Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests
Land and Resource Management Plan
(Forest Plan)

Amendment # 14
October 2002

This amendment provides clarification of direction for the preparation of site-specific Biological Evaluations (BEs) including inventory requirements for Proposed, Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive (PETS) species for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests to make the process of conducting BEs more efficient and consistent throughout the Southern Region of the Forest Service. This amendment changes portions of the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan that were implemented by Plan Amendment #2, (Exhibit H, - Record of Decision - Vegetation Management in the Appalachian Mountains) July 1989, as follows:

Change in wording – Final EIS, Vegetation Management in the Appalachian Mountains: The wording in Exhibit 1 below is found in both the Record of Decision (page A-1) and in a portion of one General Mitigation Measure (Vol. I, Chap. II.E.1.a(2) of the Vegetation Management Environmental Impact Statement in the Appalachian Mountains (VMEIS.) The wording in Exhibit 2, as stated in the Record of Decision and the Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Vegetation Management in the Appalachian Mountains provides direction concerning requirements for conducting project level inventories for those activities covered under the VMEIS. The differences between the exhibits are shown in bold. Determination of when project-level inventory information should be gathered will be made based on the direction now contained in the Regional supplement to FSM 2672 (February 13, 2002.)

Exhibit 1. Previous Wording
"A biological evaluation of how a project may affect any species Federally listed as threatened, endangered, or proposed, or identified by the Forest Service as sensitive, **is** done as part of the site-specific environmental analysis. This evaluation considers **all** available **inventories of** threatened, endangered, proposed and sensitive species populations and their habitat for the proposed treatment area. **When adequate population inventory information is unavailable, it must be collected when the site has high potential for occupancy by a threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species.**"

Exhibit 2. New Wording
"A biological evaluation of how a project may affect any species Federally listed as threatened, endangered, or proposed, or identified by the Forest Service as sensitive **shall be** done as part of the site-specific environmental analysis. This evaluation considers available **information on** threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive species populations and their habitat for the proposed treatment area."

Change in wording – Nantahala-Pisgah Forests Land and Resource Management Plan, Amendment 5, March, 1994, Appendix I, page I-3, General Management Requirements and Mitigation Measures – Site-Specific Analysis, Item 2:
(Delete the following)

..."When adequate inventory information in unavailable, it must be collected when the site has high potential for occupancy by a threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species."

NFMA Significance:
This amendment is not a significant change in the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The determination that this is a non-significant amendment is made in accordance with the regulations in 16 USC 1604(f)(4), 36 CFR 219.10(f), and the Forest Service Manual 1922.5, Land and Resource Management Planning, Amendments. This plan amendment meets the criteria for a non-significant amendment because these changes will not "significantly alter the long-term relationship between levels of multiple-use goals and objectives originally projected... [or] have an important effect on the entire forest plan or affect resources throughout a large portion of the planning area during the planning period. (FSM 1922.52.)