

**Kisatchie National Forest  
Revised Land and Resource Management Plan  
(Forest Plan)**

**Amendment # 1  
September 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 Kisatchie National Forest to make the process of conducting BEs more efficient and consistent throughout the Southern Region of the Forest Service and to remove specific current language from a Forest wide standard.

Change in wording – Final EIS, Vegetation Management in the Coastal Plain/Piedmont:  
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 Coastal Plain/Piedmont. 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 Coastal Plain/Piedmont will provide direction concerning requirements for conducting project level inventories for those activities covered under the VMEIS. The differences between the exhibits are shown in bold print. Determination of when project level inventory information should be gathered would be made based on the direction contained in the Regional supplement to Forest Service Manual 2672.

**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 to the Forest Plan/Forestwide Standards and Guidelines:**

In addition, the following portion is removed from FW-009 of the Forestwide Standards and Guidelines, Chapter 2 of the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) for the Kisatchie National Forest.

...Appropriate project-level inventory/surveys for a PETS species are the following:

- ☐ Gathering and summarizing population occurrence data from the Forest Service and other sources such as the State Natural Heritage Program.
- ☐ Collecting information on the amount and distribution of suitable habitat.
- ☐ For some PETS species expected to occur in the vicinity of the project, additional field surveys done in suitable habitat potentially affected by the proposed project is desirable to document the presence or absence of these species. These field surveys would be most appropriate if past field surveys are not available for such areas and if they would provide more definitive information to improve the determination of effects for PETS species. However, there are some PETS species and situations where the information to determine potential effects to PETS species may not require population surveys. These situations occur when: (1) there is a low likelihood of detecting a species, the field survey would probably not provide definitive information for excluding a species from further consideration, (2) established Plan direction or mitigation, that effectively protect PETS species expected to occur in suitable habitat in the project vicinity, are already in place and are part of the proposed action, or (3) a PETS species habitat requirements are well known and there is sufficient evidence that the proposed activities will have short- or long-term beneficial effects or no effects to PETS species, or to the range-wide viability of sensitive species expected to occur in the area. For all three previous situations, the PETS species in question would be assumed to occur in the area and effects to it would be addressed in the effects analysis.

Use the appropriate information discussed above to analyze, disclose, and document effects on PETS species.

**NFMA Significance:**

This amendment is not a significant change in the Kisatchie Revised Forest 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.)