

## **Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan**

### **Amendment #20**

This is a nonsignificant amendment to the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to assign a Management Area designation to two parcels of land totaling 230.78 acres.

These parcels were acquired by exchange since the Forest Plan was approved in March 1994. The parcels currently have no Management Area designation. The two parcels are located on the Tusquitee Ranger District in Clay County, North Carolina, in Forest Service Compartments 113 and 114. The purpose of this amendment is to designate the land to management areas 4D and 5, the management areas of the adjacent lands.

140.28 acres of land located in Compartment 113 was acquired in December, 2003 in the Stumac Corporation land exchange (U.S.A. **Tract N-958**, Clay County deed book 187 pg. 165). Tract N-958 is currently bordered on three sides by National Forest System lands, those lands east of the tract designated as MA5 and those lands north and south of the tract designated as MA4D. Private lands are west of the tract. This tract will be designated to correspond with its surrounding Management Areas (107 acres in MA4D and 33.28 acres in MA5).

90.5 acres of land located in Compartment 114 was acquired in July, 1994 in the Stumac (San Jon Partnership) land exchange (U.S.A. **Tract N-766** in the Clay County deed book 66 pg. 144). Tract N-766 is bordered on three sides by National Forest System lands, with lands that are north, east and south of the tract designated at MA4D. This tract will be designated to correspond with its surrounding Management Area (90.5 acres in MA4D).

Management Area 4D emphasizes high quality habitats for wildlife requiring older forests and freedom from disturbance from motorized vehicles. It allows for small widely dispersed openings throughout the management area. Most roads are closed to private motorized vehicles. Early successional habitat is provided in conjunction with managing suitable timber land in these areas.

Management Area 5 emphasizes providing large blocks of backcountry where there is little evidence of other humans or human activities other than recreation use. An unroaded forest environment and natural appearing forests with large old trees are desirable. The management area also responds to the need for large blocks of wildlife habitat relatively undisturbed by human developments that some species prefer.

The proposed amendment is covered by the forest-wide general direction for Land Adjustment and Rights-of-Way (Page III-45):

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

The proposed change is:

Management Area 4D:

The change is to amend the acres allocated to management area 4D (III-55). The allocation will be increased by 197.5 acres.

Management Area 5:

The change is to amend the acres allocated to management area 5 (III-56). The allocation will be increased by 33.28 acres.