



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

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Additional Errata

South Branch Kinzua Creek Environmental Assessment

**Wetmore and Hamlin Townships
McKean County, Pennsylvania**

Errata:

- (page 1 of the SBKC EA) at the end of the Introduction section, add the following, **“The ANF Fiscal Year 2007 Monitoring and Evaluation Report is incorporated by reference. This report contains updates to information on forest health conditions and wildlife information. None of the items monitored in 2007 identified a need to amend the ANF LRMP (USDA-FS 2008, p. 59).”**
- (page 2 of the SBKC EA) The first sentence under Section 1.2 **“The analysis for this project is tiered to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (USDA-FS 2007b) and Record of Decision (ROD) (USDA-FS 2007c) for the 2007 ANF Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP or Forest Plan) (USDA-FS 2007a).”** will be replaced with the following sentence **“The analysis for this project is tiered to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (USDA-FS 2007b) and Record of Decision (ROD) (USDA-FS 2007c) for the 2007 ANF Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP or Forest Plan) (USDA-FS 2007a), with the exception of Part 3 – Design Criteria, Section 2800 Minerals and Geology; Oil and Gas Development (pp. 90-92) of the 2007 Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.”**
- (page 87 of the SBKC EA) The following portion of the sentence located at the top of the page will be deleted **“...and an additional eight acres of pit expansion to provide the stone for the developments.”**
- (page 93 of the SBKC EA) The first footnote underneath Table 19 states **“Percentages reflect cumulative totals of potential OGM development including wells, roads, and gravel pit expansion for new lease roads.”** The gravel pit expansion noted in this sentence refers to gravel pits located on privately owned land within the cumulative effects area.
- (page 95 of the SBKC EA) The following sentence will be deleted **“In addition to the BMPs, oil and gas operators will be expected to meet the design criteria of the LRMP on their developments, unless it prevents reasonable access (USDA-FS 2007b, pp. 50).”**
- (pp. 97 and 98) Replace Section 4.1.4 Air Quality with the following:

Background

Current air pollution impacts occurring on the ANF result from numerous sources including automobiles, off-road construction equipment, wild fires, factories, oil refineries, and power plants, all of which contribute to the regional pollution load. Most of the pollution affecting the ANF is from external sources. The ANF is situated near the industrial heart of the United States and also near a high concentration of coal-fired electric generating facilities; the leading source of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions. It also lies within a day’s drive of a large percentage of the United States population.

The Clean Air Act (CAA) sets the standards for the air quality in the United States. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set the air quality standards for six criteria

pollutants with which the entire country must comply. Primary NAAQS standards are set based on human health criteria. It is up to state air quality regulatory agencies to come up with State Implementation Plans to ensure that these standards are met in their respective states. If the standards are not met for any criteria pollutant, the area is designated as non-attainment for the pollutant.

The Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1977 established the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program. These amendments designated specific Wildernesses and National Parks as Class I areas. Under Title I, Part C of the CAAA, Federally mandated Class I areas are provided with an additional measure of protection. The ANF has no Class I areas within or near its administrative boundaries.

When looking at the impacts of air quality, it is important to keep in mind that a handful of pollutants contribute to a variety of air quality related effects. These pollutants are a concern because of their impacts to human health and natural resources, and each is described in detail below. Air pollutants are generally classified as either primary or secondary pollutants. Those emitted directly into the atmosphere as products of combustion are classified as primary pollutants, while those formed when primary pollutants undergo atmospheric chemical reactions are classified as secondary pollutants. Descriptions of criteria pollutants can be found in the ANF LRMP FEIS on pages 3-52 through 3-55 and the Review of Information – OGM Activity and Air Quality, Allegheny National Forest.

Scope

Under the CAA, states must identify air quality control regions for the purposes of demonstrating attainment (or non-attainment) of the NAAQS. In the vicinity of the project area, these air quality control regions are identified as individual counties. Since air pollution is regional in nature and has the potential to disperse beyond project boundaries, emissions will be evaluated in the context of the four-county (Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren) pollution loads. For this reason, the scope of the air quality analysis will extend to the four-county boundary; which includes the air quality control region where the project area and the ANF are located. Emissions were evaluated on an annual load basis assuming that activities would be evenly distributed over five years. The residence times in the atmosphere for most air pollutants are also short lived, and high concentrations of pollutants that are emitted during an activity dissipate and move out of the area. In other words, the pollutants emitted during one day of activities would not necessarily remain in the atmosphere and accumulate with those emitted during a subsequent day.

Effects

The primary ANF management activities that contribute to air quality emissions are timber harvest, all terrain vehicle (ATV) use, and prescribed fire. Fine particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO_xs), volatile organic carbons (VOC), and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions from these activities contribute to the total pollution load and are the criteria pollutants addressed in this analysis. Ozone as a secondary pollutant is dependent on multiple factors for its formation and can not be estimated directly. However, NO_xs are the limiting factor in ozone production and can serve as an indicator for ozone. The goal here is to address the estimated emissions of critical pollutants from ANF management activities to assess whether or not they would significantly impact attainment of the NAAQS or significantly contribute to harmful conditions for humans in nearby communities. Therefore, potential emissions of these pollutants as they compare to four-county emissions will serve as indicators for air quality effects in the first step screening analysis. *All counties near the project area are currently in attainment status for all criteria pollutants.*

Direct and Indirect Effects

Methods

The regional emissions data were obtained from the most recent and accurate emissions database available for this area. Currently, this is the 2002 VISTAS base case emissions database. The estimated emissions were derived from the emissions estimates used in the FEIS for the ANF LRMP. Three ANF management activities were analyzed using the same methods employed for the ANF LRMP FEIS (pp. 3-52 to 3-63): timber harvest, prescribed fire, and ATV trail use. It can be assumed that if predicted emissions from the proposed ANF management activities contribute a small enough percentage to the total pollution load, they would not impact attainment of the NAAQS. A percentage threshold of five percent has been chosen for the emissions comparison. If emissions from ANF management activities do not exceed five percent of the total pollution load in the region, they will be considered below our level of concern. The threshold of five percent was chosen to be very conservative in protecting air quality. Air regulations often include a five percent change as a threshold for more rigorous or refined air quality analyses. Although we are more concerned with emissions from ANF management activities on the NAAQS, this threshold seemed appropriate for this analysis because PSD increments represent a percentage of the total NAAQS.

Alternative 1 (no action)

There would be no newly proposed ANF management activities within the project area under this alternative and thus no additional emissions of pollutants (see Table 10).

Alternatives 2 and 3

Timber harvest emissions for the project were analyzed and compared to the four-county area. There are no ATV trails within the project area and no prescribed burning is being proposed within the project area at this time or in the foreseeable future; therefore, prescribed burning and ATV emissions were not included in the project level analysis but are included in the cumulative effects analysis. Table 10 shows the direct and indirect air quality effects for the project. As shown in Table 10, potential emissions from the proposed timber harvesting operations with any alternative in this project are negligible and do not increase four-county emissions by five percent and therefore are below the level of concern.

Table 10. Direct and Indirect Air Quality Impacts from Proposed Timber Harvests in the SBKC Project to the Four-County Area

Alternative	Pollutant	Timber Harvest Emissions (Tons per Year)	ANF Management Emissions (Tons per Year) ¹	4 county emissions (Tons per Year)	Percent ANF Management Increase of 4 County Emissions
Alt. 1	VOC	0.0000	0.0000	12,047	0.00
	PM	0.0000	0.0000	5,322	0.00
	NOx	0.0000	0.0000	11,188	0.00
	CO	0.0000	0.0000	66,765	0.00
Alt. 2	VOC	0.0020	0.0020	12,047	0.00
	PM	0.0001	0.0001	5,322	0.00
	NOx	0.0019	0.0019	11,188	0.00
	CO	0.0103	0.0103	66,765	0.00
Alt. 3	VOC	0.0017	0.0017	12,047	0.00
	PM	0.0001	0.0001	5,322	0.00
	NOx	0.0016	0.0016	11,188	0.00
	CO	0.0084	0.0084	66,765	0.00

¹ ANF Management Emissions includes emissions from timber harvest, prescribed burning, and ATV use (from Table 1 in Review of Information – OGM Activity and Air Quality, Allegheny National Forest).

Cumulative Effects

In the vicinity of the project area, these air quality control regions are identified as individual counties. For this reason, the scope of the air quality analysis will extend to the four-county boundary; which includes the air quality control region where the project area and the ANF are located. The timeframe for the cumulative effects air quality analysis is the same as that for most of the other resources (1998 -2027). This analysis is based on the Review of Information – OGM Activity and Air Quality analysis dated July 31, 2008 for the ANF LRMP FEIS. The cumulative air quality analysis evaluated emissions occurring on the ANF from prescribed burning, timber harvest, and ATV vehicles and OGM development activities within the four-county area.

As shown in Table 11, air emissions will be increasing over the next 20 years, primarily due OGM development. These increases in emissions may degrade air quality in the four-county area. ANF management activities would yield a very minor change from the 2002 four-county area emission levels (all less than five percent). The five percent threshold is a conservative reference point to display the level of potential change. It is not the threshold for significant adverse effects.

Table 11. Cumulative Air Resource Effects

Alternative	Pollutant	OGM Emissions (Tons per year)	ANF Management Emissions ¹ (Tons per Year)	Cumulative Emissions (Tons per year)	Four-County Emissions (Tons per Year)	Percent ANF Management and OGM Increase of Four-County Emissions (2 nd Decade)	Percent ANF Management Increase of Four-County Emissions (2 nd Decade) ¹
1	VOC	11,564	297	11,861	12,047	98.46	2.47
	PM	258	153	411	5,322	7.72	2.88
	NO _x	1882	187	2,069	11,188	18.49	1.67
	CO	30,328	2,878	33,206	66,765	49.74	4.31
2	VOC	11,564	297	11,861	12,047	98.46	2.42
	PM	258	153	411	5,322	7.72	2.91
	NO _x	1882	187	2,069	11,188	18.49	1.67
	CO	30,328	2,878	33,206	66,765	49.74	4.34
3	VOC	11,564	297	11,861	12,047	98.46	2.42
	PM	258	153	411	5,322	7.72	2.91
	NO _x	1882	187	2,069	11,188	18.49	1.67
	CO	30,328	2,878	33,206	66,765	49.74	4.34

Notes: ¹ ANF Management Emissions includes emissions from timber harvest, prescribed burning, and ATV use (from Table 1 in Review of Information – OGM Activity and Air Quality, Allegheny National Forest).

- **Clarification:** (page 98 of the SBKC EA) “**This material would be obtained from existing pits or developing new pits on the ANF.**” The pit development or expansion refers to stone which would be utilized for Forest Service activities including roads and landings.
- **Clarification:** (page 99 of the SBKC EA) “**This would result in approximately 96 new wells, 24 miles of new access roads, and eight acres of pit expansion and/or development over the next decade.**” The eight acres of pit development or expansion would come from private stone pits or require additional environmental analysis if stone was sold to OGM operators for private OGM development within the project area.
- **Clarification:** (page 99 of the SBKC EA) “**Including potential OGM development, proposed pit development and expansion within the SBKC project area is projected to be about seven to eight acres over the next ten years, which represents about 0.2 percent of the SBKC project area.**” The pit development or expansion would come from private stone pits or require additional environmental analysis if stone was sold to OGM operators for private OGM development within the project area.
- **Clarification:** (page 115 of the SBKC EA) “**Based on the projected acres affected by future OGM development for the SBKC project, additional oil and gas wells (plus pit development to build new lease roads) may affect approximately 134 acres within the project area over the next two decades.**” The pit development or expansion would come from private stone pits or require additional environmental analysis if stone was sold to OGM operators for private OGM development within the project area.

- **Clarification:** (page 120 of the SBKC EA) “**An additional 52 acres may be cleared for pit expansion to obtain material to build new lease roads.**” this pit development or expansion would come from private stone pits or require additional environmental analysis if stone was sold to OGM operators for private OGM development within the cumulative effects analysis area.
- (page 128 of the SBKC EA) The following sentence “**Private OGM development is expected to follow PA DEP regulations and Forest Plan S&Gs related to OGM are in place to protect forest resources (USDA-FS 2007a, pp. 90 -92).**” will be replaced with “**Private OGM development is expected to follow PA DEP regulations and it is assumed that PA DEP will enforce their regulations.**”
- (page 166 of the SBKC EA) add the following reference to the Literature Cited section:
USDA-FS. 2008. Allegheny National Forest, Fiscal Year 2007 Monitoring and Evaluation Report, Warren, PA. 59pp.
- (pages S-1, S-3, 7, 15, 31, 86, 92, 94, 112, and 148) change 2.1 miles to 1.6 miles of road decommissioning)
- Map # 4 “Alternative 3 – Commercial Vegetation Treatments and Transportation Activities” will be replaced with the following map: