

**National Forests in Alabama**  
**Revised Land and Resource Management Plan**  
**Amendment #4 – Indiana Bat Standards**  
**January 13, 2015**

This amendment revised four forest plan standards (FW-101, FW-102 and FW-104, and FW-106) to more effectively manage habitat for the Indiana Bat and other endangered species.

Chapter 2 Forest-Wide Direction

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Description: Remove two standards FW-101 and FW-102 and replace with New FW-101.

**Remove: FW-101.** When implementing two-aged forest regeneration methods (seedtree with reserves or shelterwood with reserves) in hardwood-dominated forest types, a minimum of 20 square feet of basal area will be retained. The overwood will not be removed. All snags and shagbark hickory over 6 inches DBH will be retained except those that are immediate hazards. All trees are retained within 20 feet of a minimum average of 5 snags per acre to provide potential Indiana bat roost trees with shade and windthrow protection. Where a minimum average of 5 snags per acre is not present, they will be created from the larger diameter classes within the stand. Snags selected for shade tree retention are those most suitable for use by Indiana bats, i.e., hardwood snags of the largest size classes with exfoliating bark.

**And Remove: FW-102.** When implementing clearcut two-aged forest regeneration methods in hardwood-dominated forest types, a minimum average of 15 square feet of basal area per acre is retained throughout the rotation. Residual basal area should be clumped or left in travel corridors. All snags and shagbark hickory over 6 inches DBH are retained except those that are immediate hazards. If additional trees are needed to meet the basal area requirements, priority should be given to trees that exhibit characteristics favored by roosting Indiana bats. Snags do not count toward the basal area. In regeneration areas less than 10 acres in size, no residual basal area is required for retention. However, all snags will be retained unless they are immediate

hazards. Shagbark hickory greater than 6 inches DBH is retained in regeneration areas less than 10 acres in size.

**Replace with:**

**New FW-101.** When implementing forest regeneration methods, recruit and retain snags and live loose-bark overstory species so that sufficient bat roosting habitat is provided. All snags will be retained unless they are immediate hazards.

Page 2-34 Description: Remove FW-104 and replace with New FS-104.

**Remove: FW-104.** Provide upland water sources approximately every 0.5 miles, to provide an important habitat element for wildlife, including the endangered Indiana bat. Water sources are comprised of both permanent ponds and ephemeral pools and are often located in openings or near road corridors that allow access by bats.

**Replace with:**

**New FW-104.** Provide and/or conserve upland water sources as appropriate for rare bats, where they are considered to be limiting habitat factors.

Page 2-35 Description: Remove FW-106.

**Remove:**

**FW-106.** To avoid injury to nonvolant young Indiana bats, prescribed burning of potential maternity roosting habitat between May 1 and July 1 is prohibited except where site-specific inventories indicate Indiana bats are not likely to be present.

This amendment is a non-significant change to the NFsAL Revised Land and Resource Management Plan. The determination was made after consulting 16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(4), 36 CFR 219.10(f) (1982 regulations), Forest Service Manual 1926.51 – Changes to the Land Management Plan that are Not Significant and FSM 1926.52 – Changes to the Land Management Plan that are Significant. This plan amendment meets the criteria for a non-significant amendment because:

- This amendment will not significantly alter the levels of goods and services projected by the Forest Plan; nor will it prevent the opportunity to achieve those outputs in later years.

- This amendment will not affect the entire land management plan, nor will it affect a large portion of the planning area during the planning period.

The National Environmental Policy Act analysis for this change of direction has been documented in the Environmental Assessment for Forest Plan Amendment #4 Indiana Bat Standards. The Environmental Assessment is available for review at the Forest Supervisor's office.