

Foothills Landscape Project Implementation Plan

Implementation Area: [Multiple](#)

Ranger District: Conasauga

Date: August 24, 2022

Instructions: Use the tables and template(s) that follow to summarize all actions to be implemented within the IA; drafted during Step 3 and finalized during Step 8. The Plan Summary table should list all activities selected from the checklists below, with each activity described in detail in the section that follows. When completing all project information, ensure all information is sufficient and relevant to provide a full and detailed project description. The summary table below can be used to quickly track the number of projects within the IA and the acres or miles of disturbance impacts.

Plan Summary

Activities Implementable from Final DN: Select all that apply. See Table 17 in the EA for full description of action and connected actions.

Selected for this Project	Activities That are Part of This Project	Primary Actions	Location (ie. HUC, Compartment Stand, and or Geographic Description)	Draft Acres and/or miles of road/trails, etc.	Final Acres and /or miles of road/trails, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bog improvement actions including hydrologic restoration and removal of encroaching vegetation (may include commercial treatment)	Raise stream profiles by filling or plugging ditches Removing encroaching vegetation by commercial, non-commercial harvest	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canebrake restoration actions including overstory removal (may include commercial treatment)	Removing encroaching vegetation by commercial, non-commercial harvest	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small-whorled pogonia improvement actions including experimental canopy and midstory removal	Non-commercial thinning or hand clearing	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

**Foothills Landscape Project
Pre-Implementation Process Guide and Checklist**

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-commercial release of hemlock trees to decrease susceptibility of hemlock to hemlock woody adelgid outside of HCAs	Individual tree release, non-commercial thinning	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Designate small blocks of old growth	Allocate small blocks of old growth stands that are arranged in mosaics and connected by other habitat types	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stream habitat improvements	Add large woody debris to stream channels through cut and leave operations (mechanical and non-mechanical) Maintain and enhance existing in-stream structures Stabilize streambanks	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continuation of prescribed burning within existing burn blocks	Prescribed burning during dormant and/or early growing season on a recurring basis	Rocky Flats Rx burn- Comps. 752/753/754 (Mill Creek/Rockflat IA) Buffalo Rx burn- Comp. 711 (Jigger Creek IA) Bob Jones Rx burn -Comps. 719/720 (Sumac/N Prong IA)	Rocky Flats – 1172 acres Buffalo – 26 acres Bob Jones – 1191 acres	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decommissioning of maintenance level (ML) 2 and ML1 system roads	Close road/trail to public; may include full obliteration of roadbed, removal of stream crossing fills/ culverts with restoration of channel, crushing and burying inlets, seeding, fertilizing, mulching, drainage improvements, scattering slash, etc.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implement changes to system road ML and/or use restrictions	Reduce ML in system roads, including seasonal closure in some roads update MVUM	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implement changes to system road ML and/or use restrictions	Increase ML, pave road, install safety features, improve drainage (NFSR 18, Holly Creek)	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

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Pre-Implementation Process Guide and Checklist**

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Reconstruction of existing roads that are causing sedimentation to streams, particularly within watersheds with 305b and 303d listed streams	Widen curves Upgrade culverts Harden or repair low-water stream crossings Upgrade or reconstruct drainage features, spot reconstruction if needed Upgrade surface material and configuration using Georgia BMPs	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Decommission a section of Tatum Lead motorized trail and Milma Creek OHV trails	Close trail to public; may include full obliteration of roadbed, removal of stream crossing fills/ culverts with restoration of channel, crushing and burying inlets, seeding, fertilizing, mulching, drainage improvements, scattering slash, etc.	Tatum Lead Trail – Comp. 784 (Rock Creek 1A)	Last 1.8 miles	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Convert the Tibbs All-Terrain vehicle (ATV) trail and a section of Milma Creek OHV trail back to a system road	Administratively convert a section of the trail back to a system road	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Convert the Rocky Flats OHV trail back to a system road	Administratively convert a section of the trail back to a system road	Compartment 752/753 (Mill Creek/Rockflat Br 1A)	3.3 miles	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decommission low-use trails (Murray's Lake Trail and Peeples Lake Trail)	Administrative removal of trails from system Update maps	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decommission Boggs Creek developed campground	Administratively decommission campground	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decommission Oakey Mountain developed campground	Close to public; remove all infrastructure (may include full obliteration of infrastructure), hardened surfaces, seeding, fertilizing, mulching, drainage improvements, scattering slash, etc.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

Commercial Activities (May only occur in MRx suitable for timber production per selected Alternative (Alt 3)): Select all that apply. See Table 17 in the EA for full description of action and connected actions.

Selected for this Project	Activities That are Part of This Project	Primary Actions	Location (ie. HUC, Compartment Stand, and or Geographic Description)	Draft Acres and/or miles of road/trails, etc.	Final Acres and /or miles of road/trails, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration of southern yellow pine forest on dry sites dominated by mid to late-successional Virginia or white pine	Two aged regeneration harvest	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration of southern yellow pine forest or oak forest on sites currently occupied by off-site pine plantations (loblolly or white pine) or failed shortleaf or pitch pine plantations	Two-aged regeneration harvest	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance of southern yellow pine forest	Commercial thinning	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance of southern yellow pine forest	Expanding gap treatment	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance of oak forest	Commercial thinning	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance of oak forest	Expanding gap treatment	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial and non-commercial thinning of pine plantations to improve forest health	Commercial thinning	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create young forest (ESH) in mesic hardwoods	Two-aged regeneration harvest	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

**Foothills Landscape Project
Pre-Implementation Process Guide and Checklist**

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Create young forest (ESH) by daylighting roads and permanent openings	Two-aged regeneration harvest	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creating young oak forest (ESH)	Shelterwood or two-aged regeneration harvests	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoring open woodland habitats on appropriate sites	Commercial or non-commercial thinning	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canopy gap creation in closed-canopied mesic stands	Commercial and non-commercial thinning Overstory and midstory reduction w/ variable tree density retention; gaps implemented would total <25% of stand acreage with gap size no more than ¼-acre each.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create or expand permanent openings	Remove trees Prepare site by grading and stump removal	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce hazardous fuels in the WUI	Mid-story reduction Commercial or non-commercial thinning	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

Non-Commercial Action(s): Select all that apply. See Table 17 in the EA for full description of action and connected actions.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance of oak forest	Mid-story reduction	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance of oak forest	Crown-touching release with manual methods	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

**Foothills Landscape Project
Pre-Implementation Process Guide and Checklist**

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial and non-commercial thinning of pine plantations to improve forest health	Non-commercial thinning	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Replacement of culverts, fords, or bridges to increase aquatic organism passage and function	Replacement of culverts, fords, or bridges	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prescribed fire in new burn blocks to facilitate restoration or maintenance of fire-adapted ecosystems or to reduce hazardous fuels	Prescribed burning during dormant and/or early growing season on a recurring basis	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Willis Knob Horse Trail Improvements	Construct new trail Re-route and construct/re-construct portions of trail on areas with resource concerns outside of the WSR, block or obliterate problem portions of trail Relocate parking area Construction of connector trails from parking to campground Campground improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop and maintain sustainable recreation within the WSR corridor – Earls Ford	Construction of new system trails Removal and restoration of degraded sites and designation of dispersed camping areas	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

**Foothills Landscape Project
Pre-Implementation Process Guide and Checklist**

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Willis Knob Horse Trail Improvements within the WSR	Re-route and construct/re-construct portions of trail on areas with resource concerns, block or obliterate problem portions of trail	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

Action(s) or Conditions that Need Additional Analysis (Please Refer to Step 2 Resource Sections):

Specific Action or Condition Needing Analysis, if applicable	Analysis complete?
Click or tap here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Click or tap here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Click or tap here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Click or tap here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no

Activity Name: Continuation of prescribed burning within existing burn blocks

Existing Condition (Need): The 3 burn units have each received multiple prescribed fire treatments within the past 10+/- years, moving them from FCC 3 to FCC2. There is a need to maintain this trend. The units still have a variety of fuel loadings ranging from heavy to moderate due to wildfires, prescribed burns, vegetation management activities and the continued need to restore native vegetative conditions. Due to their location these burn units have served as buffer zones to prevent fires from entering or exiting the Cohutta Wilderness area or burning onto or off private lands. This has been proven to be an effective strategy as evidenced during the drought and severe fire season of 2016. When the Rough Ridge fire impacted the Buffalo Unit, the reduced fuels created a barrier to the fire's spread and allowed firefighters to take effective control operations in the Jigger Creek Area, preventing fire spread onto private lands. Continued burning of these units will enhance the reduction of hazardous fuels and aid in the restoration of native communities. These units have several occurrences of fire-dependent species.

Desired Condition: Expand the role of fire to recover and sustain healthy, fire-adapted ecosystems as much as possible, as a natural process (Forest Plan Goal 61).

Known Conditions that Trigger Restoration Actions: Where prescribed burning is required or preferred to meet restoration silvicultural objectives and can be accomplished safely within existing burn blocks. Burning these three units in the next year maintains the desired fire return interval (3-5 years).

How to Implement Change: Prescribed fire plans would be prepared describing weather and fuel conditions needed to meet the desired site-specific objectives, fire intensities and ignition methods, and a risk evaluation to safely execute the prescribed fire while considering the effects of the fire on other resources, including smoke impacts. Firelines would be rehabilitated as appropriate including installing water bars, revegetation, and blocking of the 'take offs' on roads to prevent illegal motor-vehicle use.

There are three existing burn blocks proposed for prescribed burning within the Foothills Landscape within the next year (on the Conasauga Ranger District). All have established control lines and have been previously burned on a 3-to-5-year rotation to restore fire after many decades in which all fire had been suppressed:

- Bob Jones Rx burn is a 1,191- acre unit which utilizes several Forest Service system roads and streams as control lines.
- Buffalo Rx burn is a 26-acre unit formerly known as the "Ten-time burn". This small unit has been burned on a regular basis for decades as an informal demonstration of how dormant season prescribed fire affects fire-adapted and fire-intolerant vegetation, in contrast with the surrounding forest regarding both woody and herbaceous vegetation.
- Rocky Flats Rx burn is a 1,172-acre unit bounded by Mill Creek, Cohorn Branch, and existing roads.

Map(s) Attached

Watershed(s) (6th-level HUC) where activity is planned:

**Foothills Landscape Project
Pre-Implementation Process Guide and Checklist**

Bob Jones Rx burn is in North Prong Sumac Creek watershed HUC #031501010202. Buffalo Rx burn is in Headwaters Conasauga River watershed HUC #031501010102. Rocky Flats Rx burn is in Upper Mill Creek HUC #031501010206.

MRx(s) where activity would occur: Bob Jones Rx burn is in MRx 7.B and 9.H. Buffalo Rx burn is in MRx 9.H. Rocky Flats Rx burn is in 7.B and 9.H.



Repeated prescribed burning results in abundant herbaceous vegetation.

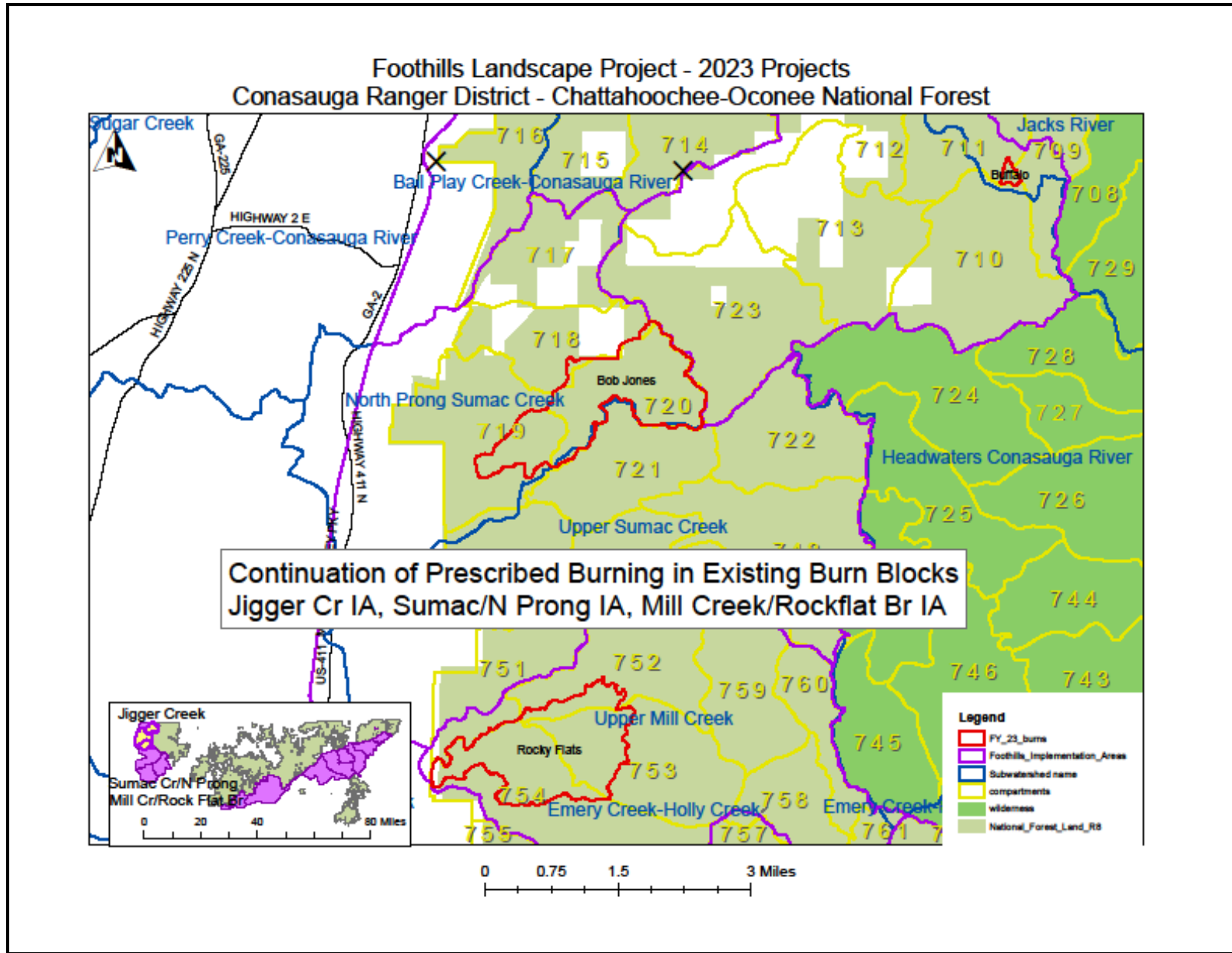
Resource Project Design

Features: Do project activities follow all listed resource-specific PDFs in Step 2?

Yes **No** (If no, document if additional analysis per NEPA is triggered and if so, analysis is referenced and/or attached prior to finalization.)

Additional Project Design

Features: *Add any additional Project Design Features necessary to avoid significant impacts. Use list at end of this plan in Attachment A to guide selection of all that apply. List PDF numbers.*



Activity Name: Decommission a segment of Tatum Lead motorized trail

Existing Condition (Need): OHV use was designated without previous analysis on roads and trails without consideration of ecological setting or social setting. The primary issue is erosion and sedimentation caused by the illegal use off-trail between the trails, FS roads, and streams, the degradation of FS roads, and access to and from private property. Efforts to block this illegal usage have been ineffective. Motorized vehicles, including OHVs (4-wheelers) are only legal to operate on designated roads and trails.

Desired Condition: User conflicts are decreased, and satisfaction increased by adding or modifying section of trails that do not adversely affect soil and water resources (Forest Plan Goal 34).

Known Conditions that Trigger Restoration Actions: Tatum Lead is a 4-wheel- drive and OHV trail which dead-ends into private property, which has been causing resource damage on and off the Forest for at least 10 years.

How to Implement Change: Closure of the last 1.8 miles of Tatum Lead Trail is proposed by decommissioning, to include earthen barriers, posts or guardrail barriers, reshaping the roadbed to restore drainage, seeding, fertilizing, and scattering debris.

Periodic monitoring of the effectiveness of the closure at the National Forest boundary is necessary to ensure that new OHV trails have not been created to bypass the original trail.

Map(s) Attached

Watershed(s) (6th-level HUC) where activity is planned:

The section of Tatum Lead Trail planned for decommissioning is in the Rock Creek HUC - #031501010405.

MRx(s) where activity would occur: The section of Tatum Lead Trail planned for decommissioning is in MRx 9.H.

Resource Project Design Features: Do project activities follow all listed resource-specific PDFs in Step 2?

Yes **No** (If no, document if additional analysis per NEPA is triggered and if so, analysis is referenced and/or attached prior to finalization.)

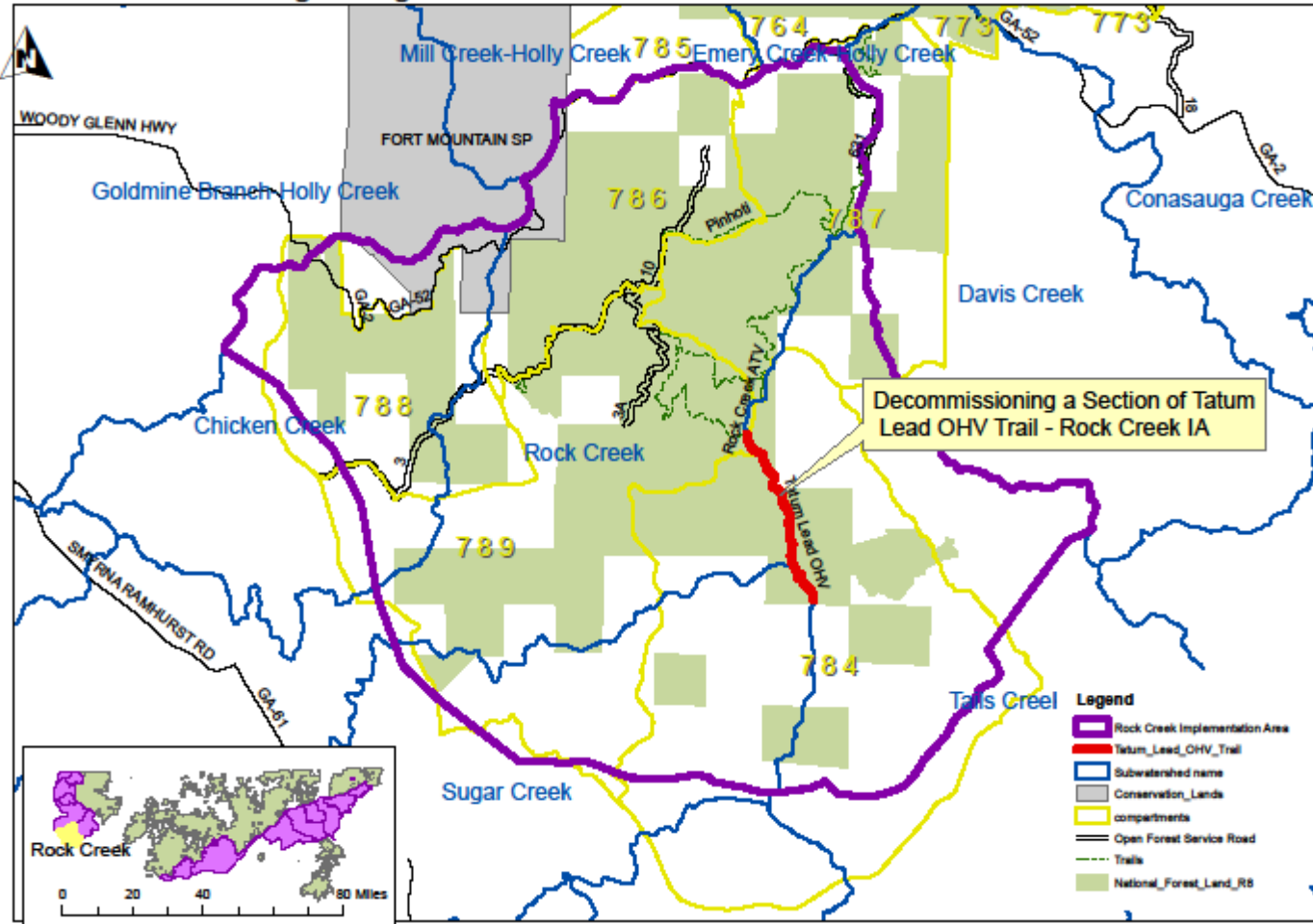
**Foothills Landscape Project
Pre-Implementation Process Guide and Checklist**

Additional Project Design Features: *Add any additional Project Design Features necessary to avoid significant impacts. Use list at end of this plan in Attachment A to guide selection of all that apply. List PDF numbers.*



User-created trails are an issue due to the extensive damage OHVs can do in sensitive areas. Monitoring closures such as this earthen berm and felled tree is necessary to ensure new use is not occurring.

Foothills Landscape Project - 2023 Projects Conasauga Ranger District - Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest



Activity Name: Convert the Rocky Flats OHV trail back into a NFSR (system road)

Existing Condition (Need): Rocky Flats trail is a gravel road open year-round to jeeps and other high-clearance vehicles. It is also classified as an OHV trail and mixed traffic is a safety issue. OHV trail users have created a network of user-created trails over the past 20-plus years. There is no unloading area available for this trail, thereby creating issues with OHV illegally riding FS roads to access this trail, and safety concerns with mixed traffic types.

Desired Condition: User conflicts are decreased, and satisfaction increased by adding or modifying sections of trails that do not adversely affect soil and water resources. (LRMP goal 34). 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 sustainable, financially sound, and operationally effective basis. Adapt management of recreation facilities and opportunities as needed to shift limited resources to those opportunities. (LRMP goal 31)

Known Conditions that Trigger Restoration Actions: Full size vehicles and OHV operators utilize this road, creating a dangerous mixed traffic situation and resulting in an ongoing challenge to prevent illegal off-trail damage. Efforts to block this illegal usage to access the trail have been ineffective.

How to Implement Change: Administratively convert a section of the trail back to a seasonally open system road. This action would result in a complete loss of access for OHV riders (3.36 miles) and a seasonal loss of access for full-size vehicle users. The road would be gated and opened for about 6 months per year.

Map(s) Attached

Watershed(s) (6th-level HUC) where activity is planned:

Rocky Flats OHV trail is in the Upper Mill Creek HUC - #031501010206.

MRx(s) where activity would occur: Rocky Flats OHV trail is in MRx 7.B, 9.H, and 6.B.

Resource Project Design Features: Do project activities follow all listed resource-specific PDFs in Step 2?

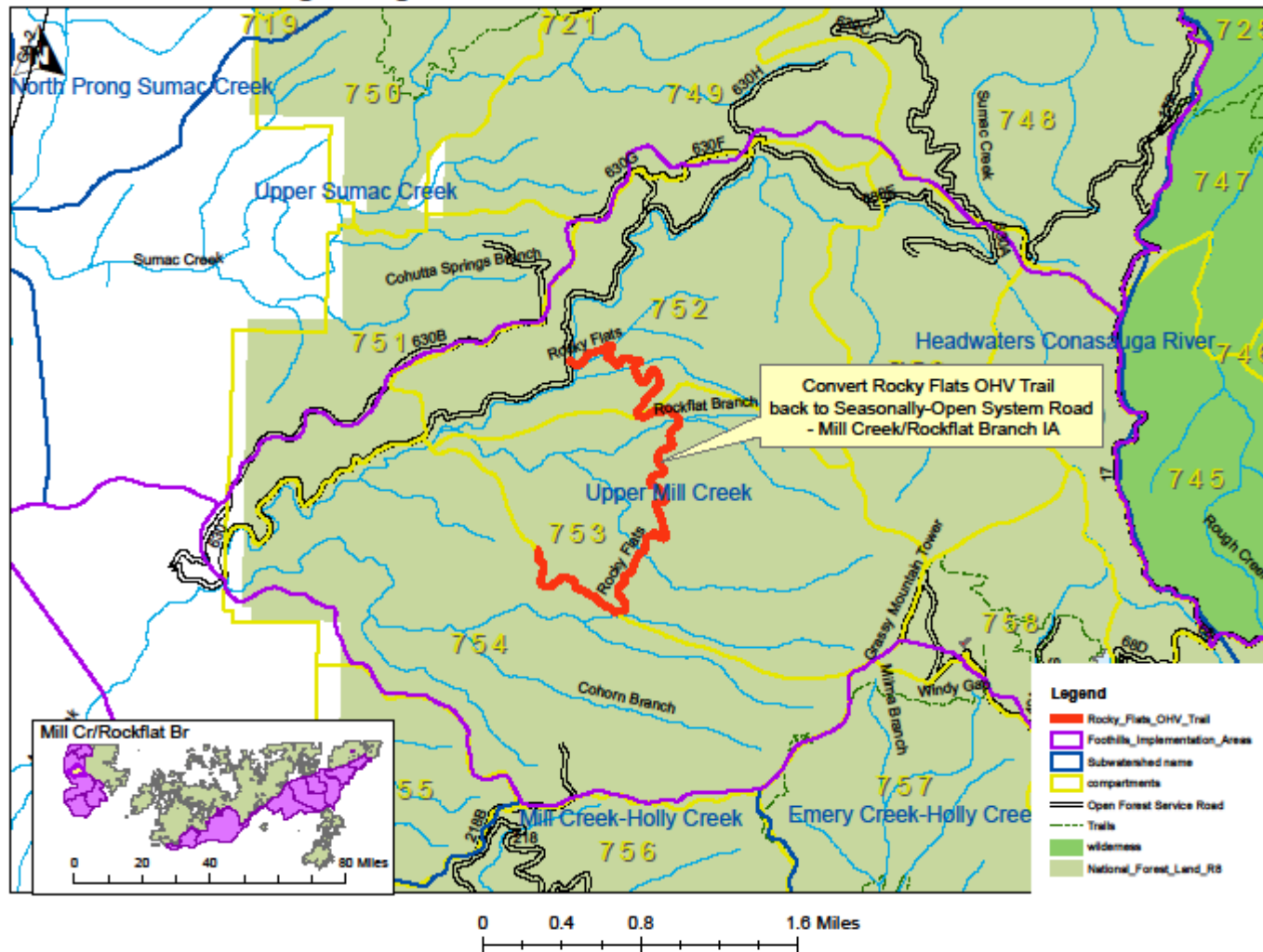
Yes **No** (If no, document if additional analysis per NEPA is triggered and if so, analysis is referenced and/or attached prior to finalization.)

Additional Project Design Features: *Add any additional Project Design Features necessary to avoid significant impacts. Use list at end of this plan in Attachment A to guide selection of all that apply. List PDF numbers.*



A new bottomless culvert is on Mill Creek near the beginning of the Rocky Flats OHV trail.

Foothills Landscape Project - 2023 Projects
Conasauga Ranger District - Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest



Attachment A: Additional Project Design Features

PDF Number: Location or Condition	Project Design Features, Best Management Practices, and Standards	Origin
<p>PDF 1: All Restoration Actions that Use Herbicides</p>	<p>No herbicide is ground applied within 100 feet of lakes, wetlands, streams, except for aquatic-labeled herbicides to prevent significant environmental damage</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard FW-022</p>
	<p>Herbicide mixing, loading, or cleaning areas in the field are not located in sensitive areas as identified in the project decision document, or within 200 feet of private land, open water, or wells (or ephemeral streams FW-024)</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard FW-023</p>
	<p>No soil active herbicide with a half-life longer than three months is broadcast within 25 feet of ephemeral streams. Selective treatments with aquatic-labeled herbicides are allowed. Such areas are clearly marked before treatment so that applicators can easily see and avoid them.</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard FW-025</p>
	<p>Site-specific analysis of proposed management actions will identify any protective measures needed in addition to Forest Plan standards, including increasing the width of protective buffers where needed.</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard FW-029</p>
	<p>Milkweed species would be avoided during herbicide spraying.</p>	<p>FLP Specific</p>
	<p>Pesticide Use – See Appendix B, Attachment 1 of the Vegetation Specialist Report</p>	<p>FLP Specific</p>
<p>PDF 2: Old growth stands, at the time of implementation, that meet minimum age criteria for old-growth based on Old-Growth Type</p>	<p>Non-conserved “possible old-growth”, defined as stands meeting the minimum age criteria for their respective Old-Growth Type that are not currently conserved by Management Prescription or through small block allocations associated with this alternative, would be assessed prior to implementation of project activities within these areas to determine if they meet the other defining criteria for old-growth conservation. If so, these areas would be conserved for old-growth. Management actions that conflict with old-growth characteristics, as described by the Forest Plan, would not be permitted in areas conserved. The exception would be for Old-Growth Types 22 and 24.</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard (FWS – 046 FWS – 054)</p>
<p>PDF 3: All vegetation management actions in all conditions</p>	<p>During all vegetation management activities, dogwoods and other soft-mast producers would be reserved from treatment, where practicable and to the extent compatible with meeting treatment objectives</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard (FWS – 008) and FLP Specific</p>
<p>PDF 4: All vegetation treatments that include Oak regeneration (2,000 acres) or mesic hardwood regeneration (500 acres) treatments</p>	<p>Oak-dominated forest types on mesic sites would not be converted to pine-dominated cover types, but could be managed as mixed oak-pine forest types</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard (FWS – 004)</p>
	<p>For areas proposed for mesic hardwood regeneration to create young forest habitats, regeneration treatments would be limited to yellow poplar-dominated stands or stands dominated by other non-oak cover hardwood associates. This would include Forest Types 50, 56, 58 and/or 41.</p>	<p>FLP Specific</p>
<p>PDF 5: All vegetation treatments that include regeneration harvests (yellow pine restoration, oak restoration, oak regeneration, mesic hardwood regeneration)</p>	<p>When regeneration treatments are applied, sites would be regenerated to native tree species that commonly occur or historically occurred naturally on ecologically comparable sites within the same ecological section.</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard (FWS – 001)</p>
	<p>Stands dominated by Eastern hemlock would not be subject to regeneration treatments.</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard (FWS – 002)</p>
	<p>Even-aged or two-aged regeneration areas in or adjacent to deciduous or mixed forests must include a 50-foot zone along mature forest edges in which intensity of silvicultural treatment decreases, resulting in a feathered edge.</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard (FWS – 007)</p>

PDF Number: Location or Condition	Project Design Features, Best Management Practices, and Standards	Origin
	<p>The maximum size of an opening created by even-aged or two-aged regeneration treatments is 40 acres. For yellow pine, 80 acres is permitted if restoration requires larger openings.</p> <p>Openings created by even-aged regeneration or two-aged regenerations harvest units shall be separated from each other by a minimum of 330 feet (5 chains). However, such openings may be clustered closer than 330 feet as long as their combined acreage does not exceed the maximum opening size (40 acres). An opening created by regeneration harvest would no longer be considered an opening when the re-established stand reaches five years in age.</p> <p>Regenerated stands shall meet the minimum stocking standards for the intended/desired forest type within five years after final harvest cut, as listed in the Forest Plan Table 2-5.</p> <p>In even-aged and two-aged regeneration, retain all snags unless they are an immediate hazard. Sales would be designed to avoid snag removal if possible (skid trails, landings). Retain (or create) five snags per acre: near the forest edge if possible. In even-aged and two-aged regeneration stands larger than 10 acres, maintain a minimum of 15 sq. feet of basal area. These could be arranged in clumps, corridors, or feathered edges. In stands over 10 acres treated as seed tree or shelterwood, maintain a minimum of 20 sq. feet of basal area. Retain all trees within 20 feet of five snags per acre for windthrow protection and snag recruitment</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard (FWS – 086)</p> <p>Forest Plan Standard (FWS – 087)</p> <p>Forest Plan Standard (FWS – 089)</p> <p>Forest Plan Standard (FWS 091).</p>
<p>PDF 6: All Prescribed Fire in all Conditions</p>	<p>When necessary, to include mesic deciduous forests within prescribed burning blocks as part of burning other adjacent fire-dependent forest types, only low intensity fires are permitted, except when prescribed burns are designed to encourage oak regeneration in mesic oak forests. Exclude such mesic areas lacking a significant oak component from burn units, unless by doing so, it would result in: (1) failure to meet other prescribed fire objectives, or (2) more than 30% increase in plowed or bladed fire-line construction per burn unit.</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard (FWS – 191 and FSW – 0190)</p>
<p>PDF 7: All mechanical vegetation management</p>	<p>Skidding would not occur within riparian corridors, except for at designated crossings.</p> <p>No heavy equipment, other than mechanical fellers, would be allowed to operate within the riparian corridors during harvest activities. The exception to this would be at designated crossings.</p> <p>Once the temporary roads, log landings, and skid trails are no longer needed, they would be closed to normal vehicle traffic so that illegal use is discouraged. The closures may include installation of an earthen barrier, re-contouring, decompaction, placement of logging debris along the road surface, seeding or placement of boulders.</p> <p>Log landings and skid trail locations would be evaluated and approved by the Forest Service prior to harvesting in order to ensure that they are placed in locations with adequate drainage and away from sensitive soils or riparian areas as per the Georgia State BMP recommendations.</p> <p>Skidding and decking would be limited to designated and approved routes along ridges and gentle slopes to protect sensitive soils. Skidding would not be allowed on sustained slopes over 35%. Coordination will be completed when skid trails and decking coincide with system trails.</p>	<p>GA BMP</p> <p>GA BMP</p> <p>FLP Specific</p> <p>FLP Specific</p> <p>FLP Specific</p>

PDF Number: Location or Condition	Project Design Features, Best Management Practices, and Standards	Origin
	No tree removal may occur within 0.25 mile of a known NLEB hibernaculum at any time of the year (NLEB 4d rule) unless agreed to during consultation with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	FLP Specific (ESA Consultation)
	No tree removal may occur within a 150-foot radius of known, occupied NLEB roost trees during June or July each year (NLEB 4d rule) unless agreed to during consultation with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	FLP Specific (ESA Consultation)
	Protect known Indiana bat or other endangered bat roosts from cutting or modification until they are no longer suitable as roost trees.	Forest Plan Standard FW-233
	Snags are not intentionally felled from April 1 through August 31 (exceptions may be made for safety, insects, and disease).	Forest Plan Standard FW-235
	Non-silvicultural projects removing trees or snags (fireline construction, rec projects, hazard tree removal) should be completed during September 1-March 31. This applies to the parts of the forest that provides "suitable" habitat for Indiana bat roosting (GIS analysis).	Forest Plan Standard FW-236
	In all silvicultural treatments, retention priority is given to the largest available trees with favorable characteristics as bat roost trees (yellow pines and oaks with crevices, cracks, or hollows).	Forest Plan Standard FW-237
	Compliance with standards FW-90, 91, 233-237 will be monitored and report submitted annually to USFWS. Report will include acres of timber harvest and prescribed burning; time of year accomplished.	Forest Plan Standard FW-238
	Mature forest cover is maintained within 100 feet from the top of cliffs and 200 feet from the base of cliffs.	Forest Plan Management Prescription 9.F-017
	Vegetation management activities would not utilize existing trails as access routes without a review by recreation staff. Trails used would be restored to the original trail width and characteristics if determined appropriate per sustainable recreation objectives. Blaze trees that define the trail corridor would not be cut unless to mitigate safety concerns.	FLP Specific
	Layout of regeneration areas would incorporate a no-harvest zone between unit boundaries and open Forest system roads that have a HIGH scenic integrity objective.	FLP Specific
	Layout of regeneration areas by design would leave areas un-harvested along prominent ridgelines and/or sites of higher elevation that have a HIGH or MODERATE scenic integrity objectives to reduce "sky-lighting" effects and to obscure areas of lower elevation in regeneration.	FLP Specific
	Logging equipment must be inspected and found to be clean (free of vegetative debris) seed, soils, etc. upon arrival to timber sale areas.	FLP Specific
	Known NNIS infestations must be shown on timber sale area maps. Ensure that equipment washing clauses are included in all ground-disturbing contracts and sales documents, and that clauses are discussed in pre-work conferences.	FLP Specific
	When possible, significant infestations of NNIS along planned access routes would be pre-treated systematically within timber sale areas in order to prevent the spread of NNIS into new areas.	FLP Specific
	Skidding through known populations of NNIS should be avoided to reduce the potential for spread.	FLP Specific
PDF 8: All mechanical vegetation and prescribed fire treatments	Coordinate with district recreation staff to post advance notices when trails or recreation sites are to be closed during harvest operations and prescribed burning.	FLP Specific
	Trails, roads, or facilities would be rehabilitated to pre-existing condition if damaged during project operations, in coordination with district recreation staff.	FLP Specific

PDF Number: Location or Condition	Project Design Features, Best Management Practices, and Standards	Origin
	Vegetation treatments that occur within or adjacent to developed sites, dispersed sites, or trails would be coordinated with local recreation /facility staff to protect facility and lessen impacts to visitors to the extent possible. Project activities that occur within or adjacent to developed sites, dispersed sites, or trails would be conducted outside the major use season whenever possible, with the understanding that most facilities are open year-round. Developed sites will be temporarily closed for visitor protection during active operations. Portions of sites and trails may be temporarily closed for visitor protection or possible restrictions placed on silvicultural activities during times of high use.	FLP Specific
	Where possible, while implementing proposed treatments, make improvements within recreation sites and along system trails. Examples include cleaning up logs and debris from past projects, removing hazard trees surrounding developed sites, and/or cutting existing stumps to less than six inches.	FLP Specific
	Harvest facilities such as temporary roads and landings, and fireline construction will be assessed for continued use to meet other resource needs (i.e., additional trailhead parking, loop trails, wildlife openings, etc.)	FLP Specific
PDF 9: Prescribed Fire Treatments in all Conditions	Minimize the amount and concentration of smoke entering populated areas; prevent/minimize public health and safety hazards, including impacts to sensitive sites (schools, hospitals, etc.), visual impacts on highways, airports, etc. (both day and night); avoid exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS); and protect visibility in Class 1 areas	USDA Forest Service Southern Region's Smoke Management Guidelines
	All activities will meet the requirements of applicable regulations established in pursuit of state or federal air quality goals. While the Forest Service cannot unilaterally guarantee the quality of air (generally, or at a specific point) within an airshed, it does ensure that its management activities would be conducted with full adherence to pollution control methodologies and technologies prescribed by air quality regulatory agencies.	Forest Plan Standard FW-230
	In leases and other agreements that permit other parties to use Forest land or resources, the Forest Service will require the permittee to meet the requirements of all applicable regulations established in pursuit of state or federal air quality goals.	Forest Plan Standard FW-231
	The Forest Service will assess relevant aspects of air quality within the Forest, either through its own efforts, in cooperation with other agencies, or by review of the results of other agency monitoring in/near the Forest.	Forest Plan Standard FW-232
	Adhere to Forest Service Manual 5100 Wildland Fire Management, Chapter 5140 Hazardous Fuel Management and Prescribed Fire, Chattahoochee-Oconee Supplement, as amended, regarding parameters to consider when developing a prescribed fire burn plan. Parameters include, but are not limited to: fuel moisture, relative humidity, wind speeds, Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI), days since rain, temperatures, and probability of ignition.	Forest Service Manual 5100 Wildland Fire Management, Chapter 5140 Hazardous Fuel Management and Prescribed Fire, Chattahoochee-Oconee Supplement R8-5100-2009-1
	Basic mesic forests are excluded from prescribed burning blocks where this can be accomplished without large increases in fireline construction. When necessary, to include mesic deciduous forests within burning blocks, direct firing will not be done within these communities unless necessary to secure control lines. In these cases, only low intensity fires are allowed.	Forest Plan Management Prescription 9.F-016
	Locate and construct firelines to minimize mineral soil exposure by utilizing natural barriers, installing firebreaks along the contour, installing proper water diversions, and using gradual grades as outlined in the Forest Plan and Georgia's BMP Handbook. Establish a vegetative	GA BMP

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	<p>cover as soon as possible to reduce erosion and sedimentation.</p> <p>Prescribed burn plans written for areas near caves or mines that contain bats identify these sites as smoke sensitive targets and plan to avoid smoke entering cave or mine openings when bats are present.</p>	Forest Plan Standard FW-034
<p>PDF 10: All activities within Ephemeral Zones (the area within 25 feet on either side of ephemeral streams)</p>	<p>Implement current Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control (Chapter 391-3-6) for all projects as a minimum to meet water quality objectives. GA BMPs for Forestry would be met or exceeded to meet water quality objectives for all activities. Consistent with GA BMP (2019 p. 21), silvicultural activities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize soil disturbance, litter layer removal, and avoid high-intensity fire within ephemeral areas. These activities can increase the possibility of introducing pollutants to intermittent or perennial streams. • Cover inadvertently exposed soils with logging debris, grass, or mulch. • Minimize equipment trafficking within and around ephemeral areas. Should trafficking be justifiable due to site constraints, take precautions to minimize soil disturbance and litter layer removal. Placement of logging debris or logging mats in traffic areas may be appropriate. Debris, mats, and other soil protecting structures should not interfere with the natural flow of water. • Avoid direct tie-in of turnouts and outfall of water bars/breaks to ephemeral areas. Extra care should be taken where a skid trail crosses an ephemeral area. 	Forest Plan Standard FW-070, GA BMPs
	<p>Motorized vehicle use in ephemeral stream zones is restricted to designated crossings. Motorized vehicles are allowed outside designated crossings on a case-by case basis when vehicle entry would create less ground disturbance than cable winching.</p>	Forest Plan Standard FW-077
	<p>Partial suspension is required when yarding logs over ephemeral streams, unless an improved crossing is used, e.g., culvert or bridge.</p>	Forest Plan Standard FW-079
	<p>Temporary culverts or bridges will be used to cross ephemeral streams where needed to protect channel stability or minimize erosion or scouring. Culverts will be removed when activities are completed, and the ephemeral stream zone will be restored to a natural condition. Stabilize disturbed soils at crossings.</p>	Forest Plan Standard FW-082
	<p>Recreation trails, campsites, and other permanent recreational developments are located, designed, and constructed outside the ephemeral stream zone (25 feet on each side). Those causing unacceptable resource damage will be closed and/or rehabilitated.</p>	Forest Plan Standard FW-083
	<p>Use fuel-break construction and/or mitigation methods that: (a) leave the root mat intact; (b) do not leave bare mineral soil exposed, and © do not create landforms that will drain directly into ephemeral streams for 25 feet on either side of ephemeral streams. Such methods include wet lines or use of existing constructed or natural barriers. If fuel-break construction results in breaking the root mat and thus exposure of bare mineral soil and connection to an ephemeral stream, restore the fire break for 25 feet on each side of the stream with re-shaping the soil surface and placing a soil cover in a timely manner to minimize erosion.</p>	Forest Plan Standard FW-084
<p>PDF 11: All heavy mechanical equipment use in parking lot activities</p>	<p>Operators should drive, operate, and store heavy equipment only within the proposed development footprint or the disturbed corridors of the surrounding roads and parking areas, so as to limit soil compaction and vegetation cover loss in the surrounding area. Additionally, bulldozer debris and excavated material from grading and digging operations should not be pushed into the surrounding natural forest areas. Construction should be designed and completed with no additional impacts to the riparian area.</p>	FLP Specific
<p>PDF 12: All heavy mechanical</p>	<p>Soil rutting should be kept to a minimum.</p>	Regional soil standard

PDF Number: Location or Condition	Project Design Features, Best Management Practices, and Standards	Origin
equipment uses	Compaction in an activity area should not exceed a 15% increase in bulk density in the upper 8 inches of the soil.	Regional soil standard
PDF 13: Mastication activities	The operator should try to move in a straight direction. Pivot turns should be kept to a minimum and turns should be conducted in a broad arc as the surrounding terrain and timber would allow in order to minimize soil disturbance. Care should be taken to avoid moving over the same piece of ground more than three times or use areas that have already been compacted through other activities.	FLP Specific
PDF 14: Temporary road construction	Temporary roads would follow the general contour as practical and would generally not exceed sustained grades over 10%.	GA BMP
	The travel way of temporary roads would generally not exceed 14-16 feet except at turnouts and landings.	GA BMP
	Drainage structures, such as outsloping and waterbars, would be installed along temporary roads when the use of the road is no longer needed.	GA BMP
	Temporary roads would be constructed on previous existing routes (old woods roads, skid trails, system trails) where possible to minimize the need for new temporary road construction.	FLP Specific
PDF 15: Timber harvest activities within the riparian corridor	<p>Establish Streamside Management Zones (SMZ) on both sides of designated trout streams and tributaries according to the following options:</p> <p>Option A: For perennial trout streams and tributaries, a minimum 100-foot SMZ that includes a no-harvest zone within the first 25-feet of primary or secondary trout streams. Timber harvests within the remaining 75-feet of the SMZ should leave an average of 50 square ft of basal area per acre or at least 50% canopy cover.</p> <p>Option B: For perennial trout streams and tributaries within the 100-ft. SMZ, leave an average of 50 square feet of basal area per acre evenly distributed throughout the zone to provide shade. Option B may be selected if a qualified professional is consulted.</p> <p>Option C does not apply to CONF. The minimum CONF riparian corridor is 100 feet.</p>	GA BMP
PDF 16: All activities within Riparian Corridor	Major actions that create long-term impacts are prohibited in the riparian corridor. Examples are roads or trails (excluding designated crossings), recreation sites and facilities, log landings, and permanent wildlife openings. Existing examples of the above are permitted if not causing environmental damage.	Forest Plan Standard 11-001
	Minor actions that create short-term impacts are permitted in the riparian corridor with appropriate mitigation and monitoring of impacts. Examples of minor actions include silvicultural activities needed to meet resource objectives for riparian-associated species, bank stabilization, temporary road construction and stream crossings associated with these activities.	Forest Plan Standard 11-002
	For all projects, additional protection, such as wider riparian corridor distances, higher residual canopy cover, restrictions on activities, etc. will be identified through site-specific inventories and surveys, site-specific biological evaluations, and site-specific mitigations identified in project NEPA documents.	Forest Plan Standard 11-003
	Silvicultural activities conducted within the riparian corridor will be conducted to meet or exceed compliance with the current edition of GA BMPs for Forestry	Forest Plan Standard 11-022
	Tree removals may only take place (in the riparian corridor) if needed to enhance the recovery of the, rehabilitate disturbances, provide habitat for T&E, RFSS, or riparian-associated species, reduce fuel buildup, provide for visitor safety, or for approved facility	Forest Plan Standard 11-024

PDF Number: Location or Condition	Project Design Features, Best Management Practices, and Standards	Origin
<p>PDF 17: Culvert and/or bridge maintenance, removal, or modification</p>	<p>construction/renovation</p> <p>Culverts and bridges (and any other man-made structure) would be surveyed for roosting bats before they are removed or modified, and if significant bat roosting is found, the structure would be maintained, or alternative roosts made available prior to removal or destruction</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard FW-035</p>
	<p>Culverts that are barriers to stream biota passage in waters of aquatic Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species have priority for replacement over culverts in waters without Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species.</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard FW-042</p>
<p>PDF 18: Timber sales</p>	<p>In salvage timber sales, all live den trees and an average of 5 of the largest suitable snags (snags with exfoliating bark) per acre will be retained. Snags in early stages of decay should be favored over older snags for retention. Snags should be clumped if possible.</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard FW-090</p>
	<p>In even aged and two aged regeneration, retain all snags unless they are an immediate hazard. Sales will be designed to avoid snag removal if possible (skid trails, landings). Retain (or create) 5 snags per acre, near the forest edge if possible. In even-aged and two-aged regeneration stands larger than 10 acres, maintain a minimum of 15 sq. feet of basal area. These can be arranged in clumps, corridors, or feathered edges. In stands over 10 acres treated as seedtree or shelterwood, maintain a minimum of 20 sq. feet of basal area. Retain all trees within 20 feet of 5 snags per acre for windthrow protection and snag recruitment.</p>	<p>Forest Plan Standard FW-091</p>
<p>PDF 19: Activities around caves and/or mines</p>	<p>For caves and mines suitable of supporting cave-dependent species, a minimum buffer of 200 feet is maintained around portals. Prohibited activities within this buffer include use of wheeled or tractor vehicles (except on existing roads or for cave protection and maintenance), mechanical site prep, vegetation cutting, rec site construction, tractor-constructed firelines, herbicide application, and new road construction, skid trails, and log landings.</p>	<p>Forest Plan Management Prescription 9.F-021</p>
<p>PDF 20: All vegetation treatments that create young forest habitats (10,100 acres)</p>	<p>Within individual project areas to be implemented within the Foothills Landscape area, an assessment of existing acres of young forest habitats (stands less than 11 years old) would be made prior to implementation to determine the maximum amount of young forest that could be created. Such assessments would be tiered to the applicable Management Prescription allowances contained within each individual project IA. Young Forest habitats would not be created in excess of the maximum amounts allowed by each Management Prescription singly or combined.</p>	<p>FLP Specific (MRx compliance)</p>
<p>PDF 21: Any ground-disturbing activities</p>	<p>Botanical surveys would be completed in accordance with Forest risk assessments in suitable habitats for T&E and Sensitive species prior to any ground disturbing activities.</p>	<p>FLP Specific</p>

Attachment B: Monitoring Plan

Resource Assessed	Monitoring Question/Objective	Frequency	Field Method/Data Collection	Documentation Format	Primary Responsibility
Soil Productivity & Water Quality	Are Best Management Practices (BMPs) being implemented through timber sale contract provisions, and according to Forest Plan standards?	During operational periods (timber sales, site prep, road construction and maintenance)	Evaluate implementation of BMPs and timber sale contract provisions. All timber sale units are evaluated for implementation.	Timber sale inspection forms, filed in timber sale contracts, reviewed by FSR	District Timber Sale Administrator, Harvest Inspector, Forest Service Representative (FSR)
Soil Productivity & Water Quality	Are the Best Management Practices and applicable Forest Plan standards effective in meeting soil productivity and water quality standards?	During operational periods and within one year after operations end.	Field evaluation of the effectiveness of BMPs to meet Forest Plan standards. Random sample of harvest units using line transects & point samples	Field inspection forms, filed in S.O.	Interdisciplinary Team (Forest personnel in hydrology, soils, timber)
Best Management Practices Implementation – Audit by GFC	Were Best Management Practices implemented per Georgia’s Forestry BMP Handbook and effective in protecting water quality?	During operational periods and within one year after operations end.	Field evaluation of randomly selected harvest units and prescribed burns by Georgia Forestry Commission water quality personnel. This occurs across the state on federal land as well as state and private ownership.	Completion of GFC Best Management Practice Audit Form, filed in state database	Georgia Forestry Commission Water Quality personnel

Resource Assessed	Monitoring Question/Objective	Frequency	Field Method/Data Collection	Documentation Format	Primary Responsibility
Revegetation of Disturbed Areas	Were the prescribed revegetation efforts on disturbed sites such as skid trails, landings, skid trails, and fire lines implemented and effective in establishing ground cover and erosion protection?	Within one growing season of revegetation operations.	Visual evaluation of disturbed areas that have been revegetated to assess that sites have been seeded and rehabilitated to ensure revegetation is successful.	Field visual inspection of random sample of revegetated areas, documented on timber sale inspection reports	Timber Sale Administrator
Non-Native Invasive Plants	Are NNIS populations present within planned harvest/activity areas prior to treatment?	During project preparation/layout	Field inventory and mapping of NNIS populations	Inventoried populations will be mapped and treatment planned. Populations identified through risk assessment process prior to implementation may be added to Sale Area Map as required by Foothills NNIS Risk Assessment	District Silviculturist, District Timber Management Assistant (TMA), Presale Forester, District Wildlife Biologist
Non-Native Invasive Plants	Identify NNIS in treated areas as required by Foothills NNIS Risk Assessment and treat new infestations	Up to five field seasons after harvest activities have been completed as required by Foothills NNIS Risk Assessment	Field inspections to identify establishment or spread of NNIS as required by Foothills NNIS Risk Assessment	Inventoried populations will be mapped and treatment planned.	District Silviculturist, District TMA, District Wildlife Biologist
Rare Plants	Are rare plant protections adequate to protect populations?	During timber sale layout and operational periods	Field inspection of known rare plant populations.	Timber sale inspection reports	Timber Sale Administrator, District Wildlife Biologist

Resource Assessed	Monitoring Question/Objective	Frequency	Field Method/Data Collection	Documentation Format	Primary Responsibility
Timber	Are timber harvest activities adhering to applicable Forest Plan standards?	Throughout the life of the timber sale contract	Field inspections through all phases of harvesting to ensure contract provisions are being met and implemented in compliance with the Forest Plan.	Timber sale inspection reports	Harvest Inspector, Timber Sale Administrator, Forest Service Representative, District Wildlife Biologist, District Timber Management Assistant
Reforestation	Are harvested stands regenerated and restocked within five years of harvest?	One and three years after planting trees, and at 5 years or later after site preparation has been completed with natural regeneration	Field evaluation of sample plots and/or field inspection will be used to determine stocking, composition and condition of regeneration.	Report documented in FACTS database	District Silviculturist
Heritage	Are Forest Plan standards effective in protecting cultural and heritage resources?	During and immediately after harvest activities	Field inspections of sites to ensure the protection or avoidance of heritage resources.	Timber sale inspection reports	Timber Sale Administrator, Archeologist