

## Chapter 3

# Management Area Direction

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## Introduction

The 2006 Forest Plan for the Wayne National Forest (WNF) uses management areas (MAs) to define where different management activities and vegetative emphases are to be applied. The WNF's 1988 Forest Plan used a similar approach. Each area of the Forest is defined by a primary emphasis or MA prescription that guides activities to take place within it. All National Forest System (NFS) land administered by the WNF are to be managed according to these prescriptions.

Each MA is identified by a name and a map abbreviation and is defined using the following elements:

- **Purpose** – A short summary of management emphasis
- **Desired Future Condition** – A description of the desired ecological, recreational, and facilities characteristics of a management area
- **Suitability** – Classification of the area's suitability to produce timber and whether surface occupancy is permitted for Federal oil and gas leases
- **Standards and Guidelines** – Management direction specific to a MA beyond that provided by Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

This chapter addresses each management area separately. If a specific resource is not addressed in an MA prescription, then Forest-wide standards and guidelines provide management direction. In addition, Federal and State laws and regulations and Forest Service directives always apply, even if they are not specifically identified in MA direction. If terms used in management area descriptions are not defined in the text, please see the Glossary for definitions.

The maps in the Map Packet display the geographical locations of the MAs. Table 3 - 1 provides a list of the management areas, the page number where they can be found, the map abbreviation, and the acreage allocated to each MA.

**Table 3 - 1. Acres Allocated to Management Areas**<sup>3</sup>

<b>Management Area Name</b>	<b>Page No.</b>	<b>Management Area Map Abbrev.</b>	<b>Acres Allocated</b> <sup>3</sup>
Diverse Continuous Forest	3-3	DCF	<b>55,267</b>
Diverse Continuous Forest with Off-Highway Vehicles	3-7	DCFO	<b>22,626</b>
Historic Forest	3-11	HF	<b>26,278</b>
Historic Forest with Off-Highway Vehicles	3-15	HFO	<b>21,274</b>
Forest and Shrubland Mosaic	3-19	FSM	<b>54,580</b>
Grassland-Forest Mosaic	3-23	GFM	<b>5,334</b>
Future Old Forest	3-27	FOF	<b>16,478</b>
Future Old Forest with Mineral Activity	3-31	FOFM	<b>10,154</b>
River Corridor	3-35	RC	<b>12,544</b>
Developed Recreation	3-39	DR	<b>4,078</b>
Timbre Ridge Lake	3-43	TRL	<b>796</b>
Special Areas	3-47	SA	<b>7,546</b>
Research Natural Areas	3-53	RNA	<b>117</b>
Candidate RNA	3-57	CA	<b>981</b>

<sup>3</sup> Acreage is National Forest System land and is current as of 2/15/2005. Land acquired after this date will be added to the Management Area designation that the newly acquired land falls within.

## Diverse Continuous Forest Management Area (DCF)

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### Purpose

This management area emphasizes providing mature forest habitat for conservation of forest interior species.

### Desired Future Condition

This management area is characterized by large blocks of mature forest containing a variety of tree species of various ages and sizes. These provide habitat for interior forest wildlife species. Shrubby or herbaceous openings are interspersed within tree stands, but these are generally found near the periphery of large forest blocks. The varied forest canopy closure results in understory and midstory vegetation that ranges from sparse to dense, providing a variety of vertical forest structure. Older trees and snags are well distributed. Ponds and wetlands add to the diversity of the management area.

The long-term desired habitat composition is:

- 1-2% - Aquatic and wetland habitat
- 2-4% - Herbaceous or herbaceous/shrub habitat
- 75-85% - All-aged, multi-layered hardwood or hardwood/pine forest
- 10-25% - Even-aged hardwood forest
  - 8% - Early Successional forest (<10 years)
  - 8% - Early forest (10-19 years)
  - 32% - Mid-successional forest (20-59 years)
  - 32% - Late-successional forest (60-99 years)
  - 20% - Older, overmature forest (100+ years)
- 1-5% - Even-aged pine forest
  - 12% - Early successional forest (<10 years)
  - 12% - Early Forest (10-19 years)
  - 24% - Mid-successional forest (20-39 years)
  - 24% - Late-successional forest (40-59 years)
  - 28% - Older, overmature forest (>60 years)

Shade tolerant/fire intolerant species such as maple and beech are becoming more predominant in the forest understory and canopy on the more mesic sites in this management area. The effects of low-intensity ground fire are evident, generally on ridges or drier slopes, where efforts to perpetuate oak and hickory species are emphasized. A variety of

Dispersed, non-motorized recreation opportunities are offered in this management area. Hiking, horseback riding, and mountain bike trails may be provided. Examples of dispersed recreational activities occurring in these areas include hiking, mountain bike riding, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, viewing scenery and wildlife, and gathering forest products. Recreation facilities are designed to fit the natural appearing landscape based upon site activity, type, and capacity.

Roads on the perimeter and within this management area provide access for recreation as well as resource management. New road construction may occur within this management area if needed for resource management. Most new Forest Service road construction is for roads that are closed after the management activity is completed.

Evidence of human activities is apparent. Resource activities such as vegetative management and mineral extraction are evident. Structures, utility corridors, and timber cutting as well as mineral exploration and development are also evident. However, these structures and activities are visible mainly from on-site locations or occasionally from a distance in broken terrain.

Interaction between users is moderate. Restrictions and controls are limited to those that apply generally to public land. There is a low probability of experiencing considerable isolation from the sights and sounds of people, or closeness to nature and tranquility.

## Suitability

This management area is classified as suitable for timber production.

Surface occupancy of National Forest System land is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned minerals.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**G-DCF-VEG-1:** Use uneven-aged timber management (single-tree or group selection) on approximately 75 percent of the area to achieve a variable tree canopy over contiguous blocks of forest to provide habitat for interior forest species. Where NFS ownership is small, or is interspersed by private land, maintain the largest blocks of contiguous forest that can be reasonably managed using uneven-aged techniques.

**G-DCF-VEG-2:** Use even-aged timber management (thinning, shelterwood, clearcut, or two-aged harvest) on approximately 25 percent of the area to perpetuate visual and vegetative diversity. Concentrate even-aged management on the periphery of the management area or on the periphery of large blocks of land targeted for uneven-aged management.

**S-DCF-VEG-3:** In uneven-aged management, limit individual groups harvested using group selection regeneration harvests to 0.25 to 2.0 acres in size.

**G-DCF-VEG-4:** Manage even-aged portions of the management area in a 120-year rotation for hardwoods and 60 years for pine. To meet wildlife, visual, or other objectives, hardwood stands may be regenerated starting at 60 years of age and pine stands at age 30.

**S-DCF-VEG-5:** Limit even-aged regeneration harvests to 2 to 20 acres in size.

**G-DCF-VEG-6:** In single-tree selection, design the harvest to retain adequate numbers of large trees for wildlife habitat.

**G-DCF-VEG-7:** Tree stocking of the regeneration within the group selection harvest areas should generally be kept comparable to stocking in even-aged stands.

**G-DCF-VEG-8:** Treatment entry cycle for areas being regenerated via single-tree or group selection is 20 to 30 years.

### Wildlife

**G-DCF-WLF-1:** Use uneven-aged vegetation management within 100 feet of all headwater streams, unless habitat management for a Federally listed species or Regional Forester sensitive species requires a different technique.

### Recreation

**S-DCF-REC-1:** Motorized trail use is not permitted in this management area except for administrative use.

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## Diverse Continuous Forest with Off-Highway Vehicles Management Area (DCFO)

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### Purpose

This management area emphasizes trails for motorized recreation and mature forest habitat for conservation of forest interior species.

### Desired Future Condition

This management area is characterized by large blocks of mature forest containing a variety of tree species of various ages and sizes. These provide habitat for interior forest wildlife species. Shrubby or herbaceous openings are interspersed within tree stands, but these are generally found near the periphery of large forest blocks. The varied forest canopy closure results in understory and midstory vegetation that ranges from sparse to dense, providing a variety of vertical forest structure. Older trees and snags are well distributed. Ponds and wetlands add to the diversity of the management area.

The long-term desired habitat composition is:

- 1-2% - Aquatic and wetland habitat
- 2-4% - Herbaceous or herbaceous/shrub habitat
- 75-85% - All-aged, multi-layered hardwood or hardwood/pine forest
- 10-25% - Even-aged hardwood forest
  - 8% - Early Successional forest (<10 years)
  - 8% - Early forest (10-19 years)
  - 32% - Mid-successional forest (20-59 years)
  - 32% - Late-successional forest (60-99 years)
  - 32% - Late-successional forest (60-99 years)
  - 20% - Older, overmature forest (100+ years)
- 1-5% - Even-aged pine forest
  - 12% - Early successional forest (<10 years)
  - 12% - Early Forest (10-19 years)
  - 24% - Mid-successional forest (20-39 years)
  - 24% - Late-successional forest (40-59 years)
  - 28% - Older, overmature forest (>60 years)

Shade tolerant/fire intolerant species such as maple and beech are becoming more predominant in the forest understory and canopy on the more mesic sites in this management area. The effects of low-intensity ground fire are evident, generally on ridges or drier slopes, where efforts to perpetuate oak and hickory species are emphasized. A variety of

uneven-aged forest conditions are maintained over time using predominately uneven-aged timber harvest and occasional prescribed fire.

Motorized recreation opportunities are emphasized. Off-highway vehicle trails are developed and maintained to provide for safe trail riding. Moderate amounts of non-motorized recreation are also available. Hiking, horse, and mountain bike trails may be created to connect an existing trail system as long as these do not interfere with the OHV trails. Examples of dispersed recreational activities occurring in these areas include, hiking, mountain bike riding, hunting, and fishing; viewing scenery and wildlife, and gathering forest products.

Evidence of human activities such as vegetation management, fire scars, road use, motorized trail use, and mineral extraction is apparent. Recreation facilities are designed to fit the natural appearing landscape based on site activity, type, and capacity.

Interaction between users is moderate. The probability of experiencing considerable isolation from the sights and sounds of people or closeness to nature and tranquility is low.

Roads on the perimeter and within this management area provide access for dispersed recreational and resource management. New road construction may occur within this management area if needed for resource management. Most new Forest Service road construction is for temporary roads that will likely be closed after a management activity is completed. Roads within this area not under township, county or State jurisdiction will usually be open to the public unless they are constructed for temporary purposes.

Structures, utility corridors, timber cutting, mineral exploration, and mineral development are evident. Such structures and activities are visible mainly from on-site locations or occasionally from a distance in broken terrain.

## Suitability

This management area is classified as suitable for timber production.

Surface occupancy of National Forest System land is allowed for exploration and development of Federally owned minerals.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**G-DCFO-VEG-1:** Use uneven-aged timber management (single-tree or group selection) on approximately 75 percent of the area to achieve a variable tree canopy over contiguous blocks of forest to provide habitat for interior forest species. Where National Forest System ownership is small or is interspersed by private land, maintain the largest blocks of

contiguous forest that can be reasonably managed using uneven-aged techniques.

**G-DCFO-VEG-2:** Use even-aged timber management (thinning, shelterwood, clearcut, or two-aged harvest) on approximately 25 percent of the area to perpetuate visual and vegetative diversity. Concentrate even-aged management on the periphery of the management area or on the periphery of large blocks of land targeted for uneven-aged management.

**S-DCFO-VEG-3:** In uneven-aged management, individual groups harvested using group-selection regeneration harvests must be between 0.25 and 2.0 acres in size.

**G-DCFO-VEG-4:** Manage even-aged portions of the management area on a 120-year rotation for hardwoods and 60 years for pine. To meet wildlife, visual, or other objectives, hardwood stands may be regenerated starting at 60 years of age and pine stands at age 30.

**S-DCFO-VEG-5:** Limit even-aged regeneration harvests to 2 to 20 acres.

**G-DCFO-VEG-6:** In single-tree selection, design the harvest to retain adequate numbers of large trees for wildlife habitat.

**G-DCFO-VEG-7:** Tree stocking of the regeneration within group-selection harvest areas generally is to be kept comparable to stocking in even-aged stands.

**G-DCFO-VEG-8:** Treatment entry cycle for areas being regenerated via single-tree or group selection is 20 to 30 years.

**G-DCFO-VEG-9:** In areas that are to be regenerated with even-aged techniques, no more than 9 percent of the hardwood stands and no more than 12 percent of the conifer stands are to be harvested in a 10-year period.

## Wildlife

**G-DCFO-WLF-1:** Use uneven-aged vegetation management within 100 feet of all headwater streams, unless habitat management for a Federally listed species or Regional Forester sensitive species requires a different technique.

## Recreation

**G-DCFO-REC-1:** Direction for this management area are similar to the Diverse Continuous Forest Management Area except:

- Motorized vehicle use on designated trails is emphasized.
- Construction of new motorized trails is permitted.
- Construction of new non-motorized trails will generally not occur.

## Land

**S-DCFO-LAND-1:** Emphasize acquisition of parcels that will facilitate completion of OHV trail loops and other high priority OHV trails and trailheads.

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## Historic Forest Management Area (HF)

### Purpose

The emphasis of this management area is the restoration and maintenance of the oak-hickory ecosystem through a combination of mostly uneven-aged timber harvest and frequent prescribed fire.

### Desired Future Condition

Forest conditions have always varied over space and time, due to natural processes and changes in climate as well as natural and man-made disturbances. Forest and fire ecologists believe current conditions of the central hardwood forests lie outside their historic range of variability. The desired future condition of this management area is a mix of vegetation more nearly resembling the historic range that existed prior to 18th/19th century settlement and development. Current fuel loading/fire behavior in much of the central hardwoods is classified as Fire Regime Condition Class 2 or 3, whereas it is believed that the pre-settlement forest would have primarily been in a Fire Regime Condition Class 1.

An oak-hickory forest dominates the landscape of this management area. Oak and hickory species are typically present on ridges and drier sites, whereas coves and moist northern slopes contain a mixture of oaks together with maples, beech, and yellow poplar. Trees vary in age and size, but large, widely spaced trees dominate the landscape. The forest canopy contains small gaps because the crowns do not completely close, and single or small clumps of trees blow down, die, or are removed. Tree canopy cover averages 60-80 percent (or 20-40% open) over the management area allowing light to reach the forest floor. Away from streamside areas, moist slopes and coves, low to moderate densities of understory vegetation, give the appearance of open woodland. The forest is moved toward the historic range of variability over time using mostly uneven-aged management techniques and prescribed fire.

A variety of wildlife is present, but habitat conditions are especially favorable for species dependent on large oak and hickory trees and a near-continuous canopy. The open nature of the forest provides suitable foraging habitat for the Indiana bat, while the hard mast produced by the oak and hickories benefits many mammals and birds.

The long-term desired habitat composition is:

- 1-2% - Aquatic and wetland habitat
- 2-5% - Herbaceous or herbaceous/shrub habitat
- 90-97% - All-aged, multi-layered hardwood or hardwood/pine forest
- 0% - Even-aged hardwood forest

- 0% - Even-aged pine forest.

Moderate amounts of non-motorized recreation opportunities are provided, such as viewing wildlife and scenery, hunting, horseback riding, fishing, berry picking, trapping, hiking, and the gathering of forest products. In some areas, trails may provide access for non-motorized activities. There is low to moderate probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of people. Forest visitors experience a moderate feeling of independence, closeness to nature, and tranquility. Recreation facilities fit the natural appearing landscape and are based on site activity, type, and capacity.

Evidence of human activities such as vegetation management, fire scars, road use, and mineral extraction may be evident. Roads on the perimeter and within this management area are used for a variety of recreation activities and resource management. Roads are located to provide access to many areas of the Forest for silvicultural treatment, but most new road construction is temporary in nature.

### Adaptive Management

As projects and treatments are implemented and vegetation changes across the landscape, some practices will prove to be more effective than others, depending on site characteristics and time of implementation. As these results are monitored, the types and mix of treatments will be adapted to suit the particular ecological land types.

### Suitability

This management area is classified as suitable for timber production.

Surface occupancy of National Forest System land is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned minerals.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**G-HF-VEG-1:** To meet the desired condition canopy cover, thin stand overstories to a basal area of between 55 and 65 square feet.

**G-HF-VEG-2:** After desired general stand structure is achieved, use selection timber harvest methods as necessary to perpetuate dominance of large, widely spaced trees.

**G-HF-VEG-3:** As initial treatments, thin stands from below. Trees to be left after the thinning is finished should be primarily long-lived oaks. If not on the site presently, other oaks and hickories should be favored as leave-trees. On north slopes and in moist coves other hardwoods, such as yellow poplar and sugar maple, may be selected as leave trees.

**G-HF-VEG-4:** After the initial thinning and other silvicultural treatment, use selection timber harvest methods that will give dominance to large, widely spaced trees.

**G-HF-VEG-5:** Favor oak regeneration by controlling non-oak species (particularly red and sugar maple) in the understory. Control may be a combination of mechanical removal, herbicide, and/or prescribed burning, whichever is best suited to individual stand conditions.

**G-HF-VEG-6:** After stand conditions are established through the treatments listed above, maintain these conditions through periodic spring or fall prescribed fires (every 3-10 years) in order to:

- Control maple, poplar, and cherry reproduction
- Allow oak regeneration to develop
- Diversify the herbaceous plant community.

Use herbicides if the prescribed burns do not adequately control the maple, poplar, and cherry reproduction.

**G-HF-VEG-7:** When the crowns begin to close (if there are less than 15% crown openings), use timber harvest to achieve a 20-40 percent open canopy.

**G-HF-VEG-8:** Provide interpretation (signing, publications, tours, and news releases, etc.) of the objectives and management techniques used in this management area.

### Recreation

**S-HF-REC-1:** Motorized trail use is not permitted in this management area except for administrative use.

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## Historic Forest with Off-Highway Vehicles Management Area (HFO)

### Purpose

This management area emphasizes providing trails for motorized recreation and the restoration and maintenance of the mixed oak ecosystem through a combination of mostly uneven-aged timber harvest and frequent prescribed fire.

### Desired Future Condition

Motorized recreation opportunities are emphasized. Off-highway vehicle trails are developed and maintained to provide safe trail riding. Moderate amounts of non-motorized recreation are also available. Hiking, horse, and mountain bike trails may be created to connect an existing trail system as long as they do not interfere with the OHV trails. No new non-motorized trail system would be constructed, however. Examples of dispersed recreational activities that occur in these areas include hiking, mountain bike riding, hunting, and fishing; berry picking, viewing scenery and wildlife, and the gathering of forest products.

There is low to moderate probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of people. Forest visitors will experience a moderate feeling of independence, closeness to nature, and tranquility. Recreation facilities fit the natural appearing landscape and are based on site activity, type, and capacity. Evidence of human activities such as vegetation management, fire scars, road use, motorized trail use, and mineral extraction is apparent.

Roads on the perimeter and within this management area are used to provide access for dispersed recreational activities and resource management. New road construction may occur within this management area to provide access for resource management. Most new Forest Service road construction is for temporary roads that will likely be closed after a management activity is completed. Roads within this area, which are not under township, county, or State jurisdiction will usually be open to public vehicle traffic, unless they are constructed for temporary purposes.

Forest conditions have always varied over space and time, due to natural processes and changes in climate as well as natural and man-made disturbances. Forest ecologists believe current conditions of the central hardwood forests lie outside their historic range of variability. The desired future condition of this management area is a mix of vegetation more nearly resembling the historic range that existed prior to 18th/19th century settlement and development. Current fuel loading/fire behavior in much of the central hardwoods is classified as Fire Regime Condition Class 2 or 3,

whereas it is believed that the pre-settlement forest would have primarily been in a Fire Regime Condition Class 1.

An oak-hickory forest dominates the landscape of this management area. Oak and hickory species are typically present on ridges and drier sites, whereas coves and moist northern slopes contain a mixture of oaks together with maples, beech, and yellow poplar. There is a diversity of tree ages and sizes, with large, widely spaced trees dominate the landscape. The forest canopy contains small gaps because the crowns do not completely close and single or small clumps of trees blow down, die, or are removed. Tree canopy cover averages 60-80 percent (or 20-40% open) over the management area allowing light to reach the forest floor. Away from streamside areas, moist slopes and coves, there is low to moderate densities of understory vegetation, giving the appearance of open woodland. The forest is moving toward the historic range of variability over time using mostly uneven-aged management techniques and prescribed fire.

A variety of wildlife is present, but habitat conditions especially favor species dependent on large oak and hickory trees and a near-continuous canopy. The open nature of the forest provides suitable foraging habitat for the Indiana bat, while the hard mast produced by the oaks and hickories benefits many mammals and birds.

The long-term desired habitat is:

- 1-2% - Aquatic and wetland habitat
- 2-5% - Herbaceous or herbaceous/shrub habitat
- 90-97% - All-aged, multi-layered hardwood or hardwood/pine forest
- 0% - Even-aged hardwood forest
- 0% - Even-aged pine forest.

As projects and treatments are implemented within this management area and the vegetation changes across the landscape, some practices will prove to be more effective than others, depending on the site characteristics and time of implementation. As these results are monitored, the types and mix of treatments are adapted to suit the particular ecological land types.

## Suitability

This management area is classified as suitable for timber production.

Surface occupancy is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned minerals.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**G-HFO-VEG-1:** To meet the desired condition canopy cover, thin stand overstories to a basal area of between 55 and 65 square feet.

**G-HFO-VEG-2:** After desired general stand structure is achieved, use selection timber harvest methods as necessary to perpetuate dominance of large, widely spaced trees.

**G-HFO-VEG-3:** As initial treatments, thin stands from below. Trees to be left after the thinning is finished should be primarily long-lived oaks. If not on the site presently, other oaks and hickories should be favored as leave-trees. On north slopes and in moist coves other hardwoods, such as yellow poplar and sugar maple, may be selected as leave trees.

**G-HFO-VEG-4:** After the initial thinning and other silvicultural treatment, use selection timber harvest methods that will give dominance to large, widely spaced trees.

**G-HFO-VEG-5:** Favor oak regeneration by controlling non-oak species (particularly red and sugar maple) in the understory. Control may be a combination of mechanical removal, herbicide, and/or prescribed burning, whichever is best suited to individual stand conditions.

**G-HFO-VEG-6:** After stand conditions are established through the treatments listed above, maintain these conditions through periodic spring or fall prescribed fires (every 3-10 years) in order to:

- Control maple, poplar, and cherry reproduction
- Allow oak regeneration to develop
- Diversify the herbaceous plant community.

Use herbicides if the prescribed burns do not adequately control maple, poplar, and cherry reproduction.

**G-HFO-VEG-7:** When crowns begin to close (if there are less than 15% crown openings), use timber harvest to achieve a 20-40 percent open canopy.

### Recreation

**G-HFO-REC-1:** Management area direction is similar to the Diverse Continuous Forest Management Area except:

- Motorized vehicle use on designated trails is emphasized.
- Construction of new motorized trails is permitted.
- Construction of new non-motorized trails would generally not occur.

## Land

**S-HFO-LAND-1:** Emphasize acquisition of land that will facilitate completion of OHV trail loops and other high priority OHV trails and trailheads.

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## Forest and Shrubland Mosaic Management Area (FSM)

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### Purpose

This management area maintains a supply of early successional habitat interspersed throughout a forested landscape. Dispersed, non-motorized recreation opportunities are offered in this management area.

### Desired Future Condition

Early successional habitat patches of various sizes are distributed throughout a forested landscape. The area also contains forest communities over 100 years old and permanent herbaceous forest openings. Ponds and wetlands enhance wildlife and visual diversity.

Shrub and seedling/sapling forest habitats, along with associated species, flourish and contribute to overall landscape biodiversity and conservation. As shrub and seedling/sapling forest habitats grow into stands of pole-sized trees, new shrub and seedling/sapling forest habitat are created by even-aged timber harvest.

The mix of forest communities generally consists of oak and hickory in the uplands and on drier hillsides with yellow poplar, beech, maples, oaks, hickories and other mesic species on moist slopes and in bottomlands. Native pine communities occur in portions of this area.

The long-term desired habitat composition is:

- 1-2% - Aquatic and wetland habitat
- 3-6% - Herbaceous or herbaceous/shrub habitat
- 10-25% - All-aged, multi-layered hardwood or hardwood/pine forest
- 75-85% - Even-aged hardwood forest
  - 8% - Early successional forest (<10 years)
  - 8% - Early forest (10-19 years)
  - 32% - Mid-successional forest (20-59 years)
  - 32% - Late-successional forest (60-99 years)
  - 20% - Older, overmature forest (100+ years)
- 1-10% - Even-aged pine forest
  - 12% - Early successional forest (<10 years)
  - 12% - Early Forest (10-19 years)
  - 24% - Mid-successional forest (20-39 years)
  - 24% - Late-successional forest (40-59 years)
  - 28% - Older, overmature forest (>60 years)

Prescribed fire plays a role in the maintenance of some forest communities and species, ensuring the continued presence of fire-dependent ecosystems. Forest fuel amounts do not unreasonably endanger long-term forest ecosystem health or threaten adjacent non-Federal improvements.

Roads on the perimeter and within this management area provide access for dispersed recreation and resource management activities. New road construction may occur if needed for resource management. Most new Forest Service road construction is for roads that will likely be closed after completion of a management activity.

Evidence of human activities such as vegetation management, fire scars, road use, trail use, and mineral extraction occurs in this area. Interaction between users is moderate. Restrictions and controls may be evident. There is a low probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of people, independence, and closeness to nature and tranquility.

Trails for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding may be provided. Hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, viewing scenery and wildlife, and gathering forest products are examples of recreational activities which may occur in these areas. Recreational facilities fit the natural appearing landscape based on site activity, type, and capacity.

## Suitability

This management area is classified as suitable for timber production.

Surface occupancy of National Forest System land is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned minerals.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**G-FSM-VEG-1:** Even-aged management (thinning, two-aged, clearcut, and shelterwood) is the predominant silvicultural system. Use uneven-aged management (group selection or single-tree selection) to meet habitat needs along riparian corridors and special visual quality objectives, such as along roads and trails.

**G-FSM-VEG-2:** Limit size of group selection regeneration harvests to 0.25 to 2.0 acres.

**G-FSM-VEG-3:** Primary rotation ages are 60 years for conifers and 120 for hardwoods. To meet wildlife, visual, or other objectives, pine stands may be regenerated at age 30 to 150 years, and hardwood stands may be regenerated at age 60 to 150 years.

**G-FSM-VEG-4:** The final harvest in shelterwood may be accomplished after satisfactory regeneration is established. This will usually be a minimum of 5 years after the initial harvest.

**G-FSM-VEG-5:** Prescriptions for stands where uneven-aged management is applied will be similar to the prescriptions applied in the Diverse Continuous Forest Management Area.

**G-FSM-VEG-6:** Provide interpretation (signing, publications, tours, and news coverage, etc.) of the objectives and management techniques used in this management area.

### Wildlife

**G-FSM-WLF-1:** Temporary openings in the forest canopy, resulting from even-aged timber harvest, should vary in size from 2 to 30 acres to provide habitat for a variety of early successional species, including those that do not use smaller openings.

**G-FSM-WLF- 2:** Locate patches of early successional habitat in proximity to mid-successional and late-successional habitat patches.

### Recreation

**S-FSM-REC-1:** Motorized trail use is not permitted in this management area except for administrative use.

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## Grassland and Forest Mosaic Management Area (GFM)

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### Purpose

This management area emphasizes habitat for grassland-dependent wildlife species on reclaimed coalmine lands. Dispersed, non-motorized recreation opportunities are offered in this management area.

### Desired Future Condition

The landscape appears as a mosaic of large grassland areas edged with shrub and various-aged forest habitat. Non-native invasive species are not found in grassland habitats, and aggressive native species are controlled. Periodic application of prescribed fire retards succession to shrubs and trees, promotes growth of grasses and forbs, and a diversity of grassland habitats. Small ponds and wetlands add to habitat diversity and provide watering sources for wildlife. Small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and numerous bird species find habitat in these areas. These include Henslow's and other grassland-dependent sparrows, bobwhite quail, prairie warbler, and yellow-breasted chat.

The forested areas surrounding these grasslands are managed as a mosaic of early successional habitat patches of various sizes interspersed in the predominately forested landscape. To replace the areas growing out of this habitat condition, new early successional forest habitat is created using predominately even-age timber management. The mix of forest communities generally consists of oak and hickories in the uplands and on drier hillsides with yellow poplar, beech, maples, oaks, hickories, and other mesic species on moist slopes and in bottomlands. Native pine communities occur in small portions of this area.

The long-term habitat composition objective of the management area is:

- 0-2% - Aquatic and wetland habitat
- 30-40% - Herbaceous or herbaceous/shrub habitat
- 1-10% - All-aged, multi-layered hardwood or hardwood/pine forest
- 40-50% - Even-aged hardwood forest
  - 8% - Early successional forest (<10 years)
  - 8% - Early forest (10-19 years)
  - 32% - Mid-successional forest (20-59 years)
  - 32% - Late-successional forest (60-99 years)
  - 20% - Older, overmature forest (100+ years)
- 1-10% Even-aged pine forest
  - 12% - Early successional forest (<10 years)
  - 12% - Early forest (10-19 years)

- 24% - Mid-successional forest (20-39 years)
- 24% - Late-successional forest (40-59 years)
- 28% - Older, overmature forest (>60 years)

Hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, viewing scenery and wildlife, and berry picking are examples of the recreational activities that occur in these areas.

Interaction between users is low to moderate. These areas are essentially free from the evidence of restrictions and controls. There is moderate probability of experiencing considerable isolation from the sights and sounds of people, independence, closeness to nature, tranquility, and self-reliance. Human activities are evident as a result of mineral and timber extraction.

Roads on the perimeter or within this management area are used largely to facilitate resource management and provide access for recreational activities. Whenever resource conditions allow, roads are open for public use.

## Suitability

This management area is classified as suitable for timber production.

Surface occupancy of National Forest System land is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned minerals.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**G-GFM-VEG-1:** Apply the guidelines from the Forest and Shrubland Mosaic Management Area to forested areas within this management area.

### Wildlife

**G-GFM-WLF-1:** Maintain existing grassland patches of 5 to 250 acres or larger.

**G-GFM-WLF-2:** Reduce encroachment of woody vegetation in grassland habitats with prescribed fire, mowing, herbicides, or light and intermittent grazing as part of a rotational regime that maintains appropriate grassland vegetation structure. Schedule management activities only on portions of grassland habitat each year to ensure that adequate habitat is continuously available for various wildlife species dependent on different grassland conditions.

**G-GFM-WLF-3:** Mow grasslands only after September 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid negative impacts to spring and summer nesting birds.

**G-GFM-WLF-4:** Avoid discing grassland fields, unless done to convert non-native vegetation to native vegetation.

**G-GFM-WLF-5:** Use 3-year rotations, or longer, for prescribed fire. Use methods that produce low intensity fires.

**G-GFM-WLF-6:** Existing grassland habitats should not be planted with trees unless need for soil erosion control or wildlife habitat enhancement. To meet composition objectives, some lands that currently have tree stocking may be mowed, burned, or treated with chemicals to meet the objectives for grass and/or shrubs.

**G-GFM-WLF-7:** Promote grassland vegetation diversity by considering mixtures of grasses and legumes when converting areas from non-native to native species.

**G-GFM-WLF-8:** Temporary openings in the forest canopy, resulting from even-aged vegetation management treatments, should vary between 5 to 30 acres to provide habitat for a variety of early successional species, including those species that do not use smaller patches of shrub habitat.

**G-GFM-WLF-9:** Locate patches of early successional habitat in proximity to mid-successional and late-successional habitat patches.

**G-GFM-WLF-10:** Provide interpretation (signing, publications, tours, and news releases, etc.) of grassland management and mine reclamation.

### Recreation

**S-GFM-REC-1:** Motorized trail use is not permitted in this management area except for administrative use.

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## Future Old Forest Management Area (FOF)

### Purpose

This management area is characterized mostly by old forest that changes only as a result of natural disturbances and natural succession. These areas offer Forest visitors opportunities to experience solitude and closeness to nature. Such opportunities may be limited in the vicinity of private oil and gas rights until the oil and gas reservoirs are depleted.

### Desired Future Condition

Extensive stands of old central hardwoods dominate the landscape. These stands contain a mix of tree sizes but are visually dominated by large, mature trees.

Numerous large, old trees, mid-size trees, and a scattering of snags and dying trees of all sizes, as well as downed, rotting trees are present throughout this management area. Woody debris from fallen trees is evident on the forest floor and in streams flowing through the area. Downed logs from trees of differing sizes are in various stages of decay. Tree stem density is generally high but variable, depending on species and location. The forest tree canopy is generally closed, but tree fall or death creates gaps that become home to dense shrub and young tree growth.

Natural processes will eventually change the forest composition of this management area. Over time, shade tolerant/fire intolerant tree species, such as maple and beech, will dominate the understory and canopy. Conversely, the amount of oaks and hickories will decline. Rare communities and associated species not dependent on disturbances will continue to exist, while disturbance dependent communities will generally decline across this management area.

Terrestrial wildlife associated with this area includes area-sensitive forest interior species such as the worm-eating warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, cerulean warbler, and wood thrush as well as species sensitive to human disturbance, such as black bear.

The long-term desired habitat composition is:

- 0-1% - Aquatic and wetland habitat
- 0-1% - Herbaceous or herbaceous/shrub habitat
- 99-100% - All-aged, multi-layered hardwood or hardwood/pine forest
- 0% - Even-aged hardwood forest
- 0% - Even-aged pine forest

Forest Service roads will be closed and decommissioned where they are no longer needed, except for access to cemeteries, private oil and gas developments, or similar specific uses. Roads necessary for access to NFS land or special use authorizations adjacent to this management area, to which reasonable access cannot otherwise be obtained, will remain. Construction of temporary roads across this management area for access to complete reclamation or needed management activities will be allowed on a case-by-case basis when other access is not feasible. Roads are designed and constructed to the minimum maintenance standard required for the activity they support. They will be closed and decommissioned when no longer needed.

Use of roads that access privately held sub-surface rights or existing Federal leases are restricted to only those users or their agents to access, develop, or maintain their property. In some portions of the area, access for hiking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife and scenery, fishing and other non-motorized forms of recreation is provided by trails.

Interaction among users is low to moderate. There is subtle evidence of other users except in the vicinity of oil and gas developments. These areas are essentially free from evidence of restrictions and controls. They offer a semi-primitive, non-motorized recreational experience. There is moderate to high probability of experiencing considerable isolation from the sights and sounds of people. Visitors can enjoy a feeling of independence, closeness to nature, tranquility, and self-reliance.

Utility corridors occur here only when locating them elsewhere would not be in the public interest. The Forest Service has no jurisdiction over mineral exploration and extraction on outstanding or reserved existing mineral rights. Roads, pipelines, and electrical lines necessary for the development of minerals on private lands or on privately held subsurface rights may occur on NFS land where such routes provide the most logical and environmentally sound access.

## Suitability

This management area is classified as unsuitable for timber production.

No surface occupancy of National Forest System land is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned minerals, except on existing leases.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**S-FOF-VEG-1:** Cut trees only when necessary for public safety (e.g., trees posing hazards along roads or trails).

**S-FOF-VEG-2:** Collection of special forest products that require a permit is prohibited.

### Wildlife

**S-FOF-WLF-1:** Limit wildlife, fisheries, and plant habitat management to treatments for the protection or recovery of Federally listed species, Regional Forester sensitive species, and other rare species (e.g., populations of fire dependent plant species).

### Forest Health

**G-FOF-FH-1:** Consider prevention or control of pests, diseases, and/or non-native invasive species (NNIS) to:

- Prevent spread of NNIS already present in the area
- Eradicate non-native invasive species that are present but not yet well established (e.g., removal of ash trees to eradicate the emerald ash borer or herbicide treatment to eradicate a NNIS plant species that is not widely established within the management area)
- Prevent the spread of outbreaks onto adjacent private land.

**G-FOF-FH-2:** Limit treatment of non-native invasive species to the immediate area of the NNIS infestation.

### Recreation

**S-FOF-REC-1:** Manage the area to provide semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) experiences.

**S-FOF-REC-2:** Provide minimal facilities necessary to prevent site deterioration and to protect visitors' health and safety consistent with semi-primitive non-motorized recreational opportunities. Facilities for resource protection may offer user convenience such as designated camp sites, trail heads, and primitive toilets. Such facilities should be designed for a rustic appearance and be constructed from native and/or natural materials.

**S-FOF-REC-3:** Motorized trail construction is not permitted in this management area.

**S-FOF-REC-4:** OHV use is prohibited in this management area except for administrative use.

**S-FOF-INTERP-1:** Limit interpretive signing to trailheads.

### Land Ownership

**G-FOF-LAND-1:** Emphasize land acquisition to consolidate surface and subsurface ownership.

### Facilities and Transportation

**S-FOF-TRANS-1:** Limit construction of facilities to those necessary to address health and safety concerns.

**G-FOF-TRANS-2:** Do not construct temporary roads in this management area except for watershed restoration projects, administrative use, or for access into adjacent management areas where alternative routes are not feasible.

**S-FOF-TRANS-3:** Decommission unauthorized roads or system roads no longer needed for administration of National Forest system lands.

**G-FOF-TRANS-4:** Collector and arterial roads (Maintenance Levels 2 to 5) crossing the management area may remain open to the public, though seasonal closures may be used to protect resources.

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## Future Old Forest with Mineral Activity Management Area (FOFM)

### Purpose

This management area is located on the Marietta Unit of the Athens Ranger District. Similar to the Future Old Forest (FOF) Management Area, a primarily custodial regime of vegetation management is planned to:

- Promote mostly old forest that changes only as a result of natural disturbance and succession
- Provide opportunities for relatively primitive recreation experiences.

Unlike the FOF Management Area, surface occupancy of Federal oil and gas leases is permitted here. Many oil and gas wells are already present within this management area, both on lands in private surface ownership and on NFS land where the subsurface minerals are privately owned (outstanding and reserved rights).

### Desired Future Condition

Extensive stands of old-growth upland central hardwoods dominate the landscape. These stands contain trees of varying sizes but are visually dominated by large, mature trees. Because of the privately held mineral rights that lie beneath these areas, oil and gas wells and their associated facilities are not uncommon.

Numerous large, old trees, mid-size trees, and a scattering of snags and dying trees of all sizes, as well as downed, rotting trees are present throughout this management area. Woody debris from fallen trees is evident on the forest floor and in streams flowing through the area. Downed logs from trees of differing sizes are in various stages of decay. Tree stem density is generally high, but varied, based on specific species and location. The forest tree canopy is generally closed, but tree fall or death creates gaps that become home to dense shrub growth and young tree growth.

Natural processes will eventually result in a change of forest composition in this management area. Over time, shade tolerant tree species, such as red maple and beech, will dominate the understory and canopy. Conversely, the amount of oaks and hickories will decline. Rare communities and associated species not dependent on disturbances will continue to exist, while disturbance-dependent communities will generally decline across the area.

Terrestrial wildlife associated with this area includes area-sensitive, forest-interior species such as the worm-eating warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, cerulean warbler, and wood thrush.

The long-term desired habitat composition is:

- 0-1% - Aquatic and wetland habitat
- 0-1% - Herbaceous or herbaceous/shrub habitat
- 99-100% - All-aged, multi-layered hardwood or hardwood/pine forest
- 0% - Even-aged hardwood forest
- 0% - Even-aged pine forest

Forest Service roads are closed and decommissioned where their need is no longer demonstrated. Exceptions include access to cemeteries, oil and gas developments, or similar restrictive uses. Roads necessary for access to NFS land or special use authorizations adjacent to this management area, to which reasonable access cannot otherwise be obtained, will remain.

Construction of temporary roads across this management area for access to complete reclamation or needed management activities will be allowed on a case-by-case basis where access is not otherwise feasible. Roads accessing oil and gas well sites are present. Roads will be designed, constructed and maintained to the minimum standards required for the activity. They will be closed and decommissioned when no longer needed.

Use of roads that access privately held sub-surface rights or Federal leases are restricted only to a lessee or their agents to access, develop or maintain their property or for administrative use. On some parts of the area, access to the Forest for hiking, horseback riding, viewing wildlife and scenery, fishing, and other non-motorized forms of recreation is provided on trails. Recreation facilities are kept at a minimum but those located in this management area fit the natural appearing landscape and are based on site activity, type, and capacity.

Interaction among users is moderate. There is evidence of other users in the vicinity of oil and gas developments. Control structures such as gates are evident in the vicinity of oil and gas developments. There is a low probability of experiencing solitude.

Utility corridors occur here only when it is not in the public interest to locate them elsewhere. Mineral exploration and extraction will occur on prior existing rights. Roads, pipelines, and electrical lines necessary for the development of minerals may occur on NFS land where the route provides the most logical and environmentally sound access.

## Suitability

This management area is classified as unsuitable for timber production.

Surface occupancy of National Forest System land is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned minerals.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**S-FOFM-VEG-1:** Cut trees only when necessary for public safety (e.g., trees posing hazards along roads or trails).

**S-FOFM-VEG-2:** Collection of special forest products that require a permit is prohibited.

### Wildlife

**S-FOFM-WLF-1:** Limit wildlife, fisheries, and plant habitat management to treatments for the protection or recovery of Federally listed species, Regional Forester sensitive species, and other rare species (e.g., populations of fire dependent plant species).

### Forest Health

**G-FOFM-FH-1:** Consider prevention or control of pests, diseases, and/or non-native invasive species (NNIS) to:

- Prevent spread of NNIS already present in the area.
- Eradicate non-native invasive species that are present but not yet well established (e.g., removal of ash trees to eradicate the emerald ash borer or herbicide treatment to eradicate an NNIS plant species that is not widely established within the management area)
- Prevent the spread of outbreaks onto adjacent private land.

**G-FOFM-FH-2:** Limit treatment of non-native invasive species to the immediate area of the NNIS infestation.

### Recreation

**S-FOFM-REC-1:** Manage the area to provide relatively primitive recreation experiences.

**S-FOFM-REC-2:** Provide minimal facilities necessary to prevent site deterioration and to protect visitors' health and safety consistent with roaded natural recreational opportunities. Facilities for resource protection may offer user convenience such as designated camp sites, trail heads, and primitive toilets. Such facilities should be designed for a rustic appearance and be constructed from native and/or natural materials.

**S-FOFM-REC-3:** Motorized trail construction is not permitted in this management area.

**S-FOFM-REC-4:** OHV use is prohibited in this management area, except for administrative purposes.

**G-FOFM-INTERP-5:** Limit interpretive signing to trailheads.

### Land Ownership

**G-FOFM-LAND-1:** Emphasize land acquisition to consolidate surface and subsurface ownership.

### Facilities and Transportation

**S-FOFM-TRANS-1:** Limit construction of facilities to those necessary to address health and safety concerns.

**G-FOFM-TRANS-2:** Do not construct temporary roads in this management area except for watershed restoration projects, administrative use, or for access into adjacent management areas where alternative routes are not feasible.

**S-FOFM-TRANS-3:** Decommission unauthorized roads or system roads no longer needed for administration of National Forest system lands.

**S-FOFM-TRANS-4:** Collector and arterial roads (Maintenance Levels 2 to 5) crossing the management area may remain open to the public, though seasonal closures may be used to protect resources.

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## River Corridors Management Area (RC)

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### Purpose

This management area emphasizes retaining, restoring, and enhancing the inherent ecological processes and functions associated with riverine systems. Management will protect or enhance the scenic quality of these areas to provide high-quality recreation opportunities. This management area includes linear-shaped corridors along Symmes Creek, the Hocking River, the Little Muskingum River, and the Ohio River.

### Desired Future Condition

National Forest System land along streams and rivers is predominantly forested; however, some floodplain wetlands or herbaceous-shrub communities may occur. Forest communities along streams and rivers are diverse and productive and generally contain multiple canopy layers with diverse habitat structure. A mixture of typical wet floodplain and mesic species dominate forested bottomlands, and typical upland and xeric species dominate the steeper slopes and ridge tops. The understory layer is highly variable. Vegetative conditions are maintained over time using both even-aged and uneven-aged techniques.

The long-term desired habitat composition is:

- 1-4% - Aquatic and wetland habitat
- 3-6% - Herbaceous or herbaceous/shrub habitat
- 75-80% - All-aged, multi-layered hardwood or hardwood/pine forest
- 12-20% - Even-aged hardwood forest
  - 8% - Early successional forest (<10 years) <sup>1</sup>
  - 8% - Early forest (10-19 years)
  - 32% - Mid-successional forest (20-59 years)
  - 32% - Late-successional forest (60-99 years)
  - 20% - Older, overmature forest (100+ years)
- 1-10% - Even-aged pine forest
  - 12% - Early successional forest (<10 years)
  - 12% - Early forest (10-19 years)
  - 24% - Mid-successional forest (20-39 years)
  - 24% - Late-successional forest (40-59 years)
  - 28% - Older, overmature forest (>60 years)

The floodplains along the main streams function as storage areas for floodwaters, sources of organic matter for the streams and rivers, and habitat for riparian wildlife species. Aquatic communities are maintained or are returning to their historic compositions and distributions.

Aquatic

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<sup>1</sup> Bullet indent corrected 8/18/2008 by Administrative Correction # 1

habitat conditions contribute to the conservation of species that reside in these main stem streams and rivers.

Roads within and on the perimeter of this management area are used for a variety of recreation activities and also for commercial traffic. In some areas, boat ramps provide access for motorized and non-motorized boating. Viewing scenery and wildlife, fishing, hunting, trapping, canoeing, hiking, picnicking, and camping are key recreation activities. Trails in this management area are open only to non-motorized use.

Extensive evidence of human activities is apparent, particularly on privately owned land within this management area. On National Forest System land, most human activities are in harmony with the natural-appearing environment. Interaction between users ranges from low to high, depending on the specific area. High interaction areas are greatest near river access points and in campgrounds. Users must be able to exercise a low to moderate degree of self-reliance in an environment that offers a low to moderate degree of challenge and risk.

Forest Service recreation facilities are designed to fit the natural appearance of the landscape while providing for the specific site activity, type, and capacity. Facilities, structures, utility corridors, mineral exploration, and development are usually evident only when on site, but are fairly common.

## Suitability

This management area is classified as suitable for timber production.

Surface occupancy of National Forest System land is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned energy minerals, but controlled surface use is applied in the riparian corridor.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**S-RC-VEG-1:** Apply uneven-aged management (single-tree or group selection) on at least 75 percent of the management area.

**S-RC-VEG-2:** Apply even-aged management (thinning, shelterwood, clearcut or two-aged harvest) on up to 25 percent of the area to provide visual and wildlife habitat diversity.

**S-RC-VEG-3:** Limit size of group selection regeneration harvests to 0.25 to 2.0 acres.

**G-RC-VEG-4:** When using single-tree selection, favor retention of larger trees and all trees larger than 30 inches diameter for wildlife habitat and visual quality values.

**G-RC-VEG-5:** The tree stocking level for regeneration within group-selection harvest areas will generally be comparable stocking in even-aged stands.

**G-RC-VEG-6:** Manage even-aged portions of the management area on a 120 year rotation for hardwoods and 60 years for pine. Hardwood stands may be regenerated starting at 60 years of age and pine stands at 30 years to meet wildlife, visual, or other objectives.

**G-RC-VEG-7:** Treatment entry cycle for areas to be regenerated via single-tree or group selection is 20 to 30 years.

**G-RC-VEG-8:** Limit the size of even-aged regeneration harvests to 2 to 10 acres. Larger openings may be made to meet wildlife habitat or visual (e.g., creation of vistas) objectives.

**G-RC-VEG-9:** Plan and implement vegetation management activities such as pre-commercial treatments, prescribed burning, and commercial logging so that scenery management objectives are met.

**G-RC-VEG-10:** Permit collection of special forest products with appropriate restrictions.

## Recreation

**S-RC-REC-S-1:** Emphasize non-motorized recreation opportunities such as canoeing, fishing, hunting, hiking, and viewing wildlife.

**G-RC-REC-2:** Design new recreation sites based on an analysis of supply and demand, the capabilities of the land, and the desired Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class.

**G-RC-REC-3:** Supply campsite facilities to protect resources and meet public demand.

**G-RC-REC-4:** Campground size should not exceed the proposed area's holding capacity or negatively affects the character or water quality of the adjacent stream or river. Construct campgrounds to development levels 1 through 3. Close campsites when use is causing significant resource damage.

**G-RC-REC-5:** Maintain recreation sites in accordance with current mandatory critical standards for recreation sites and to a level appropriate for the desired Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class.

**S-RC-REC-6:** OHV use is prohibited except for administrative purposes.

**G-RC-REC-7:** Locate horse trails off soils prone to rutting and erosion.

**G-RC-REC-8:** Limit bike trails to dual use hiking/biking trails currently within the management area.

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## Developed Recreation Management Area (DR)

### Purpose

This management area emphasizes management of existing recreation facilities and the future needs of the highly developed sites that serve large numbers of people. It covers the most developed range of recreation opportunities provided on the Wayne National Forest. By offering a variety of recreation opportunities, services, and facilities in a natural setting, the WNF intends to provide visitors with quality outdoor recreation experiences.

### Desired Future Condition

This management area includes both existing and potential developed recreation sites and vicinities on the Forest.

The landscape in and around these developed recreation areas varies from park-like to mature forest. Waterbodies are often associated with these areas. Vegetation is primarily hardwood forest with a wide variety of native hardwood tree and shrub species. A small amount of shrub/herbaceous openings may be provided for visual variety, play fields, and wildlife diversity. Native hardwoods are becoming more prevalent in areas of white pine plantations.

The long-term desired habitat composition is:

- 4-6% – Aquatic and wetland habitat
- 1-3% – Herbaceous or herbaceous/shrub habitat
- 91-95% – All-aged, multi-layered hardwood or hardwood/pine forest
- 0% – Even-aged hardwood forest
- 0% – Even-aged pine forest

A variety of native wildlife is present, ranging from species accustomed to campgrounds and high human use to those that inhabit mature forest habitats. Ponds and lakes in developed recreation areas generally contain game fish such as largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish. A variety of wildlife and nature viewing opportunities are available within and near developed recreation sites. In cooperation with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, largemouth bass-bluegill and catfish fisheries are maintained at Lake Vesuvius and Lamping Pond.

Developed recreation areas in this MA are high-density, destination-type developments within a forested environment. They contain facilities, services, and settings designed for human activities. Universal access is available to some existing and all newly constructed facilities and structures.

Roads and trails provide access within the more developed areas. Trails lead to lakesides, riverbanks, and undeveloped areas. Roads and trails accommodate the high-density recreation use and related activities associated with the area.

Recreation facilities and structures may dominate the landscape in developed areas. Facilities include campgrounds, picnic areas, boat ramps, interpretive sites, overlooks, swimming areas, and trailheads. Facilities in some recreation areas are able to handle large numbers of people and provide desired amenities. These areas retain the sense of a natural environment and blend aesthetically with their surroundings. Recreation sites are clean, safe, and well-maintained.

Because this is an area of high public use and visibility with major public investments in facilities and structures, priority is given to acquisition of private in-holdings and subsurface mineral rights. Such acquisition consolidates NFS surface and subsurface ownership.

Within highly developed areas, human activities are quite evident, particularly in the form of roads, buildings, utilities, and signs. Interaction between users is high to very high, with a very low probability of avoiding the sights and sounds of people. These areas have some restrictions and controls, in part, because of their heavy use.

Within the more undeveloped portions of the management area, opportunities are provided for boating, fishing, hunting, and hiking, along with nature viewing and study. Human activity is evident, particularly in the form of roads, trails, and signs. Interaction between users is moderate to high. These areas have some restrictions and controls. The probability of avoiding the sights and sounds of people is a low to moderate.

## Suitability

This management area is classified as unsuitable for timber production.

No surface occupancy is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned minerals except on existing leases.

## Developed Recreation Sites

**Leith Run and Capitol Christmas Tree** – This area is located on the Marietta Unit of the Forest, along the Ohio River northeast of Newport, Ohio. It encompasses two existing sites that border the Ohio River, the Leith Run Campground and the Capitol Christmas Tree day-use site. This area also includes some additional NFS land adjacent to these sites that could allow for future expansion.

**Lamping Homestead** – This area is located on the Marietta Unit of the Forest, on State Hwy. 537 south of Graysville, Ohio. It encompasses an existing campground and picnic area, a small fishing pond, hiking trails,

and some additional NFS land adjacent to the site that could allow for expansion.

**Burr Oak Cove Campground** – This area is located on the Athens Unit of the Forest, on State Hwy. 13 north of Glouster, Ohio. It encompasses the Forest Service’s Burr Oak Cove Campground and some adjacent NFS land that could allow for expansion.

**Lake Vesuvius** – This area is located on the Ironton Unit of the Forest, off State Hwy. 93 north of Ironton, Ohio. It encompasses the Lake Vesuvius campgrounds, the lake, and surrounding area, the Ironton Ranger District administrative site, the proposed Sand Hill horse camp area, and some adjacent NFS land that could allow for expansion.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**S-DR-VEG-1:** Apply vegetative management techniques, including removal of hazard trees, timber harvest, reforestation, and timber stand improvement, only to accomplish the management area’s desired conditions and objectives for recreation, scenic values, and nature viewing.

**G-DR-VEG-2:** Vegetation management activities within this management area will be guided by the operation and maintenance plans developed specifically for each developed recreation site.

**S-DR-VEG-3:** Prohibit collection of special forest products that require a permit.

### Wildlife

**G-DR-WLF-1:** Replenish existing underwater fish habitat structures in lakes once a decade or as natural materials decompose.

### Recreation

**G-DR-REC-1:** Maintain recreation sites in accordance with current mandatory critical standards for developed recreation areas and to a level appropriate for the desired ROS class.

**G-DR-REC-2:** Operate sites at the full-service level generally from April through October. At full service, sites should be clean and sanitary, free of litter, neat in appearance, and well maintained.

**G-DR-REC-3:** Generally from November to April, when use is light, operate sites at the reduced-service level. At a minimum, keep vault toilets clean and sanitary. Only maintenance related to public health and safety is to be conducted during this period.

**G-DR-REC-4:** If public health and safety cannot be reasonably ensured, close developed sites.

**G-DR-REC-5:** Sites may be operated at reduced service from April through October.

**S-DR-REC-6:** Only watercraft powered manually or by small electric motors are permitted on the lakes and ponds in this management area.

**S-DR-REC-7:** Emphasize non-motorized recreation opportunities such as hiking and viewing wildlife.

**S-DR-REC-8:** Hunting and shooting are not permitted within the established boundaries of developed recreation sites but are permitted elsewhere within the management area.

**G-DR-REC-9:** Design and construct campsite facilities to meet public demand and protect resources.

**G-DR-REC-10:** Sign recreation areas for safety, information, interpretation, and administrative purposes.

**G-DR-REC-11:** Seek opportunities for concessionaire operation and maintenance of developed sites.

**G-DR-REC-12:** Provide areas for overnight use, day use, and group use. Make some of these sites available to the public through the national reservation system.

**G-DR-REC-13:** Provide areas for highly developed recreation opportunities as well as areas for dispersed recreation opportunities with lesser-developed facilities.

**S-DR-REC-14:** Construct trails within highly developed recreation sites to universally accessible standards.

**G-DR-INTRP-15:** Provide natural history and heritage interpretation, including publications, interpretive signs and interpretive programs by Forest Service employees and qualified volunteers.

### Range

**S-DR-RANGE-1:** Prohibit livestock grazing.

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## Timbre Ridge Lake Management Area (TRL)

### Purpose

The focus of this management area is the scenery and recreation afforded by the 100-acre Timbre Ridge Lake and the rugged, wooded hills that surround it.

### Desired Future Condition

This management area is located in eastern Lawrence County on the Ironton Ranger District.

Timbre Ridge Lake provides quality fishing opportunities in a natural setting. In cooperation with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, a self-sustaining largemouth bass-bluegill fishery at Timbre Ridge Lake is maintained throughout the planning period. Channel catfish and rainbow trout fishing opportunities are provided as resources are available. Small watercraft powered manually or by electric motors may be seen on the lake.

In addition to fishing, visitors may participate in low-impact, dispersed recreational activities, such as hiking, mountain biking, backcountry camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, and picnicking.

Water quality in Timbre Ridge Lake and its feeder streams contributes to the recreational fishing experience. Water quality parameters meet or exceed State standards throughout the life of the Forest Plan.

Recreation facilities intended for use by low numbers of people are present, but do not impact the scenic value of the area. Universal access is provided to some existing and all newly constructed facilities and structures. The natural site characteristics dominate the development. Rustic facilities of informal design are available.

Interaction between users is moderate, but highest near the Timbre Ridge Lake dam. The environment offers a low to moderate degree of challenge and risk, and requires a low-to-moderate degree of self-reliance. Visitors enjoy a semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation experience.

Road access to the boat launch facility and the dam is maintained. Road access to private land in-holdings is controlled and maintained.

The landscape around the lake is mostly a closed-canopy hardwood forest, with especially colorful views in the spring and fall. Over time, the forest will change as a result of natural succession and disturbances. Vegetation will be primarily hardwood forest with a wide variety of native hardwood tree and shrub species. A small amount of shrub/herbaceous openings may provide visual variety, play fields, and wildlife diversity.

The long-term desired habitat composition is:

- 13% - Aquatic and wetland habitat
- 1-3% - Herbaceous or herbaceous/shrub habitat
- 83-86% - All-aged, multi-layered hardwood or hardwood/pine forest
- 0% - Even-aged hardwood forest
- 0% - Even-aged pine forest.

## Suitability

This management area is classified as unsuitable for timber production.

No surface occupancy is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned minerals except on existing leases.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**S-TRL-VEG-1:** Apply vegetative management techniques, including removal of hazard trees, timber harvest, reforestation, and timber stand improvement, only to accomplish management area's desired conditions and objectives for recreation, scenic values, and nature viewing.

**S-TRL-VEG-2:** Prohibit collection of special forest products that require a permit within the developed recreational areas of this MA.

### Wildlife

**G-TRL-WLF-1:** Replenish existing underwater fish habitat structures once a decade or as the natural materials decompose.

### Recreation

**S-TRL-REC-1:** Only watercraft powered manually or by small electric motors are permitted on Timbre Ridge Lake.

**S-TRL-REC-2:** This management area is closed to horse and OHV use.

**Exception:** OHV use is permitted for administrative purposes and on roads to access private property within the management area.

**S-TRL-REC-3:** Hunting and/or shooting is permitted within the Timbre Ridge Management Area except within developed recreation sites.

**S-TRL-REC-4:** Do not permit camping within 50 feet of the shoreline except where designated by the Forest Service.

**G-TRL-REC-5:** Emphasize non-motorized recreation opportunities such as hiking and viewing wildlife.

### Range

**S-TRL-RANGE-1:** Prohibit livestock grazing in this management area.

## Lands

**G-TRL-LAND-1:** Emphasize land acquisition to consolidate surface and subsurface ownership.

## Facilities and Transportation

**S-TRL-TRANS-1:** Design and construct facilities and structures according to the Built Environment Image Guide and to blend into the natural setting of the area.

**S-TRL-TRANS-2:** Maintain secondary emergency access to the dam. Maintain a Maintenance Level 1 road from State Route 775, closed to public motorized use, except during emergencies.

**G-TRL-TRANS-3:** Temporary roads may not be constructed in this management area except for administrative use or for access into adjacent management areas where alternative routes are not feasible.

**G-TRL-TRANS-4:** Decommission unauthorized roads or system roads no longer needed for administration of National Forest system lands.

**G-TRL-TRANS-5:** Use materials native to the area to the extent practical in all construction.

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## Special Areas Management Area (SA)

### Purpose

This management area emphasizes the preservation, management, and study of unique natural areas. These areas are regionally or locally significant and have been formally designated upon recommendation by a review committee and approval by the Regional Forester.

These areas meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Be representative of unique geological, ecological, cultural or other scientific values
- Be an appropriate area for scientific research
- Have potential to be a regional or national historic landmark based on natural or cultural values.

### Desired Future Condition

Areas allocated to this management area are scattered throughout the Forest. Sizes vary, ranging from a few acres to several hundred acres. These areas are individually unique and generally not connected to each other. Special Area designation is based on significant cultural remains or the unique characteristics of terrain, climate, soil, water, flora, or fauna.

All activities in these areas are to be consistent with the protection or maintenance of the unique characteristics for which an area was designated (e.g., protecting and perpetuating populations of rare plants or communities).

Recreation activities are also limited to those consistent with the purpose for which an area was designated. A system of hiking trails may provide access for administrative and recreational purposes. Facilities and structures may be present if designed for compatibility with the natural surroundings, including interpretive signing. Evidence of human activities will vary but is generally controlled.

Boundaries are located where necessary to protect these significant resources.

### Suitability

This management area is classified as unsuitable for timber production.

No surface occupancy is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned minerals except on existing leases.

The primary benefits of this management area are the potential scientific values derived from protecting these areas and from research. These areas serve as controls for management used in other locations, thus, they also provide a resource management information value. Other benefits may include hiking, hunting, and nature viewing and study.

### Currently Designated Special Areas

**Cambria Creek Wetland** – This wetland complex, formed by beaver activity, contains numerous snags. Alder, willow, and buttonbush have become established here. The remains of the Cambria Furnace site are located in this area, giving it historical significance. (Designated 3/95)

**Caulley Creek** – A State-significant, mixed mesophytic community with a well-represented hickory component (5 species). The understory of sugar maple, red elm, and wild hydrangea is quite dense, and the herbaceous layer is well developed with a diverse spring flora characterized by abundant goldenseal. (Designated 3/95)

**Eels Run** – Contains significant populations of *Synandra* at the northern edge of its Appalachian range. In 1990 this species was identified as potentially threatened by the State of Ohio and considered globally rare. (Designated 1/92)

**Lick Branch** – Comprised of a mature hemlock-beech forest, a developing floodplain forest with a diversity of species, and an emergent marsh with arrow-head, lizard's-tail, burreed, smartweed, and hedge-hyssop. (Designated 3/95)

**Little Storms Creek** – Features a 3<sup>rd</sup>-order stream, floodplain forest, and associated north and south facing slopes with locally significant oak-hickory and mixed mesophytic forest communities. Small-flowered alumroot is present. (Designated 3/95)

**Minnow Hollow** – An area of high scenic value, especially the upper part of the hollow. It contains a State-significant mixed mesophytic forest with an abundance of beech. Wet and dry sandstone cliffs occur in the area. Several State-listed plants occur in this area. Vegetation along the stream is being modified by beavers. (Designated 3/95)

**Morgan Sisters Woods** – Contains the best beech-sugar maple communities found on the Ironton Ranger District. Much of the area has an open park-like understory. (Designated 3/93)

**Paine Crossing** – This oak-maple swamp forest and nearby buttonbush swamp occurs along an abandoned railroad bed and Monday Creek. (Designated 1/92)

**Sardis Wetland** – This State-significant wetland includes an old growth mixed floodplain forest, an emergent marsh, and a shrub swamp. (Designated 3/95)

**Thompson Cemetery Woods** – The area consists of a State-significant, complex Appalachian oak forest community. (Designated 3/95)

**Waterfall Cove** – A massive and complex sandstone outcrop forms a rockhouse and cliffs that contain large numbers of small-flowered alumroot. A spring-fed stream cascades over the top of the rockhouse, even in the driest of times. (Designated 3/95)

**Young's Branch** – A State-significant mixed mesophytic forest with spring coral-root and few-flowered tick-trefoil. Tree size, especially height, is of interest here, as is whether tuliptree dominance will remain over time. (Designated 3/95)

### New Special Areas

**Bluegrass Ridge** – This area is significant for harboring a population of the globally rare juniper sedge. The site also contains the State-endangered bigtree plum and Virginia ground cherry. The area contains a viable population of the State-rare Cumberland sedge and the State threatened Carolina thistle.

**Deadhorse Run** – A forested watershed which provides opportunities to study changes that occur to terrestrial and aquatic systems as a result of active, natural erosional processes.

**Dismal Creek** – The scenic nature of Dismal Creek offers visitors the chance for nature viewing and photography. Hemlock regeneration can be studied here because a Hemlock looper invasion occurred about 1973-1975.

**Felter Ridge** – An upland forest community of Appalachian oak (chestnut oak, red oak, red maple, sourwood, blackgum) that grades to a mixed mesophytic forest community (red oak, beech, white oak, tuliptree).

**Fly Gorge** – This deep gorge, with 40-foot cliffs and small waterfalls, contains a State-significant mixed mesophytic forest with gradations into various other upland forest types (directly facing the Ohio River valley).

**Fradd Hollow** – Significant for a quality Oak Barren community (white oak-black oak) and for viable populations of the State-rare butterfly pea, tall nut-rush, and Virginia ground cherry.

**Handley Branch** – Significant for a quality Oak Barren community (white oak-black oak) and for having one of two Ohio populations of the State-endangered blue scorpionweed (the second population also occurs in Lawrence County). The population numbers in the thousands with several sub-populations within the area. Three other rare species include: the

endangered Sampson’s snakeroot, the State-threatened balsam squawweed, and the potentially threatened lesser ladies’ tresses.

**Rockcamp Run** – One of the few sites in southern Ohio with native hemlock-white pine-hardwood stands where white pine and Virginia pine occur together. It supports habitat for the globally rare rock skullcap.

**Rocky Fork Gorge** – A State-significant white pine-hardwood community occurs along this stream which contains a possible virgin native stand.

**Witten Run** – A State-significant hemlock-white pine-hardwood community is present on the western slope along Witten Run while a fairly mature, good quality oak-maple community occurs on the north facing slope.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**S-SA-VEG-1:** Manage vegetation only to maintain the conditions for which the area was established, except for vegetation along roads and trails. Manage vegetation along trails and roads as necessary to provide a safe environment for Forest visitors.

**S-SA-VEG-2:** Firewood will not be available, unless its removal is needed for habitat improvement for the species or communities for which the specific area was designated and the removal will cause no harm.

**S-SA-VEG-3:** Prohibit collection of special forest products that require a permit.

### Wildlife

**S-SA-WLF-1:** Manage wildlife and fisheries consistent with the purpose for which the area was designated.

### Forest Health

**G-SA-FH-1:** Consider prevention or control of pests, diseases, and/or non-native invasive species (NNIS) to:

- Prevent spread of NNIS already present in the area
- Eradicate non-native invasive species that are present but not yet well established (e.g., removal of ash trees to eradicate the emerald ash borer or herbicide treatment to eradicate a NNIS plant species that is not widely established within the management area)
- Prevent the spread of outbreaks onto adjacent private land.

**G-SA-FH-2:** Limit treatment of NNIS to the immediate area of the NNIS infestation consistent with the purpose for which the area was designated.

## Recreation

**S-SA-REC-1:** Motorized trail construction or use is not permitted in this management area, except for administrative uses. Non-motorized recreation opportunities such as hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing may be allowed if consistent with the purpose for which the area was designated.

**G-SA-REC-2:** Limit interpretation to that which does not detract from scientific and conservation values of the area.

## Land Ownership

**G-SA-LAND-1:** National Forest System land in this management area is not eligible for exchange.

**G-SA-LAND-2:** Emphasize land acquisition to consolidate surface and subsurface ownership.

## Special Uses

**G-SA-SPEC-1:** Limit special use authorizations to those required by law or regulation.

## Range

**G-SA-RANGE-1:** Prohibit livestock grazing in this management area.

## Facilities and Transportation

**G-SA-TRANS-1:** Do not construct facilities in this management area except to meet management area objectives (e.g., temporary research facilities).

**G-SA-TRANS-2:** Do not construct temporary roads in this management area except for administrative use, or for access into adjacent management areas where alternative routes are not feasible.

**G-SA-TRANS-3:** Decommission unauthorized roads or system roads no longer needed for administration of National Forest system lands.

**G-SA-TRANS-4:** Collector and arterial roads (Maintenance Levels 2 to 5) crossing the management area may remain open to the public, though seasonal closures may be used to protect resources.

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## Research Natural Areas Management Area (RNA)

### Purpose

Research Natural Areas (RNAs) are nationally significant areas with unique ecosystems deemed worthy of preservation for scientific purposes. Research is conducted in these areas to better understand their natural processes.

RNA designation may come in one of two ways:

- Recommendation by a review committee and approval by the Chief of the Forest Service
- Approval of the Eastern Region Regional Forester and the Northeast Station Director for Forest Service Research.

RNAs must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Contributes to the protection of diversity of vegetation communities and wildlife habitat
- Typifies important forest, shrubland, grassland, alpine, aquatic, and geologic types
- Represents special or unique characteristics of scientific interest and importance
- Helps legal requirements, such as providing habitat for endangered species
- Protects or maintains special aquatic, geologic or potential natural vegetation and faunal communities or protects cultural resources.

### Desired Future Condition

Establishment records and RNA management plans govern individual Research Natural Areas. They describe the desired conditions and allowed activities for each RNA.

Establishment records and their associated management plans are hereby incorporated in the WNF's Forest Plan Revision.

Most of these areas are in NFS ownership, but small portions are in private ownership. The Forest Plan, establishment records, and RNA management plans apply only to NFS land and resources.

Evaluation of the unique characteristics of these areas has determined that they require protection by law or administrative order.

## Suitability

Management of these areas will prohibit any activities that might harm the unique characteristics for which the areas were designated.

This management area is classified as unsuitable for timber production.

No surface occupancy is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned minerals except on existing leases.

Recreation activities are limited to those consistent with the purpose for which these lands were designed as a research natural area.

The primary benefits are the potential scientific values derived from protecting these areas. Other benefits may include hiking, hunting, and nature viewing and study.

### Designated Research Natural Areas

**Reas Run Research Natural Area** was established in 1975. It is a 78-acre mature Virginia pine stand. Natural succession to climax hardwood forest is imminent and, therefore, of interest to forest researchers.

**Buffalo Beats Research Natural Area** was established in 1999. It consists of 19 acres with the unique feature of a one-acre relict prairie within a mixed oak forest. Significant plants found at this site include prairie species such as big bluestem, rattlesnake master, stiff goldenrod, slender blazing star, and yellow gentian.

## Standards/Guidelines

### Vegetation

**S-RNA-VEG-1:** Manage vegetation only to maintain conditions for which the area was established except for vegetation along roads and trails. Manage vegetation along trails and roads as necessary to provide a safe environment for Forest visitors.

**S-RNA-VEG-2:** Firewood will not be available unless its removal is needed for habitat improvement for the species or communities for which the specific area was designated and the removal will cause no harm.

**S-RNA-VEG-3:** Prohibit collection of special forest products that require a permit.

### Wildlife

**S-RNA-WLF-1:** Manage wildlife and fisheries consistent with the purpose for which the area was designated.

### Forest Health

**G-RNA-FH-1:** Consider prevention or control of pests, diseases, and/or non-native invasive species (NNIS):

- Prevent spread of NNIS already present in the area.
- Eradicate non-native invasive species that are present but not yet well established (e.g., removal of ash trees to eradicate the emerald ash borer or herbicide treatment to eradicate an NNIS plant species that is not widely established within the management area)
- Prevent the spread of outbreaks onto adjacent private land.

**G-RNA-FH-2:** Limit treatment of NNIS to the immediate area of the infestation consistent with the purpose for which the area was designated.

### Recreation

**S-RNA-REC-1:** Motorized trail use is not permitted in this management area except for administrative uses. Non-motorized recreation opportunities such as hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing may be allowed if consistent with the purpose for which the area was designated.

**G-RNA-REC-2:** Limit interpretation to that which does not detract from scientific and conservation values of the area.

### Land Ownership

**G-RNA-LAND-1:** National Forest System land in this management area is not eligible for exchange.

**G-RNA-LAND-2:** Emphasize land acquisition to consolidate surface and subsurface ownership.

### Special Uses

**G-RNA-SPEC-1:** Limit special use authorizations to those required by law or regulation.

### Range

**S-RNA-RANGE-1:** Prohibit livestock grazing in this management area.

### Facilities and Transportation

**G-RNA-TRANS-1:** Do not construct facilities in this management area except to meet management area objectives (e.g., temporary research facilities).

**G-RNA-TRANS-2:** Do not construct temporary roads in this management area except for administrative use, or for access into adjacent management areas where alternative routes are not feasible.

**G-RNA-TRANS-3:** Decommission unauthorized roads or system roads no longer needed for administration of National Forest system lands.

**G-RNA-TRANS-4:** Collector and arterial roads (Maintenance Levels 2 to 5) crossing the management area may remain open to the public though seasonal closures may be used to protect resources.

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## Candidate Areas Management Area (CA)

### Purpose

This management area emphasizes the preservation of potentially unique natural areas. These areas possess potentially significant natural or historic characteristics.

Management is directed at protecting the potentially unique characteristics of these areas until they can be studied for designation as research natural areas or special areas.

### Desired Future Condition

Each of these areas is to be analyzed and considered for designation as a research natural area or a special area or returned to some other management area.

Until such a determination is made, the potentially significant natural characteristics of these areas are to be maintained and protected.

Management activities are limited to those necessary for maintaining public health and safety or for treating non-native invasive species. These areas are valued primarily for the potential scientific benefits that may be derived from their preservation. Other benefits may include hiking, hunting, and nature viewing and study.

### Suitability

This management area is classified as unsuitable for timber production.

No surface occupancy is allowed for the exploration and development of Federally owned minerals except on existing leases.

Recreation activities are limited to those consistent with the purpose for which the area was nominated as a candidate area.

### Candidate research natural areas

**Kaiser Hollow** – Regionally significant undeveloped forest tract with mature upland forests containing small-flowered alumroot, Bicknell's panic-grass, and Ohio's largest population of Guyandotte beauty.

### Standards/Guidelines

#### Vegetation

**S-CA-VEG-1:** Manage vegetation only to maintain the conditions for which the area is being considered for designation except for vegetation

along roads and trails. Manage vegetation along trails and roads as necessary to provide a safe environment for Forest visitors.

**S-CA-VEG-2:** Firewood will not be available unless its removal is needed for habitat improvement for the species or communities for which the specific area is being considered for designation and the removal will cause no harm.

**S-CA-VEG-3:** Prohibit collection of special forest products that require a permit.

### Wildlife

**S-CA-WLF-1:** Wildlife and fisheries management must be consistent with the purpose for which the area is being considered for designation.

### Forest Health

**G-CA-FH-1:** Consider prevention or control of pests, diseases, and/or non-native invasive species (NNIS) to:

- Prevent spread of NNIS already present in the area
- Eradicate non-native invasive species that are present but not yet well established (e.g., removal of ash trees to eradicate the emerald ash borer or herbicide treatment to eradicate an NNIS plant species that is not widely established within the management area)
- Prevent the spread of outbreaks onto adjacent private land.

**G-CA-FH-1:** Limit treatment of NNIS to the immediate area of the infestation consistent with the purpose for which the area is being considered for designation.

### Recreation

**S-CA-REC-1:** Motorized trail use is not permitted in this management area except for administrative uses. Non-motorized recreation opportunities such as hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing may be allowed if consistent with the purpose for which the area is being considered for designation.

**G-CA-REC-2:** Limit interpretation to that which does not detract from the scientific and conservation values of the area.

### Land Ownership

**G-CA-LAND-1:** Acquire land to consolidate surface and subsurface ownership. National Forest System land in this management area is not eligible for exchange.

**G-CA-LAND-2:** Emphasize land acquisition to consolidate surface and subsurface ownership.

### Special Uses

**G-CA-SPEC-1:** Limit special use authorizations to those required by law or regulation.

### Range

**S-CA-RANGE-1:** Prohibit livestock grazing in this management area.

### Facilities and Transportation

**G-CA-TRANS-1:** Do not construct facilities in this management area except to meet management area objectives (e.g., temporary research facilities).

**G-CA-TRANS -2:** Do not construct temporary roads in this management area except for administrative use or for access into adjacent management areas where alternative routes are not feasible.

**G-CA-TRANS -3:** Decommission unauthorized roads or system roads no longer needed for administration of National Forest system lands.

**G-CA-TRANS -4:** Collector and arterial roads (Maintenance Levels 2 to 5) crossing the management area may remain open to the public though seasonal closures may be used to protect resources.

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