CHAPTER THREE

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION

Chapter Three is divided into four major subject areas: Physical Elements of the Environment, Biological Elements of the Environment, Use and Occupation of the Forest, and Social and Economic Elements. It contains a description of each element and predicts the effects of implementing the alternatives described in Chapter Two.

Up to this point, this *FEIS* has pivoted around the eight *revision topics* and the responses of the alternatives to these topics. Chapter Three, now focuses on the science and analyses behind the *Forest Plan.* Links back to revision topics are not always direct and easily described; but because ecosystem management implies integration of every element of the environment, that principle applies throughout the ARNF-PNG as well. All of the subjects treated in this lengthy chapter are related, however indirectly, to every revision topic. Explicit and direct links to revision topics, are described at the beginning of each section.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROGRAMMATIC AND SITE-SPECIFIC EFFECTS ANALYSIS

This *FEIS* is a "programmatic document." It discloses the environmental consequences of the rules and policies that govern the use of resources contained in the *Forest Plan* and applicable at a forest level of analysis. It does not describe or predict the environmental consequences (or their timing) for applications of the standards and guidelines at individual site-specific projects. Those finer-scale determinations of environmental consequences for site-specific projects depend on how the projects are implemented, the ways in which the standards and guidelines are applied to them individually and the actual environmental conditions at the specific sites. The Forest ID team has concentrated on explaining what kinds of things are most likely to occur and why. By obtaining information about existing environmental conditions at individual locations of the Forest, readers can apply the information presented here to derive reasonable predictions of consequences for those individual locations. Although it would be impossible to describe every process or condition among the thousands of environmental processes at work in any given environment at any one time, the Forest ID team has used its best professional judgement in enumerating the environmental and social factors that must be considered for a sound analysis of environmental consequences.