

National Forests in Alabama
Revised Land and Resource Management Plan
Administrative Change
Conecuh National Forest Oil and Gas Leases
February 2026

The 2012 Planning Rule, codified at 36 CFR 219 guides forest planning requirements for developing, amending, and revising land management plans for units of the National Forest System (NFS). The 2012 Planning Rule allows for corrections or adjustments to a forest plan using a process called “Administrative Changes.” Administrative Changes are defined at 36 CFR 219.13(c) as “any change to a plan that is not a plan amendment or revision. Administrative changes include corrections of clerical errors to any part of the plan, conformance of the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements, or other content in the plan (219.7(f)).”

Administrative Change

This administrative change is specific to the Conecuh National Forest oil and gas leases and is included in the February 2026 [Conecuh Oil and Gas Leasing Availability Analysis](#) Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact.

The Forest Service will make several minor administrative changes to clarify the 2004 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Standards for future oil and gas leases on the Conecuh National Forest. These changes have no effect on current leases (leases prior to February 2026).

These clarifications are within the scope of the original LRMP standards but provide additional direction to conform with LRMP intent and the Conecuh National Forest decision for oil and gas leasing availability. The proposed changes are below, with added clarification in italics.

Change LRMP Standard 7.D-06 (page 3-31 of the LRMP) regarding federal minerals in the concentrated recreation zones management prescription from “Leases will be issued with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. Mineral material authorizations with conditions to protect the area may be permitted” to “Leases will be issued with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation, *except on the Conecuh National Forest where they will be issued with a No Surface Occupancy stipulation.* Mineral material authorizations with conditions to protect the area may be permitted.” This administrative change will provide more protection for recreation on the Conecuh National Forest consistent with this oil and gas leasing availability decision.

Change the heading for LRMP standards for the National Recreation Trails to "National Recreation Trails *and the Conecuh Hiking Trail*" (page 2-57 of the LRMP). Additionally, change Standard FW-135 from "One hundred feet on both sides of these trails shall be designated as trail corridor protection zones" to "One hundred feet on both sides of these trails shall be designated as trail corridor protection zones. *Any oil and gas leases in these areas shall include an NSO stipulation for the trail corridor protection zone.*" The Conecuh Hiking Trail was not designated at the time of the 2004 LRMP revision but is an important recreational resource on the forest and is managed with a level of protection similar to National Recreation Trails. These changes will

clarify that Standards FW-135, FW-136 and FW-137 apply to the Conecuh Hiking Trail in addition to National Recreation Trails and that oil and gas leases shall have an NSO stipulation in trail corridor protection zones.

Change the LRMP Standard 11-16 (page 3-67 of the LRMP) for federal minerals in riparian corridors management prescription from “Leases will be issued with a No Surface Occupancy or a Controlled Surface Use stipulation” to “Leases will be issued with a No Surface Occupancy stipulation or a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. *Oil and gas leases on the Conecuh National Forest shall be issued with an NSO stipulation for the Riparian Corridors management prescription*” (page 3-67 of the LRMP). This administrative change will provide more protection for resources on the Conecuh National Forest.

Approval and Effective Date

This Administrative Change is effective immediately. It will be posted online at the Forest’s website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r08/alabama/planning>. Administrative changes are not subject to the objections process. This Administrative Change will remain in effect until the 2004 Revised LRMP is revised.

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