



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Southern Region

Summary Final Environmental Impact Statement and Revised Land and Resource Management Plan

Sumter National Forest





**Summary of the
*Revised Land and Resource
Management Plan***

***Final Environmental
Impact Statement***

**Sumter National Forest
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Forest Supervisor**

**Abbeville, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood,
Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Saluda,
and Union Counties**

January 2004

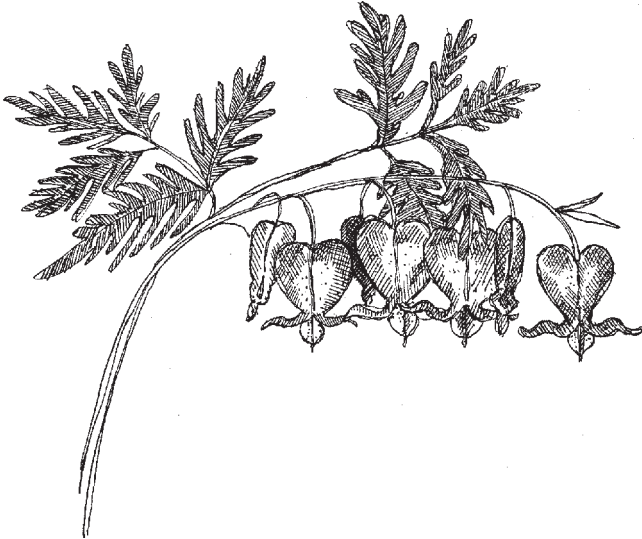
The picnic shelter on the cover was originally named the Charles Suber Recreational Unit and was planned in 1936. The lake and picnic area including a shelter were built in 1938-1939. The original shelter was found inadequate and a modified model B-3500 shelter was constructed probably by the CCC from camp F-6 in 1941. The name of the recreation area was changed in 1956 to Molly's Rock Picnic Area, which was the local unofficial name. The name originates from a sheltered place between and under two huge boulders once inhabited by an African-American woman named Molly.

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The Forest Plan

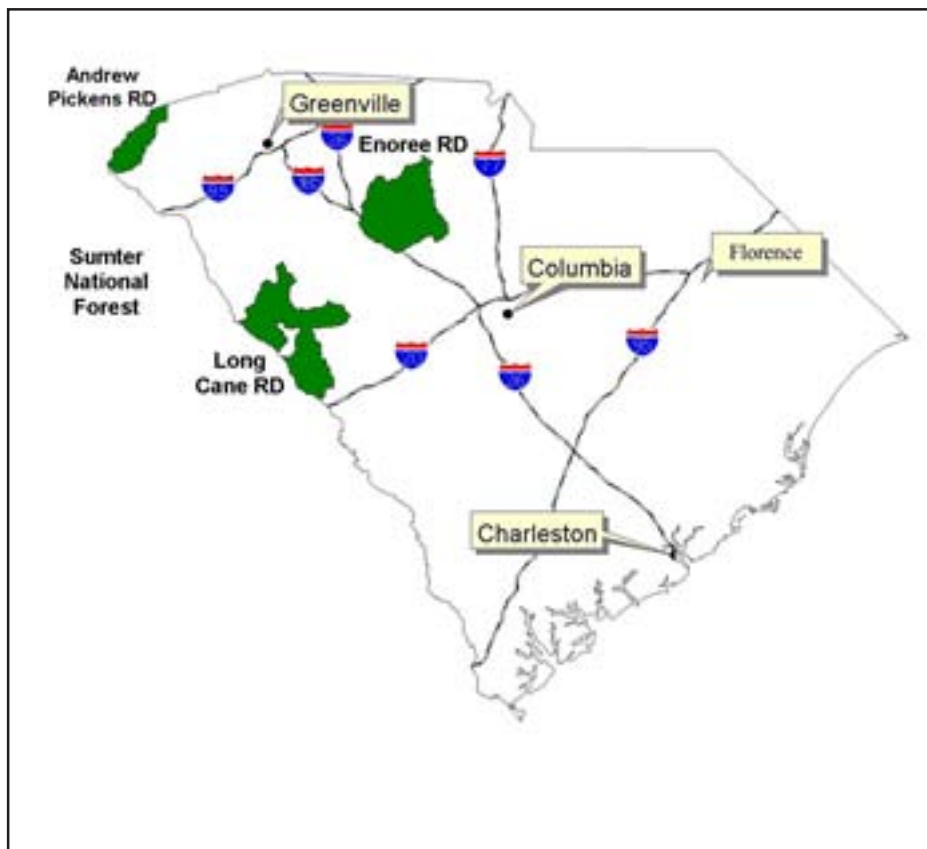
Welcome to the Sumter National Forest which includes approximately 362,000 acres of National Forest System land in the mountains and piedmont of South Carolina. The Forest is divided into three ranger districts located in 11 counties. The Andrew Pickens district is located in western Oconee County. The Enoree District is located east of Interstate 26 in Chester, Fairfield, Laurens, Newberry and Union Counties. The Lone Cane District lies east of J. Strom Thurmond Lake in Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, McCormick and Saluda Counties.

What Is A Forest Plan?

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires all forests to develop plans that direct resource management activities. These plans must be revised when conditions have changed significantly, or on a 10-15 year cycle. The current Land and Resource Management Plan (1985 Forest Plan) was approved in 1985.

Forest Plans make broad-scale decisions, similar to city zoning allocations. They do not undertake site-specific projects; rather they

establish overall goals and objectives that the forest will strive to meet. The goals that are emphasized in the Sumter Forest Plan are to (1) ensure watershed health, (2) support viable populations of all native species, (3) restore the health of Forest communities, (4) restore rare communities, (5) maintain the roadless character of inventoried roadless areas, (6) protect and enhance scenery, (7) protect the outstandingly remarkable values of existing and eligible rivers for designation of wild and scenic rivers (8) provide backcountry recreation experiences, and (9) provide high quality sawtimber.



National Forest management is complex. The forests belong to all Americans and all have a stake in their management. Choosing the best course of action involves trade-offs. As stewards of these important lands, we have a

responsibility to be responsive to the diverse interests that make up the American public. We must also strive for the best management possible for the Sumter.

The Sumter National Forest *Revised Land and Resource Management Plan* (Forest Plan) was completed in conjunction with four other Southern Appalachian Forests. These other national forests are the National Forests in Alabama, the Chattahoochee–Oconee in Georgia, the Jefferson in Virginia, and the Cherokee in Tennessee.

This Forest Plan

The Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) will guide the management of the Sumter National Forest for the next 10 to 15 years. The Forest Plan does the following.

- Establishes the management direction and associated long-range goals and objectives for the Sumter National Forest.
- Establishes management areas, which reflect biological, physical, watershed, and social differences in managing each area of land.
- Establishes management prescriptions, which reflect desired conditions and provide the specific information used to develop projects to implement the Forest Plan.
- Specifies the standards, which set the boundaries for achieving the goals, objectives, and desired conditions.
- Identifies lands suitable for various timber production and establishes a maximum harvest level (or allowable sale quantity).

- Recommends to Congress new wilderness study areas and additions to existing wilderness areas.
- Establishes the monitoring and evaluation requirements needed to ensure the direction is carried out.

The Forest Plan represents the selected alternative (as discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision) for managing the land and resources of the Sumter National Forest. It divides the Forest into “Management Areas” based primarily on using watersheds for boundaries and “Management Prescriptions.”

This Forest Plan is different from the previous 1985 Forest Plan in several important ways.

- The forest is zoned differently. The 1985 Forest Plan has 17 management areas. The revised Forest Plan has 24 management prescriptions and 4 management areas. These new prescriptions include things such as rare communities, scenic corridors, restoring forest communities and areas designed to provide habitat for different groups of species that have similar needs.
- The revised Forest Plan defines goals and objectives for restoring natural communities such as woodland, savanna, and open grassland and their habitats; maintaining many fire-dependent habitats including dry-mesic oak forest, dry and xeric oak forest, shortleaf pine/pitch pine/pine-oak forest and loblolly pine-oak; shortleaf pine, shortleaf pine/oak communities will be restored; rare communities such as table mountain pine and canebrakes are restored. The 1985 Forest Plan does not have these goals and objectives.
- The acreage within the Riparian Corridor has increased from approximately 13,400

acres to 63,000 acres. In the 1985 Forest Plan riparian management is controlled through best management practices (BMP) being applied within streamside management zones to protect and maintain water quality. The revised Forest Plan establishes a fixed width that borders perennial and intermittent streams. This width varies by slope but is at least 100 feet for perennial streams and 50 feet for intermittent streams on each side of a stream, which is generally wider than streamside management zones. The Forest Plan establishes broader measures encompassing the values of the riparian ecosystem. BMP are still a critical component within these areas.

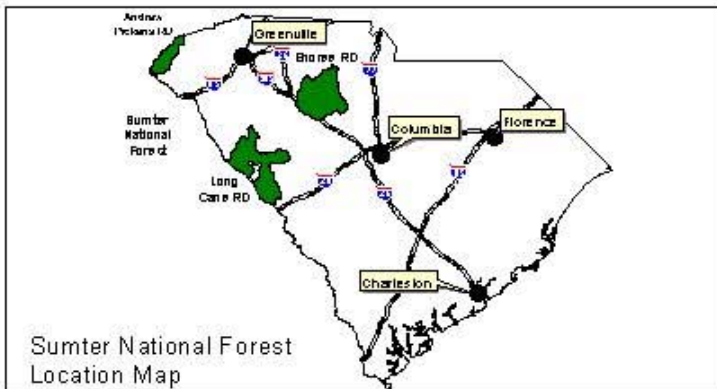
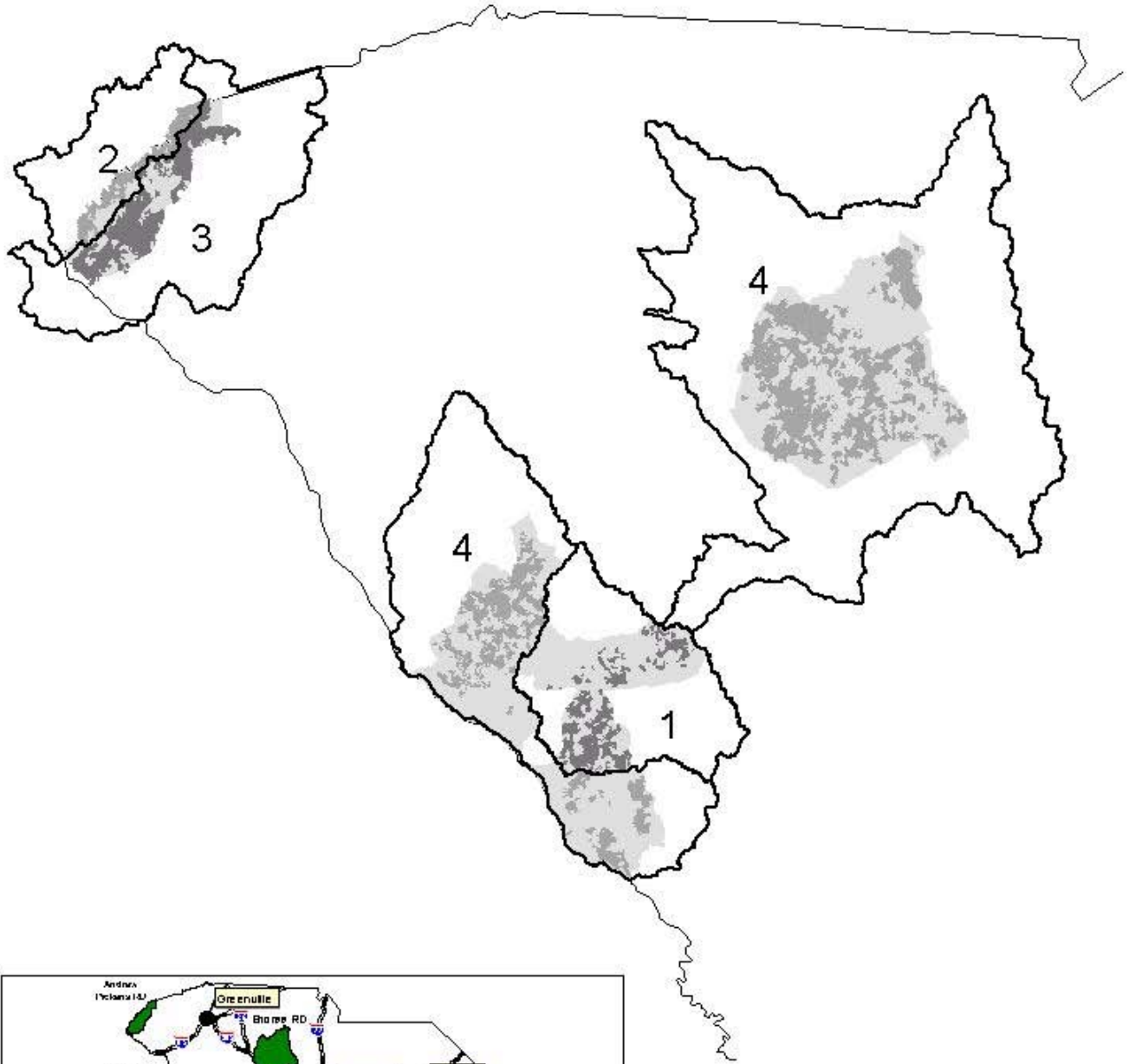
- Future old growth will increase from 17,520 acres to 95,766 acres. This is due to more acres being allocated to prescriptions, such as riparian, that are unsuitable for regulated timber harvest. These prescriptions would be managed in such a way as to encourage future old growth. The revised Forest Plan has more acreage in these types of prescriptions than Current Management and thus future old growth is expected to increase. The 1985 Forest Plan has an allowable cut of 100 million board feet. In the revised Forest Plan the allowable cut is 76.3 Million Board Feet. (A 3-bedroom house takes about 15 thousand board feet of wood to build.)
- The decrease in allowable board feet to cut is the result of the suitable land base for regulated timber harvest declining from 338,258 acres in the 1985 Forest Plan to 259,313 acres. This decrease is due to greater emphasis on special areas, rare communities, threatened and endangered species habitat, riparian areas, and older forest communities for wildlife habitat.

- The revised Forest Plan will maintain the roadless character on all inventoried roadless areas. The 1985 Forest Plan will not maintain the roadless character for the Bee Cove roadless area.



Bee Cove on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District.

Management Areas
For the
Sumter National Forest
Alternative I



Sumter National Forest
Location Map

November 11, 2002

Management Areas

Management areas are large, geographically contiguous areas. These areas reflect biological, physical, watershed, and social differences. These areas are generally based on the boundaries of watersheds. The Sumter National Forest is separated into 4 management areas as shown on the previous page.

Two types of management areas are assigned on all acres of the Sumter: those with unique management direction and those without unique direction.

Those with unique management direction will have that direction assigned to a geographic area that is not covered in Forest-wide goals, objectives, standards, management prescription desired conditions, objectives, or standards. These management areas will generally be defined based on watersheds. They are described below as Turkey Creek and Upper Stevens Creek Management Area and Chattooga River Management Area.

The second type of management area has no unique direction. All direction is already available in the Forest Plan. They are being presented here strictly as an area that provides a “sense of place” as well as presenting additional information related to objectives and management prescription allocations. These will be defined based on the remaining Forest acres outside of the Turkey Creek and Upper Stevens Creek Management Area and Chattooga River Management Area. These are described below as Blue Ridge Mountains and Foothills Management Area (Andrew Pickens District) and the Piedmont Management Area (Enoree and Long Cane Districts).

Management Area 1—Turkey Creek and Upper Stevens Creek, Long Cane Ranger District

Existing Conditions

The 41,653-acre management area includes Turkey Creek and Upper Stevens Creek watershed areas above their confluence. This area contains approximately 238.4 miles of moderate to large perennial streams, all classified as freshwater by the state. Turkey and Upper Stevens Creek watersheds are likely the most biologically significant watersheds in South Carolina for freshwater mussels, containing critical habitat for the federally endangered Carolina Heelsplitter, (*Lasmigona decorata*). Occurring along with the Carolina heelsplitter and sensitive is the brook floater (*Alasmidonta varicosa*). According to several state and federal authorities, the Stevens Creek/Turkey Creek watershed is “...one of the most biologically diverse aquatic systems in all of South Carolina and appears to be the most biologically significant tributary of the entire Savannah River Basin in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.” (Alderman, 1998) The Nature Conservancy has identified Stevens Creek watershed as one of national significance for conservation of aquatic biodiversity (Master, et al, 1998). It ranks in the top 15 percent of the entire nation’s watersheds for its significance in biodiversity.

Desired Conditions

Habitat for Carolina heelsplitter (*Lasmigona decorata*) is maintained or improved, and populations are increasing toward recovery. The movement of aquatic species is unhindered by migration barriers. Habitats for the diversity of freshwater mussels and other aquatic sensitive species are stable or increasing. The dominant land use is forestry, which is the best land cover with low frequency use pattern for the

conservation of most Atlantic slope freshwater mussels, as well as reptiles and amphibians. Mid- and late- successional forests dominate this management area; however, some scattered early successional habitat is evident. In the long-term, pines, oak, and hickory dominate most of the sites.

Management Area 2—Chattooga River

Existing Conditions

This 180,000-acre watershed includes the 122,192-acre management area comprised of public lands in National Forest management located within the Blue Ridge Mountains and upper piedmont of Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests in Georgia, Nantahala National Forest in North Carolina, and the Sumter National Forest in South Carolina share management of the watershed, with the Sumter National Forest in charge of administering the river uses associated with the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

Water quality is a special concern for suspended sediment and/or fecal coliform on some Chattooga River tributaries resulting in streams being water quality impaired or on the watch list. Impaired streams are because of excessive sedimentation, aquatic biological community or habitat impairment or poor biological community rating. Watch list streams show signs of impact and may need added protection from sedimentation and increased monitoring of point and non-point source pollutants.

Congress designated 57 miles of the Chattooga River corridor as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System on May 10, 1974. The headwaters of the river begin in North Carolina and continue downriver along the South Carolina and Georgia border. The river corridor and its immediate surroundings offer many recreational uses: boating, fishing,

swimming, floating, hiking, horseback riding, and sightseeing in remote and occasionally in roaded settings. The river provides premier trout fishing opportunities for anglers across the Southeast. Recreational boating (including kayaking, canoeing, and rafting) has been a very popular use of the river and includes both guided and self-guided users. Water quality declines on some sections, especially below the confluence with Stekoa Creek or in relation to storm events in other areas.

Desired Conditions

There are no longer any water quality impaired or watch list streams. Water quality concerns have diminished or been removed from excessive sediments, fecal coliform concentrations, and/or impacts to aquatic habitats.

Proactive measures are taken to help evaluate and prioritize pollutant sources and work with communities, agencies, neighbors, industry, developers, farmers, ranchers, and foresters on water quality issues within the watershed. Currently the means is through the various groups concerned about the Chattooga River water quality, state water and environmental agencies, Environmental Protection Agency, USFS Large Scale Chattooga Watershed Project and Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel and programs. Efforts to develop partnerships and seek internal and external sources of funding to improve water quality will be undertaken.

Fecal coliform levels do not exceed water quality standards, even during storm events. Until standards can be met, official notice to river companies and private boaters will be made that health concerns during river uses and water contact sports are much higher than normal below Stekoa Creek and for most areas during heavy storm events.

Outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing conditions are not impaired by forest management actions.

Habitat for sensitive species such as brook floater (*Alasmidonta varicosa*), a freshwater mussel and Oconee stream crayfish (*Cambarus chaugaensis*), is protected, maintained, and monitored to help prevent listing. Brook trout are restored to suitable streams within their range.

Management Area 3—Blue Ridge Mountains and Foothills, Andrew Pickens District—outside the Chattooga Watershed

Existing Conditions

The 59,975-acre management area is located in the mountains and upper piedmont of South Carolina within Oconee County.

The dominant forest types in upland areas are Virginia and shortleaf pine (*Pinus virginiana* and *P. echinata*) and chestnut and scarlet oak species (*Quercus prinus* and *Q. coccinea*). Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and white pine (*P. strobus*) often dominate moist areas as coves and streambanks with dense understories of rhododendron (*Rhododendron sp.*) and mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) (Van Lear et al., 1995).

This management area includes portions of six watersheds including Chauga River, Coneross Creek, Upper Lake Keowee Composite, Little River Composite, Tugaloo River Composite, and the Whitewater River Composite. The Chauga River has about 50 percent of its land base in National Forest System land with each of the other watersheds composed of 14 percent or less.

Management Area 4—Piedmont, Enoree and Long Cane Districts – outside of the Turkey Creek and Upper Stevens Creek Watersheds

Existing Conditions

The 236,113-acre management area is located in the piedmont of South Carolina within Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, McCormick and Saluda counties in the Long Cane Ranger District and within Chester, Fairfield, Laurens, Newberry, and Union counties in the Enoree Ranger District.

The piedmont is underlain by several complex sequences of crystalline, mixed acid, micaceous rocks and Carolina slates. Soils surfaces are generally thin with sandy clay loam surfaces. Carolina slate surfaces consist of silt loams and subsurfaces consist of silty clay loams. Annual precipitation averages about 45 inches of which 17 inches is water yield. Past agricultural uses have left portions of the area with little or no topsoil and active and inactive gullies.

Watersheds on the Enoree Ranger District with substantial portions of national forest include Duncan Creek, Indian Creek, Lower Enoree River Composite, and the Upper Broad River Composite. Duncan Creek is a backup water source for the community of Whitmire, South Carolina. Most of the watersheds within this area contain streams which are listed as impaired from excessive levels of fecal coliform, high turbidity and/or suspended solids. Specific river or stream segments have abnormal levels or declining conditions for zinc, pesticides, pH, dissolved oxygen and/or phosphorus. In some instances, mercury accumulation in certain fish species is also a concern. The water quality problems are primarily linked to past and present activities outside of National Forest control and residual air pollutants.

Watersheds on the Long Cane Ranger District with substantial portions of National Forest include Little River, Long Cane Creek and Lower Savannah River Composite areas. Small

portions of the Long Cane district has been severely eroded and lost over a foot of topsoil from past agricultural activities. Many other areas of past agricultural uses were only moderately eroded due to lower slopes, so most of these areas still contain a thin soil A horizon. Extensive efforts to recover soil and water conditions have been ongoing since the lands were acquired.

Management Prescriptions

Within each management area are management prescriptions. Management prescriptions provide specific information used to develop projects to implement the Forest Plan. The Sumter National Forest is separated into 24 management prescription areas. (See Management Area maps at the end of this section.)

1.A. Designated Wilderness Area

Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area—Andrew Pickens, 2855 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: The emphasis is to allow ecological and biological processes to progress naturally with little to no human influence or intervention, except the minimum impacts made by those who seek the wilderness as a special place offering opportunities to experience solitude and risk in as primitive surroundings as possible.

1.B. Recommended Wilderness Study Areas

Ellicott Rock Extension - Andrew Pickens, 1,982 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: Manage these areas to protect wilderness characteristics and to provide existing uses where compatible with protecting wilderness character.

The explanations are provided to help you understand the following management prescriptions.

Wild—Rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic—Rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational—Rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

2.A.1. Designated Wild River Segments

Chattooga River Section - 3,290 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: Congress designated these wild river segments and their associated corridors as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. They are managed to enhance and protect the outstandingly remarkable values and unique qualities of the river and its surroundings. The river will be preserved in a free-flowing condition for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of present and future generations.

2.A.2. Designated Scenic River Segments

Chattooga River – Andrew Pickens Ranger District, 224 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: Congress designated these scenic river segments and their associated corridors as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. They are managed to protect and perpetuate the outstandingly remarkable values that led to their designation. The river itself is preserved in a free-flowing condition for the

benefit, use, and enjoyment of present and future generations. Recreation opportunities emphasize relatively low development levels.

2.A.3. Designated Recreational River Segments, Chattooga River

Chattooga River – Andrew Pickens Ranger District, 1,030 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: Congress designated these recreational river segments and their associated corridors as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. They are managed to protect and perpetuate the outstandingly remarkable values that led to their designation. A range of recreational opportunities is provided in this prescription area. These opportunities are characteristic of, and in harmony with, the natural setting of the individual river segments.

4. D. Botanical-Zoological Area

4,399 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: These lands serve as a network of core areas for conservation of significant elements of biological diversity. These areas serve to perpetuate or increase existing individual plant or animal species that are of National, regional, or State significance as identified on threatened, endangered, or sensitive lists; and to perpetuate plant and animal communities that are unique at the scale of their ecological section or subsection unit.

4.F. Scenic Areas

10,020 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: Protect and enhance the scenic qualities and natural beauty of designated scenic areas.

4.G.1 Calhoun Experimental Forest

4,862 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: Meet the current and future research needs of the Southern Research Station. Demonstrate common forestry practices to non-industrial private forest landowners

5.A. Administrative Sites

285 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: Sites are managed to serve/support resource programs and will be maintained to protect capital investment. Includes areas such as work centers, lookout towers, offices.

5.B. Designated Communication Sites

4 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: These specific sites serve a public benefit and includes ridge top radio towers and support facilities to provide local government agencies and the nation's communication and electronic network. Areas are managed to minimize adverse impacts on other areas.

5.C. Designated Utility Corridors

2,948 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: These uses serve a public benefit and include long linear features like high voltage electric transmission lines and buried pipelines for public drinking water or natural gas. These designated corridors serve uses that require at least 50 feet of right-of-way. Local distribution lines are not included in this prescription area, but rather are part of the prescription area in which they are physically located.

6.C. Old-Growth Areas Managed With A Mix Of Natural Processes And Restoration Activities

1,640 acres (approximately)

Emphasis:

This prescription is part of an overall network of large (2,500+ acres), medium (100 to 2,499 acres), and small (<100 acres) old growth patches associated with a disturbance regime. Management of these areas emphasizes protecting, restoring, and managing old growth forests and their associated wildlife, botanical, recreational, scientific, educational, cultural, and spiritual values. Within this prescription, most of the area will contain forest communities where no forest management activities or intervention will take place. On a smaller portion of the area, forest management activities are allowed in order to restore or maintain old-growth conditions.

7.A. Scenic Byway Corridor

Oscar Wiggington Scenic Byway—Andrew Pickens, 3,044 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: A scenic byway corridor is managed to provide visitors with views of outstanding scenery of natural and cultural landscapes along a well-maintained road. The area may also contain recreational and interpretive trails. The byway corridor is defined by the area that is visible during the winter after leaves have fallen for up to ½ mile from either side of the road, unless other criteria are established in the specific scenic byway corridor management plan. Management is focused on protecting and showcasing the unique and scenic natural and cultural resources, the basis for the corridor's being designated a scenic byway.

7.D. Concentrated Recreation Zone

605 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: Concentrated recreation zones are managed to provide the public with a variety of recreational opportunities in visually appealing and environmentally healthy settings. Developed recreation areas, concentrated use areas, and areas of high density dispersed recreation activity are the components of concentrated recreation zones. Facilities are provided to enhance the quality of the recreational experience and/or to mitigate damage to the affected ecosystems. These areas also serve as “gateways” to the wide diversity of recreational opportunities on the remainder of the forest.

7.E.1. Dispersed Recreation Areas (Piedmont Only)

12,575 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: Dispersed recreational demand is managed to provide the public with a variety of recreational opportunities in a setting that provides quality scenery, numerous trails and limited facilities.

7.E.2. Dispersed Recreation Areas With Vegetation Management

61,938 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: These areas receive moderate to high recreational use and are managed to provide a variety of dispersed recreational opportunities, improve the settings for outdoor recreation, and enhance visitor experiences, in a manner that protects and restores the health, diversity, and productivity of the land. These areas provide a sustained yield of timber products; however, timber harvest methods will be compatible with the recreational and aesthetic values of these suitable lands.

8.A.1. Mix Of Successional Forest Habitats

41,544 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: This area provides habitat for plants and animals associated with mid- to late-successional forest habitats. Management activities are designed to: (1) maintain a minimum of 50 percent of the forested acres in mid- to late-successional habitat, (2) maintain or enhance hard and soft mast production, (3) increase vegetative diversity (structural and spatial), and (4) limit motorized access across the prescription area.

8.B.2. Woodland And Grassland/Savanna Habitats

8,320 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: This area provides optimal to suitable habitat for a variety of upland game species and plant and animal populations associated with early successional habitats in open, park-like woodlands and savannas with herbaceous ground cover. Management activities are designed to: (1) sustain a distribution of early successional habitat conditions interspersed throughout a forested landscape, (2) restore areas of native warm season grasses and maintain open, forb and grass-dominated groundcover, (3) optimize hard and soft mast production, and (4) control access to protect habitat when necessary.

9.A.3. Watershed Restoration Areas

11,360 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: Management emphasizes improving conditions where past land uses have degraded water quality or soil productivity. The long-term goal of these watersheds is to showcase restored and resilient watersheds where proper multiple use management practices are applied. When this goal is achieved, these watersheds are allocated to a different management prescription.

9.F. Rare Communities

916 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: Rare communities are assemblages of plants and animals that occupy a small portion of the landscape, but contribute significantly to plant and animal diversity. They generally are limited in number of occurrences, are small in size, and have relatively discrete boundaries. Rare communities, wherever they occur, will be managed under this prescription to ensure their contribution to meeting goals for community diversity, endangered and threatened species recovery, and species viability. All known rare community sites are allocated to this prescription. As new rare community sites are found, they will be added to this prescription without plan amendment, unless such additions would result in large shifts in land allocation or expected benefits and outputs.

9.G.2 Restoration Of Upland Oak-Hickory And Mixed Pine-Oak-Hickory Forests

43,080 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: Restore and maintain upland oak-hickory and mixed oak-hickory-pine forest.

10.B. High Quality Forest Products (Piedmont Only)

139,528 acres (approximately)

Emphasis: This prescription is applied to lands capable of producing high quality valuable sawtimber. Timber stand improvement and regeneration harvest methods are applied that best provide for the growth and harvest of high quality, valuable sawtimber that is most in demand in the marketplace. Opportunities are also provided for other high value forest products.

11. Riparian Corridors

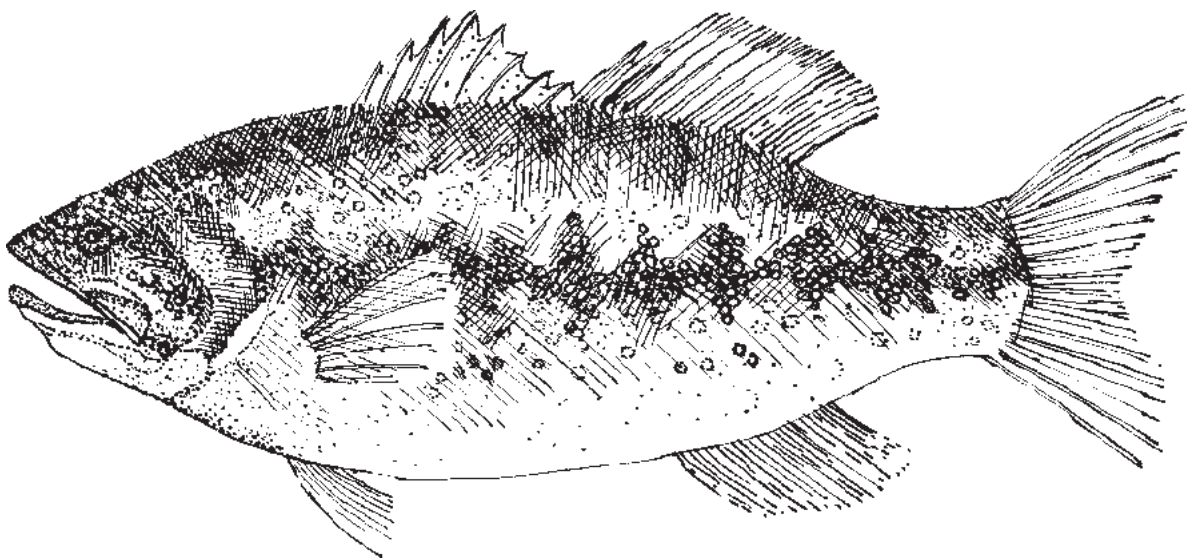
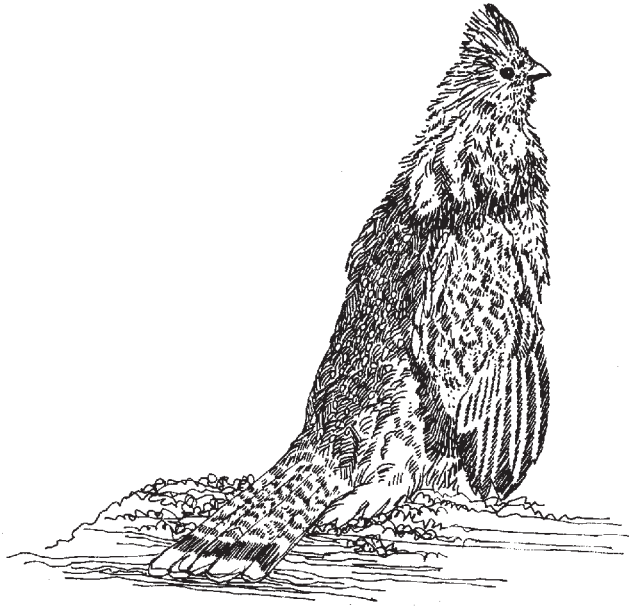
(62,524 acres embedded in adjoining prescriptions)

Emphasis: Riparian corridors will be managed to retain, restore and/or enhance the inherent ecological processes and functions of the associated aquatic, riparian, and upland components within the corridor.

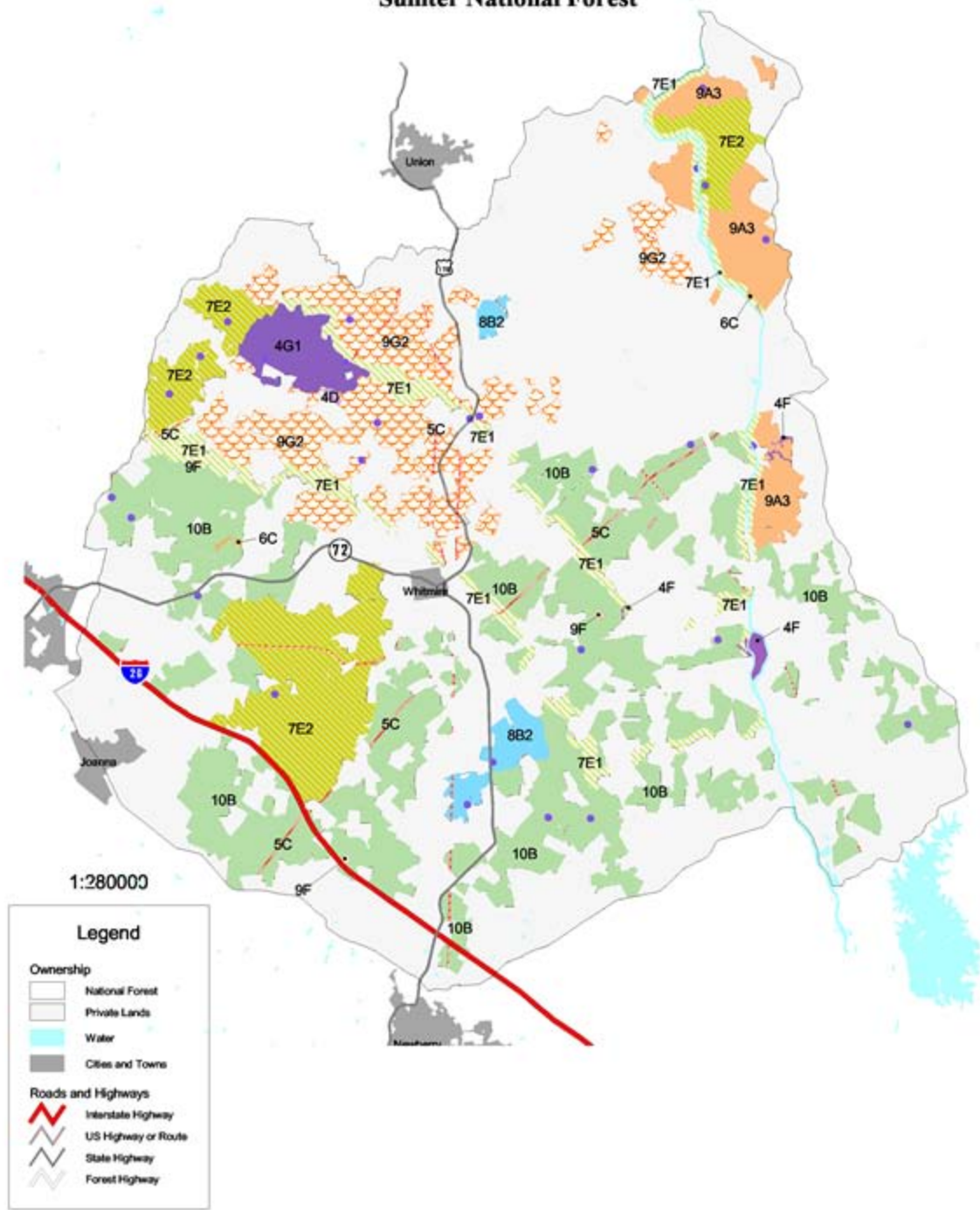
12.A. Remote Backcountry Recreation—Few Open Roads

Andrew Pickens Ranger District, 4,929 acres (approximately)

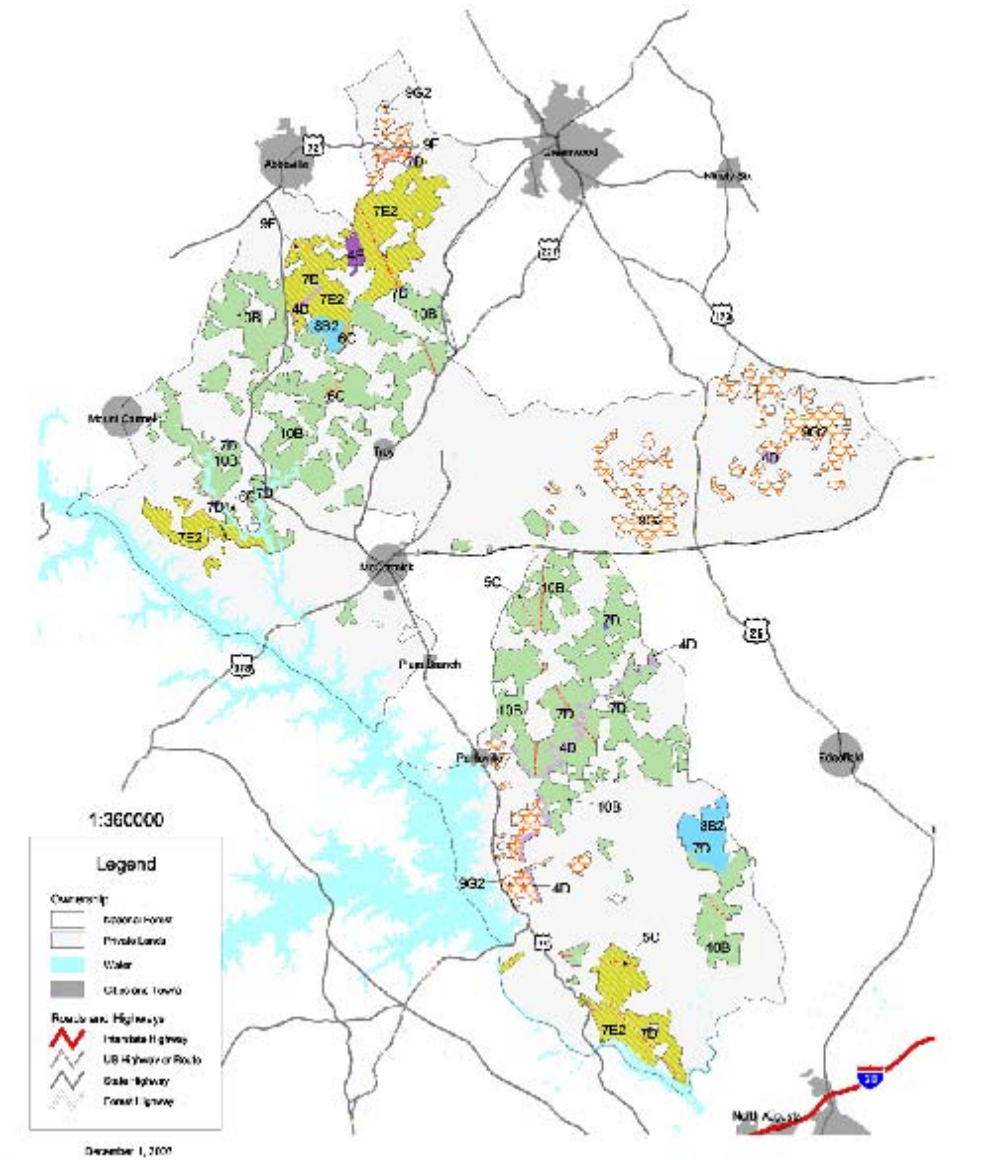
Emphasis: These lands are managed to provide users with a degree of solitude and a semi-primitive experience in large remote areas that still allow the use of limited public motorized access on existing, open motorized roads. Areas will be 2,500 acres or greater in size unless adjacent to a prescription that also provides a semi-primitive experience (1.A., 1.B., 4.A., 6.A., 12.B., 12.C., etc.).



**Management Prescription
For the
Enoree Ranger District
Sumter National Forest**



Management Prescription for the Long Cane Ranger District Sumter National Forest



How Will This Forest Plan Be Monitored?

Over the next 10 to 15 years, we need to know if this Forest Plan is working as intended. Do the decisions made in the Forest Plan need to be changed in response to changing conditions? The monitoring and evaluation strategy is the Forest Plan's quality control mechanism to respond to this question. Information is collected and evaluated to ensure that management remains sufficient to sustain a diverse, healthy and productive forest while serving the public.

The first step is collecting information. Data about projects, activities, practices, and effects from implementing the plan direction; ongoing research projects; legal policy; and social or resource changes are collected. Evaluating this information through the annual monitoring report provides useful and valid indicators to the public and Forest Service decision makers. The Forest Plan will be adjusted as needed.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy helps the Forest Service keep the commitments made in the Forest Plan. A few of these commitments include assessing whether or not;

- Projects are implemented in compliance with project design, Forest Plan direction, and the NEPA project decision document;
- Forest, Management Area, and Management Prescription standards are followed;
- Plan standards are effective;
- Planning goals and objectives are met;
- Emerging public issues are being addressed;
- Plan implementation is moving towards the desired condition;

- Assumptions, relationships and decisions are valid in light of new information or changing conditions;



What is an Environmental Impact Statement?

Documentation of this Forest Plan's environmental impacts is contained in its accompanying *Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)*. The FEIS is required by the National Environmental Policy Act to disclose the potential effects of alternatives on significant resource-related issues associated with administering the Sumter National Forest Plan.

The steps of an FEIS include defining issues, developing alternatives to address these issues, and estimating and comparing the environmental effects by alternative.

Issues

The following issues and planning questions were used to develop alternatives for the forest plan revision process. The first twelve issues are common to the five national forests in the Southern Appalachian area that are working together through the revision process. The last two issues are local and developed for the Sumter National Forest.

1. Terrestrial Plants and Animals and Their Associated Habitats—How should national forest retain or restore a diverse mix of terrestrial plant and animal habitat conditions, while meeting public demands for a variety of wildlife values and uses?

2. T&E and Sensitive/Locally Rare Species What levels of management are needed to protect and recover the populations of federally listed Threatened, Endangered and Proposed species? What level of management is needed for Forest Service sensitive and locally rare species?

3. Old Growth The issue surrounding old growth has several facets including: How much old growth is desired? Where should old growth occur? How should old growth be managed?

4. Riparian Area Management, Water Quality and Aquatic Habitats What are the desired riparian ecosystem conditions within national forests, and how will they be delineated, maintained and/or restored? What management direction is needed to help ensure that the hydrologic conditions are attained that are needed for the beneficial uses of water yielded by and flowing through National Forest System lands? What management is needed for the maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of aquatic habitats?

5. Wood Products The issue surrounding the sustained yield production of wood products from national forests has several facets, including (1) What are the appropriate objectives for wood product management; (2) Where should removal of wood products occur, given that this production is part of a set of multiple use objectives, and considering cost effectiveness; (3) What should be the level of outputs of wood products; and (4) What management activities associated with the production of wood products are appropriate?

6. Aesthetics/Scenery Management What scenic integrity should the national forests have in the future, and what scenic opportunities should they provide?

7. Recreation Opportunities/Experiences How should the increasing demand for recreational opportunities and experiences be addressed on the national forests while protecting forest resources? This includes considering a full range of opportunities for

developed and dispersed recreation activities (including such things as nature study, hunting and fishing activities, and trail uses).

8. Roadless Areas/Wilderness Management

What National Forest System lands should be recommended for wilderness designation? How should any roadless areas not recommended for wilderness be managed? How should areas recommended for wilderness designation be managed? How should the patterns and intensity of use, fire, and insects and disease be managed in the existing wilderness areas?

9. Forest Health What conditions are needed to maintain forest capacity to persist and perform as expected or desired? Of particular concern are the impacts of exotic or non-native species; and the presence of ecological conditions with a higher level of insect and disease susceptibility.

10 Special Areas and Rare Communities

What special areas should be designated, and how should they be managed? How should rare communities, such as those identified in the Southern Appalachian Assessment, be managed?

11. Wild and Scenic Rivers Which rivers are suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System and how should rivers that are eligible, but not suitable, be managed?

12. Access/Road Management How do we balance the rights of citizens to access their national forests with our responsibilities to protect and manage the soil and water resources, wildlife populations and habitat, aesthetics, forest health, and desired vegetative conditions?

13. Chattooga River Watershed How can the national forests manage the Chattooga River watershed for desired social and ecological benefits while protecting the outstanding values of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River corridor? Should the River be open or closed to public boating above Highway 28?

14. Minerals What type of restrictions should we place on mineral development?

Alternatives

Seven alternatives were developed in detail in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement*. A brief description of each alternative follows.

Alternative A would emphasize production of goods and services beneficial to local economies and communities. Timber management would provide sustained yield of wood products with emphasis on the high-quality sawtimber. This alternative would also emphasize habitat for wildlife including game and other species. Public access would increase in high-use areas and/or improved to provide for more recreation opportunities. Boating on the Chattooga River would be allowed between Burrell's Ford Bridge and Highway 28.

Alternative B would emphasize restoring resources and natural processes and creating and maintaining wildlife habitats. When possible, natural processes would be mimicked in a natural landscape pattern. Wood products would be managed only in concert with restoring and creating wildlife habitats. The long-term goal would be to provide old-growth conditions by old-growth community types within the ecological province or section similar to that existing before pioneer settlement and land uses. Access would be reduced as needed to restore and protect aquatic systems, soils, and plant/animal communities. Boating would not be allowed on the Chattooga River above Highway 28.

Alternative C was not developed in detail. Alternative C—commonly known as the zero timber cut alternative—did not need to be further evaluated in detail in the FEIS. The reasons are: 1) Alternative C is very similar to the “Minimum Level Benchmark” which is analyzed and discussed in Appendix B; 2) From ongoing analyses it was determined that this alternative, as originally envisioned, could not meet all the

legal requirements of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA), the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (MUSYA) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA); and 3) Alternative C only addresses some, but not all, of the forest planning issues that have been identified by the public.

Also, with respect to the agency's "Healthy Forests Initiative," a management emphasis of the agency is to change the situation where forests, overloaded with fuels, are vulnerable to severe wild land fires. Additionally, minimizing "human intervention" would increase susceptibility of the forest to insect and disease outbreaks, which would create increased fuel-loading problems, and increase the risks to other resources and to adjacent private lands. Alternative C would not address these problems and areas of concern.

Alternative D would emphasize reaching and maintaining a balanced age class. This "balance of age classes" would occur on lands identified as suitable for timber harvest. Large- and medium-sized blocks of old growth would be provided only on unsuitable land. Potential for roaded natural experiences would increase as access roads for timber harvest are built or improved. Only those roadless areas that are already withdrawn from timber production would be recommended as wilderness. Access would be developed, maintained, and used as needed to meet the goal of balanced age classes, wildlife habitats, and production of timber products. Boating would not be allowed on the Chattooga River above Highway 28.

Alternative E—dispersed and developed recreational areas and opportunities would be increased in this alternative. This alternative would provide a natural setting and concentrated recreational facilities that could attract a variety of recreation users including off-highway vehicle users. Active resource management would be concentrated in certain locations and would support recreational use and visual quality. Large blocks of the forest would be maintained in a roadless condition to provide remote, backcountry recreation. Most roadless areas

would be recommended for wilderness study. Boating would be allowed on the Chattooga River above Highway 28 and below NC-1107 (Grimshawes Bridge).

Alternative F is the "No Action Alternative" (Current Management). This is the management under the existing 1985 Forest Plan, as amended. Management activities are designed to improve the age class distribution in all forest types to address the "aging forest" condition and to provide a balanced market and non-market resource program. This alternative increases opportunities for developed and dispersed recreational experiences as demand dictates. Production of wood products and a variety of wildlife habitats would be emphasized. Boating would not be allowed on the Chattooga River above Highway 28.

Alternative G would emphasize wilderness. Semi-primitive, wildlife, and nature-oriented recreational opportunities would be emphasized. This alternative would link together—through land allocations—wildlife-movement corridors and large undisturbed areas, threatened and endangered species, species reintroduction, and watershed restoration. Backcountry, wildlife species using late-successional habitat, and nature-oriented non-motorized recreation opportunities would be emphasized. Most roadless areas would be recommended for wilderness study. Effects of native insects and diseases would be accepted. Road network mileage would be reduced through closure and obliteration of roads not needed for ecosystem stewardship or restoration. Boating would not be allowed on the Chattooga River above Highway 28.

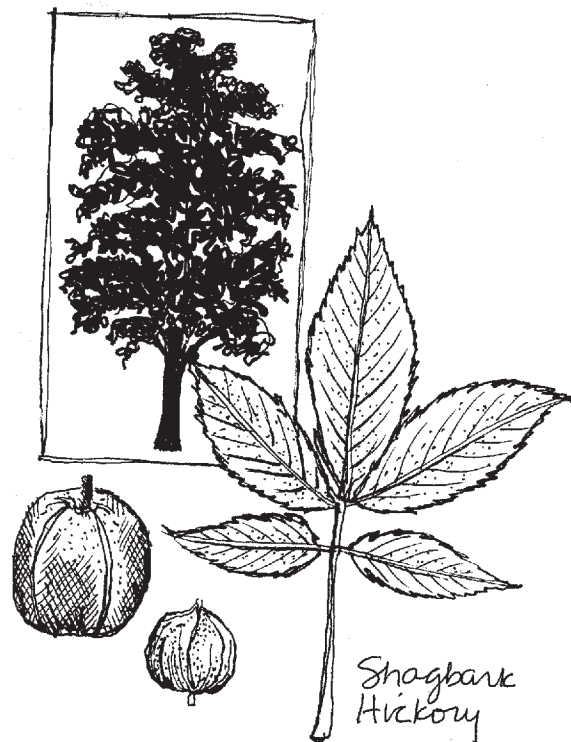
Alternative H was not developed in detail. When the management prescriptions applicable to this alternative were allocated, there was virtually no difference between this alternative and Alternative G. The allocations were essentially the same, and therefore, the environmental effects would be essentially the same. The only significant difference between Alternatives G and H was that in G, most of those acres being managed through silvicultural

harvesting methods were classified as acres “suitable for timber production,” while in H, those same acres and same management activities would be classified as “unsuited for timber production.” The timber harvesting levels planned in Alternative H are close to the levels of harvesting planned for in Alternative G. Since the main difference is primarily an administrative classification change, and there would be no differences in the overall outputs and environmental effects, this alternative did not need to be considered further in detail in this FEIS.

Alternative I, the selected alternative, emphasizes managing forest ecosystems by restoration and maintenance. This alternative ensures healthy watersheds; provides sustainable and diverse ecosystems that support viable plant, wildlife, and fish populations; and provide high quality, nature-based recreational opportunities, especially in non-motorized settings with high quality landscapes. Habitat conditions that are suitable for maintaining viable populations of all vertebrate species native to the planning area will be emphasized. Early successional habitats would be created and maintained by a variety of events, conditions, treatments, and activities.

All rivers eligible for consideration as wild and scenic rivers would be managed to protect their “outstandingly remarkable values.” The Chattooga River watershed will be managed to emphasize recreation in association with the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor; maintenance of roadless values; dispersed recreation opportunities; and improved water quality. Boating would not be allowed on the Chattooga River above Highway 28.

The following table shows some of the significant differences of the alternatives.



Issue	Alternative						
	A	B	D	E	F	G	I (selected)
1. Plants and Animals	8.4 % in early, 64% in mid to late succession	6.4 % in early, 70% in mid to late succession	8.8 % in early, 63% in mid to late succession	7.2 % in early, 76% in mid to late succession	11.8 % in early, 54% in mid to late succession	4.5 % in early, 83% in mid to late succession	8.0 % in early, 65% in mid to late succession
2. Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plants and Animals	protect and recover	protect and recover	protect and recover	protect and recover	protect and recover	protect and recover	protect and recover
3. Old Growth	87,940 acres	116,260 acres	77,155 acres	121,100 acres	17,520 acres	148,050 acres	95,766 acres
4. Riparian Management, Water Quality and Aquatic Habitats	67,000 acres	67,000 acres	67,000 acres	67,000 acres	13,400 acres	67,000 acres	63,000 acres
5. Wood Products	260,885 suitable acres, average annual long-term timber production, 15.6 mmcf	235,008 suitable acres, average annual long-term timber production, 10.9 mmcf	270,134 suitable acres, average annual long-term timber production, 15.6 mmcf	212,275 suitable acres, average annual long-term timber production, 11.3 mmcf	338,258 suitable acres, average annual long-term timber production, 18.2 mmcf	124,557 suitable acres, average annual long-term timber production, 7.9 mmcf	259,313 suitable acres, average annual long-term timber production, 13.9 mmcf
6. Aesthetic/Scenery Management	63,400 acres of high and very high SIO	59,900 acres of high and very high SIO	55,400 acres of high and very high SIO	83,900 acres of high and very high SIO	47,200 acres of high and very high SIO	75,300 acres of high and very high SIO	63,100 acres of high and very high SIO
7. Recreation Management Allocations	71,561 acres	584 acres	584 acres	75,423 acres	1,907 acres	555 acres	78,162 acres
8. Roadless Areas Wilderness Management	99% of roadless character maintained, 7,638 acres rec. or wilderness	100% of roadless character maintained, 7,068 acres rec. for wilderness	50% of roadless character maintained, 2,106 acres rec. for wilderness	99% of roadless character maintained, 5,083 acres rec. for wilderness	49% of roadless character maintained, 2,281 acres rec. for wilderness	100% of roadless character maintained, 6,293 acres rec. for wilderness	100% of roadless character maintained, 1,982 acres rec. for wilderness

Issue	Alternative						
	A	B	D	E	F	G	I (selected)
9. Forest Health	0 acres with restoration emphasis; 19,600 acres prescribed burning	220,512 restoration acres; 33,000 acres, prescribed burning	0 restoration acres emphasis; 20,100 acres, prescribed burning	0 restoration acres; 33,200 acres, prescribed burning	0 restoration acres; 19,400 acres, prescribed burning	94,469 restoration acres; 10,400 acres, prescribed burning	54,400 restoration acres; 23,600 acres, prescribed burning
10. Special Areas and Rare Communities	5,215 acres allocated to special areas	5,499 acres allocated to special areas	7,895 acres allocated to special areas	6,751 acres allocated to special areas	10,199 acres allocated to special areas	10,664 acres allocated to special areas	14,419 acres allocated to special areas
11. Wild and Scenic Rivers	57.0 miles designated and 62.1 miles eligible	57.0 miles designated and 62.1 miles eligible	57.0 miles designated and 62.1 miles eligible	57.0 miles designated and 62.1 miles eligible	57.0 miles designated and 62.1 miles eligible	57.0 miles designated and 62.1 miles eligible	57.0 miles designated and 62.1 miles eligible
12. Access and Road Management	33,300 acres road construction is prohibited or road density should decrease	157,900 acres road construction is prohibited or road density should decrease	16,100 acres road construction is prohibited or road density should decrease	264,800 acres road construction is prohibited or road density should decrease	36,500 acres road construction is prohibited or road density should decrease	238,900 acres road construction is prohibited or road density should decrease	81,400 acres road construction is prohibited or road density should decrease
13. Chattooga River Watershed	10 miles of Chattooga River opened for boating above Hwy 28	0 miles of Chattooga River opened for boating above Hwy 28	0 miles of Chattooga River opened for boating above Hwy 28	20.7 miles of Chattooga River opened for boating above Hwy 28	0 miles of Chattooga River opened for boating above Hwy 28	0 miles of Chattooga River opened for boating above Hwy 28	0 miles of Chattooga River opened for boating above Hwy 28
14. Minerals	28.6% not available for lease or available for lease with NSO or controlled surface use stipulations	36.3% not available for lease or available for lease with NSO or controlled surface use stipulations	26.0% not available for lease or available for lease with NSO or controlled surface use stipulations	40.1% not available for lease or available for lease with NSO or controlled surface use stipulations	7.1% not available for lease or available for lease with NSO or controlled surface use stipulations	49.5% not available for lease or available for lease with NSO or controlled surface use stipulations	36.6% not available for lease or available for lease with NSO or controlled surface use stipulations

Comparison of the Effects of the Alternatives

This section compares the effects of the alternatives by issue.

Issue 1—Terrestrial Plants and Animals and Their Associated Habitats

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish the following.

- Maintain or increase habitats for those species needing large, contiguous forested landscapes, and where the management of National Forest lands can make a difference in their populations and viability.
- Provide habitat conditions necessary to maintain viable populations of all species native to the planning area, and to support desirable levels of selected species (e.g., species with special habitat needs, locally rare species, species commonly trapped/hunted, or species of special interest).

Table S-1 shows the comparison of Issue 1 by alternative.

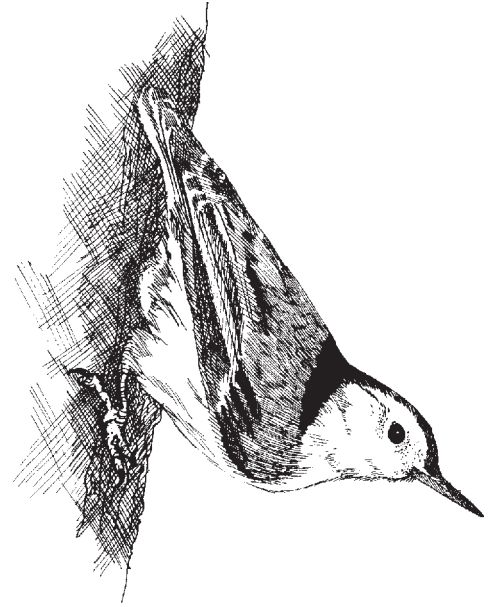
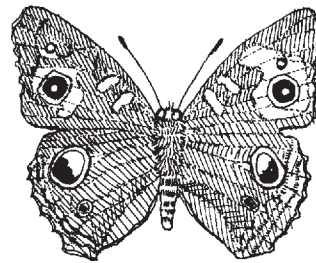


Table S-1. Issue 1 - Terrestrial Plants and Animals and Their Associated Habitats

Alternative/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
Successional Forest Habitats	Percent of Forested Acres						
Early Successional Habitat - 1st Decade	10.9	4.5	9.8	6.5	12.6	4.5	7.4
Early Successional Habitat - 5th Decade	8.4	6.4	8.8	7.2	11.8	4.5	8.0
Mid- to Late-Successional Habitat-1st Decade	69	78	70	73	67	75	71
Mid- to Late-Successional Habitat-5th Decade	64	70	63	76	54	83	67
Late Successional Habitat - 1st Decade	37	46	39	42	35	43	41
Late Successional Habitat-5th Decade	27	41	24	43	12	56	34
	Percent of Forested Acres						
Mid- to Late-Successional Mesic Deciduous(non-Oak) Forests-1st Decade	9.5	9.2	9.5	9.4	9.4	8.8	9.0
Mid- to Late-Successional Mesic Deciduous (non-Oak) Forests - 5th Decade	7.5	8.7	7.2	8.8	2.9	9.4	8.5
Mid- to Late-Successional Oak, Oak-Pine Forests - 1st Decade	14.6	13.4	13.9	14.8	13.6	15.2	14.9
Mid- to Late-Successional Oak, Oak-Pine Forests - 5th Decade	8.0	11.2	6.8	11.3	4.6	15.2	10.8
Mid- to Late-Successional Pine, Pine-Oak Forests - 1st Decade	42	49	44	46	41	48	44
Mid- to Late-Successional Pine, Pine-Oak Forests - 5th Decade	46	58	46	53	44	55	44
Permanent Openings, Old Fields, Linear Strips	Acres in Thousands						
Acres in Mgt. Prescription Allowing New Permanent Openings	317	69	326	253	335	54	251
MIS - Community Indicators	Trends						
Hooded warbler	+	=	+	+	+	=	+
Scarlet tanager	+	=	=	+	=	+	+
Pine warbler	-	+	=	=	-	+	-
Acadian flycatcher	+	+	+	+	=	+	+
Prairie warbler	+	=	+	+	+	=	+
Pileated woodpecker	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Field Sparrow	+	+	+	+	=	=	+
Swainson's Warbler	=	+	=	+	-	+	+
American woodcock	+	-	+	=	+	-	+
Brown-headed nuthatch	=	+	=	+	=	=	+

Issue 2—Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive/Locally Rare Species



In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- Conserve and recover threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and their habitats.

Table S-2 shows the comparison of Issue 2 by alternative. This table shows/describes the number of species/habitat combinations ranked as very high, high, and moderately high risk to species viability on the Sumter National Forest, the Andrew Pickens and piedmont districts combined. This information was derived from a species viability analysis conducted for this Forest Plan.

Table S-2. Issue 2 - Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive/Locally Rare Species							
Alternative/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
Total Terrestrial Species Status Categories	Number of Species/Habitat Relationships						
Species/Habitat Relationships Rated as Very High Risk	49	50	49	50	68	51	49
Species/Habitat Relationships Rated as High Risk	79	79	79	80	75	81	79
Species/Habitat Relationships Rated as Moderately High Risk	120	122	120	123	117	122	120
Total	248	251	248	253	260	254	248
Aquatic Species Viability	Number of Species/Number of Watersheds						
Low Risk	2/4	2/4	2/4	2/4	2/4	2/4	2/4
Moderate Risk, FS May Positively Influence	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13	5/13
High Risk, Little Opportunity for FS Influence	3/18	3/18	3/18	3/18	3/18	3/18	3/18
High Risk, FS May Positively Influence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Very High Risk, Little Opportunity for FS Influence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Issue 3—Old Growth

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- A variety of large, medium, and small old growth patches will be managed (through restoration, protection, or maintenance activities) to meet biological and social needs. These patches could include stands of either “existing old growth” or “future old growth”.

Table S-3 shows the comparison of Issue 3 by alternative. This table shows acres of future old growth allocated, including old growth compatible prescriptions, on the Sumter National Forest.



Table S-3. Issue 3-Old Growth							
Alternative/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
Old Growth	Acres in Thousands						
Acres of Allocated Old Growth (Rx 6's)	1,399	40,038	1,386	37,740	0	140,599	1,640
Total Acres Future Old Growth	87,940	116,260	77,155	121,100	17,520	148,050	95,766

Issue 4—Riparian Area Management, Water Quality, and Aquatic Habitats

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- Watersheds are managed (and where necessary restored) to provide resilient and stable conditions to ensure the quality and quantity of water necessary to protect ecological functions and support intended beneficial water uses.
- Riparian ecosystems, wetlands and aquatic systems are managed (and where necessary restored) to protect and maintain their soil, water, vegetation, fish and wildlife associated resources.

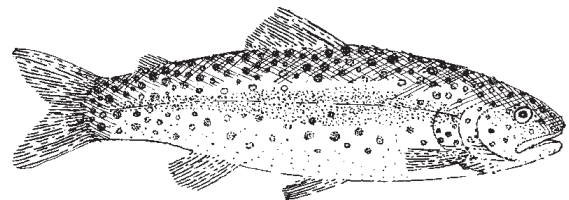


Table S-4 shows the comparison of Issue 4 by alternative.

Table S-4. Issue 4 - Riparian Area Management, Water Quality, and Aquatic Habitats							
Alternatives/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
Soil and Water	Percent Increase						
Average percent increase in sediment yields from FS activities over existing levels across 28 watersheds	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.9	0.7	1.5
MI - Aquatic Communities	Trends						
Cold water aquatic communities	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cool water aquatic communities	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Warm water aquatic communities	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Acres in Watershed Restoration Prescriptions	Acres in Thousands						
Acres Allocated to Mgt. Prescriptions 9As	0	46.9	0	0	0	39.0	11.4

Issue 5 — Wood Products

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- Where forest management activities are needed and appropriate to achieve the desired composition, structure, and function of forest ecosystems; a result of such activities will also be to provide a sustainable supply of wood products for local needs.
- Provide supplies of those wood products where the Forest Service is in a unique position to make an impact on meeting the demand for those products.



Table S-5 shows the comparison of Issue 5 by alternative.

Table S-5. Issue 5-Wood Products							
Alternative/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
Timber Management	Acres in Thousands						
Land Classified as Suitable for Timber Production	260,885	235,008	270,134	212,275	338,258	124,557	259,313
	MMCF / MMBF						
Allowable Sale Quantity (First Decade)	156/858	109/600	156/858	113/622	182/1000	79/435	139/763
Timber Sale Program Quantity (Total First Decade)	156/858	109/600	156/858	113/622	182/1000	79/435	139/763
Timber Sale Program Quantity (Total Fifth Decade)	156/858	109/600	156/858	113/622	182/1000	79/435	139/763

Issue 6 - Aesthetics/ Scenery Management

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- Protection and enhancement of the scenic and aesthetic values of national forest lands in the Southern Appalachians.
- Management of national forests to provide a variety of landscape character themes with the predominant themes being natural appearing, natural evolving, and variations of these themes.



Table S-6 shows the comparison of Issue 6 by alternative. This table shows/describes Scenic Integrity Objectives. The acres in each SIO class, ranging from very high (VH- unaltered) to low (L- moderately altered), were then totaled to develop the following range.

Table S-6. Issue 6 - Aesthetics/Scenery Management							
Alternative/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
Scenic Integrity Objectives	Total Forest Acres						
Very High	15,600	16,500	14,800	16,300	20,200	42,300	15,600
High	47,800	43,400	40,600	67,600	27,000	33,000	47,500
Moderate	110,900	131,600	67,500	131,800	22,400	198,000	112,800
Low	182,700	165,500	234,100	141,300	287,400	83,700	181,100

Issue 7—Recreation Opportunities/Experiences

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- Provide a spectrum of high quality, nature-based recreation settings and opportunities which are not widely available on non-Federal lands.
- Strive to meet the following recreation needs within the capabilities of the land:
 - ▣ Hiking, biking, and equestrian trail systems, especially in non-motorized settings with high quality landscapes. (Provide separate-use trails where necessary to reduce user conflicts or to improve the quality of recreation experiences.)
 - ▣ Designated OHV routes (which will occur primarily in RN1 settings).
 - ▣ The high priority improvements, expansions, or additions of facilities providing developed recreation opportunities.
 - ▣ Hunting, fishing, and non-consumptive wildlife opportunities.
 - ▣ Improved interpretive opportunities or other special recreation needs locally identified.

- The National Forests will manage areas to provide for the “backcountry” (semi-primitive/remote) recreation experiences that are not available on other land ownerships.
- Although the opportunities for outdoor recreation are extensive and the public demand for these opportunities is seemingly endless, the Forest’s capability to meet these demands is neither static nor endless. Visitor preferences can shift over time, and both changing financial limitations and environmental impacts must be considered. In order to maximize value to the public with the limited resources available, the Sumter will focus on providing those recreation opportunities which are unique or of exceptional long-term value in a manner that focuses on maximizing visitor satisfaction within financial and environmental limitations.
- A goal is to provide a spectrum of high quality nature-based recreation settings and opportunities that reflect the unique or exceptional resources of the Forest and the interests of the recreating public on an environmentally sound and financially sustainable basis. Adapt management of recreation facilities and opportunities as needed to shift limited resources to those opportunities.

Table S-7 shows the comparison of Issue 7 by alternative.



Table S-7. Issue 7-Recreation Opportunities/Experiences

Issue/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum	Acres						
Primitive (Rx's 1A and 1B)	10,493	9,923	4,961	7,938	5,136	9,148	4,837
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	4,462	5,011	5,872	7,036	3,275	37,940	3,290
Semi-Primitive Motorized	16,669	8,992	6,227	41,416	161	202	5,153
Roaded Natural	328,865	336,563	343,429	304,099	351,917	313,199	347,209
Rural/Urban	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
Recreation Management Allocations	Acres						
Acres with a Recreation Emphasis (Rx 7's)	75,047	584	584	78,908	1,907	555	78,162
Acres with a Backcountry Recreation Emphasis (Rx 12's)	12,079	0	1,210	36,597	0	0	4,929
Developed/Dispersed Recreation	Range						
Estimated Increase in Capacity of Developed Day Use Recreation Areas	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Estimated Increase in Capacity of Dev. Level 2 Campgrounds	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Estimated Increase in Capacity of Dev. Level 3 Campgrounds	Decrease	Low	Low	Decrease	Low	Low	Low
Estimated Increase in Capacity of Dev. Level 4 Campgrounds	High	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	Low
Estimated Increase in Hike-only Trails	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Estimated Increase in Hike and Bike Trails	High	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	High
Estimated Increase in Hike and Equestrian Trails	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Estimated Increase in Hike, Bike and Equestrian Trails	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate
Estimated Increase in Paddle Sports Trails	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Low
Off-Highway Vehicle Roads and Trails	Acres						
Acres of Off-Highway Vehicle Use Areas (Rx 7C)	3,500	0	0	3,500	0	0	0
	Range						
Estimated Change in Motorized Roads and Trails	High	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	High
MIS - Demand Species	Trends						
Bobwhite quail	+	+	+	++	++	=	+
Eastern Wild Turkey	+	+	+	++	=	=	+
Black Bear	+	++	+	+	=	=	++
Hunting	Trends						
White-tailed deer	++	=	++	++	++	=	++
Wild turkey	++	=	++	++	++	=	++
Small game	++	=	++	++	++	=	++

Issue 8—Roadless Areas and Wilderness Management

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- Wilderness, roadless and other unroaded areas are managed to provide their full range of social and ecological benefits.



Tables S-8A and S-8B show the comparison of Issue 8 by alternative.

Table S-8A. Issue 8 - Roadless Areas and Wilderness Management							
Alternative/Units Of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
Wilderness/Roadless	Acres /Percentage						
Acres of Existing Wilderness	2,856	2,856	2,856	2,856	2,856	2,856	2,856
Recommended for Designation as WSAs	7,638	7,068	2,106	5,083	2,281	6,293	1,982
Percentage of Roadless Character Maintained (of all roadless areas, including areas recommended for WSA)	99	100	50	99	49	100	100

Table S-8B. Issue 8 - Roadless Areas Recommended for WSAs	
Alternative	Roadless Areas Recommended for Designation as Wilderness Study Areas
A	Ellicott Rock 1 and 2, Bee Cove
B	Ellicott Rock 1 and 2, Big Mountain and Bee Cove
D	Ellicott Rock 1 and 2
E	Ellicott Rock 1 and 2, Bee Cove
F	Ellicott Rock 1 and 2
G	Ellicott Rock 1 and 2, Big Mountain and Bee Cove
I	Ellicott Rock 1 and 2

Issue 9 - Forest Health

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- Protect or restore the rare communities found on National Forest lands.
- Those areas with special geological, paleontological, botanical, zoological, cultural, or heritage characteristics will be managed (or where feasible restored) to protect those characteristics.

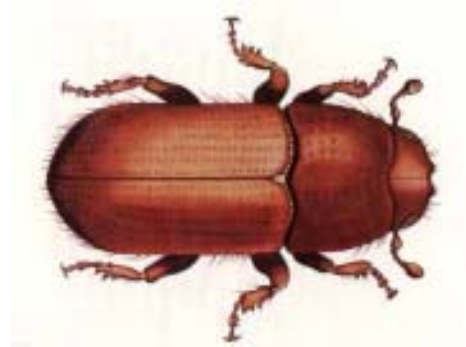


Table S-9 shows the comparison of Issue 9 by alternative.

Table S-9. Issue 9 - Forest Health							
Issue/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
Forest Health Concerns	Ranking						
Southern Pine Beetle	M	L	M	M	L	H	M
Littleleaf Disease	L	H	L	H	L	H	M
Oak Decline	M	M	L	M	L	H	M
Gypsy Moth	M	M	L	M	L	H	M
Prescribed Fire	Acres in Thousands						
Estimated Acres Prescribed Burned (Total)	19.6	33.0	20.1	33.2	19.4	10.4	23.6
Restoration							
Acres with a Restoration Emphasis (Rx's 9A3, 9E, 9G2, 9H)	0	220,512	0	0	0	94,469	54,440
Estimated Annual Acres of Invasive Plant Control	50	500	1,250	500	250	250	750

Issue 10—Special Areas and Rare Communities

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- Protection or restoration of the rare communities found on national forest lands.
- Manage areas with special geological, paleontological, botanical, zoological, cultural, or heritage characteristics (or where feasible, restored) to protect those characteristics.

Table S-10 shows the comparison of Issue 10 by alternative. This table shows acres allocated to special areas (includes botanical areas and scenic areas) and the management of rare communities across alternatives on the Sumter National Forest

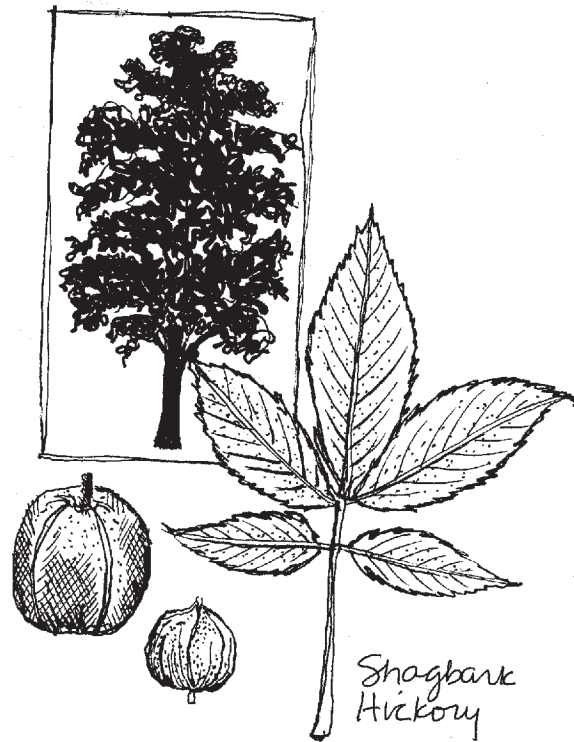


Table S-10. Issue 10 - Special Areas and Rare Communities							
Issue/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
Special Areas	Acres						
Acres Allocated to Special Areas (Mgmt. Rx 4D and 4F)	5,215	5,499	7,895	6,751	10,199	10,664	14,419
Rare Communities							
Rare Communities Managed According to the Rare Community Mgmt. Rx (9F)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	Acres						
Estimated Acres of Annual Restoration Activities for Table Mountain Pine	50	250	50	150	0	150	250
Estimated Acres of Annual Restoration Activities for Canebrakes	50	300	50	100	0	400	200
Estimated Acres of Annual Restoration Activities for Glades and Barrens	50	250	50	150	0	150	250

Issue 11—Wild and Scenic Rivers

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- Wild, Scenic and Recreation Rivers which are designated by Congress, recommended for designation, or are eligible for designation, will be managed to protect their outstandingly remarkable values.

Table S-11 shows the comparison of Issue 11 by alternative.

Table S-11. Issue 11 - Wild and Scenic Rivers							
Alternatives/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Miles						
Miles of Rivers Currently Designated	57.0	57.0	57.0	57.0	57.0	57.0	57.0
Miles of Rivers Eligible	62.1	62.1	62.1	62.1	62.1	62.1	62.1
Prescriptions Allocated to Eligible River Corridors	1B, 2B1, 2B2, 2B3, 4D, 5C, 10B, 12A	1B, 2B1-2B2, 2B3, 4D, 5C	1B, 2B2, 2B3, 4D, 5C, 10B	1B, 2B1, 2B2, 2B3, 4D, 5C, 12A	1B, 4D, 4F, 5C, 7E1, 8A1, 10B, 11, 12A	1B, 2B1, 4F, 6B, 6D	1B, 4D, 4F, 5C, 7A, 7E2, 8A1, 9G2, 10B

Issue 12—Access and Road Management

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- Provide a transportation system that supplies and improves access for all forest road users within the capabilities of the land.
- Provide a minimum transportation system that supplies safe and efficient access for forest users while protecting forest resources.
- Provide better quality access by upgrading highly used forest roads; and any roads that are needed but are adversely effecting surrounding resource values and conditions.

Table S-12 shows the comparison of Issue 12 by alternative. These acres are estimated based on the desired conditions and standards assigned to the applicable management prescriptions by alternative.

Table S-12. Issue 12 - Access and Road Management							
Alternative/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
Transportation System	Acres in Thousands						
Construction and Reconstruction Prohibited	15.1	14.9	9.6	13.8	8.4	13.6	8.1
Density of Open Roads and Motorized Trails Should Decrease Over Time	18.2	143.0	6.5	251.0	28.1	225.3	73.3
Density of Open Roads and Motorized Trails Should Remain Near Existing Levels	324.3	203.2	345.0	92.8	323.8	122.2	279.7
Density of Open Roads and Motorized Trails May Increase Over Time	3.5	0	0	3.5	7.2	0	0

Issue 13 – Chattooga River Watershed

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- Manage the Chattooga Watershed for desired social and ecological benefits while protecting the outstanding values of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Table S-13 shows the comparison of Issue 13 by alternative.

Table S-13. Issue 13 - Chattooga river watershed							
Issue/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
	Dominant						
Management Prescriptions > 5,000 acres (Sumter and Chatt. Oco. NF's)	2A 7E1 7E2 10B 12A	2A 8A2 9A3 9H	1B 2A 9H 10B	1B 2A 7E1 7E2	2A 10A 10B	1B 2A 4F 6C 6A	2A 4I 7E2 8A1 9A3 9H
	Miles						
Miles of Chattooga River opened to boating above HWY 28	10	0	0	20.7	0	0	0

Issue 14—Minerals

In addressing this issue, management activities would strive to accomplish:

- Meet demands for energy and non-energy minerals consistent with Forest Plan management prescriptions.

Table S-14 shows the comparison of Issue 14 by alternative.

Table S-14. Issue 14 - Minerals							
Alternative/Units of Comparison	A	B	D	E	F	G	I
	Percent of Total Forest Acres						
Not Available for Lease	4.2	3.8	2.6	3.5	2.7	3.8	3.0
No Surface Occupancy or Controlled Surface Use Stipulations	24.4	32.5	23.4	36.6	4.4	45.7	33.6
Available for Lease with Standard Stipulations	71.4	63.7	74.0	59.9	92.9	50.5	63.4

Planning Documents

Other planning documents are available in both paper and electronic formats. These documents are posted on our website at www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms.

Final Environmental Impact Statement—describes the environmental effects of the seven alternatives.

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan—guides management on the Sumter National Forest for the next 10 to 15 years.

Record of Decision—explains why we chose the selected alternative. It is a companion document to the *Revised Land and Resource Management Plan*.

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