

# OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST

## Administrative Change to the 2005 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan Scenery Protection

August 2018

The USDA Forest Service needs to replace outdated direction from 2005 in the Forest Plan with the most current direction for managing the scenic resources on the Ouachita National Forest. Administrative changes (36 CFR § 219.13(c)) include corrections of clerical errors to any part of the plan, conformance of the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements, or changes to other content in the plan. This Administrative Change to the 2005 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Ouachita National Forest is needed to conform the Forest Plan with the most current guidance for preserving scenic integrity, namely the *Scenery Treatment Guide – Southern Regional National Forests* (April 2008). The standard requiring protection of scenery is not changing, just the method in which that protection is reviewed and accomplished.

### Administrative Change

This administrative change substitutes references to the "Forest landscape architect" with "*Scenery Treatment Guide – Southern Regional National Forests* (April 2008) or best available science" in the following sections:

#### **Part 1 – Vision; Desired Condition; Public Use and Enjoyment; Landscape Management (p.23)**

*Monitoring and Evaluation:* During implementation monitoring reviews, determine if the project under review adequately considered SIOs. Report annually the number and type of management projects conducted in areas having a high SIO. Report whether **the Scenery Treatment Guide was followed or best available science was used** in each case where project implementation was likely to affect scenic integrity, and if applicable, to what degree SIOs were maintained/achieved.


#### **Part 3 – Design Criteria; Forest-Wide Design Criteria; Vegetation Management; General (p.79)**

VM003 Whenever proposed projects may affect a recreation trail, **use the Scenery Treatment Guide or best available science** to determine how best to minimize impacts on the trail, minimize future vegetation encroachment on the trail and meet the assigned Scenic Integrity Objective. Retain sufficient overstory vegetation above and immediately adjacent to the trail to reduce encroachment of blackberry vines and other vegetation that impede non-motorized travel.

#### **Part 3 – Design Criteria; Management Area Design Criteria; Management Area 9. Water and Riparian Communities; Table 3.10 Management Activities Permitted or Prohibited within Streamside Management Areas (SMAs) (p.104)**

Felling of individual trees and brush removal to enhance visual quality within administrative sites, developed recreation areas and recreational lakes – subject to **the Scenery Treatment Guide or best available science**.

This Administrative Change is effective upon signature and being posted online. It will remain in effect until the 2005 Revised Forest Plan is revised or until public notice is given that the change is modified or replaced. Administrative changes are not subject to the objection process (36 CFR 219.50).

  
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Norman L. Wagoner, Forest Supervisor  
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