

**Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan**

Amendment #12

This a nonsignificant amendment to the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to assign management designation to land recently acquired on the Cheoah Ranger District.

The project is in compartment 81, Cheoah Ranger District, Nantahala National Forest, Graham County, North Carolina. The area is located in the Little Snowbird area, southwest of Robbinsville, NC, and adjacent to existing National Forest System land. The acres were acquired in the past ten years as part of a land exchange to resolve several cases of encroachment of private improvements onto National Forest lands, and to improve consolidation of National Forest System lands to increase efficiency of management. These lands were previously listed as uninventoried land, and the purpose of this amendment is to designate the land to management area 3B, the management area of the adjacent lands.

Management area 3B emphasizes a sustainable supply of timber, but with few open roads and with lower disturbance associated with motorized vehicles. This management area provides the habitat needs of wildlife such as wild turkey, deer, a variety of small mammals, and other species that will benefit from a managed forest with limited motorized access. This area is designated to management area 3B because the conditions and uses of the land are compatible with goals and objectives of management for 3B. Also, the adjacent areas are management areas 3B, and it is reasonable to manage these 193 acres in coordination with adjacent lands.

The proposed amendment is covered by the forest-wide direction 3 (page III-45):

Use plan amendments to designated management areas to new land acquisitions. Assure management area designation are compatible with the purposes of acquisitions.

The proposed change is:

Management Area 3B:

The change is to amend the acres allocated to management area 3B (III-55). The current allocation of 232,873 will be increased to 233,066. This change will be reflected in the management area maps (see attached map, *Land Acquired Through Exchange*).

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Land and Resource Management Plan

Amendment #12

This non-significant amendment to the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to assign management designation to land recently acquired on the Pisgah Ranger District.

The project is in compartment 81, Pisgah Ranger District, Nantahala National Forest, Graham County, North Carolina. The area is located in the Little Sandhills area, southeast of Robbinsville, NC, and adjacent to existing National Forest System land. The area was acquired in the past few years as part of a land exchange to resolve several cases of encroachment of private improvements onto National Forest lands, and to improve consolidation of National Forest System lands to increase efficiency of management. These lands were previously listed as unimproved land, and the purpose of this amendment is to designate the land to management area 3B, the management area of the adjacent lands.

Management area 3B emphasizes a sustainable supply of timber, but with low open roads and with lower disturbance associated with motorized vehicles. This management area provides the habitat needs of wildlife such as wild turkey, deer, a variety of small mammals, and other species that will benefit from a managed forest with limited motorized access. This area is designated to management area 3B because the conditions and uses of the land are compatible with goals and objectives of management for area 3B. Also, the adjacent area are management area 3B, and it is reasonable to manage these 100 acres in coordination with adjacent lands.

The proposed amendment is covered by the forest-wide direction 3 (page III-45).

The plan amendments to designated management areas to new land acquisitions. Assign management area designation are compatible with the process of acquisitions.

The proposed change is:

Management Area 3B.

The change is to amend the acres allocated to management area 3B (III-55). The current allocation of 232,873 will be increased to 233,000. This change will be reflected in the management area map (see attached map, land acquired through exchange).