Follow Summarize
the Collaborative Process.

9-10-2005 MEETING NOTES

Those Present: Ruth Berner, Anthony Matthews, Steve Hendricks, Terry Seyden, Monica Schwalbach, Leigh Marston, Joe Roise, Michael Thompson, Boon Chesson, Lane Poole, Ronnie Dyer, Richard Queen.

Meeting Minutes: Ronnie Dyer called the meeting to order and introduced Monica Schwalbach, acting Forest Supervisor, who made introductory remarks. Ruth Berner presented a PowerPoint describing the revision process. After the break, the group discussed the question below. This part of the meeting was followed with a discussion about what “desired condition” statements are and examples were handed out.

Question: Think about your knowledge and experiences on the Uwharrie. What is it like when it is at its best? What are the values and attributes you want to make sure we keep or enhance?

Participant Answers:

Very good hunting. High buck populations – three points minimum. Uwharrie trail is great. Take care during hunting season,

High quality pine sawtimber is a special use of Uwharrie - specifically long leaf – getting old long leaf pine.

Uwharrie is convenient and beautiful. Used rather than talked about. Since the demand for land is so big it provides a natural area to conserve.

Uwharrie is a meeting point. Ride trails. Great camaraderie, camp together, kids play together.

Like Badin Lake – it’s more natural, more fun to be in.

Like the areas to not be denuded.

Timber is a renewable resource and ought to be used. It’s part of the whole system.

Can’t think of another national forest with such a large population around. A green island. Great trail opportunities that are not common in this part of the state.

Need to be careful how we market so use doesn’t get too high.

So many people use the forest. Need to accommodate as many uses as we can. And be good partners with the county. Important to maintain good relationships with neighbors.

Good fishing and access to lake.

Equal access for everyone.

Don't know why we planted so many pines.

Prettiest place in the forest is a hardwood stands.

Canoeing – seeing all the turtles on all the tree limbs sticking out of the lake.

Very diverse – more diverse that you would expect. Like to see it burned (for natural disturbance regime).

Interesting communities along the river – bluffs, etc. Probably more out there we haven't discovered yet.

What strikes me on the Uwharrie is how peaceful it is. It has that peaceful, rural setting that it should keep. Development is coming in all around.

Wilderness in good shape. Doesn't show evidence of high use or degradation of trails. It really is a wilderness experience.

Rural nature of this area is what I love. Unique situation of having this ruralness. I'd like to see the Uwharrie NF expand since it's such a fragmented forest. Work with landowners and governmental officials to encourage expansion of the Forest and benefits to county from people who visit on the weekends.

Forest products industry probably biggest employer.

Everybody has a right to use the forest. Want to see OHVs stay in the areas they are in now.

Favorite part of the forest is canoeing Uwharrie River. Would like to see banks of the river maintained without interference with other uses.

Like to see more timber harvest.

Non-native invasive species the biggest problem. Don't know what to do. Can't use chemicals along the river. Would like to see some time put into dealing with invasive species.

Deal with storm damaged timber. Red tape too much to utilize it. Don't like to see large amounts of timber rotten on the ground. Need better ways to out get bug or fire or storm damaged timber.

Like to see people use all the forest but not overuse. Certain uses should be centralized.

First thinnings should be done earlier to get the best growth.

I use the Uwharrie forest two or three times a week – primarily to walk my dog. I've enjoyed the fresh air, the mix of pine and hardwood forest. Get away from the noise – that's always important.

My primary vision of the forest involves the financial contribution the forest can make to the county. County is in a slump. People are out of work. Want forest want to be revenue generating and see more financial benefits flowing to county residents as possible.

Would like to quantify amount flowing into county from 25% fund. Forest no longer viewed as a player in the timber market but the two could go hand-in-hand.

What is actual yield versus potential yield? I think the rotations are much too long - seem to have gone from very short to very long. This might be a lost economic opportunity that we might recapture.

Would like to see the Uwharrie remain natural but be a greater financial contributor.

Would like to see an economic analysis – what actual versus possible PILT and 25% fund.

Explore other revenue sources since timber production is down.

Wonder why logging isn't done in recreation areas.

Information needed age class distribution by forest type, etc.

9-13-2005

MEETING NOTES

Those Present: Ruth Berner, Anthony Matthews, Steve Hendricks, Terry Seyden, Steve Simon, Sheryl Bryan, MaeLee Hafer, Leigh Marston, Joel Hardison, Pete Powell, Ronnie Dyer, Chris Cagle, Lance Metzler, Karen Katula, Marla Coulthard, Linda Beaulieu, Scott Fields, Kevin Redding, Pete Diamond, Hilton Cochran, Boon Chesson, Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin, Mary Joan Pugh, Gin Wall, Jason, Walser, County Commissioner Dolan Corbett, Ben Prater, Anthony Elkins, Larry G. Mabry.

Meeting Minutes: Anthony Matthews, Planning and Ecosystems Staff Officer made introductory remarks and introductions. Forest Planner Ruth Berner presented a PowerPoint describing the revision process. After the break, the group divided in half and each smaller group discussed the question below. After the second break each group reported out results of their discussions. This was followed with a discussion about what “desired condition” statements are and examples were handed out. A question and answer session wrapped up the meeting

Question: What do you most value about the Uwharrie and what are your positive experiences on the Uwharrie?

Blue/Yellow Group Answers:

Uwharrie River

Water based recreation

Water quality

Biodiversity – terrestrial and aquatic

Diversity of Recreation

Oasis in the Piedmont

Hiking/Camping

Uwharrie Trail

Scenery

Outdoor experiences

Tourism asset

Need for land consolidation

Red/Green Group Answers

Archeological and Historical resources

Quiet and solitude

Rivers and lakes – both from a personal value and revenue generating value

Passive recreation

Diversity of trail and recreation experiences

Uwharrie is a recreation destination for surrounding cities

Uwharrie has unique ecological characteristics

There is potential for restoration of longleaf pine and other plant communities

Hunting, fishing, camping, horseback riding

Large population of diamondbacks (snake diversity)

Scenery

Potential for species recovery such as Schweinitz sunflower

Potential outdoor lab for archeology and biology

Recognize that many local residents do not share these values of the Uwharrie

Simple rural life

Uwharrie is the right size – want consolidation not expansion

Sensing Form Responses				
What do you value most about the Uwharrie National Forest?	Describe a favorite outdoor experience on the Uwharrie National Forest or a forest near the Uwharrie.	What qualities of the forest added to the experience?	What did you see, hear, smell, and feel that made it so positive?	If you could transform one thing about the Uwharrie to make it even better than it is, what would that be?
I think that UNF is a major benefit to the county. The most valuable characteristic is the ability to enjoy pristine, preserved and unendangered wildlife and vegetation that is so unique to this area.	When I was a little boy my family and I would spend hours walking the trails throughout the UNF.	The vegetation is beautiful and unique compared to other areas in the U.S. The wildlife is so natural and picturesque. The bodies of water add to the quaintness of the forests.	I saw deer, snakes, rabbits, fish, frogs, turtles, various bird species, etc. I hear the birds, wind, the creek flowing. I smelled the pine trees and the fresh surreal air. The feeling was utopia.	I would not change a thing.
Natural State	Canoeing	Uninterrupted Forest, very peaceful, river clean		
Horseback trails. Beautiful mountains and various terrain	Leaving in the early morning and riding my horse all day. Stopping as needed for rest breaks. Watering my horse at many of the streams in the forest. Enjoying a picnic lunch while sitting on a rock. Listening to the quietness of the forest.	Many small streams, exceptional horse trails, varied terrain.	See: trees and wildlife; Hear: Quietness/stillness; Smell: woods; Feel: positive thoughts about myself and the forest	Nothing, It's perfect. I would add a working port-o-john at the old horse camp.
That this IS a national forest	Trailing	Climax Forest	The quiet	Limit timber harvest to only that which achieves a Climax Forest environment.

The Uwharrie River's natural beauty	Canoeing the Uwharrie	The undisturbed land along the Uwharrie River	The wild animals and birds along the river	To eliminate the invasive plants in the Forest and along the river. (Privet - Kudzu - English Ivy - Japanese Honeysuckle, non-native Wisteria and etc.)
It is a place where we can meet friends from all over the Piedmont in a central location	Driving on OHV trails and camping with my son and friends.	Just being in nature and also the history of the forest.	I saw, heard, and smelled nature and felt no worries from day to day life.	Add more of the most extreme OHV trails.
I am primarily interested in the financial contribution the Forest makes to Montgomery County, particularly as it pertains to: (1) direct monetary payments to County government, (2) value of timber provided for sale to forest products industries in Montgomery County, (3) value provided to the county through other services such as tourism, (4) economic multiplier effect of received value, and (5) Federal and non-Federal employment opportunities, especially in manufacturing.	I regularly walk my dog on Hunt Camp Road originating at the parking area on Hwy 25/27	Reasonably dense stand of healthy trees. Broad, smooth, gently-sloping road for walking surface. Not too many people. Open understory for scenic viewing.	Absence of noise after leaving the highway area. Wind in the trees. Clean, dust-free air. Good balance of sun and shade.	I would like the Forest to be a revenue-generating rather than tax-consuming entity, with as many financial benefits flowing to Montgomery County government and residents as possible. We are in the midst of a financial downturn and the Forest needs to make a substantial financial contribution to help make up the lack of potential taxing opportunity by County government. The Forest has 35,500 timberland acres in the County, which is 13.9% of the county's timberland acres and 11.3% of all acres in the county.
The quiet natural environment that can be accessed on hiking trails and along the Uwharrie River, Little River and Falls Reservoir.	Taking my grandchildren on a hike and picnic at Boulder Field Overlook (also called Nifty Rocks)	Marked trails, scenery including huge rock outcroppings, seclusion	Wildlife and plant life, outcroppings, views of lake	Connect Uwharrie Trail to Birkhead Mountain Trail to create a 50-mile trail.

Biodiversity, natural vegetation communities, forested open space, Birkhead Wilderness, passive recreational hiking trails, canoeing-Falls Lake boat access, rare plants.	Camping in Uwharrie Forest; canoeing Falls Lake, scenery hiking Birkhead	Free hiking, not crowded, natural, scenic, forested, good wildlife	Pretty, natural, wildflowers blooming, quiet except for 4 wheeler noise, liked swimming at Badin Lake, place to take my dogs for a run, still find areas uncluttered with people	More hiking trailheads; fill in (more acquisition of land - voluntary buyups) gaps between parcels especially significant biological areas, less noisy vehicles like ATV's - noise pollution - more horse trails, better trail marking, more brochures about trails, better rare species management, forest management - stewardship, recreation main aim rather than timbering for wood product, biodiversity - baseline measurements - no net loss include ground cover and natural vegetation communities not just timber production, studies on wildlife i.e. mussels
	Uwharrie River			Expansion/consolidation/connectivity!!!
Beauty, recreation - center of NC as for outside visitors	Canoeing - trails walking	Beauty - natural environment, diverse wildlife and trees	clean air, Quite soothing	Improve recreational vehicles use - No ORV trails close to streams or rivers
The biodiversity, particularly the plant diversity and of course the natural beauty	Mt. biking, hiking or just getting away from the noise of 24/27	The land and animal life; the natural sounds, hardwood trees!	The wind in the trees, the birds singing, the gurgling streams	Consolidate the boundaries; more restrictions on high impact destructive activities, make biodiversity preservation a primary goal
Opportunities for hiking, kayaking, observing wildlife, botanizing. Close proximity to where I live; forest integrity, pristineness	Kayaking on Narrows Reservoir, near small waterfall on Montgomery side, with bald eagles flying around.	Quiet; continuity of forest communities; biodiversity	Rare plants, rare/uncommon animals, migratory songbirds	Limit destructive forest uses --ATVs, horseback riding through creeks, etc.

The OHV Trail System	Jeep or other 4WD Driving on the few challenging trails. Camping with the family and bicycling around Arrowhead Campground and hiking the Badin Lake Trail.	The proximity of the forest to Badin Lake and major cities in North Carolina. I love the mountains however not very tall but there are some beautiful views in the winter.	The views are beautiful when you get to the tops of some of the peaks.	I would add more challenging OHV trails.
We value the Uwharrie for its recreational opportunities and the support it provides biodiversity, clean water and clean air	Hiking in the Uwharrie during winter	Solitude, wildlife viewing	Seeing native wildlife, only a few visitors, experiencing the cool, clean air of winter	We strongly advocate for taking the Uwharrie in a direction that focuses on restoring native ecosystems and reducing impacts of uses, such as ATVs/ORV's, that threaten forest integrity.
It's preserved natural state as a relaxing gateway	I've had no experience that in words are spectacular, but bicycling and hiking in the UNF have been wonderful experiences	Natural beauty and serenity, fresh air	Beautiful trees and clean streams; hearing birds chirping and babbling stream and NOT hearing traffic or loud people/dogs; the wonderful smell of the woods and fresh air; the feeling of peace and relaxation.	Perhaps increased reminders to the local residents about the value of this treasure in their own back yard.
The natural heritage areas, the Uwharrie Trail and the proximity to the Piedmont Triad.	Hiking on the Uwharrie Trail - 50 mile trail starting in Randolph County and ending in Montgomery County.	The natural heritage areas - the Uwharrie Forest has a rich variety of biological communities.	Beautiful forested land, a variety of habitats - streams, forests, meadows, rock outcrops, wildlife sounds, and a feeling of being away from urban areas.	Complete the Uwharrie Trail in Randolph County (3 gaps remain) and build a suitable trailhead on Tot Hill Farm Road.

TOPIC: Public Meeting October 11, 2005, in Troy, NC

SUBJECT: Uwharrie National Forest Plan Revision

LOCATION: First Bank, 341 Main Street, Troy, NC.

PARTICIPANTS: Carolyn Wells, Karen Katula, Elizabeth Earnhardt, Stephen Novak, Tommy Taylor, Mark & Jane Lewis, Scott Fields, Chris Cagle, Bill Lindau, Boon Chesson, Tracy Davis, DJ Gerken, Richard Queen, Scott Maynor, Nathan Davis, Sara Moody, Weaver Moody, Lee Ann Kimble, William Kimble, Marla Coulthard, Pete Diamond, Mary Joan Pugh, Mike Schafale, Larry Blackburn, Gin Wall, Charles Cochran, Ruth Berner, Anthony Matthews, MaeLee Hafer, Sheryl Bryan, Mary Noel, Terry Seyden, Steve Simon, Gary Kaufmann, John Blanton, Joel Hardison, Rodney Snedeker, Leigh Marston, and two or three others who accompanied those who signed in.

MINUTES:

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with Ruth Berner presenting a short recap of information presented at the September meetings and review of the concept of “desired conditions,” the subject of tonight’s meeting.

The room was set up with Resource Stations around the room where participants could submit “desired condition” statements for possible inclusion in the revised plan. Resource Stations were: Vegetation, Outdoor Recreation (including scenery, interpretation, trails, visitor info, and wilderness), Roads-Trails-Facilities-Health & Safety, Community Relations, Lands & Special Uses, Heritage Resources (archeology), Water Quality & Fisheries, and Wildlife. Participants moved from one station to the next according to their individual level of interest in a resource topic area.

When this segment of the meeting was complete, participants chose one Resource Station to work through an initial evaluation of the potential desired condition statements that had been submitted. The most popular resource stations were Outdoor Recreation and Vegetation. The document “Potential DCs and Initial Review” is a record of all potential desired condition statements submitted at the meeting, and participants initial reaction to each. This document can be viewed on the Uwharrie Revision website, http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/uwharrie_plan/ or by requesting a hard copy (call Ruth Berner at 828-257-4862).

Using the initial evaluation from meeting participants, the Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team will review all submitted desired condition statements and prepare a summary review for presentation at the October 24th meeting. There may be follow-up work with participants to “massage” statements into an array that most of the group can generally support.

TOPIC: Public Meeting October 24th, 2005

SUBJECT: Uwharrie National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

LOCATION: Troy/Montgomery Senior Center, 200 Park Road, Troy, NC

PARTICIPANTS WHO SIGNED IN AND FS ATTENDEES: Boon Chesson, Ben Prater, Lane Poole, Bill Lindau, Scott Fields, Don Childrey, Mark and Jane Lewis, Melinda Cagle, Sue Hennesey, Mike Thompson, Richard Queen, Stephen Novak, Pete Diamond, Joe Roise, Carolyn Wells, Scott Pohlman, Mary Joan Pugh, Gin Wall, Larry Blackburn, Helen Blackburn, Hugh Irwin, DJ Gerken, LeeAnn and Bill Kimble, Laura Fogo, Dave Muhly, Moni Bates, Kevin Redding, Tommy Taylor, Hilton Cochran, Bill Parsen(sp?), Ruth Berner, MaeLee Hafer, Brady Dodd, Gary Kauffman, John Blanton, Terry Seyden, Marisue Hilliard, Leigh Marston, Mark Carter, Rodney Smith, Joel Hardison, Holly Hixson.

MINUTES:

The meeting opened at approximately 6:10 with presentation of a PowerPoint describing the steps leading up to tonight's meeting, and summarizing the process describing how the Forest Service Team used the potential desired condition statements put forth at the October 11th meeting to come up with the list of 51 Draft Desired Conditions.

Comment boards were set up for participants too submit "Missed Desired Conditions" and to serve as the "Complaint Department."

Participants had about 20 minutes to read through the Draft Desired Conditions and go through a "tracking" document that gave information about the disposition of the all the potential desired conditions received at the October 11th meeting. Then the participants divided themselves into four groups, each with a FS facilitator and recorder, to submit potential desired conditions for particular places on the forest. Numbered dots were placed on maps corresponding to recorded comments about the site.

After just over an hour, the large group reformed and heard a short report from a member of each of the small groups.

The meeting ended with a brief introduction to the concept of "objectives," which is the subject of the upcoming November 16th meeting.

The meeting adjourned near 8:30 PM.

[NOTE: Potential Desired Conditions for Places recorded at the meeting will be posted as soon as they are compiled.]

TOPIC: Public Meeting November 16th, 2005

SUBJECT: Uwharrie National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

LOCATION: Troy/Montgomery Senior Center, 200 Park Road, Troy, NC

PARTICIPANTS WHO SIGNED IN AND FS ATTENDEES: Steve Novak, Lane Batot, Pete Diamond, Richard Queen, Moni Bates, Tommy Taylor, Elizabeth Earnhardt, Mike Thompson, Dale Suiter, DJ Gerken, Mary Joan Pugh, Lane Poole, David Poole, John G. German, M. Scott Fields, Boon Chesson, Gifford DelGrande, Judy Stevens, Nancy Ruppert, Mark and Jane Lewis, Carolyn Wells, Hugh Erwin, Ben Prater, Mike Schafale, Gin Wall, Jason Walser, Ruth Berner, MaeLee Hafer, Terry Seyden, Anthony Matthews, Ken Rago, Dale Remington, Leigh Marston, Steve Hendricks, Steve Simon, Gary Kaufmann, Mark Carter, Tim Penney, Joel Hardison.

MINUTES:

The meeting opened at 6:10 PM with introductions and announcement that a ranger has been selected – Deborah Walker coming from the Cibola National Forest in New Mexico at the first of the New Year. Next was a brief presentation on “objectives” – the main subject of the meeting, and a presentation on “potential vegetation” which helps quantify the amount of work needed to reach the desired conditions for vegetation.

Handouts of the following were available: Uwharrie Strategic Overview, Place-based Desired Conditions from October 24th Meeting with accompanying maps, Draft Desired Conditions revised based on comments from October 24th Meeting.

There were four “information/potential objective” stations set up around the room: Archeology, Vegetation, Wildlife-Fish-Water, and Recreation-Visitor Information. Participants divided into four small groups and rotated around the stations with fifteen minutes at each station, followed by another fifteen minutes to return to any station for more info or input. Each station had some ideas posted for potential objectives (work needed to move toward the desired conditions –see below). Participants submitted many additional ideas for objectives (see written comments below). [**The Forest Service Team will work through these over the next few weeks and hopefully have a set of draft objectives ready in January.**]

The meeting formally ended with a reminder about the November 29th Meeting, 6-9 PM at the Senior Center. Many Participants stayed after the session formally ended to continue discussions among themselves or with Forest Service reps on various topics until almost 9:00 PM.

NOTE: PowerPoints presented at the meeting will be posted as PDFs by December 1st.

Pre-draft Ideas for Potential Objective from November 16th meeting Display Boards:

POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES FOR ROADS

1. Grade surfaces, and clean culverts and ditches of all open system roads at least annually.
2. Evaluate an average of 20% of the road system annually for special road management and maintenance issues such as public safety, potential for eroded sediments to reach streams, and the condition of stream crossings including fish passage. Recommend follow-up actions

POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES FOR TRAILS & FACILITIES

1. Mark all intersections where trails cross open Forest Service roads to increase visitor safety by 2008. Recheck yearly, on average.
2. For trail segments that are not in the desired conditions, improve an average of 10% per year.
3. Apply for at least one trail improvement grant (such as is available through the Transportation Equity Act or other sources) annually.
4. For an average of one trailhead per year: increase visibility of trailhead if needed for ease of locating; provide needed information at trailhead, establish, maintain or improve parking area.
5. A “trail partners” group averages 1 annual trail design and maintenance workday that include field work to fix or maintain erosion control and proper drainage on problem trail segments, and removal of litter.
6. Maintain or establish vistas on an average of (5 miles?) of trail per year.
7. Evaluate an average of one unauthorized trail per year for potential obliteration and to identify environmental concerns such as erosion/sedimentation. Recommend follow-up actions.

POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES FOR VISITOR INFORMATION

1. At least one detailed Uwharrie National Forest recreation opportunity guide will be produced by 2010. Additional or updated information will be produced at least every third year thereafter.

2. At least one Uwharrie National Forest conservation education/natural history guide will be produced by 2011. Additional or updated information will be produced at least every third year thereafter.
3. At least one Uwharrie National Forest cultural heritage education/conservation guide will be produced by 2012. Additional or updated information will be produced at least every third year thereafter.

Vegetation Potential Objectives

- Restore and average 200 - 400 acres of oak-hickory and 100 acres of longleaf pine annually on sites where occurred historically.
- Restore XXX subpopulations of Schweinitz sunflower over the next fifteen years.
- All longleaf pine restoration areas and ¼ to ½ of oak-hickory restoration areas will include prairie-like openings centered in areas where Schweinitz sunflower or other rare species found in this habitat will be recovering.

POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES FOR HERITAGE RESOURCES

1. Identify and map (GIS) significant heritage resources zones. Determine site / zone limits for all areas within the first five years of the plan.
2. Work with partners such as NC SHPO, Tribes & others to develop a proposed National Register district boundary and contexts for defining contributing and non-contributing elements within the first five years of the plan.
3. Eliminate adverse impacts to designated significant sites and heritage resource zones. Salvage or stabilize impacts at a rate of 5% of impacted sites per year.
4. Develop a long term plan identifying needs and opportunities for public interpretation, preservation zones and research zones by 2010. Begin implementation by 2011.

POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES FOR WATER QUALITY AND STREAM CHANNELS

Maintain and improve forest vegetation in streamside-areas when planning and implementing management activities.

Develop watershed improvement projects designed to reconnect streams with their flood plains by removing man-made levees (e.g. lower Barnes Creek) and rehabilitating degraded streams (e.g. lower McCleans Creek).

Develop watershed improvement projects designed to restore stable channel conditions and aquatic habitat diversity, and improve water quality in streams degraded by historic mining (e.g. lower Big Creek, tributary to Uwharrie River).

Perform regular maintenance and implement road and trail Best Management Practices (BMP's) on all Forest system roads.

Reconstruct or relocate system roads and trails that are a continual sediment source to streams using road and trail design BMP's.

Control access of system roads and trails that are a continual sediment source to streams.

Consider closure of unneeded system roads and trails that are located near streams.

Decommission non-system roads and trails that are located near streams.

POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES FOR AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

? Using NCIBI and NCEPT, what ratings are acceptable or what do we want to see across the Forest, and by when?

? Should mussel restoration sites be identified in the Plan? Timetable for implementation?

? Using VBET, what parameters are critical to high quality habitats across the Forest? How will we maintain or restore these characteristics? How will we prioritize?

? How will we manage invasive aquatic species occurring on the Forest, such as the flathead catfish?

POTENTIAL WILDLIFE OBJECTIVES

Create 150 acres of permanent grass/forb habitat dispersed across the forest over the planning period.

Maintain 2200 acres of existing longleaf pine as pine woodlands. Restore 700 acres of longleaf pine to conditions suitable for red-cockaded woodpecker over the planning period (by removing the midstory using prescribed fire or mechanical methods).

Protect all bogs, swamps, and wetlands. Create 10 acres of vernal ponds dispersed across the forest during the planning period.

Increase the amount of oak/hickory in pine dominated stands to at least 30% of the basal area for mast production.

The following written comments were submitted by participants at the November 16th meeting:

Build and maintain silt catch basins at the end of each water bar, i.e. hay bails, screens or pools, on gravel roads and trails.

There is no objective listed that creates understanding of how outside forest service lands factors are influencing water quality, and what forest service should be doing to influence factors that are causing threats or negative impact to the desired condition.

How “doable” are objectives listed with current resources so an objective to address the non-doability of the objectives.

Please try to further limit the use of chemical herbicides.

“Trail partners” should do at least 4 workdays a year including trail assessments, monitoring conditions, recording data, etc.

Get a handle on OHV use off designated trails. Have enforcement staff who give tickets to violators. Have it be known among users that if it doesn’t stop, OHV will be closed.

Trailhead for Uwharrie Trail on Tot Hill Farm Rd. (Northern end of trail in Randolph County).

Objective for OHV Trail use:

Limit or control numbers of users to reduce impacts on water quality, heritage resources and soil disturbance.

This could be done by restricting parking to existing parking lots, selling only a certain number of annual permits, or a limited number of daily permits.

Evaluate trails before closing to see if they could be added to the system.

More ambition on dealing with unauthorized trails – Evaluate and close numerous per year – hopefully faster than they are being created.

Perform regular and continuous outreach to private landowners where Uwharrie Trail has gaps for purposes of acquiring land and easements to complete/connect the trail.

Adopt-a-Trail by clubs and Businesses – let signs be installed at their Trail.

Forest Service do advertising for Trail Volunteers – more incentives for volunteers. Get ATV or Jeep suppliers to donate items.

Disperse trails from main recreation area to other less used areas.

Monitor # of users on current # of trails.

Require fees from All users to fund projects.

No Objective that addresses using the monitoring and objectives to communicate to interested parties so they can assist in showing support and interact with congress in getting resources especially id objective is not being met.

OHV Large parking lot, enlarge existing parking and camping/parking adjacent to OHV Trail System. Our own camping area.

Deal with 33 miles of unclassified roads. Decommission and obliteration of those not added as system roads should be accomplished over the life of the plan.

TRAIL CONDITIONS (DESIRED)

Maybe you can involve more volunteer work on trail maintenance/improvement:

School children

Student conservation association

Juveniles (or adults) who need community service

Electric hookups at Canebrake.

Campground for OHV users adjacent to the OHV trail system.

Monitor “open camping.”

Work toward ending perpetuation of loblolly plantations.

Address existing loblolly plantations, and develop a plan for their removal or conversion to a more natural forest type.

Begin restoration of “glades”, then determine whether to transplant Helisch. i.e. Walkers Mt. in Wood Run area (south slope) has a woodland look currently and appears to be potential Helisch habitat. If site is restored, then decide whether to use as a Helisch recovery site.

In fall 2006 start annual monitoring of all *Helianthus schweinitzii* populations.

Select 5-7 high priority populations and begin restoration (thinning and burning, dispersing seeds).

Need a specific objective of maintain the best examples of all community types. Are all examples at rare areas?

Need an objective about prescribed burning – reasonable acreage, and goal to focus burns on places where they will provide the most benefits – high quality fire-adapted communities; rare species sites, restoration sites.

Need an objective addressing other rare plants besides Schweinitz sunflower.

Desired Conditions of Uwharrie Forest

I want to first show you some facts that will help you understand why I would desire some of the conditions I would like to see in the forest. I am interested in timber and timber is a big part of the forest. Good timberland well managed is very low in maintained cost. It protects our soils, waters and air. A lot of our other uses of the forest are very destructive to the land, water and air. I am for growing longleaf and shortleaf pines, but we need to manage and save some of our loblolly pines (the plantation that the USFS got in a land exchange with Jordan Lumber Co in the South Eastern part of Montgomery County) they are in the natural range for loblolly pines. They need little maintenance except a good thinning. This should be done as soon as possible.

EXAMPLES Attached is a copy of a timber sale of loblolly pine in 2004. This stand of timber was natural regenerated and was never managed. It had a large variety of wildlife, including turkey, deer, foxes, raccoon, beaver, mink, otter, squirrel, fish and many other types of wildlife on it. The trees and the scenery were beautiful. This was a good place to hike, bird watch, fish and hunt.

EXAMPLE OF INCOME --- The deed to the land was very old and called for fifty acres more or less. It was surveyed and it was 46 acres. The selling price for the timber was \$272,444.00. $\$272,444.00 \div 46 \text{ acres} = \5922.69 per acre for the timber. The timber was 68+ years old. $\$5922.69 \div \text{age } 69 = \87.09 per acre per year. Well-managed loblolly pine timber will give you over \$100.00 per acre per year. That is a good investment for the USFS and not harmful to the environment and also has excellent recreational values.

I would see some loblolly pine management done in the South Eastern Part of the Uwharrie National Forest.

TOPIC: Public Meeting November 29th, 2005

SUBJECT: Uwharrie National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

LOCATION: Troy/Montgomery Senior Center, 200 Park Road, Troy, NC

PARTICIPANTS WHO SIGNED IN AND FS ATTENDEES: Chris M. Cagle, Don Childrey, Steve Novak, Boon Chesson, DJ Gerken, Lane Poole, Kevin Redding, Elizabeth Earnhardt, Janet Becker, Bruce Hatton, Ben Prater, John Blanton, David Poole, Scott Pohlman, Mike Schafale, Tommy Taylor, Richard Queen, Karen Katula, Scott Fields, Marla Coulthard, Sue Hennessey, Dave Muhly, Leon Peele, Ruth Berner, Anthony Matthews, Steve Hendricks, Steve Simon, Sheryl Bryan, MaeLee Hafer, Leigh Marston, Rodney Snedeker, Joel Hardison, Brady Dodd, plus at least three others who didn't sign in.

MINUTES:

The meeting opened at 6:10 PM with a presentation on “suitable uses” – the main subject of the meeting. The approach for the meeting tonight is to discuss how certain “uses” of the national forest are “compatible” with various desired conditions previously developed.

Handouts of the following were available: Uwharrie Strategic Overview, Uses/Desired Conditions Matrix, and the Compatibility of Uses Comment Form.

Participants divided into two groups for discussion of two trigger questions: (1) How is timber harvest compatible with the desired conditions? and (2) How is outdoor recreation compatible with the desired conditions.

The big group reconvened for brief report-outs from the two groups and to hear what will be going on over the next few months: December & January – the Forest Service Team will be putting together the draft plan components worked on to date and developing “ecological sustainability” information. They will also be meeting with their Regional Office counterparts to update them and to be briefed about the Environmental Management System (EMS) process that will be required in the future. In January there may be field trips and small focus group discussions. The next big public meeting is expected to be in February.

The meeting ended around 8:45 PM.

On the following pages are the compiled notes from the two discussion groups. Participants are invited to submit individual comments as they see fit.

How is TIMBER HARVEST Compatible with the Following Desired Conditions?

(When it is)
Note: Is timber Harvest defined as commercial timber harvest?

(When it is done to)

	DRAFT DESIRED CONDITION (abbreviated)	COMMENTS/NOTES
VEGETATION 1	Open forests with small canopy gaps	<p>When financially feasible? Mimics natural disturbances. Not large clearcuts. Protects improvements such as trails.</p> <p>Feasible when long rotation ages; historic conditions is being met</p> <p>Disturbs climax conditions unless it will enhance movement to natural conditions. If your removing certain species that are limiting the desired conditions.</p> <p>Won't it get too crowded and kill itself out with insects etc?</p> <p>Small canopy gaps occur naturally. If it already approaches natural conditions it might not be necessary.</p>
1	Glades and prairie-like openings	When designed to create or maintain these types of openings.
1	Mixed-aged Forest with old stuff	Very long rotations. Retains large older trees.
2	Few Non-native species	<p>When done selectively. Design harvest to minimize expansion of invasives. Limit soil disturbance in extent and duration. Prompt treatment of invasives that occur.</p> <p>Control the non-natives first before opening the canopy. More intensive the harvest the more likely non-natives to move into the area.</p>

	DRAFT DESIRED CONDITION (abbreviated)	COMMENTS/NOTES
3	Restore plant communities from past	<p>Design harvest to favor the desired species. Done on small scale and experimental plots to assess effectiveness of treatment.</p> <p>Need to determine what the historic communities are and how much.</p> <p>Manage natural processes; Restore to natural/historic; when we know how, we have the means to do it. Example given of oak.</p> <p>Very compatible for restoration. More compatible the further away from the desired conditions – both composition and structure is important. What was historically there?</p> <p>Natural processes may create gaps in mature forests.</p>
4	Restored Schweinitz & rare species	Do not put other species or resources at risk while restoring.
5	Network of "Natural Areas"	Not generally compatible. There may be an exception.
6	Regenerating hardwoods in canopy gaps	<p>Timber harvest can result in areas available for regenerating hardwoods.</p> <p>Question: Should the desired condition statement specifically limit disturbance to natural disturbances?</p> <p>Canopy gaps can be “natural” or human created. We have an even-aged forest now.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>When it is based on science. If you don’t have natural gaps forming. If it doesn’t have regeneration in it.</p>
7	A healthy forest	<p>Cleanup blowdown, ice-damage timber. Thin to retain vigorous forest.</p> <p>There is concern that timber harvest is not compatible in healthy forests.....it is not needed.</p> <p>Needed to maintain good forest health. Due to fire suppression we have created a situation where forest health is at risk. In these cases harvest is needed to restore natural balance.</p>

	DRAFT DESIRED CONDITION (abbreviated)	COMMENTS/NOTES
		<p>This conversation assumes that management will get us to healthy.</p> <p>Opinion is that forest is now healthy even with past management. Who cares if trees die, it is natural process. Some places need management but without commercial use.</p> <p>If it is in dense even-aged pine plantations. Compatible for thinning pine plantations.</p>
<p>WATER/FISH 1</p>	<p>Diverse, healthy aquatic ecosystems</p>	<p>If done properly; keep equipment out of the streams; We do not need timber harvest to create or maintain healthy aquatic systems.</p> <p>Limited selected timber harvest is compatible.</p> <p>Individual does not want to see log trucks coming from federal lands.</p> <p>With a buffer.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Clean water and plenty of fish</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Native Mussels</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Vegetated streambanks</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Stable stream channels</p>	

	DRAFT DESIRED CONDITION (abbreviated)	COMMENTS/NOTES
5	Intact bogs/seeps	Compatible if you are opening them up without damaging. No, disagree.
6	Improving mining- degraded stream channels	
WILDLIFE 1,4	Diverse Native Ecosystems/Species	When there's not too much of it. When it is not in even- aged clearcuts. Where you are doing restoration of native ecosystems. Some places you can mess around with as long as you protect some places
2,3	Wildlife Fields	Once to create the conditions.
5	Dens, Snags, Downed Wood	When it is not removing snags/dens or the trees that will become them. In a young dense stand.
6	RCW suitable habitat	To restore and maintain habitat. Thinning. Priority would be those that are closest to the desired conditions.
7	Regenerating Hardwoods/Acorns & hickory nuts	
8	Frequent & secure wetlands	

	DRAFT DESIRED CONDITION (abbreviated)	COMMENTS/NOTES
HERITAGE RESOURCES 1	Protected archeological sites	If removing trees brings it back to the way it was historically.
2	Heritage Resource interpretive programs for visitors	
WILDERNESS 1	Little or no human disturbance, etc.	Not compatible.
SCENERY 1	Pleasant scenery	
2	No litter	

How is OUTDOOR RECREATION Compatible with the Following Desired Conditions?

(When it is)

	DRAFT DESIRED CONDITION (abbreviated)	COMMENTS/NOTES
VEGETATION 1	Open forests with small canopy gaps	<u>The discussion applied generally to the forest vegetation conditions that are desired:</u> General principles: When rare species aren't trampled, when they are not collected, and limited access. Light foot uses, any use that can be successfully confined to the trails. Or when designated recreation sites avoid rare species. As long as there are not too many people going to the same place. Things particularly sensitive or particularly small - need to limit use.
1	Glades and prairie-like openings	
1	Mixed-aged Forest with old stuff	If users <u>stay on trails</u> in high use areas, or use is at low levels and users avoid sensitive areas. Trails need to be well-marked so people can tell where they are.
2	Few Non-native species	But people are naturally attracted to unusual or rare areas that have unique features. Hard to keep people out. People have to experience special areas to value them.
3	Restore plant communities from past	Recreation use is increasing dramatically. We need to be looking 10-15 years out into the future. Try to really protect the tender spots because you can't keep the people out.
4	Restored Schweinitz & rare species	We could keep the numbers down by limiting the number of passes. Limit number of people on the trails. Limit number of passes. Understand the demand a little better and the trends and demands for individual uses. Do we have the staff to control the use?
5	Network of "Natural Areas"	If you limit passes you are cutting off the economic development.

	DRAFT DESIRED CONDITION (abbreviated)	COMMENTS/NOTES
6	Regenerating hardwoods in canopy gaps	<p>Recreation users need better information on what's allowed and how to avoid impacting the resource.</p> <p>Need visitor center where the people are.</p> <p>Need good leadership.</p> <p>Need better record keeping on the level of use.</p>
7	A healthy forest	
WATER/FISH 1	Diverse, healthy aquatic ecosystems	<p>**For all these, any activity that modifies the stream bank or channel and creates erosion is not compatible with this desired condition.</p> <p>Access to the Uwharrie River for foot traffic – talk to Leigh Marston with proposal.</p>
2	Clean water and plenty of fish	<p>**For all these, any activity that modifies the stream bank or channel and creates erosion is not compatible with this desired condition.</p>
3	Native Mussels	<p>Any activity that causes erosion is not compatible.</p> <p>Sewage proposed into Uwharrie River.</p> <p>Landfill concerns at Rocky Creek someone should monitor for potential effects.</p> <p>National Forests need to be aware of outside concerns.</p> <p>Agency needs to stand up for resource protection in watersheds</p>
4	Vegetated streambanks	<p>As long as the rec facility or use does not alter the streamside, channels, etc</p>

	DRAFT DESIRED CONDITION (abbreviated)	COMMENTS/NOTES
4	Stable stream channels	Same as above
5	Intact bogs/seeps	Keep people on the trails. Keep trail out of the bogs/seeps. Keep people on trail not through bog.
6	Improving mining-degraded stream channels	Compatible as long as the rec users do not create the same conditions that mining created. Compatible is use does not exacerbate degraded conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stay out of stream channels • proper use of BMPS
WILDLIFE 1,4	Diverse Native Ecosystems/Species	Compatible, depending on impact levels (disturbances). Compatible depending on land use.
2,3	Wildlife Fields	Not Compatible for the most part. However, may be compatible if users do not cross through. Bring recreational users up close enough to view but not disturb. Difficult to keep people out of these openings. Hikers and maybe horse riders are not at a level that would disturb the wildlife; roads and OHVs would disturb. Wildlife commission has dropped maintenance of some fields due to the amount of use in those fields. Hunting. Helping to promote the conditions. Birdwatching. Attractive to wilderness camping but it may not be good for the wildlife. Hard to keep people out. When there is law enforcement. Signs on wildlife openings, not to go through openings. Compatible is users are led to edge of openings not routed through them. People need to be encouraged to stay out of openings Locate new fields away from excessive rec. use i.e. Badin

	DRAFT DESIRED CONDITION (abbreviated)	COMMENTS/NOTES
		OVH area.
5	Dens, Snags, Downed Wood	Some Compatible. Firewood users can reduce amounts of these habitats. Not compatible in developed sites (snags in campgrounds). Snags are hazard to recreation, not compatible.
6	RCW suitable habitat	Compatible unless too much use (disturbance factor). Seasonal use may be OK; may need to protect birds during breeding. A balance of how much.
7	Regenerating Hardwoods/Acorns & hickory nuts	Compatible.....but need to manage amount of use to minimize disturbance. Compatible as is.
8	Frequent & secure wetlands	Trails need to be designed to protect these. Uncontrolled rec use is not compatible. Compatible is use is kept out of these areas. On boardwalks or at low levels. When it protects the hydrology and vegetation.
HERITAGE RESOURCES 1	Protected archeological sites	Need to protect these from “looting” because people have access and are impacting these sites. Motorized rec is not compatible with protected sites. Camping within these sites is not compatible. Protection needed of sites from recreation use. OHV use not compatible with important arch sites due to increased access and soil disturbance.

	DRAFT DESIRED CONDITION (abbreviated)	COMMENTS/NOTES
2	Heritage Resource interpretive programs for visitors	<p>Compatible with educational programs. Need an education center. Need to be sure to protect the sites from “looting”.</p> <p>[[[Uwharrie needs a “visitor center” which people can get to easily and contains all the information about what the forest offers to visitors.....<i>seems to fit with a different desired condition</i>]]]</p> <p>Compatible with education of historic resources Education center for an area Educate our youth Visitor’s Center to educate visitors of what is here/what the rules are. Enhance Ranger Station to do this? Visitor interface for heritage and other info.</p>
WILDERNESS 1	Little or no human disturbance, etc.	<p>Non-motorized. Information signs at trail heads outside of wilderness boundary showing trails.</p> <p>Wilderness Act covers compatibility issues. Question: What can be done to manage wilderness? Prescribed fire in others; invasive species? Depends on will it meet intent of wilderness. Signs needed at trailheads, parking areas, etc.</p>
SCENERY 1	Pleasant scenery	<p>Low impact, low density recreation. Facilities and signs to support recreational are designed to complement and not detract from natural scenery. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. OHV users may like seeing mud holes / rutted roads. Hikers like pristine settings. Non-motorized with minimal soil disturbance.</p> <p>Low impact Use levels do not exceed capability of land Noise desired condition not in this Facilities and signage natural – made of wood an stone, maintain natural look</p>

	DRAFT DESIRED CONDITION (abbreviated)	COMMENTS/NOTES
2	No litter	With adequate law enforcement. With education of users. With sufficient funding to service facilities; sufficient trash receptacles. Volunteer groups to assist in cleaning. State can/bottle deposit to generate funds to use in cleanup and maintenance; also would reduce the amount of cans and bottles left in the forest.



UWHARRIE PLAN REVISION – Vegetation Field Trip – January 24-25, 2006

Participants: Boon Chesson (along with Ginger the dog), Elizabeth Earnhardt, Mike Schafale, Carolyn Wells, Steve Novak, DJ Gerken, Ben Prater, Lane Poole, Ruth Berner, Steve Simon, Gary Kauffman, Dale Remington, Mark Carter.

On January 24th, the group convened at Boon Chesson's property adjacent to the Roberdo area of the Forest. We began with a "tail-gate" safety session: potential hazards to be aware of are holes in the ground, downed wood, the railroad track, and hazard limbs. It doesn't appear the ticks are out yet.

Boon gave us a tour of his property with a history of actions he has taken to manage his property, including areas where he is restoring longleaf pine and areas near the railroad that are serving as a repository for Schweinitz sunflower.

Then we walked to nearby Uwharrie forest land. The stand in question is a potential longleaf restoration area currently occupied by more loblolly than desired, with a brushy understory of hardwood sprouts. Some thinning and prescribed fire will be undertaken to move the area toward more longleaf pine. In a second stand we discussed the logistics for

expanding the prescribe fire program on the Uwharrie: using more growing season burns, potential for using contractors for burning, pros and cons of thinning the overstory prior to burning. A secondary discussion revolved around what kinds of areas might be considered “special areas,” under the new planning rule, and if areas that are not close to their desired condition should be classified as “suitable for timber production.”

Next the group traveled to the Pleasant Grove area and viewed a stand that is much closer to the desired condition for longleaf restoration, and that also has some grass and shrub species rare on the Uwharrie. The objective here was to see what the “woodland” condition might look like. At another spot in the Pleasant Grove area we looked at a stand with an ephemeral pool. Once again the objective was to think about what treatments might be necessary to achieve the desired condition.

The final stop for the day was at the Lomax area where there is a significant archeological site at a location with potential for longleaf restoration. Do we try to do restoration here or would it be a low priority due to greater difficulties associated with protecting the heritage resources?

On January 25th we visited sites in the Badin area. The first sites were potential oak-hickory restoration areas currently occupied by varied amounts of pine. In the very mixed conditions here, there might be varied treatments needed. The toolbox might include herbiciding or other forms of deadening competing vegetation, supplemental seeding/planting with mast producers, encouragement of advanced oak and hickory reproduction, burning, group selection or other harvesting of the overstory. It would require a very meticulous prescription, and perhaps decades to get the oak and/or hickory regeneration where we want it to be.



Our last stop was as a Schweinitz sunflower site where there is potential to place greater emphasis on expanding the population.



Trails Field Trip Summary

Uwharrie National Forest

Feb. 9, 2006

The focus of the field trip was equestrian and OHV uses on the Uwharrie. The following individuals attended the field trip for all or parts of the day:

Larry Blackburn, Johnny Adams, Elizabeth Earnhart, Scott Fields, April Pope, Chris Cagle, Rebecca Wyatt, Bruce Hatton, Mark Hall and Galen.....

USFS attendees: Deborah Walker, Mary Noel, Leigh Marston, Steve Hendricks, Ruth Berner, and Anthony Matthews.

The field trip participants convened at the Uwharrie Stables at 9:30 AM. Each individual introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their interests. The USFS staff gave an overview and update of the Forest Plan Revision process and the need for future action to address the trail systems on the Uwharrie. Two key points mentioned by the USFS staff were that the trail systems must be financially and environmentally sustainable—including the associated trail system infrastructure (parking, staging, camping, etc.) The vital importance of volunteers and partners was mentioned. The new

District Ranger, Deborah Walker, gave a summary of her philosophy regarding the positive experiences users should have from the trail systems as long as land and water resources are fully protected. The intention of developing a recreation/trails plan following the Forest Plan Revision was discussed. Members of the public were asked to suggest things they liked about the present trail systems and to suggest things that need improvement (the flip chart notes are attached).

The group stopped at the Old Horse camp and discussed the present situation at that area. No fee is charged. The area is full many times on weekends and some users do not abide by the prohibition on drinking and some are problems for other campers or law enforcement. There are also sanitation problems—the possibility of bringing in several porto-restrooms was discussed. The participants visited the horse trail creek crossing below the camp. It is impacting soil and water resources despite previous efforts to fix the situation. It is an example of the kind of condition that need to be addressed and changed with a recreation/trails plan for the District.



The group stopped at the Todd Equestrian Trail and discussed the fact that some trails are located on or near sensitive resource sites. A portion of the Todd Trail should be relocated to prevent resource damage. There was general discussion of the past process to approve the location of trails. In the future, a full ID team should evaluate trail locations to prevent overlooking important resource concerns.

The group stopped for lunch at the “double” OHV parking area. Several additional participants with OHV interests joined the group. The group walked up the main access trail to the OHV system and discussed the aspects of the trail that were working well—armoring with stone and maintaining broad-based grade dips do stabilize the trail and divert water, preventing erosion.

However, there are many concerns. Equestrian trails that cross the OHV routes tempt some ATV riders to use the equestrian trails. ATV’s get off the trail in some places creating erosion problems. Law enforcement is effective when present but is stretched very thin. Some OHV riders would like to have access to USFS radios to alert law enforcement to problems. Fences are an alternative to keep the riders on the trail but are constantly in need of maintenance when users remove sections of them. The recreation/trails plan needs to address these issues.



The group also briefly discussed the “green

sticker” program concept for OHV trails management that some states are using—using gas tax and registration fee money to create a construction/maintenance/enforcement fund for OHV routes. There was interest in the State of NC initiating such a program.

The group discussed future parking needs and potential locations and upcoming volunteer work weekends. Also, Deborah Walker suggested a future individual meeting with the OHV and Equestrian groups. That idea was enthusiastically received and future meetings will be scheduled as soon as possible. The group concluded the filed trip about 4pm.

Flip Chart Notes from Trail User’s Meeting

2/9/06

Things We Like:

- Variety – of topography, scenery, experience, and terrain (horses and OHV’s)
- Variety of trail difficulties offered by trails (horses and OHV’s)
- High-elevation OHV trails offer more challenges (OHV’s)
- High level of user input on trail locations (horses)
- Stream crossings are fun! (horses and OHV’s)
- Trails are generally zoned with different areas for different uses – limits conflicts
- User groups work well together and respect each other (horses and OHV’s)
- Good camping opportunities offered by primitive camps
- Enjoy not being restricted to trails (horses)
- Good trail signing/blazing of trails
- Area drawing more out-of-area users, increases local economic benefit (horses and OHV’s)
- Not overcrowded – yet (horses)
- Convenient location – especially to E. Carolina residents – their closest taste of mountain recreation (horse and OHV’s)

Things to Improve and/or Change:

- More parking in the Dutch John area – concerns with private property access and safety around the 516/576 junction (OHV’s)
- More OHV trails – system is too congested
- Reopen OHV trails west of FR 516 (about 2 miles of trail)
- Plan to balance the capacity of parking with amount of trails
- Cross-country horse use causing resource damage in some areas
- Separate horse and OHV trail systems – use FR 576 as boundary?
- More trail ethics education so users better understand why they should stay on trails (OHV’s)
- Consistent treatment of all trails users regarding fees and trail rules
- More Forest Service involvement in volunteer recruitment for trail work
- More horse trails that access lake and lake vistas
- Too much trash along trails and lakefront (but better than it used to be)
- Add electric to sites at Canebrake Horse Camp

- Improve directional signing – especially on roads, hiking trails, and directing users to parking areas
- Create downloadable GPS maps for use on trails
- More interpretive, education opportunities in Badin area
- Need an OHV campground (could be on public or private land)
- Concern with visitor safety on NC Highways accessing the forest – look at lowering speed limits in congested areas
- Poor condition of unpaved FS roads – especially when wet

● = Items that did not have full agreement by group



TOPIC: Public Meeting February 28, 2006

SUBJECT: Uwharrie National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

LOCATION: Partnership for Children, 404 North Main Street, Troy, NC

PARTICIPANTS WHO SIGNED IN AND FS ATTENDEES: Tom Knopp, Lane Poole, Beth Chivington. Kay Hatley, Gabriel Cumming, Carla Norwood, Steve Novak, Mike Schafale, Scott Pohlman, Janet BeckerBruce Hatton, Mark Hall, Elizabeth Lyerly, Leon Peele, Joe Harper, Cliffie Smith, Dave Muhly, Lydia Johnson, Linda Beaulieu, Wayne Callins, Carol Patten, Steve Wesensky, Boon Chesson, Marla Coulthard, Tommy Taylor, LeeAnn Kimble, Larry Blackburn, Judy Chisholm, Mike Chisholm, Bill Paris(sp?), Richard Queen, Tom MacMillan, Don Childrey, Brian Bristol, Pete Diamond, Sue Hennesy, Elizabeth Earnhardt, Harlan Hall, Steve Juhan, DJ Gerken, Hugh Irwin, Don Walter, Gin Wall, Mary Joan Pugh, Margaret Stewart, Inonia Mills (sp?), Betty Beach, Christa Wagner, Kevin Redding, Dee Estes, Chip Manuel, Hazel Poolos, Mike Thompson, Mark Lewis, Ruth Berner, Paul Arndt, Anthony Mathews, Deborah Walker, Leigh Marston, Mark Carter, Sheryl Bryan, Terry Seyden, Steve Hendricks, Steve Simon, Cliff Northrop, Will Dienst, Carol Milholen. Ian Garner setup the meeting space. Some attendees did not sign in, since the sign-in process was delaying the meeting.

MINUTES:

The meeting opened at 6:10 PM with introduction of the new Ranger, Deborah Walker. After attendees introduced themselves, the group recognized several participants: Boon Chesson for hosting the vegetation field trip; Elizabeth Earnhardt for hosting the trails field trip; Richard Queen, Mike Schafale, and Elizabeth Earnhardt for completing the “suitable uses” comment form from the November 29th meeting.

The administration’s proposal to sell certain tracts of land was the first topic on the agenda. This topic is not a part of the ongoing Plan Revision process but the timing of the proposal is such that it needed coverage at this meeting. Public Affairs Officer Terry Seyden presented an overview of how and why the proposal came about and how people could submit comments. There was tremendous interest in this topic and the group agreed to have Terry available in a breakout room later in the evening to answer more questions.

Next, Ruth Berner presented an overview of the revision process and work done to date. The meeting has two focal points: (1) review of the “desired conditions” and “draft objectives”, and (2) gathering ideas, suggestions, and comments regarding “suitable uses” in regard to timber and outdoor recreation (See feb_28_PowerPoint.pdf, and Draft_Plan_in_Progress.pdf for additional information.)

The Forest Service Team presented an approach to determining the desired recreation settings for the Revised Plan, and an approach to determining lands suitable for timber production. If the approach goes forward, the lands “not suitable for timber production”

will include developed recreation areas, streamside forests, eligible Wild and Scenic River corridors, and “special areas.” Special areas are a component of the Revised Plan that will be a topic of the March 21st meeting.

After the presentation, participants visited several information stations on the various resources, and the questions of suitability for timber and outdoor recreation.

The meeting closed out at around 8:15 PM, but many stayed after to continue discussions.

Below are the ideas and comments participants posted at the various “information stations.” The Forest Service Team will consider these comments and respond to them in time for the March 21st meeting.

TOPIC	IDEA/COMMENT/QUESTION
Guiding Principle #1. “We are good neighbors and positive members of the community. We are involved in community groups like land trusts, forest use groups, and community planning groups.”	By community planning group, do you mean local municipal land use planning? They play a <u>critically</u> important role in the management of private land.
Project Requests from Participants (see the list of project requests at the end of the meeting notes)	We appreciate being heard! Thank you for listening. Keep it up. This is important!
Desired Conditions for Trails HORSE TRAILS	“If” designated watering for horses is a desired condition, then wells will be needed and a way to water horses individually instead of a community tub that would spread disease.
	Leave unmarked horse trails open for equestrian use.
	No limitations on horse trails. Horses allowed to go cross country. Desired Condition. We were told no unmarked trails would be closed. Leave unmarked trails (horse) open for horse use.
	Don’t limit the horses to marked trails. Leave them open as they are now. This is a desired condition.
	Cross country horseback riding is a desired condition.
	Design trails that connect areas of interest.
	<u>I</u> f restricting use to trails only make sure the system can handle the

	number of users on it.
	IF restricting use to designated system ensure that access is available for land owners who live adjacent to the forest.
Trails – Other	The Uwharrie Trail needs to be a Special Area.
	- Horse Trails - OHV Trails - Bike & Hike Trails Multi-users need different trails which support the forest system. Public Land = Public Access
	OFF – Highway vehicles – Why?? All they do is create noise, pollution. They ruin the experience of the forest for everybody else. OHVs should be left in Mecklenburg where their noise won't make any difference.
	Follow ALL FS guidelines for trails including corridor width, trail bed, etc... to make maintaining the trail system easier and more economical in terms of time and money spent.
Scenery	Consider the viewshed from trails/overlooks in thinking about the suitability of various uses (timber and recreational). This perspective may also afford opportunities to work with landowners and/or local government who own visually important parcels to encourage more sensitive management (or coordinate management across FS boundary!)
	The plan needs special scenery objectives for the Uwharrie Trail and other significant recreational hiking trails. Timber management is not suitable if it undermines the visual quality of these resources.
Roads	Less F.S. Roads. More Natural Areas
	Desired Condition: No unauthorized

	roads on the forest.
	Objective: analyze all unauthorized roads on the forest and assign management direction. Presumption should be not to add these roads to road system, and move to removal/obliteration.
Heritage Resources	Protect archeological sites no matter what.
Wildlife Desired Condition #4: “The diversity of native species typical of the Piedmont ecosystem – vertebrates, invertebrates, game and non-game, and including herptiles, are at healthy levels in balance with their habitat.”	The clause “in balance with their habitat” is entirely appropriate but incomplete. Is this in balance with current habitat, historical habitat, or habitat targeted by desired conditions?
Wildlife – General	What sound ecological basis is there for removal of larger trees in a naturally self-sustaining forest? Mast production is presumably not the only criteria for maintaining intact, all-age forests. Forest will naturally regenerate – no assistance needed!
	Areas set aside for wildlife and natural (native) vegetation should have minimal recreational disturbance.
Wildlife Draft Narrative	The description here of regeneration objectives for hard mast is inconsistent with the desired conditions and objective developed by the group. The need for generation is overstated. Management activities for purposes defined in the existing draft objectives and desired conditions will meet this need. This language should be removed or substantially rewritten.
Vegetation –Desired Conditions	More longleaf pine habitats
	Reintroduce prairie-savannas habitats
	Healthy forests also contain representative <u>patches of disturbance</u> to allow for the habitat needs of diverse species and different needs at different life stages. Flux is an important component.

<p>Vegetation Objective #1: “Restore and average 200 – (300 or 400*) acres of oak-hickory and 100 acres of longleaf pine annually on sites where occurred historically.” [*upper limit still being debated]</p>	<p>Can we do more? Number of restoration acres seem awfully low.</p>
<p>Vegetation Objective #3: “Include prairie-like openings of ½ to 2 acres in size within all longleaf pine restoration areas and ¼ to ½ of oak-hickory restoration areas. Center openings in suitable habitat for Schweinitz sunflower or other sun loving rare species.”</p>	<p>The ½ - 2 acre size for desired range is too large a range. ½ - 1 acre is more appropriate. The acreage range should be broken in two, with one range for longleaf and another (smaller size) for hardwood.</p>
<p>Vegetation Objective #5: “Thin young stands of trees as needed to maintain room for growth and to discourage insect and disease infestation.”</p>	<p>This objective needs boundaries that focus activities on the desired condition. Consider setting basal area objectives and potentially breaking them into different communities.</p>
<p>Vegetation – General</p>	<p>When the time comes, let’s consider carefully the timing of tree removal and other disturbance, e.g. to avoid destruction of bird’s nests, young and food supply.</p>
<p>Suitable Uses - Recreation</p>	
	<p>How about breaking use levels into subcategories? <u>High Use:</u> a) higher impact activities (i.e. OHV obstacle course, race track, etc.) b) lower impact activities (i.e. walking trail) <u>Medium Use:</u> a) higher impact activities (i.e. horse trail in frequently used part of UNF) b) lower impact activities (i.e. bird-watching in area with marked trails) <u>Low Use:</u> a) higher impact activities (i.e. horse trails in remote part of forest) b) lower impact activities (i.e.</p>

	reading a book after hiking three miles into the forest)
	Do not separate all users or restrict one type of use to one area.
	Need to define High, Medium, and Low <u>Very</u> specifically and monitor for compliance. Use should be based as much as possible on the location of the area within the entire landscape – what is the ecosystem function or a patch and what is its relationship to other matches/matrix.? UNF could try innovative BMPs and community design of trails to try and get beyond divisive OHV – no OHV debate.* Can FS partner with industry to make quieter, less-polluting OHVs? Still, of course, the ecological damage needs to be mitigated. *could probably do s whole process just on this topic. But, if people were in a very facilitated forum, new solutions might come into view.
	More OHV Trails of all levels. I would like to see the harder trails made even harder. Post better signs top keep stock vehicles off. Create a mud pit area so that those who like mud will leave the forest alone.
	Get rid of all the OHV trails!
	Add more OHV Trails to help ease the use of the current 16 miles of trails and to keep recreationists coming back supporting Uwharrie with funds.
Suitable Uses – TIMBER HARVEST and TIMBER PRODUCTION	
	Timber is a renewable resource. Seems foolish if we don't utilize it.
	Sell timber at market price and specify logger contribute to creation and maintenance of roads – to generate income and preclude need to sell off land.

Project Requests from Participants

(A specific thing at a specific place that could be done regardless of what's in the revised plan)

- Electric at Canebrake campground would be nice.
- Tie outs at Canebrake could be safer and more sanitary.
- Establish UNF visitor center in Badin Recreation Area.
- Maintain scenic vistas created when two areas on FSR 6672 were clearcut. The regenerating trees are growing bigger each year and will soon eliminate the vista opportunity.
- The regeneration area along River Road is grossly overstocked with natural pine and hardwood regeneration. It should have a precommercial thinning done to reduce stocking to 400-700 stems per acres, which implies and after-thinning spacing of about 8-10 feet between leave trees.
- More/larger parking areas for OHV users with trailers and a camping areas for OHVers with access to the trail system.
- Improve 576-597 Access roads that are used primarily by weekend visitors
- Leave the gates at recreation trail on Hwy 24---27 parking area & at Woodrun Hunt Camp open for longer periods during the year. I would like to be able to drive past Woodrun Hunt Camp more often than is allowed.
- Environmental Education Priority: Joint visitor center with Town of Troy on Troy's dedicated land at Hwy 24/27 and Prison Camp Rd.

Projects may or may not be undertaken depending on available funds, management priorities, and outcomes from required environmental analyses.

TOPIC: Public Meeting March 21, 2006

SUBJECT: Uwharrie National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

LOCATION: Partnership for Children, 404 North Main Street, Troy, NC

PARTICIPANTS AND FS ATTENDEES: Mike Thompson, Liz Matthews, Carly Apple, Amy Cooke, Hazel Poolos, Don Hamilton, Carol Nothstein, Steve Nothstein, Mike Schafale, Tommy Taylor, Tammy Durum, Pete Diamond, Jody Eudy, Joe Harper, Jason, Maghee, Elizabeth Earnhardt, LeeAnn Kimble, Kathryn (sp?) Baker, Sue Hennesey, John Alcorn (sp?), Jeff Hershog (sp?), Alex Leckie, Dahl Winters, Katerina Savvas, Leon Peele, John Fries, Kevin Redding, Jeff Harper, Galen Koan, Clare Reece Glore, Clifton Baker, Mike Chisholm, Judy Chisholm, Rebecca Rea, Dave Muhly, Gabriel Cumming, Mary Joan Pugh, Robert Frohreich, Bridget Frohreich, Larry Blackburn, Chris Cagle, Scott Fields, Richard Queen, Boon Chesson, Gin Wall, Justin Alcaras, Scott Maynor, Elsie Hughes, Lane Poole, Dr. Joe Flood, Kay Hatley, Ron Myers, Wes Rollins, Jason B (sp?), Tom Knopp, Brian Sutton, Marla Coulthard, Jean Thompson, Mark Lewis, Jane Lewis, Ruth Berner, Steve Simon, Steve Hendricks, Julie Trzeciak, Deborah Walker, Mark Carter, Lea Wofford, John Blanton, Gary Kauffman, Carol Milholen. Ian Garner setup the meeting space. Some attendees did not sign in.

MINUTES:

[We want to thank all the participants for sticking with us and being so supportive during this meeting! Our meeting space was way too small and we didn't have nearly enough handouts for the great turnout we had. We'll try to find a bigger space for next time.]

The meeting opened with an update on the status of the proposal before Congress to allow the sale of certain tracts of National Forest System lands. Public comments on the proposal are being received until March 30th.

The main activities for the evening were two breakout session lasting one hour each.

One session was to discuss and gather ideas for "special areas" which are one of the required plan components in the revised land management plan. First, participants were asked for their idea of the most special areas on the Forest. Then, the Forest Service Team presented ideas for "archeological zones" and "botanical special areas." There were numerous questions and comments about these. Finally, Gary Kauffman (Forest Botanist) presented a proposal for "Schweinitz sunflower habitat management areas." This last concept seemed to be well received. [The Forest Service Team will use the ideas and comments we received to refine our selection of "special areas" before the next meeting.]

The second session was to discuss and gather ideas for recreation opportunities as they relate to the "suitable uses" component required for the Forest Plan. Steve Hendricks gave an overview of the "Recreation Opportunity Spectrum" which is the methodology

the Forest Service uses for managing recreation “settings” for particular kinds of uses. [The Forest Service Team will use the comments we received to guide us in making changes to the settings established in the 1986 Plan.]

The next meeting (probably early May) will be to gather ideas for “guidelines,” another of the required plan components, and “monitoring items.” That next meeting should wrap up this phase until a draft plan is ready for a final once-over before being published for a 90-day formal comment period in the fall. It is likely there will be a meeting in late July, 2006, to get some review of the proposed plan before it goes to press.

Handouts (and hopefully graphics) from the March 21st meeting will be available on line by March 31st.

Trigger Question in “Special Areas” breakout: What, to you, is the most special area of the Forest?

Answers are recorded in the table below. Numbers correspond to dots placed on a map of the Forest.

Dot Number	Name of site/comments about site
1	River trail – fish trap # 31
2	Giant Monadnocks – Nifty Rocks (from NCNHP) horse trail is close
3	Woodrun scenic areas – 2 old clearcuts that are growing in and need to be cleared again
4	Hiking trail at north end of Wilderness
5	Hanglider - great view
6	Dark Mountain – jumping off rock – scenic, botanical, rock features
7	Falls Dam Slope
8	North of Jumping off rock, rare plants
9	Cotton Place road, high biological interest (maidenhair ferns)
10	Woodrun huntcamp at trailhead for mountain bikes
11	Good tree growing and looking at area
12	Doerschuk (Talbert)
13	Thornburg Homesite
14	Deepwater trail camp – good OHV trail that was closed
15	Uwharrie Trail
16	Flora McDonald Place
17	Correl Road ---- Longleaf Pine Ecosystem
18	Lomax Area ---- Longleaf Pine Ecosystem
19	Deep Water Trail ---- old OHV trail system wants reopened (same as 14)
20	Falls Dam area ----- rare plants including Solidago area
21	Birkhead Wilderness
22	Thornburg Tract----- cultural (same as 13)
23	Badin upland depressions --- botanical & geological

Dot Number	Name of site/comments about site
24	Jumping off rock ---- zoological, botanical
25	Stokes Ferry Forest --- unusual botanical forest
26	Caitlins trail ----- scenic & botanical
27	Barnes Creek—Poison Fork ---- rare mussels
28	Abner Bog ---- rare botanical
29	Outlying Tract --- Zoo visitors like nearby area
30	Little River Headwaters --- near Pisgah Covered Bridge
31	Rocky Creek ---- Botanical and Longleaf

Comments from “PostIts” received in the “Special Areas” breakout.

Topic	Comment
SPECIAL AREAS	I believe that botanical and endangered species should take precedence over heritage since the heritage sites are <u>so</u> spread out! (As mentioned, heavy concentration)
SPECIAL AREAS	Promote recreation already existing so as to defer the focus from archeology sites to recreation.
Schweinitz sunflower habitat management areas	Maximum effort should be made to preserve the Schweinitz sunflower and to restore the Piedmont Prairies.
Archeological Zones	How is an arch site determined? Does one arrowhead define an area as an arch site? How is the age of a site determined? Is it accurate or guess work?
Archeological Zones	Every area can be considered a historical area within the Uwharrie Forest, the county, the state of N.C., or the east coast of the U.S. There have been all types of activities going on here for 100’s of years or even 1000’s of years. People in the past have enjoyed living within the area so why should we not be able to enjoy the same places and go enjoy nature? History is important but not at the expense of living and enjoying today and tomorrow. Use <u>common</u> sense!
Archeological Zones	I feel the archeology regions designated are quite large and heavily concentrated.
Schweinitz sunflower	I would like to see more areas open to “prairie” conditions.

Topic	Comment
habitat management areas	Work with user groups to establish low impact guidelines/standards.
Archeological Zones	I feel it is imperative for resources to co-exist with recreation users at all costs! If we are unable to enjoy these sites why preserve them? - Work together -
Recreation Suitable Uses	Only more people are going to come to the Uwharrie National Forest and to the recreation areas. We are becoming overly used and environmental degradation is resulting. More trails & areas need to be created to create a rotation of rec. uses of these areas to bring the degradation to an acceptable level and create opportunities for recuperation.
Archeological Zones	The areas designated as special for archeology seems very large especially in areas that already being used by the public.
Archeological Zones	Archeologists are our paid experts. They hopefully have identified the most important sites. If we don't save these sites, our ancestor's history is lost forever! For goodness sakes, pay attention to their recommendations. Think past today and think of future generations. Save as much as possible!
SPECIAL AREAS	Buffer Zone – only uses that wouldn't adversely affect the special area in any way; at least 100 meters for archeological areas; bigger buffers for recreational areas next to botanical areas to protect them from runoff and trampling disturbances if horseback riders or other users go off trail. Buffer zones should be marked (maybe by painting trees) & the public educated.
Schweinitz sunflower habitat management areas	Maybe places to restore Schweinitz sunflower could coincide with places people want to have trees removed to improve the views from ridge tops.
SPECIAL AREAS	Assuming that the identification of special interest areas will be the prime mechanism (other than federal law) for protecting the unique archeological areas on the Uwharrie, then these areas should be included in the SIA inventory in the new plan.
Archeological Zones	
SPECIAL AREAS	Is there a possibility of showing an analog version of <u>all</u> the GIS special interest layers on one single map of we can see the various uses/interests?
Archeological Zones	Archeological sites must be protected. ALL are special places.
Schweinitz sunflower habitat management areas	More Prairie Habitat
Schweinitz sunflower habitat management	More Prairie Habitats

Topic	Comment
areas	
Schweinitz sunflower habitat management areas	Increase size of prairie-like openings to 10 acres or more.
Recreation Suitable Uses	OHV – Proposed Recreation Change – Build tighter, more technical trail and track area on a low site quality area to concentrate OHV riders in a smaller, easier to maintain area. This would be easily managed and very profitable. Motorcross is the fastest growing sport in America!
Recreation Suitable Uses	River Cross access bridge for hiking/horses between 109 and mouth of Uwharrie.
Suitable Uses	Reforestation of woodland areas within recreation areas
SPECIAL AREAS	Special Interest Area – Re-opening old OHV Trails west of FR516 close to deep water trail. Old trail names: Falls Dam Extension, CCC, Big Branch, & Elk Horn. These were part of the original “Loop” Trail System. They were closed in the early 90’s due to Bald Eagle.

Recreation Opportunity breakout notes:

Group 1

More trails open, same rules for all, more enforcement

Trails maintained and kept open – OHV

Outlying tracts of land – smaller blocks off limits to heavy impact

Longleaf Pine – restoration and increase longleaf

Birkhead Wilderness

Some signs – regarding impacts may be helpful – more information on impacts

Wildlife viewing – lower impact especially during nesting and birds that nest on ground

Increase the trails availability, perhaps a rotation of use to reduce impact to resources

Group 2

Trails could have nice vistas, with a little maintenance

Archeological sites – open to volunteers – PIT

Uwharrie Trail – fill in the gaps – purchase or exchange – proper trailhead

Have separate opportunity for different uses

Maps and rules posted at places where passes are purchased – use areas

Welcome Center – information available

Signage at locations – bilingual – English/Spanish

Written Comments from ROS breakout group are recorded in the table below:

(1) Where are your favorite scenic places on the Uwharrie National Forest? GREEN
Hilltops where there are wide open view – I think everyone’s named a lot of these. All the mountains – hang glider especially, although it’s starting to grow up along the side of the mountain so the views are being blocked.
Uwharrie Trail – Harvey’s Ridge Mountain – Birkhead Wilderness in general
Piedmont Mafic Cliff community – Jumping Off Rock – Falls Reservoir – Black Mountain – Barnes Creek & Poison Fork area – Birkhead Wilderness
Along river – along the lakes – on the high ridges – Big Rocks (Nifty Rocks) – some of the pine forest
Falls Lake – Deep water area – Keep the Birkhead Wilderness wilderness
Keyanwee Mountain Bike trails overlooking Morrow Mountain/Lake Tillery – creek crossings on mtn bike trails – the last rapid on the Uwharrie River – Top of Shingeltop Mountain and Horsetrough Mtn – Walker Mountain – Dennis Mountain – waterfall at Falls Lake area – the Uwharrie River
Hanglider – Falls Dam – Badin Lakeshore – Uwharrie River – Big Rocks – old trails on south end where U. River meets Badin/Dams – west facing slopes along Badin Lake
Deep Water OHV areas
Badin Lake Area - Deep Water OHV Area
Birkhead Wilderness – OHV area ridge views
Barnes Creek – anywhere with natural longleaf
Any natural longleaf pine site
The equestrian trails in general which are narrow, with different terrain and vistas – one area specially on trails on way to Badin with big rocks – great plant diversity in the area

Falls Lake – Hunts Creek Camp – Jumping Off Rock area – Birkhead Wilderness – Thornburg Tract – fishing pier – Narrows picnic area – unique bogs I’ve been to
Birkhead Wilderness Area - Jumping Off Rock – the Narrows – Uwharrie River – any remote, little used location
Any area where there are remote or semi-remote tracts deep into forests with as many steep hills as possible.
All OHV areas, specifically Daniel, Dutch John, Rocky Mount . . .
Enjoy the OHV trails
Group camp and remote trails
Views – intersection of 516 and Falls Dam trail – top of Daniel’s hill climb – top of Dickey Bell OHV trail climb – creek bottom on Dutch John OHV trail – creeks
Ridgeline on Dickey Bell OHV trail – forest overlook Falls Dam OHV trail – River overlook 553/Dickey Bell OHV trail
Non-designated trails (top of Kaitlyn, etc.) – river trail – lake
Non-designated trails (Kaitlyn’s trails) – river and lake trails – HangGlider – Big Rocks – the old trails
Dark Mountain – Holts Cabin Area – Big Rocks area – Uwharrie River – Many other places where there are native trees and plant communities and natural areas
Dark Mountain – Big Rock Trail – Uwharrie River
Badin Area – especially southern half – bluffs above Falls Dam, Nifty Rocks – Shingletop Mountain area – Dark Mountain area
Falls Reservoir
(2) Are there specific areas of the Uwharrie where you think there could be new or additional trail opportunities? If yes, where and what type of trail? DARK BLUE
Areas not near conservation, sensitive places or running alongside streams, but are near places with good views or interesting plant/animal life for sightseeing/photography
Fill in the 4 gaps in the 50-mile Uwharrie National Recreation Trail. Need trailhead at northern end of Uwharrie Trail on Tot Hill Farm Road.
No – there are enough trails and roads that are fragmenting the forest. New trails allow

non-native species to invade the forest.
Many of the unmarked (nondesignated) trails could be marked, etc.
Fill in lands around Uwharrie Trail – needs northern trailhead and parking area
Woodrun Trail system – mtn bike/hiking – Skyock
Yes – between 24/27 past 109 to Randolph County “horse trails, biking, hiking.” Multi-use trails “non-motorized” for everyone. Let horses into Birkhead Wilderness
Reopen old Otto trail system, west of 5FR 516, Falls Dam extension, Nig Branch, CCC & Elk Horn as a loop system (OHV)
Additional OHV trails to lesson impact of users. Falls Dam Extension, Big Branch, CCC, Elk Horn
Areas should be identified that encourage quality recreation opportunities without causing ecological impacts especially to T&E species. Plus extra efforts should be made to ensure quality human experiences are both protected and provided.
Loving Hill Road area – walking trails only
As longleaf sites are improved, trails that educate public to the value of this ecosystem.
Just ongoing possibilities for equestrian trails with equestrians helping <u>maintain</u> and possibly pay a user fee.
Yes if add property – lots of opportunity. 5 gaps identified in Randolph near Walkers Creek – work with landowners to connect to Uwharrie Forest – public/private partnership.
No none at all
With regard to OHV I would like to see every trail old and current used. Where a trail can be extended would be a desirable condition.
Previously opened trails that were closed in the past – to cut down on social encounters (16 miles only exist)
Just reopen some of the old, existing trails (OHV)
Open up previously closed OHV trails.
Re-open OHV trails west of 516 closed in early 1990’s due to bald eagle impacts. Old trail names are: Falls Dam Extension, C.C.C, Big Branch, Elk Horn (a loop system_ easy

to re-open.
OHV trails – there are several old/non used trails.
Connecting to Kaitlyn – horse – other such area as well. Cross country trails
You could add the old trails to the designated trails and put them on the maps.
Hiking trails along lake. Hiking trails by Uwharrie River.
Canoe access Uwharrie River
Hiking trails – all over. E.g. northern Badin unit, Walker Mtn area, longleaf pine areas. Maybe OHV trails in less sensitive areas – e.g. Pekin area.
Nifty Rocks (boulder Field Overlook). Horse trail now – hiking trails up to rocks and over to island area.

(3) Has your recreation experience on the Uwharrie ever been diminished because of other types of recreation uses or large numbers of people? If yes, where? ORANGE

Horse riding and OHV aren't compatible. Hikers also don't want to hike over horse trails due to the waste and muddiness – same for OHV trails. People who come for remoteness and naturalness (hikers, campers, kayakers, canoers) have different things they want than people who come for thrills/adventure (horse riders, mtn. bikers, and especially OHV users) – ideally there should be separation between the two.

Yes, the Badin Lake area

Loud noise from the rifle range. Over-use of trails by OHVs. Littering, especially along waterways (and especially by fishermen).

Yes – the whole Badin area – lots of vehicles speeding everywhere – loud – firing range area – loud – Yates Place Camp 500+ boy scouts – very loud.
I don't go there now

No

Yes – traffic on roads – ATV's off their system. Cove Ramp – boating. River at 555 and Daniel. The recent running event had one way traffic near Jumping Off Rock.

Yes – on OHV trails due to lack of available trail mileage.

Yes, OHV areas. Increase facilities at other trailheads to promote wider use. Double parking lot is crowded.

As a non-motorized user, I find the ecological and social impacts to be unacceptable. Efforts need to occur to ensure users are segregated to diminish user conflicts while still protecting the experiences and protect wildlife habitat and visitor experience.
I don't use the main forest because of over use of horses and ATVs
Unauthorized trail bikes and 4 wheelers in sites not designated for OVH west of Troy.
NO
Yes – while camping at Uwharrie River – high traffic & motorized ATVs. Yes – while camping off gravel road. Falls Lake boat put in – drunken behaviors felt unsafe. Jet skis on Badin – hard to canoe the lake.
Yes – one person is one too much
A little – any time there is a traffic jam on the trail system I don't like it. We could build bypasses on major obstacles (OVH).
4-wheel Quads in large numbers not staying on provided trails. Full size vehicles stay on trails.
No, not really, seems some ATV users can be found off trails, just riding through woods.
AT V riders not staying on the trails and making OHV look bad for the responsible users.
Lots of horses using OHV system. OHVs have to postpone their recreation and wait on slow moving horses – “constantly” – totally separate horses and OHVs. Inconsistency of treatment of users – OHV-vs-horses.
Holiday weekends the 16 miles of OHV trails can become overcrowded – more trails could lessen the impact on individual trails .
No – never
The shooting range
Noise around boat landing
ATV's
Yes. Frequently in the Badin area. The shooting range detracts from recreational experience over a large area. OHV users also. Serious noise intrusion. The Badin area is the larger contiguous part of the forest, the most scenic, one of the most ecologically interesting, but is largely given to highly intrusive uses. Other users would like this area

too if not for incompatible uses. Excessive development of campgrounds has diminished the camping experience.
Yes – all night parties at Deep Water – play music loud and disturb other primitive campers.
(4) Have you seen any evidence of excessive impacts to forest resources due to recreation use or poor trail location (such as erosion?) If yes, where? YELLOW
OHV trails all over the Badin Lake area and the mountain bike trails in the Woodrun area. The lower lying the areas, the muddier the trails can get with heavy use.
Yes, but research (both from state and USFS) has found that ORV's doing excessive damage. Horse trails, hiking trails & bike trails who have less impact if expanded. This is also in the research. Expansion of these trails lessens the impact.
Yes – on mtn. bike trails – major areas have been repaired.
Yes – Daniel mountain from other side of river. Yes – Big Rocks. Many trails that don't use switchbacks. Overcamped primitive sites are barren. Most “favorite” areas are overused.
No
NO
Although diversity of forest users are important, measures need to be put in place to protect poorly located trails – relocate to reduce erosion & be sure to restore the trails that are left behind or exotic/non-native invasive species will take over.
ORV trails near Hathwanger Retreat
OHV trails at Hathwanger Retreat. Cotton Place.
Unfortunately I often see trash on some trails, parts of equestrian trails. Each time I ride I get off my horse, walk, & fill up a small grocery bag or 2 with trash.
Yes – near Uwharrie River – Hunt Creek Camp OHV trails off gravel road on way to Falls Lake Falls Lake perimeter End of road near fishing pier on way to campground at Badin Badin Lake campgrounds
Any trail impacts forest resources. Off-trail use (eg hikes, horses, ORVs) severely impacts nesting birds – trails should be used for intended purpose only. OHVs are a major adverse impact on everything – <u>no more OHV trails!</u>

Yes, mud pits are bad on the trail (OHV)
Areas where quads spider web existing trails in all OHV areas
Hill climb on Dutch John is eroding rapidly
Falls Dam OHV Trail – ATV’s (fourwheelers) traveling off trail into creek bottoms. More mileage would be spread over a larger area.
Along many of the designated OHV trails there is widespread evidence of ATV’s going “off trails” and doing forest destruction
There are a few trails with some erosion however, these trails currently add to the degree of difficulty as it relates to trail riding. In those areas possibly cut out small connectors for those who wish to avoid that particular part of the trail. In addition the trails directly behind the old horse camp at the food of the trail where the wooden bridges land (mud) need attention.
The trail bridges right below the old horse camp are really muddy and sort of dangerous for people on horses.
Tony trail (horse) should be moved away from the big mafic rocks (near the lake)
Big Rocks Trail Poor climbing techniques – pitons ATV’s
Abundant areas with heavy trail erosion and resource damage on the OHV trail system. Limited areas on horse and foot trails.
Horse trails are eroded. Shoreline areas are eroded where people fish at Falls and more so at Badin up from Cove boat ramp.
(5) At what specific places on or near the Uwharrie do we need to have better information about recreation opportunities available? LIGHT BLUE
In all local towns so potential visitors are aware of recreation opportunities – this would help the local economies a lot. Rules and regulations should be provided to OHV users when they buy their passes. They shouldn’t just list the miles, but also why the rules exist (so there won’t be erosion, damage to vegetation, protection of scenery, etc.) Roads leading into the cities near the area need more signs. Maps, brochures at the Welcome Centers/Visitor Centers and local tourism offices such as the Randolph County TDA and the future visitor center/rest area on I-73/I-74 at the Randolph/Moore County line

Any of the archeological, prehistoric locations. History. Participation on digs – volunteers. I’m not familiar with any particular site, but I want to become familiar with some.
Trailhead in Randolph County at Tot Hill Farm Rd.
Badin Lake area needs visitor center, maps, brochures, trail map and info on trails and lesser used areas of forest; interpretation (natural and scenic info) more historical/archeological interpretation Maps also need to be available to area visitor centers, chambers, etc, stores, etc.
Woodrun trailhead off of 24/27
Entrances off highway. Campgrounds. Info center, rules/explained why. Also online. <u>Not</u> at the store – where you get passes at?
At all trailheads, especially at the stores that sell the OHV permits.
OHV trailheads. Hunt camp. Many new OHV users are unaware of rules and regulations.
Instead of having most of the recreation opportunities occurring in the Badin Lake area use different diverse areas to provide quality experience opportunities throughout the forest while making sure that conflicts and impacts to ecological conditions are minimized.
Maps – equestrian trails – color coding and maps need to be more clear The Sauratown Trails Association in Stokes County was able to get a retired surveyor to help with mapping. Their maps are beautiful! (good process – thanks!)
Welcome centers on highways Randolph County TDA Businesses like convenience stores or fish/bait stores Local discount stores Hiking/camping stores
Need info in many places explaining how high-impact recreational activity (e.g. anything noisy) affects low-impact usage. While this will not affect the behaviors of those who “don’t care,” it may change the behaviors of those who simply “don’t know.”
Maps are fine[?] We make our own.
Label OHV trails with more signage throughout the trail system.
At stores that sell day/year passes for OHVs’ They need to handout, with every pass, Tread Lightly info. Possibly OVH user could sign that they understand rules dealing

with staying on trails – what the damage causes!
At any of the local stores that are selling the OHV passes.
At horse camp areas as well as OHV and foot use gathering or starting places.
Possibly at the old horse camp and places where people camp out.
More interpretive information regarding the significance of what is there
North end of Uwharrie Trail.
Trailheads – Need visitor center in the Badin Recreation area

TOPIC: Public Meeting May 8, 2006, 5:30 – 9:00 PM

SUBJECT: Uwharrie National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

LOCATION: Garner Conference Center, Troy, NC

PARTICIPANTS AND FS ATTENDEES: Scott Fields, Gabriel Cumming, Dale Suiter, Judy Chisholm, Mike Chisholm, David Ezzell, Marla Coulthard, Lane Poole, Linda Blake, John German, Hilton Cochran, Lance Metzler, Memorie Metzler, Sue Hennessy, Nancy Ruppert, Richard Queen, Helen Blackburn, Boon Chesson, Carolyn Wells, Bill Parson,s Steve Novak, Joe Roise, Karen Katula, Terry Dunn, Gin Wall, Kevin Redding, Christa Wagner, Pete Diamond, Dave Muhly, Hugh Irwin, Mary Joan Pugh, Carly Apple, Alex Leckie, Ruth Berner, Sheryl Bryan, Rodney Snedeker, Anthony Matthews, Joel Hardison, Leigh Marston, Steve Hendricks, John Blanton, Ken Rago, Carol Milholen, Steve Simon, Deborah Walker, Terry Seyden.

MINUTES:

The meeting kicked off with an optional poster session summarizing the results of a project completed by UNC Chapel Hill environmental studies students. The class took a look at “Putting the Uwharrie National Forest into Context;” historically, and with the surrounding lands and people. Subjects covered included: lands use change, fire history, mining history, recreation impacts, and community perspectives.

Main Meeting commenced at 6:10 PM.

Presentation 1: Review of where we are in the planning process, what we got from comments at the last meeting, and issues still up for debate. Further comment was requested on the following issues:

- Streamside forests and “archeological zones” are comprised of about ¼ pine plantations. Shouldn’t we be thinning and eventually restoring these pine plantations to native forest ecosystems, even if it requires special restrictions or guidelines? Therefore, shouldn’t those portions of streamside forests and “archeological zones” that are pine plantations be classified as suitable for timber production to better allow for this work?
- Why designate a special botanical area in a place where we know we will need flexibility to make improvements to the trail systems (Uwharrie River Daniels Mountain – the area commonly called “Shingletrap”)? Aren’t the current “special areas” sufficient? (FS to take a closer look on-the-ground)
- Won’t designating these “archeological zones” set a precedent that could interfere with our legislated “multiple-uses?”

- “Does the phrase ‘small canopy gaps’ (for oak-hickory regeneration) need a gap size range stated in the plan? Is ½ - 2 acres too restrictive since naturally occurring gaps would vary in size? Plans are supposed to be strategic and this gap size limitation may be too tactical in nature.

The Forest Team meets with the Forest Supervisor Monday, May 15th to discuss resolution of these issues.

Presentation 2: What is the Environmental Management System (EMS)?

Presentation 3: The Importance of Heritage Resources on the Uwharrie.

Presentation 4: Guidelines – what they are and examples.

Activity: Participants were to read through the draft guidelines the Forest Service Team has developed, add to them, make changes to them, etc. Instructions were to record comments on Post It notes and place on the information boards. Also, take a look at some new objectives that have been proposed.

It was pointed out that some objectives actually apply to more than one desired condition, although they may be listed next to only one. The Forest Service needs to make that cross-walk clearer. Also, some desired conditions don’t have any objectives listed, and in some cases those holes need to be filled in. So, people are free to offer up new objectives where they see a hole.

Presentation 5: Monitoring Items – what they are, examples, and selection criteria.

Activity: Participants were given five DOTS and asked to select the five most important plan components to monitor. The Forest Service Team will come up with the actual monitoring questions and performance measures before the next meeting.

The next meeting is expected to be held in late July or early August. At that time the whole plan should be together for a final look before it gets published as a “Proposed Plan” for 90-day comment.

Comments received at the meeting are transcribed in the pages that follow.

May 8, 2006 meeting comments

Plan Component Receiving Comment	COMMENT
TRAILS	
<p>OBJ: Evaluate at least one mile of unauthorized trail per year for appropriate action (obliteration, incorporation into the existing trail system or other) and to identify environmental concerns such as erosion/sedimentation.</p>	<p>It seems that this statement would encourage the construction/use of unauthorized trails in the hopes that one day in the future it would become an “authorized trail.”</p> <p>This statement should be eliminated or changed to immediate closure of all unauthorized trails. And in the future these trails would be evaluated for inclusion.</p> <p>Close unauthorized trails located within 100 feet of streams/creeks, (or) within archeological/botanical sites.</p>
<p>DC: An exceptional system of trails draws visitors to the Uwharrie; provides unique opportunities for visitors to experience natural forest settings while enjoying physical activities with family and friends; and provides economic benefits to the local communities.</p>	<p>Limit expansion of OHV trails.</p>
<p>REFER to all objectives</p>	<p>If objectives are commitments to action, how does the FS ensure budget is available to implement the objectives?</p>
<p>Trails are safe and safe vehicle parking is nearby. Trails are well marked and easy to find; trails that cross roads are well marked for safety at all intersections. There are few hazard trees. For added safety, horse use and OHV use is occurring on separate trails.</p>	<p>Add guidelines to TRAILS DC #4</p> <p><u>Suggestions:</u></p> <p>Have OHV permits sold with the requirement that the user is aware of his/her responsibility to stay on designated trails. There should be an educational component accompanying permit sales!</p> <p>Sell OHV permits for more money, the demand is obviously there.</p> <p>Trail users should not be allowed to use the forest during gun deer season. The season is only 6 weeks long and hunters should not have to compromise their hunts.</p>

<p>The 50-mile Uwharrie Trail is complete and marked for hikers.</p>	<p>This is too important not to have some objectives established.</p> <p>Need objective for land acquisition to complete trail.</p> <p>Suggestions for Objective:</p> <p>Acquire land to join Forest from S.R. 1306 to Wilderness.</p> <p>Work with local land trust, Uwharrie Trail Club, local tourism groups in obtaining funds to acquire land from willing sellers to fill in gaps in the Uwharrie Trail.</p>
<p>DC: Horseback riding occurs only on a designated trail system and Forest Service roads. Riders are conscientious about safety when riding. Horse trails are well designed and maintained to provide varied user experiences (easy to more rugged) while minimizing resource damage. While trails avoid wet areas, access is available to horse watering areas. While on the horse trails, visitors seldom see evidence of litter or erosion into streams.</p>	<p>Desired Condition. Open forest policy will be maintained for horseback riding until recognition of heritage resource management areas.</p> <p>Objective: Horses should be separated from OHV users by FR 576.</p> <p>[Referring to above comment] This needs clarification. Does it mean all OHV on one side and all horses on the other? If so that limits access to existing horse trails.</p>
<p>DC: An OHV trail system exists that is well designed and maintained to provide varied user experiences (easy to more challenging) while minimizing resource damage. Off-highway vehicles are operating only on designated routes during the established open season. Little sediment can be seen entering streams from the OHV system, and trails are free of litter.</p>	<p>Objective: Open hillclimb (OHV) located from top of ShingleTrap Mtn. down to 553 just past Dickey Bell and FS 553 intersection.</p> <p>Objective: Create bypasses at “high challenge” areas so that OHV users of all experience levels can enjoy their level of activity. I.E. Rocky Mount, Kodak Rock, Daniel, Switchback.</p> <p>Objective: “Evaluate” reopening closed trails west of FR 516 to increase mileage to OHV system by 2009.</p>
<p>SCENERY</p>	
<p>Scenery is pleasant and generally consists of older, closed canopy forests with a park like or semi-open</p>	<p>Suggest Desired Condition: Multi-story Old-Growth scenic DC should also be considered, especially in areas restored to</p>

understory, except in young regeneration areas, prairie-like openings, glades, and wildlife openings. Areas being restored to native forest conditions may periodically exhibit obvious disturbance from burning or removal of off-site tree species, but will be more natural appearing in the long-term.	native forest conditions,
SOIL WATER AND FISHERIES	
OBJ: Calculate NCIBI and NCEPT ratings Forest stream sites within the Yadkin River Basin-wide monitoring plan at least every five years. For any site that rates below good, establish a site specific monitoring plan and restoration plan if additional monitoring indicates it would be beneficial.	Include streams in high to low impact areas. [In other words, don't just monitor low impact areas OR high impacts areas, make sure you monitor across-the board.] Methods?
GUIDELINE: A 100-foot zone on both sides of perennial streams is suitable for timber harvest but not suitable for timber production, with the following exceptions...	100 Ft. streamside buffer <u>must</u> be intact whether for timber harvest or production. Streamside buffer is important regardless of motivation/timber removal.
WILDLIFE	
New Desired Condition	Wildlife openings adjacent to inhabited areas are maintained for wildlife watching, bird watching, etc. and not hunting. Inhabited areas defined as campgrounds and private residences.
DC: The Forest exhibits the diversity of native ecosystems and species typical of the Piedmont ecoregion – including vertebrates, invertebrates, game and non-game, and including herptiles.	This objective (which is #1 on this list) <u>must</u> be defined. This is too important to not have some stated objectives.
Guideline:Growth of native soft mast producers should be favored in all natural communities. Limit competition from other species when appropriate.	Guidelines: Soft mast producers may <u>not</u> be favored in all natural communities.
OBJ: Create 150 acres of permanent grass/forb habitat dispersed across the forest over the planning period.	Guideline: Allow herbicides to control invasive grasses and weeds to facilitate planting wildlife food plots.

	Guideline: Limit removal of large, significant trees, e.g. hardwoods.
Habitat structural components such as dens, snags and downed wood is evident in most stands. However the amount of dead wood is limited near private developments to reduce fire danger.	Suggest Obj: What % of habitat will be preserved as dens, snags, & downed wood? What does “most stands” mean? How will you be held accountable via ISO 9001 to this DC?
DC: Regenerating hardwoods are evident, such as oaks and hickories for continual mast production following disturbances in tree canopies (canopy gaps) in multi-age forests. Acorns and hickory nuts (important wildlife food sources) are abundant most years in oak-hickory forests.	Objective: Promote recreational hunting and fishing to help fund and manage wildlife & fisheries. Minimize hunter/other user conflicts by reducing the # of days they are both using an area.
ROADS	
DC: Roads open to public vehicles are safe for forest visitors in non-4-wheel-drive vehicles and for emergency vehicles: there are no gullies, washouts, or slides; there are adequate turnouts or passing areas and adequate sight distances; the road surface is relatively smooth. Some heavily traveled Forest roads are paved.	OBJ: Pave main road in Badin Lake Area. Pave Badin Lake Road!
OBJ: Evaluate an average of 20% or the road system annually for special road management and maintenance issues such as public safety, potential for eroded sediments to reach streams, and the condition of stream crossings including fish passage. Recommend follow-up actions.	Guideline: 20% every year shall equal 100% evaluation every five years on an ongoing, rolling schedule.
Guideline: Roads should avoid gold mine tailings, which have the potential to leach dangerous substances.	Question: Should we include an objective for identifying and restoring, cleanup, rehab., of these tailings? I agree that the “shoulds” in the draft guidelines must be changed to “shalls” or “musts.”

<p>DC: Closed roads are used by hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders except when signed as closed to a particular use. The road surface is free of gullies and is generally covered with native materials or native grasses and forbs. The road edges are intact and not broken by excessive traffic of forest visitors. During rain events, water is able to seep into the soil gradually without causing erosion.</p>	<p>Guideline: Limit use of roads if rate of degradation is excessive.</p>
<p>DC: There is little evidence of new road construction. Many existing roads are closed to public motorized vehicles to reduce human disturbance to wildlife and reduce maintenance costs. Unauthorized woods roads are seldom encountered.</p>	<p>This is too important to the health of the forest not to have stated objectives.</p> <p>The plan <u>must</u> include a schedule for decommissioning/obliterating roads either providing high sediment load or potentially negatively impacting remote areas.</p>
	<p>Add a guideline to determine limits of acceptable use of OHV trails. Numbers of users should be limited in the same way that other wild areas/resources are managed i.e. river use, etc.</p>
<p>WILDERNESS</p>	
<p>The wilderness exhibits little evidence of modern human disturbance, and is remote from the sights and sounds of 21st-century civilization such as traffic from roads. Natural processes such as succession, decomposition and natural regeneration, and disturbance factors such as fire, wind, and water shape vegetation. Large areas of uninterrupted habitat provide a safe haven for animals. Visitors to the area include nature enthusiasts, hikers, hunters, and researchers. No facilities are present other than the occasional fire ring. Motorized or mechanical vehicles, equipment, or devices are absent. Information signs are not seen within the wilderness boundary.</p>	<p>Guideline: In this area (Uwharrie) “sights and sounds” should not be determinate in recommending federal wilderness status for any area.</p>
<p>LANDS AND SPECIAL USES</p>	
<p>Uwharrie National Forest land base is sufficient to protect wilderness, provide habitat, refuges and corridors for native</p>	<p>Work with local groups like the lad trusts, Uwharrie Trail Club, tourism groups and Uwharrie Partnership to obtain funding to</p>

<p>wildlife, to protect special areas thus increasing ecological integrity, to protect views and vistas, and to provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. The Uwharrie National Recreation Trail is complete and adequate access is available for water-based recreation including access to the Uwharrie River.</p>	<p>acquire land from willing landowners to fill in the gaps in the Uwharrie Trail.</p> <p>OBJECTIVE: Ask for \$500,000 every year until gaps are filled in and some “x” miles to either side of the trail is acquired as buffer.</p> <p>Measurement – Acquire at least 150 acres per year of spend at least 80% of the funds.</p>
<p>Guideline: New land acquisitions should not contribute to resource damage or other destructive or illegal uses.</p>	<p>How would an acquisition contribute to resource damage or illegal use?</p>
<p>VEGETATION</p>	
<p>DC: Non-native invasive species are at low levels that do not interfere with native plant reproduction and distribution. New outbreaks are not spreading.</p>	<p>Where is the PLAN for eliminating invasives? This will NOT happen without commitment/resources/plan.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control measures are conducted on all project treatment areas. 2. Areas are evaluated for invasives and prioritized. 3. 100 acres of priority areas are treated per year.
<p>DC: Non-native invasive species are at low levels that do not interfere with native plant reproduction and distribution. New outbreaks are not spreading.</p>	<p>Adopt GIS/GPS mapping software developed by TNC for mapping and management of invasive exotic species.</p> <p>Begin with ranking problem species (say 12 of the worst species). For determining priority areas for control, consider a 2-prong approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Focus on high priority ecological areas with sensitive and/or rare species. 2) Focus on centers of high density population of high-ranking problem invasive exotic species. <p>Then, for priority ecological areas, determine “set” of acceptable levels of infestation: i.e. = only 5% of an area has any invasive species on the top 12 list, eventually reaching a level where there is less than 5% of any invasive.</p>

	<p>Use the invasive species survey work completed (in 2004) by Alan and Allison Weakley to rank problem species.</p> <p>Use Weakleys' data for targeting areas and for GIS mapping. (At the very least, doing so will provide Forest Service with advanced baseline data for species occurrence and distribution. This data/mapping would be a useful means of measuring control efforts and/or the spread of invasive species over time, and in time for the Uwharrie forest plan revision.</p> <p>Non native invasive species should be treated as soon as possible to eliminate.</p>
<p>DC: Include prairie-like openings of ½ to 2 acres in size within all longleaf pine restoration areas and ¼ to ½ of oak-hickory restoration areas. Center openings in suitable habitat for Schweinitz sunflower or other sun loving rare species.</p>	<p>Do not limit size of canopy gaps, they should be created to meet particular management needs (brood and nest habitat needs to utilize larger acreages).</p>
<p>Guideline: Emphasize opportunities for Longleaf pine restoration and Schweinitz sunflower restoration when prioritizing work, such as when using the "order of entry" procedure for implementing the Plan.</p>	<p>What is "Order of Entry?"</p>
<p>Guideline: The following recommended average fire return intervals should be used when planning prescribed burns:</p> <p>Recommended Fire Return Interval for Ecological Systems</p>	<p>Prescribed fire guidelines need not be set or rigid. Burns should be conducted based on site conditions (basal areas, fuel moisture, etc.) and site objectives.</p> <p>Prescribed fire guidelines must include sideboards on ignition location, slope, and forest type.</p> <p>One size does not fit all.</p> <p>Historical regime must be included in fire</p>

	<p>plan.</p> <p><u>Need</u> updated fire plan in place before project proposals are developed.</p>
<p>OBJ: Transfer maintenance of all rare plant populations adjacent to roads and railroads from DOT to the Forest Service within 10 years of plan implementation to ensure proper timing of mowing,</p>	<p>Suggest re-word: Delete “all” and specify those populations you know are real concern. Ensure this “transfer” will not cause “unexpected responsibilities” to F.S. Hard to believe FS cannot work with other agencies to ensure timely mowing without transferring maintenance.</p>

TOPIC: Public Meeting July 31, 2006, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

SUBJECT: Uwharrie National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

LOCATION: Garner Conference Center, Troy, NC

PARTICIPANTS AND FS ATTENDEES: Dr. Joe Flood, Hugh Irwin, Boon Chesson, Allison Bryan, Matthew Bryan, Marla Coulthard, Judy Chisholm, Mike Chisholm, Steve Novak, Audrey Beres, Laura Fogo, Richard Queen, David Evans, Land Poole, Elizabeth Earnhardt, M. Scott Fields, Chris Cagle, Jason B., Kevin Redding, Sue Hennessy, Leon Poole, Gin Wall, Nancy Ruppert, DJ Gerken, Ken Reininger, Dave Muhly, Ruth Berner, Steve Hendricks, Steve Simon, Sheryl Bryan, Anthony Matthews, Carol Milholen, Deborah Walker, Leigh Marston, John Blanton, Marisue Hilliard.

MINUTES:

Dr. Joe Flood offered the group a volunteer opportunity to participate in Wilderness campsite monitoring in the Birkhead Mountains Wilderness and some participants signed up.

After introductions Ruth Berner went over the timeline to finish the plan, and recounted the different steps we have finished along the way since last September, 2005. Also discussed were the carryover items from the last meeting: archeological zones, oak/hickory regeneration gap size, timber production in streamside forest pine plantations, Daniel's Mountain Special Area. Some archeological sites have been rolled into the Special Areas plan component; oak/hickory regeneration gap size will be ½ to 2 acres; streamside pine plantations will be suitable for timber production; and Daniel's Mountain will be a Special Area.

The main focus of the activity for the evening was to review the "Predraft" of the Proposed Plan due to be put out for official comment in October or November. Participants got the document as a handout and each table had a draft of the Plan Map showing the location of the special areas, eligible wild and scenic river corridors, Schweinitz's sunflower Habitat Management Area, and developed recreation sites, in context with the general forest. Several discussions took place about topics such as the Environmental Management System, Wilderness, trails management, timber and archeological zones.

Marla Coulthard announced an event to take place at Kings Mountain Point the first weekend of October with athletic events, crafts, and demonstrations. Several participants reported out their group discussions. The formal meeting ended with a reminder to have comments on the "predraft" in by August 15th to ensure their consideration before the Proposed Plan is published. Informal conversations continued for some time afterward.

We anticipate the next meeting will not be until after the formal 90-day comment period is over and the comments have been compiled. That will be sometime after the first of next year.