

**Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for  
Reserved and Outstanding Oil and Gas Design Criteria**

On February 27, 2009 a Notice of Intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement was published in the Federal Register. This initiated a 30 day public comment period on the Forest Service proposal to:

1. Apply the design criteria found on pages 53 through 168 of the 2007 Forest Plan to reserved and outstanding oil and gas development;
2. Clarify the roles and responsibilities held by the Forest Service, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and private mineral owners in regard to the protection of surface resources during the development of reserved and outstanding oil and gas, by replacing applicable sections in the Record of Decision, the 2007 Forest Plan, the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and Appendix F; and
3. Supplement the Air Resources - Section 3.2.4 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (pp. 3-52 to 3-63) to fully evaluate the potential cumulative effects from emissions of methane, hydrogen sulfide, and emissions from vehicles and equipment used in oil and gas development on air quality in the Allegheny National Forest and surrounding region.

Design criteria are the standards and guidelines that are applied in the design and implementation of management activities that occur across the Forest. Standards and guidelines are sideboards that impose limitations on activities or uses for reasons of environmental protection or public safety, and are intended to help achieve a desired condition or objective.

Both standards and guidelines are requirements that limit or guide forest uses or activities. Compliance with a standard is required in all applicable situations, unless a plan amendment has been specifically prepared to exempt a project from the standard. Compliance with applicable guidelines is also generally expected, but situations are anticipated when compliance may not be feasible or desirable. In these situations, the record for the project must provide documentation as to the rationale for deviating from the guideline.

The design criteria for reserved and outstanding oil and gas development are found on pages 53 through 168 of the 2007 Forest Plan. The standards and guidelines that apply forest-wide are found on pages 53 – 99, arranged by resource, and are in order by the associated Forest Service file codes (the number that precedes the resource name). Management area direction and standards and guidelines that are specific to that Management Area are found on pages 100 – 168.

Comments provided in response to the Notice of Intent will be most useful if they focus on your concerns related to the application of the standards and guidelines to reserved and outstanding oil and gas development and the ability of these standards and guidelines to protect surface resources. If you wish to suggest a change to a standard or guideline, please provide the basis for that change. Comments will be considered to be outside the scope of this analysis if they are not related to oil and gas development.

The 2007 Forest Plan can be found online at :

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny/projects/forest\\_plan\\_revision/index.php](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny/projects/forest_plan_revision/index.php)

Additional information related to the standards and guidelines can be found online (select document archive) at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny/projects/supp\\_eis/documents/index.php](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny/projects/supp_eis/documents/index.php)

Copies of Forest Plan documents are available at public libraries in Warren, Bradford, Ridgway, Marienville, Clarion, Sheffield and Kane.

## **Design Criteria Outline**

The following categories are included on pages 53 – 99 of the Forest Plan. A brief description of the subject is provided here.

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### **2070 Biological Diversity Guidelines**

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Includes guidelines that describe practices to be followed for erosion control (type of seed to use, areas where application is appropriate)

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### **2080 Noxious Weeds**

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Includes guidelines that describe practices to be followed to prevent the introduction, establishment or spread of non-native species.

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### **2100 Environmental Management – Pesticide Use**

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Includes standards and guidelines that describe practices for the safe and effective use of herbicides; includes direction related to general application requirements that protect environmental resources, notification to the public and concerns related to human health and safety, specific requirements for the use of glyphosate and sulfomethuron methyl, and specific requirements for application of herbicides on approved Electric Utility rights of ways.

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### **2300 Recreation**

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Includes standards and guidelines that describe practices for safe and effective management of developed and dispersed recreation areas, and recreation residences.

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### **2350 Trails**

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Includes standards and guidelines that describe practices for safe and effective management of National Forest System Trails. Specific standards and/or guidelines are provided for the North Country National Scenic Trail, All-terrain Vehicle/Off-highway Motorcycle Trails, Snowmobile Trails and Equestrian Trails.

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### **2360 Heritage**

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Includes standards and guidelines regarding compliance with heritage resources.

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### **2360 Tionesta Research Natural Area**

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Includes a standard for management within 300 feet of the boundary of the area.

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### **2380 Scenery**

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Includes standards and guidelines that define Scenic Integrity Levels and how scenery objectives should be met.

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### **2400 Vegetation**

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Includes standards and guidelines related to all aspects of vegetative management and timber harvest. Specific standards and/or guidelines are provided that describe silvicultural systems and harvest methods (including distinctions related to even vs uneven-aged management, reforestation techniques, and wood utilization).

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## **2500 Watershed and Air**

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Includes standards and guidelines related to soil, water and air resources. Standards and guidelines describe protective measures to be applied to various forest management activities. Descriptions for and identifications of various kinds of water features (riparian corridor, wilderness trout streams, remote trout streams, wetlands and wetland management zones) are included.

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## **2600 Wildlife, Fish and Sensitive Plant Habitats**

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Includes standards and guidelines related to wildlife habitats and wildlife species. Standards and guidelines describe measures to protect and maintain wildlife habitats. Includes specific habitat enhancements and protections for Federally threatened and endangered species (Indiana bat, bald eagle, Northern riffleshell, clubshell, small-whorled pogonia and Northeastern bulrush), and species with viability concerns (bats, Northern flying squirrel, Northern goshawk, Red-shouldered hawk, Great blue heron, Osprey, Yellow-bellied flycatcher, Eastern box turtle, Wood turtle, Timber rattlesnake, Jefferson salamander, Four-toed salamander, Coal skink, and certain plant species).

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## **2700 Special Uses**

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Includes standards and guidelines related to construction of communication towers and management of utility rights-of-ways.

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## **2800 Minerals and Geology**

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Includes standards and guidelines related to administrative processing, planning, development, operation, maintenance and restoration activities associated with reserved and outstanding oil and gas development, as well as leasing of Federal minerals. The standards and guidelines included in other sections of the plan also apply to reserved and outstanding oil and gas development.

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## **3400 Forest Pest Management**

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Includes standards and guidelines related to Forest Health. Includes standards and/or guidelines related to detection and reporting, actions related to the prevention of introduction, reduction of spread or eradication of forest health related issues.

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## **4000 Research**

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Includes standards and guidelines related to research studies/sites on the ANF.

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## **5100 Fire**

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Includes standards and guidelines related to fire suppression and prescribed fire management.

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## **7300 Administrative Facilities**

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Includes standards and guidelines related to management of administrative facilities.

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## **7700 Transportation System**

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Includes standards and guidelines related to the design, construction, reconstruction, maintenance, use and decommissioning of Forest System roads. It also includes requirements for resource coordination, management of pits, and logging access.

## Management Area Direction

Management areas are spatially defined areas within the ANF and are a way to link Forest Plan direction to specific areas of the Forest. Each MA contributes to the long term desired condition and has specific conditions that are anticipated to develop over time. There are some standards and guidelines that apply only to a MA. The following list describes the primary emphasis of each MA.

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**Management Area 1.0 – Early Structural Habitat** (pp. 104-105)

**Management Area 2.1 – Uneven-aged Management** (p. 108)

**Management Area 2.2 – Late Structural Linkages** (pp11-112)

**Management Area 3.0 – Even-aged Management** (p 115)

**Management Area 5.1 – Designated Wilderness Areas** (pp 118-120)

**Management Area 5.2 – Wilderness Study Area** (pp123 – 125)

**Management Area 6.1 – Late Structural Habitat** (pp 128-129)

**Management Area 6.3 – Buzzard Swamp Wildlife Management Area** (pp131-132)

**Management Area 7.1 – Developed Recreation Areas** (pp 135-136)

**Management Area 7.2 – Remote Recreation Areas** (pp 139-141)

**Management Area 8.1 – Wild and Scenic River Corridor** (pp 145-157)

**Management Area 8.2 – National Recreation Area** (pp 150-152)

**Management Area 8.3 – Scenic Area** (pp 155-156)

**Management Area 8.4 – Historic Area** (pp 159-160)

**Management Area 8.5 – Research Natural Area** (pp 163-164)

**Management Area 8.6 – Kane Experimental Forest** (pp 167-168)

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