

NANTAHALA AND PISGAH NATIONAL FORESTS  
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

AMENDMENT #8

We are proposing a nonsignificant amendment to the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to allow the modification Visual Quality Objective to be met within a 25 year period on a project located on the Tusquitee Ranger District.

This site specific amendment concerns the visual impacts of the Vengeance Creek Mining project on the Tusquitee District. The proposed permit area is adjacent to Forest Road 6148 approximately 3.3 miles Southwest of Andrews, North Carolina. It is 3 miles South of the Andrews-Murphy Airfield, and 2.5 miles South-Southwest of the NC "Nantahala" Scenic Byway (US 19/219). The entire permitted area is 35 acres in size. The potentially impacted area is 18 acres in size, and includes a 6.7 acre quarry site, a 5.0 acre disposal and storage site, and 1.6 acres of road construction.

Although the concurrent reclamation plan for the quarry back slope should be effective in the long term, the twenty year duration of the project would not allow activities to meet assigned Visual Quality Objectives in the three year period required by the Land and Resource Management Plan. If implemented, this proposal would take approximately 25 years from its initial construction date to meet a modification visual quality objective.

The proposed amendment is covered by the forest-wide direction 2.a. for Visual Resource Management (page III-13).

2. . Meet the Visual Quality Objectives for a new project by the end of the specified time.

| a. VQO               | Full Growing Season |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Retention            | 1                   |
| Partial Retention    | 2                   |
| Modification         | 3                   |
| Maximum Modification | 5                   |

The proposed change is:

2. Meet the Visual Quality Objectives for a new project by the end of the specified time.

| a. VQO               | Full Growing Season |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Retention            | 1                   |
| Partial Retention    | 2                   |
| Modification         | 25                  |
| Maximum Modification | 5                   |