

AMENDED PAGES

The following pages from the 1999 Revised LRMP have been modified based on comments received during public review of the Environmental Assessment.

Deleted language is indicated by a ~~striethrough~~. Additions are indicated by **bold** font. Note that some changes to acreage figures and the allocation map in the following pages are the result of updated GIS information and are not the result of this amendment.

WA-1 Adhere to standards of Florida's silviculture BMPs. For a detailed discussion of these practices, see the ~~1993~~ **the most recent** *Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual* **published by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.**

WA-3 Prohibit ~~timber harvesting, including salvage, clearcutting~~ in the Primary Zone, except for sand pine. Harvesting **or other mechanical treatments** ~~done~~ to control the spread of insects **and** diseases **or to restore functioning ecosystems** may occur in the Primary Zone.

Objective 4 Prescribe burn on average every 3 years with varied intervals on any given site to restore natural processes in all sites where the natural-fire-return interval was less than 10 years. Strive to burn 50 percent of those acres between March 15 and September 30 and 20 percent between May 1 and July 31. This includes wilderness, wilderness study areas, and the Savannah research natural area. **Growing season burns are critical to habitat enhancement, but if growing season burns cannot be achieved, the overall fire frequency is the highest priority.**

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The Forest Service responds to every wildland fire on national forests ~~with an appropriate suppression response~~. This response could range from monitoring a non-threatening fire to a full-scale attack of a fire that threatens life, property, and resources. In addition, ~~naturally occurring all wildland fires within wilderness and wilderness study areas~~ may be managed for resource benefit **multiple objectives**, as described in the **most recent publication of the *Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy***.

~~Wildland fires in all other areas of the national forests may not be managed for resource benefit; however, the full range of other appropriate suppression responses is available.~~ Fire control lines may consist of roads or natural barriers (such as wetlands), foam or water lines, or **bladed**, disked or plowed firelines. The Forest Service tries to minimize the use of plowed firelines. ~~The incident commander has full authority to select the appropriate suppression response based on line officer delegation, values at risk, predicted weather, burning conditions, forces available, resource damage potential, and total forest-wide wildland fire situation.~~

FI-12 Evaluate all ~~naturally occurring wildland fires within wilderness for appropriate response.~~ If the line officer decides to manage the fire for other resource benefit, a wildland fire situation analysis must be prepared along with prescription parameters and respond based on current federal wildland fire policy.

FI-15 Follow the most recent version of the **Guidelines for Aerial Delivery of Retardant or Foam Near Waterways**. When practical, use water or less toxic fire retardants within occupied T&E habitat and designated or proposed critical wildlife habitat.

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MA 3.1-9 If a restoration project involves the replacement of an off-site tree species, to maintain the visual quality, ~~do not create temporary openings larger than 10 acres.~~ **consider guidance in the most recent edition of the *Scenery Treatment Guide - Southern Regional National Forests*. Site specific projects should also consider long-term benefits of restoration if an area's existing scenic integrity is lower than the planned objective and/or if the area contains visible disturbances that detract from the natural or socially valued appearance.**

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Only allow exceptions to the restrictions on the use of motorized equipment and motorized or mechanical vehicles in cases of extreme emergency ~~during wildfire suppression as described in~~ **FSM 2326**. ~~Exceptions can be allowed by District Ranger, except tractor plow use requires~~ Regional Forester approval.

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Only allow exceptions to the restrictions on the use of motorized equipment and motorized or mechanical vehicles in cases of extreme emergency ~~during wildfire suppression as described in~~ **FSM 2326**. ~~Exceptions can be allowed by District Ranger, except tractor plow use requires~~ Regional Forester approval.

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MA 8.2-4 ~~Do not protect from prescribed fire isolated sand pine stands in Pondered Mosaic Landtype Association that are less than 80 acres.~~

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VG-7-1 Where isolated sand pine stands less than 200 acres cannot be logically incorporated into larger contiguous areas suitable for scrub habitat, consider fire as a primary management tool where practical. Stands may be isolated by a variety of factors such as dissimilar vegetation, roads, topographic features or administrative boundaries. Locate fire control lines outside of wetland margins to allow for burning across ecotones.

**Management Area 2.2
Experimental Forest**

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Osceola NF | 293 acres in LTA 1 |
| | 2,509 acres in LTA 5 |
| Apalachicola NF | <u>940 acres in Sandhills LTA</u> |
| Total Acres | 3,742 acres |

VQO = 25% Partial Retention, 50% Modification, & 25% Maximum Modification

ROS = 100% Rural

All acres unsuitable for timber production

2.2-Goal

To provide lands for conducting research to achieve the goals and objectives of the Southern Research Station.

2.2-Desired Future Condition

In this area, alteration of the landscape is readily apparent and occurs primarily through human intervention. Vegetation patterns are the result of timber harvests that create many openings (varying from small to large) in the forest canopy. Once in a while the visitor sees the effects of natural disturbances (fires, storms, insects, and diseases). Snags and lightning-struck trees are seen occasionally. Most of the tree trunks are blackened to various degrees. Evidence of firelines around previous fires is encountered at a moderate rate. In addition, the landscape may be interrupted by narrow road corridors. Remnants of roads leading from permanent roads to openings can be seen. Evidence of research activities—in the form of signs, stakes, tree tags, and paint on trees—is often seen.

The ecosystem is primarily mesic flatwoods, with strand swamp inclusions **or sandhills**. In flatwoods, dominant trees are a mix of longleaf and slash pine, and saw palmetto dominates the understory. **Sandhills are dominated by longleaf pine with a wiregrass understory.** The appearance of the pine forest may vary from somewhat open and parklike in the oldest stands to closed and dense in the younger stands. From one location to the next, trees may vary in size. In some stands, trees are uniformly spaced in rows, but other stands may show random distribution of the trees. Green stumps may be found throughout the forest.

Wildlife species are those that tolerate a certain amount of human disturbance and live in predominantly longleaf pine forests.

The quality of water, soil, and air is high. Roads are common, and some are easily passable. Visitors are not isolated from the sights and sounds of human activity. They may encounter other

people. There are few trails and no recreational facilities, though there may be interpretive displays.

The low-standard roads have native surfacing and conform in height to the surrounding ground. Some low-drainage points along these roads (bay crossing, streams, etc.) have low-water rock crossings. Travel with low-clearance vehicles is difficult. Some higher-standard roads have sand-clay surfacing, are higher than the surrounding ground, and have ditches. Drainage structures consist of culverts. Roads may not be stable during bad weather conditions. A few roads have paved surfaces and are stable and smooth.