Plan Revision Public Meeting in North Charleston

23 September 2014

- Improve what we have, don't focus on new
- Think proposed plan hits the main themes
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans: how do you locate funding for private land owners
- Restoring longleaf pine forest- effective on quail population
- Human impact to the wildlife in the coastal recreation zones
- Signage for trails rules are important
- Jurisdictions can make trees protected trees
- Need to acknowledge urban growth problems
- It is not our role to give Tom, Dick and Harry a good time, but to provide the best long term management of resources
- Hikers may need to pay a fee like OHV and others users
- Recreation zone: confusing with hunting zones /WMA's
    - Might want to look at combining
- Ponds could use improvements, not designed for fishing
- Don't agree urban interface is biggest problem; think things that would side track plans like local politics are biggest problem
- Roadways should only be mowed in Jan & Feb to minimize Non-native invasive species spread.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans are excellent way to deal with fire risk
- Biggest threat is "Urban Growth". Should have minimum 1000m buffer zones (buffer zones)
- **Timber harvest Question**
- How much timber is harvested?
- What % of the funds is used per resource area?

- Dirt/sand mining negative impacts
- New urban growth models
    - update the data
- Long-term benefits of risk/species vs short-term
- Urban growth boundary could change
- Get involved with planning commissions
- **Trails needing work maintenance**
    - Instead of making “new”, spending $ on improving existing
- **Recreation use vs hunting use**
    - Need a plan to manage these uses
- **Road Maintenance**
    - Improper grading
    - Lack of funding
- Eliminate plantation loblolly from the forest
- **Greatest threat to resources “Human and Natural” is fire suppression**

Hilton Garden Inn

Going wrong way on closing recreation area. Canal Park: now have to cross hwy to get to lake.

Concern over effects. that listing of Carolina Gopher Frog would have on pvt landowners.

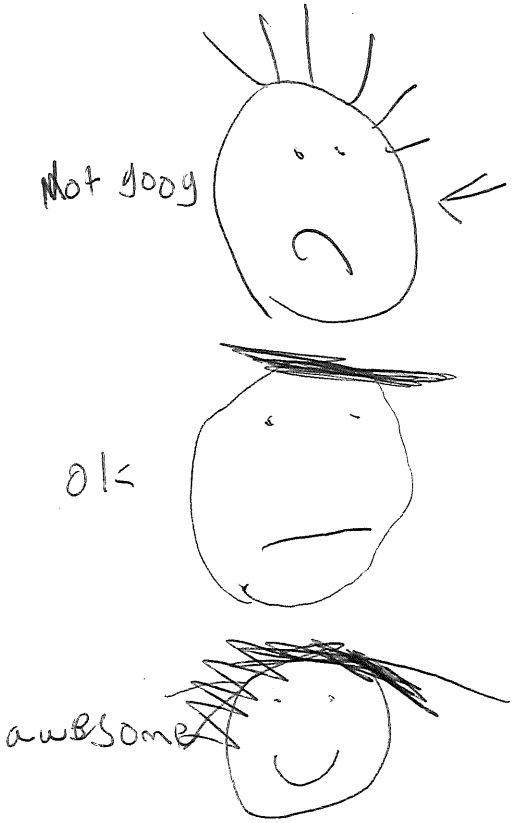
Need to be cutting more timber.

I learnd a lot. I think the smoke Will be bad because its bad for the enviroment and people that have Private property might not like it.

Huck Racine

Hilton Garden Inn

I learned that Perscribed burning is dangerous. I wan't to know why People want to make a trail just for dirtbikes. I don't think People should cut down trees for Park and stuff. It's not good for the evriomen t.



I think this is

Hilton Garden Inn

Jean Everett
everettj@cofc.edu

* close interior roads, even state roads, to commercial through traffic (cogongrass)
* manage so that College of Charleston classes can use the forest for field trips - mostly south of Steed Creek road
* strong objection to removing remnants of rice cultivation
  * this should also be a cultural resource recreation area
* strong objection to increasing off road trails
* camping structures on water trails?

Hilton Garden Inn

I learned that wilde burn's can be very dangorous to us and out habitat. Also that some species need certain needs to survive. I think that controlled burns should happon more ofton. ☺

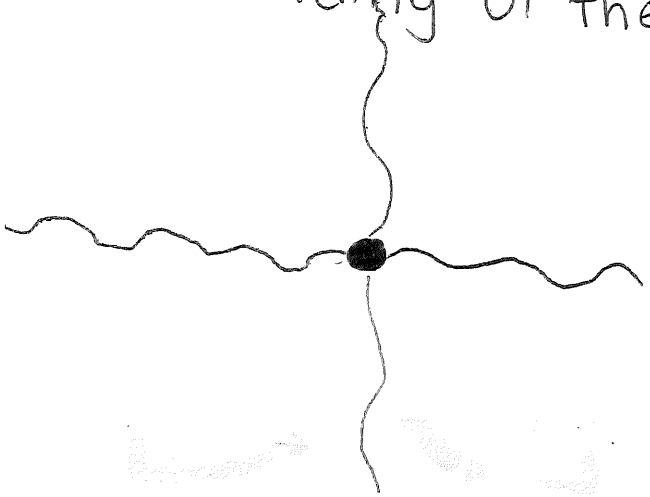
JACK BYRD

Thank You...

Hilton Garden Inn

McRae
Tomlinson
Creecs

I thought that this was very informational, and I got a better understanding of the forest.

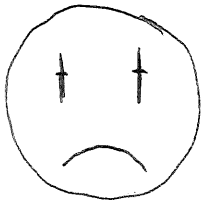


I thought that they did a good job of presenting the information. The smoke from the burning might be bad for the environment. I learned alot more about the forest.

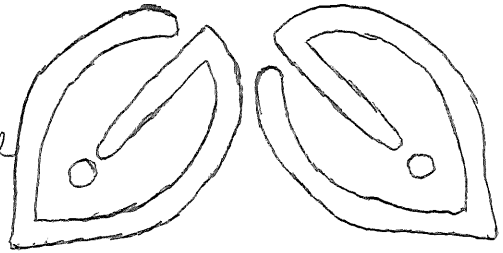
Brylle Perez

Hilton Garden Inn

I learned that some species are already endangered. Then that wildfire can be very dangerous. Then some plants need fire to grow. Then that hurricane Hugo destroyed hundreds of trees in one night.



Help Nature



Thank you,

Brylle

Buffer zone — 1000 m ??

Questions for Break-out Groups

Restoration:
What do you think about the risks associated with Threatened and Endangered species? What are the biggest threats to Threatened and Endangered species? What do you think about the benefits and risks of prescribed burning? large scale effects on Water Quality due to prescribed burning? what are

There is less understanding on water uptake and stream flow/yield

What do you think about our restoration and the approach to restoring longleaf pine? What do you think about our approach to restoring of forested wetlands? Are there other options to restoring wetlands and the habitats for rare species?

What measures/metrics to monitor & evaluate success

Land Use and Population Changes
What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

Questions for Break-out Groups

Restoration:
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approach local jurisdictions to include longleaf pines as protected trees. Most jurisdictions exempt all pine tree species from protected tree regulations.

Land Use and Population Changes
What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

- Be more involved in the comprehensive planning + zoning/land development regulations ordinances of local jurisdictions. They determine the land use + growth policies.

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

→ Need to update the growth map (1994 - 2038). It is not realistic as it was done in 1994 before state law changed to require that local jurisdictions adopt comprehensive plans to have zoning. Since then, a lot of policies have changed - urban growth boundaries have been adopted severely limiting growth, the Greenbelt Program began, etc.

Questions for Break-out Groups

Restoration:
What do you think about the risks associated with Threatened and Endangered species? What are the biggest threats to Threatened and Endangered species? What do you think about the benefits and risks of prescribed burning?

Development – However the FMNF is protected from that.

Smoke Mitigation – burn smaller block in more populated areas

What do you think about our restoration and the approach to restoring longleaf pine? What do you think about our approach to restoring of forested wetlands? Are there other options to restoring wetlands and the habitats for rare species?

Longleaf Restoration → Hard crews to spot plant seedlings

Wetlands → allow wetlands to develope without any interforance

Land Use and Population Changes
What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

increase understory mowing – followed by a maintance plan

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

Create recreation Areas NOT close them.

Santee zone has lots of room for recreation.

DC need to improve funding for recreation

I Scott Thurlow of 129 Timilstone court. Hyer SC. 29450. Green Bay Rd. has one access arcross a flooding Bridge.... National Forest road has been gated. That was the other only access to this beuitful nighborr hood.

Thanks Scott Thurlow

1843-807-1851
scottthurlow.2680@gmail.com

Questions for Break-out Groups

Restoration:
What do you think about the risks associated with Threatened and Endangered species? What are the biggest threats to Threatened and Endangered species? What do you think about the benefits and risks of prescribed burning?

Biggest threat is urban growth. Extend municipal/County urban growth Boundary. Prescribed burning is good except for the air quality degradation.

What do you think about our restoration and the approach to restoring longleaf pine? What do you think about our approach to restoring of forested wetlands? Are there other options to restoring wetlands and the habitats for rare species?

good approach but very labor intensive. Will longleaf pine "outdo" Loblolly or crowd out current pine population.

Land Use and Population Changes
What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

Large Buffer zones. 1000 meters from any development.

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

I support what you have. Do you really need to establish new areas? Historical areas need special attention.

Carl B Blackburn Jr

Questions for Break-out Groups

Restoration:
What do you think about the risks associated with Threatened and Endangered species? What are the biggest threats to Threatened and Endangered species? What do you think about the benefits and risks of prescribed burning? I think that the Endangered Species are'nt really threatened because they can go hide under the roots of a fallen tree or can run away and come back if threatened.

What do you think about our restoration and the approach to restoring longleaf pine? What do you think about our approach to restoring of forested wetlands? Are there other options to restoring wetlands and the habitats for rare species?

Land Use and Population Changes
What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

Questions for Break-out Groups

Restoration:
What do you think about the risks associated with Threatened and Endangered species? What are the biggest threats to Threatened and Endangered species? What do you think about the benefits and risks of prescribed burning? Implementation of Ecologically sound Interference to this excellent Mgt. Plan by others.

What do you think about our restoration and the approach to restoring longleaf pine? What do you think about our approach to restoring of forested wetlands? Are there other options to restoring wetlands and the habitats for rare species? Mow roadways in January/Feb only

Eliminate ~~loblolly~~ plantations ~~wildlife~~ loblolly throughout, Establish longleaf wherever ecologically indicated, 2 yr burn cycle — more during restoration period.

Land Use and Population Changes
What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

Greatest risk is fire supression.

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

Zones are good approach @ this point.

Questions for Break-out Groups

Restoration:
What do you think about the risks associated with Threatened and Endangered species? What are the biggest threats to Threatened and Endangered species? What do you think about the benefits and risks of prescribed burning?

Carolina Gopher Frog – would not like to see it added to endangered list as this will put more restrictions on private landower's land – Prescribe burn risk – smoke management

What do you think about our restoration and the approach to restoring longleaf pine? What do you think about our approach to restoring of forested wetlands? Are there other options to restoring wetlands and the habitats for rare species?

looks good

Need to utilize more timber harvests

Land Use and Population Changes
What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

Risk is ~~[illegible]~~ there.

CWPP is the way to go to help mitigate risk

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

Timber money pays the bills do not send all to Washington

Questions for Break-out Groups

Restoration:
What do you think about the risks associated with Threatened and Endangered species? What are the biggest threats to Threatened and Endangered species? What do you think about the benefits and risks of prescribed burning?

Hogs + coyotes Are big problem

What do you think about our restoration and the approach to restoring longleaf pine? What do you think about our approach to restoring of forested wetlands? Are there other options to restoring wetlands and the habitats for rare species?

Wonderful to see big growths of longleaf

Land Use and Population Changes
What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

You can either prescribe burn or fight wildfire

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

Great!!! need to sell permits for straw raking mushroom gathering + down timber removal

I helped clear the walking trail when I was a Boy Scout in the 60's

Questions for Break-out Groups

Restoration:
What do you think about the risks associated with Threatened and Endangered species? What are the biggest threats to Threatened and Endangered species? What do you think about the benefits and risks of prescribed burning?

What do you think about our restoration and the approach to restoring longleaf pine? What do you think about our approach to restoring of forested wetlands? Are there other options to restoring wetlands and the habitats for rare species?

Land Use and Population Changes
What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

Recreation needs a framework similar to CWPP to bring together multiple agencies + stakeholders to collaborate on mitigation of the conflicts inherent in mixed use.

Questions for Break-out Groups

Restoration:
What do you think about the risks associated with Threatened and Endangered species? What are the biggest threats to Threatened and Endangered species? What do you think about the benefits and risks of prescribed burning?

Dirt mining and sand mining is destroying property for frog and people.

What do you think about our restoration and the approach to restoring longleaf pine? What do you think about our approach to restoring of forested wetlands? Are there other options to restoring wetlands and the habitats for rare species?

Others are concerned about effect of long leaf on quail population

Land Use and Population Changes
What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

Better mapping of protected areas and new population area growth.

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

Are you considering wildlife impacts in the coastal zones & human impacts to wildlife & their habitats in this area?

Questions for Break-out Groups

Restoration:
What do you think about the risks associated with Threatened and Endangered species? What are the biggest threats to Threatened and Endangered species? What do you think about the benefits and risks of prescribed burning?

There may be risks but they may be small as compared to long-term impacts to species. Threats come from lack of fire, lack of long term planning. Fire in growing season burn.

urban sprawl

What do you think about our restoration and the approach to restoring longleaf pine? What do you think about our approach to restoring of forested wetlands? Are there other options to restoring wetlands and the habitats for rare species?

yes - restore forested wetlands - burn the edges, burn the ponds. The Marion may be the last great representative of LL left.

Land Use and Population Changes
What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

Communities need to be educated about fire and the wild life. I like the new proposal for community participation.

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

get people in the forest!
Get kids an adults outside!

Questions for Break-out Groups

Restoration:
What do you think about the risks associated with Threatened and Endangered species? What are the biggest threats to Threatened and Endangered species? What do you think about the benefits and risks of prescribed burning?

lack of knowledge + awareness

What do you think about our restoration and the approach to restoring longleaf pine? What do you think about our approach to restoring of forested wetlands? Are there other options to restoring wetlands and the habitats for rare species?

good

Land Use and Population Changes
What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

education to home owners

signs + information Kiosks

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

Horse trail use: primitive camping?
loops, variety of lengths

Partner w/ horse clubs for maintenance.

Connect existing trails to ~~others~~ Palmetto Trail, which should be open to horses.

Hunting use: That it Remains primary

October 1, 2014

To: Mary Morrison, Forest Planner/Project Lead (USFS)

CC: J.R. "Red" Anderson (USFS), Robbin Cooper (USFS), Mark Danaher (USFS), Joe Robles (USFS), Brian Schaffler (USFS)

From: Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission, Planning and Resource Management Division

Re: Francis Marion National Forest Management Plan Revisions

Please find below, formal comments submitted by the Planning and Resource Management Division of the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC). Comments pertain to the breadth of the presentation topics per the USDA Forest Service's September 23, 2014 public stakeholder meeting. As such, please forward these comments as-applicable to the authors of their respective sections.

Restoration:

What do you think about the risks associated with Threatened and Endangered species? What are the biggest threats to Threatened and Endangered species? What do you think about the benefits and risks of prescribed burning?

Threatened and Endangered (TE) species face two significant challenges in our region: (1) urban/suburban development with its resulting fragmented habitats, and (2) fire suppression at the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). CCPRC is very aware of both these factors, and supports the re-establishment of TE species wherever site conditions allow, understanding the challenges presented at the WUI. We also understand there are benefits and potential consequences associated with the use of prescribed fire at the WUI, but the reduced wildfire hazard and habitat benefits far outweigh the negatives.

What do you think about our restoration and the approach to restoring longleaf pine? What do you think about our approach to restoring of forested wetlands? Are there other options to restoring wetlands and the habitats for rare species?

We approve of your approach for restoring both longleaf pine and forested wetlands. We understand that all restoration opportunities will be evaluated on a project-by-project basis within the context of the surrounding landscape.

Land Use and Population Changes

What are your thoughts about the risk of wildfire to human communities? What do you think about our proposals to deal with this risk and are there other options?

Per our first response (above), we understand the risks of owning property within the WUI. As such, we are working with the USFS toward development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). These agreements between public agencies, NGOs, and local homeowners, HOAs, and municipalities is

imperative for their success, as they demonstrate the community's awareness that natural areas need limited to substantial management activity depending on their vulnerability to wildfire.

In areas like Cainhoy, which is among the most biodiverse parts of the Francis Marion, the USFS should be proactively involved in discussions with municipalities and developers, and should identify mechanisms for the perpetual use of prescribed fire in these areas. The threats of wildfire in these areas are very real; especially with the suppression of prescribed fire and the accumulation of woody fuels. For the benefit of the public, we may further our mutual causes to practice prescribed burning with regularity at the WUI. USFS (and state and local agencies) should set an example for good fire planning at the WUI.

What do you think about the approach and emphasis in the recreation zones? Are there other emphases to consider in a particular zone?

The "emphases" of the recreation zones are excellent. Some ideas to develop much the suitability are included in Chapter One of CCPRC's Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) (attached). Specifically, see the section about "Stewardship Zones". These may be a way to further analyze the recreation zones for site suitability.

Stewardship Zones include:

- Activity Zone (intensive use – structures, roads, etc.)
- Conservation Zone (moderate intensity of use – trails, boardwalks, signage, active land management, etc.)
- Preservation Zone (low intensity of use – some opportunity for trails; management limited to resource enhancement)
- Maritime Zone
- Significant Feature Overlay
- Cultural Resource Overlay

Refer to Chapter One of CCPRC NRMP for more detailed definitions. The benefit of USFS assigning these Stewardship Zones to the Francis Marion recreation zones is that, because of USFS' extensive geospatial data inventory, zones can be modeled and/or assigned at a coarse scale, well before a specific improvement project is introduced. The zones can also help to inform planners during the design development phase.