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Department of
Agriculture

Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests



Proposed Land Management Plan

Appendix A: Consolidated Forest Plan Objectives



Forest
Service

Southern
Region

National Forests
in North Carolina

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Appendix A: Consolidated Forest Plan Objectives

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Background

Forest plan objectives are a critical part of understanding the actions that will take place during that timeframe – they help focus and prioritize activities. While objectives are listed throughout the plan in their respective resource sections, this document consolidates those objectives in one place.

How do objectives fit in? The forest plan provides a general framework for managing the forest over the next 10-15 years. First, the plan outlines desired conditions that describe what we want the forest to be like in the future. Next, objectives outline measurable steps the forest will take to achieve those long-term goals. Objectives do not come with funding or guarantee that the budget will allow completion of this work, therefore, objectives must be based on budgets and staff capacity that is reasonably foreseeable. Objectives are not considered targets, but they will be the forest priorities for the 10 to 15 years following plan approval. Not every action the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests may take is included as an objective, since objectives are intended to identify priorities and not every activity. Objectives are not meant to be a limit on planned activities and may be exceeded. Objectives are closely related to the plan monitoring strategy, where the plan will evaluate “Did we accomplish the objective?” and “Did that accomplishment create the outcomes we desired, trending toward desired conditions?”

This document contains the consolidated set of forest plan objectives from throughout the Plan. These objectives apply to the entire Nantahala and Pisgah landscape and should be considered holistically rather than individually. These objectives relate to the four forest plan themes of connecting people to the land, sustaining healthy ecosystems, providing clean and abundant water, and partnering with others. They respond to the needs for restoring forests, protecting and enhancing watershed conditions, conserving wildlife habitats, and contributing to social values and economic goods and services.

Trying something new: two Tiers. When the FS shared an initial set of objectives in summer 2016, we heard a common refrain on every topic: What is identified is great, but not enough – can the FS do more? What about if partners and others help to accomplish work on forest lands?

Directly in response to public comments on that initial set, the Nantahala and Pisgah decided to try something new and identify two sets of objectives - Tier 1 and Tier 2 Objectives. Tier 1 Objectives are based on a continuation of recent FS budgets and capacity, while Tier 2 Objectives reflect additional outcomes that may be possible with added capacity of partners and partner resources. By outlining what we may be able to achieve with the help of others, we aim to incentivize shared stewardship and build partnerships to achieve more work on the ground.

Can the Forest Service do more than the objectives identify? Absolutely. We recognize that current and projected accomplishments are constrained by FS anticipated budget and staffing. Where we can increase program efficiency or funding through innovative tools and partnerships we may be able to achieve more or move more quickly toward desired conditions.

How were these objectives determined? In early 2016, forest leadership and the interdisciplinary team of specialists working on the forest plan revision team developed a list of actions intended to implement the plan. The list considered the [Forest Plan Assessment](#) findings and the [Need for Change](#), as well as recent trends, past experiences, anticipated staffing levels, and anticipated budgets. The list was refined based on input from our Forest Leadership Team and public comments. Objectives were considered for this list if they related to forest plan themes, contribute to sustainability, appeared technically and fiscally feasible for more detailed analysis, can be implemented with a high degree of broad public support, contribute to a long-term commitment, enhance management effectiveness and efficiency, or provide opportunity to partner or coordinate with others. The Environmental Impact Statement, analyzes the effects of these proposed objectives, including their feasibility and potential impacts on forest resources.

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We also received feedback that our objectives should be framed in the context of outcomes, rather than activities, and that our initial set of objectives was confusing and appeared to double count acres and activities in multiple categories in the restoration and resiliency section. We reframed the initial objectives to address each of these concerns.

Can objectives be changed? After a plan is signed, changes in environmental conditions, budgets or other factors may result in a need to re-evaluate plan objectives. If, after the plan is signed, an objective is no longer appropriate or relevant for achieving desired conditions, then the objective can be removed or replaced through a plan amendment or revision.

In the pages that follow, the objectives are identified as numbered statements. The information below each objective in italics explains the "background and rationale." This section provides additional context to help understand the design and intent of the objective.

Objectives by theme

Connecting People to the Land.....	A-3
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Connecting People to the Land

From the very beginning, the forests of western North Carolina have been recognized for their importance to people. The rich cultural mosaic of people who have called this region their home depends on the forest for scenic beauty, year-round outdoor play and exercise, spiritual renewal, traditional uses like hunting and gathering, and economic opportunity. Under this theme, the plan recognizes the contribution of the Pisgah and Nantahala NFs to communities and quality of life in the broader region, and the cultural traditions and economies that depend on the forest. Objectives address management of sustainable recreation, volunteerism, nature-based education, nontimber forest products, protection of cultural resources, and relationship with federally recognized tribes.

COM-O-02	Tier 1: Annually, increase volunteer and service program effectiveness by ensuring that volunteers and service participants have the appropriate supervision, coordination, program direction, safety training, certifications, and protective equipment to conduct their work in a safe and efficient manner, and are recognized for their time in service, significant accomplishments, and/or exemplary safety records.
REC-O-01	Tier 1, part b: Move toward a more ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable recreation program by improving visitor satisfaction, maintaining and operating priority developed recreation sites to a facility condition index of at least 90 percent and to National Quality Standards within 10 years.
REC-O-02	Tier 1: Identify areas where tools can be used for non-commercial mineral collection, within three years of plan approval.
REC-O-03	Tier 1: Establish a forest-wide accident analysis system of cumulative fatalities to determine if additional safety measures and risk management may be appropriate within the planning period.
REC-O-04	Tier 1: Complete Trail Management Objectives (TMOs) for all Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest System trails within 3 years, and schedule trail maintenance tasks according to identified frequencies.
REC-O-05	Tier 1: Eliminate at least 10 percent of off-highway vehicle trail deferred maintenance annually; accomplished primarily through volunteers, fee revenue, and grants.
REC-O-06	Tier 1: Increase trail miles meeting National Quality Standards to 50% over the life of the Plan. Tier 2: Increase trail miles meeting National Quality Standards to 60% over the life of the Plan.
REC-O-07	<i>Reviewer’s note: This objective differs by alternative. This objective only exists in Alternative D and is not considered in Alternatives A, B or C. The effects of including this objective in Alt D is discussed in the draft Environmental Impact Statement.</i> <i>Alternative D: Tier 1: Within three years, establish a “Trail Bank” that can be used to add new sustainable trail miles to the non-motorized trail system. The Trail Bank will begin with a seed of 30 miles. Additional miles will be credited to the Trail Bank when existing NFS trails are decommissioned and/or rehabilitated. Trail Bank credits can then be used,</i>

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	<p>but not exceeded, when constructing new sustainable trails or adopting unauthorized routes as NFS trails. The Trail Bank system will also have provisions for the Forest Supervisor to increase or decrease trail mile credits based on periodic reviews of trail program needs and limitations, and changing trail-use trends within a Geographic Area. Use of Trail Bank credits will focus on improving ecological, social, and financial sustainability of the Nantahala and Pisgah NF trail system by conducting critical analysis of new trail proposals, increasing the percentage of NFS trails meeting National Quality Standards, reducing the occurrence of unauthorized routes, and providing desired user experiences.</p>
REC-O-08	<p>Tier 2: Provide 10 new loop trail opportunities by creating short connectors to existing National Forest System trails or gated roads over the life the Plan.</p>
REC-O-09	<p>Tier 2: Through a collaborative process, develop a Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest climbing strategy that provides guidance on rock climbing, bouldering, and slack lining; guidance shall address climbing in general forest and designated areas.</p>
REC-O-10	<p>Tier 1: Develop an operation and maintenance guide for all designated dispersed campsites containing provisions for public health and safety, and protection of water, aquatic, and riparian resources.</p>
TA-O-01	<p>Tier: 1 Maintain 280 road miles to standard annually across the Nantahala and Pisgah by performing maintenance, reducing road maintenance level, or decommissioning unneeded roads.</p> <p>Tier 2: Reduce the maintenance backlog by an additional 10% annually.</p>
TA-O-02	<p>Tier 1: Re-evaluate and update the Travel Analysis Report (TAR) report within three years of plan approval. This process will identify opportunities to adjust the Forest road system so that it considers access for public and Forest management activities, minimizes road- and trail-associated environmental impacts and public safety risks, site-specific priorities and opportunities for road improvements and decommissioning, and can be maintained within budget constraints. Future development and implementation of Travel Analysis Report recommendations and best available FS data will identify a minimum road system.</p>
TA-O-06	<p>Tier 1: No net decrease in the miles of open roads in Interface and Matrix over the life of the plan.</p> <p>Tier 2: Increase mileage of seasonally open roads in Interface and Matrix by between 5-10 percent over the life of the plan, prioritizing recreational access, such as hunting and fishing. Determine the amount of unneeded roads in backcountry and decommission 10 percent over the life of the plan.</p>
FAC-O-01	<p>Tier 1: Over the life of the plan, reduce total energy use across the Forests by at least five percent.</p>
CR-O-01	<p>Tier 1: Over the life of the plan, reduce deferred maintenance needs at archeological sites and historic structures by 50 percent and continue monitoring at current or higher level.</p>

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CR-O-02	Tier 1: Over the life of the plan, reduce the backlog of cultural resource site evaluations by 60 percent.
CR-O-03	Tier 1: Within three years of plan implementation, identify archeological sites that are at high risk from looting impacts and develop strategies for site protection and preservation.
NTFP-O-01	Tier 1: Every two years, assess at least one non-timber forest product to ensure sustainability and stable populations for species with higher harvest rates or biological susceptibility such as American ginseng, ramps, Galax, and Fraser fir.
NTFP-O-02	Tier 1: Annually, continue to produce local ginseng seeds in the nursery and augment or establish at least ten ginseng populations with southern Appalachian germplasm (seeds or transplants) over the life of the plan.
CE-O-01	Tier 1: Annually, educational and interpretive efforts will expand the suite of programs offered through revisions of existing and/or additions of new programs. These programs will address management needs and will also emphasize efforts for providing youth or underserved populations a better understanding of their natural and cultural environment.
HC-O-01	Tier 1: Within two years of plan approval, a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the long term management, preservation, and treatment of the Trail of Tears and Unicoi Turnpike corridors will be initiated.
HC-O-02	Tier 1: Within two years of the completed CLR, the Comprehensive Management Plan and finalized mapping of the Trail of Tears corridors will be initiated.
HC-O-03	Tier 1: Within three years of plan implementation, a CLR should be completed for the long term management, preservation, and treatment of the Overmountain Victory Trail.
HC-O-04	Tier 1: Within five years of Comprehensive Management Plan approvals, implement signage as appropriate of historical routes for the Trail of Tears, Unicoi Turnpike, and Overmountain Victory trail.
RM-O-03	Tier 1: Within 5 years, designate campsites in Roan Mountain areas subject to impact from heavy use.

Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems

The Nantahala and Pisgah NFs support a diversity of forest communities from southern pine to northern hardwood forests. When compared to the southern Appalachian Region, the forests contain a proportionally greater amount of high-elevation forests and southern Appalachian balds, rare plant and animal communities, and headwater streams than the area as a whole. Under this theme, the plan focuses on improving the ability of forests to remain healthy and resilient, despite stresses and disturbances. Objectives under this theme address maintaining and improving the diversity of forest structure (age classes or seral stages) and composition (species); managing using silvicultural and fire tools; managing for wildlife habitat and rare species and communities; and controlling noxious weed and invasive plants.

Over the next 10 years, the FS plans to:

ECO-O-1	<p>Tier 1: Maintain 3,750 acres of existing grass, forb and shrub openings.</p> <p>Tier 2: Restore 1,450 acres of grass, forb and shrub openings that are not currently present on the forest.</p>
ECO-O-2	<p>Tier 1: Provide 11,000-17,000 acres of young forest conditions,¹ by steadily increasing new young forest conditions from 6,500 acres up to 12,000 acres through silvicultural practices with at least 70 percent above 2,500 feet elevation and 50 percent in oak-dominated, northern hardwood, and rich coves. Additionally, ensure at least 50 percent of these conditions are within NCWRC Wildlife Active Habitat Management focal areas.</p> <p>Tier 2: Provide up to 37,000 acres of young forest conditions by increasing new young forest conditions up to 32,250 acres through silvicultural practices, with similar elevational and spatial arrangements described above. This Tier includes more focused use of prescribed fire to generate young forest conditions.</p>
ECO-O-3	<p>Tier 2: Enhance or accelerate the development of old growth conditions over time, by actively managing 250 acres for each ten year interval through activities such as increasing downed woody debris within all size classes by felling variable size trees, creating woodlands in appropriate ecozones by thinning and prescribe burning, enhancing the composition of native species, creating snags by girdling trees, and harvesting products as a side effect of removing uncharacteristic vegetation.</p>
ECO-O-4	<p>Tier 1: Provide 1,500 to 4,000 acres of open forest woodland conditions that do not currently exist on the forest, by restoring and then maintaining sites for open conditions. Priorities will be given to pine types and oak dominated stands such as dry and mesic oaks. Additionally, ensure at least 50 percent of these conditions are within NCWRC Wildlife Active Habitat Management focal areas, and ensure these conditions provide for elk habitat when activities are within its currently occupied range or within the NCWRC elk focal area.</p>

¹ This includes 4,500 current acres that are aging out of the young forest category.

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	<p>Tier 2: Provide 4,000 to 6,000 acres of open forest woodland conditions that do not currently exist on the forest, by restoring and then maintaining sites for open conditions. Priorities will match those in Tier 1.</p>								
ECO-O-5	<p>Tier 1: Utilize stand and forest community improvement practices to restore, improve or maintain the composition, structure and function of ecozones and forest stands by increasing from a minimum of 3,800 acres to approximately 6,000 acres.</p> <p>Tier 2: Utilize stand and forest community improvement practices on all acres that are regenerated, where such treatments are needed.</p>								
ECO-O-6	<p>Tier 1: Prioritize prescribe burns to restore the most fire-adapted ecozones, and across ecozones where reducing fuel loads will improve public safety on adjacent private lands. Annually prescribe burn from 6,500 to 10,000 acres. Prioritize 50 percent of the annual burns within the following four types, consisting of the following desired acre ranges:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Shortleaf Pine :</td> <td>1000-1500 acres</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pine-Oak/Heath:</td> <td>1000-1500 acres</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dry-Mesic Oak:</td> <td>850-1300 acres</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dry Oak:</td> <td>400-600 acres</td> </tr> </table> <p>In order to maximize restoration, include approximately 10 percent as growing season burns.</p> <p>Tier 2: Expand the extent of prescribed fire up to approximately 20,000 acres (annually) with emphasis on restoring the fire-adapted ecozones and across ecozones where reducing fuel loads will improve public safety on adjacent private lands. Include approximately 10 percent growing season burns, designed to ensure compatibility with federally threatened and endangered species needs.</p>	Shortleaf Pine :	1000-1500 acres	Pine-Oak/Heath:	1000-1500 acres	Dry-Mesic Oak:	850-1300 acres	Dry Oak:	400-600 acres
Shortleaf Pine :	1000-1500 acres								
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ECO-O-7	<p>Tier 1: Restore 50 acres of spruce fir ecozones per year in order to restore 500 acres of the 3,900 acres departed from its characteristic vegetative composition.</p>								
ECO-O-8	<p>Tier 1: Provide stable or improved forest health conditions on at least 250 acres where current or newly established threats are present. Prioritize actions on (1) maintaining effectiveness of existing treatment areas, (2) New threats and new areas when species viability is at risk (3) Expanding treatments for species impacted by known threats.</p> <p>Tier 2: Improve at least 500 acres with cooperator involvement.</p>								
ECO-O-9	<p>Tier 1: Control or eradicate non-native invasive (NNIS) plant species on 750 to 1500 acres. Select sites using the following priorities: Unique or rare habitats required for T/E or SCC; Key characteristics of ecozones that provide habitat requirements for T/E or SCC. Inventory approximately 1,000 to 2,000 acres for NNIS occurrences.</p> <p>Tier 2: Control or eradicate NNIS up to approximately 3,000 acres: to mitigate the spread to or from adjacent lands; where high human uses occur with high risks of NNIS establishment. Inventory up to approximately 4,000 acres for NNIS occurrences. Priority areas are high quality Special Interest Areas, previously treated areas, NC Natural Heritage</p>								

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	Program natural areas, and lands where control is completed cooperatively with adjacent state agencies or private land owners.
ECO-O-10	Tier 1: Annually, conduct a site specific analysis of base cations in 1 to 2 project locations where there is a concern for base cation depletion . Develop mitigation or restoration strategies when these strategies are necessary to restore or protect at-risk water, soils, flora and fauna.
PAD-O-01	Tier 1: Restore and maintain 11-23 glades and barrens to a woodland or open structural conditions.
PAD-O-02	Tier 1: Maintain all Carolina hemlock Bluff sites (approx. 40 sites) to ensure that Carolina hemlocks are reproducing with minimal impact from hemlock wooly adelgid.
PAD-O-03	Tier 1: Restore and/or maintain at least 12 Southern Appalachian bogs by reducing woody plant production.
PAD-O-04	Tier 1: Maintain existing balds across the Nantahala and Pisgah.
RM-O-01	Tier 1: Over the life of the plan, maintain grassy and heath balds on approximately 320 acres across six separate balds. (This is approximately 60-80 acres per year over 4-5 year cycle.) Over the life of the plan period, restore and maintain an addition 10-20 acres of grassy and heath balds on Roan Mountain .
RM-O-02	Tier 1: Within 5 years, an ecosystem management plan for Roan Mountain will be completed incorporating interests from adjacent landowners, conservation groups, and associated state and federal agencies.

As a result of these collective Healthy Ecosystem objectives, the following annual activities are probable:

Regeneration Harvests	Tier 1: 650 to 1200 acres Tier 2: 1200 to 3200 acres
Intermediate Thinning	Tier 1: 150 to 400 acres Tier 2: 400 to 600 acres
Reforestation	Tier 1: 800 to 1600 acres Tier 2: 1600 to 4000 acres
Stand Improvement	Tier 1: 3,800 to 6,000 acres Tier 2: 6,000 to 15,000
Prescribed Fire	Tier 1: 6,500 to 10,000 acres Tier 2: 10,000 to 20,000 acres

Providing Clean and Abundant Water

Water is a life-sustaining resource for the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs and the natural and social communities that depend on it. Beyond the ecological communities, forest waters also support municipal water supplies, agriculture and industry. Under this plan revision theme, plan components focus on how management will sustain surface water and ground water flow, maintain fish and wildlife habitat, control erosion, and stabilize streambanks. Objectives under this theme manage for a healthy forest through road maintenance, stream restoration, habitat management and mitigating effects from acid rain.

<p>WSD-O-01</p>	<p>Tier 1: Develop watershed restoration action plans for 10 priority watersheds for restoration over the life of the plan. Additionally, implement a minimum of two and a maximum of four watershed restoration action plans to improve the conditions of watersheds from “functioning at risk” to “properly functioning” over the life of the plan. While implementing these action plans, at least the following improvements will occur over the life of the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improve a minimum of six to a maximum of 12 water quality and aquatic habitat conditions from “impaired” or “functioning at risk” to “properly functioning” condition. ii. Restore a minimum of 15 to a maximum of 20 acres of stream ecosystem, focusing on restoring floodplain connectivity, stream channel function (for example, large woody debris), and native riparian vegetation. iii. Perform road maintenance activities on 15 miles of roads that are known to be hydrologically connected to the stream network (see also Transportation and Access, TA-O-03). iv. Perform trail maintenance activities on approximately 15 miles of trails, emphasizing trails within 100 feet of streams. Relocate trails that are adversely affecting aquatic health (see also Dispersed Recreation, REC-O-6). v. Decommission unneeded roads that are adversely affecting aquatic health (see also Transportation and Access, TA-O-04). <p>Tier 2: Develop watershed restoration action plans for 10 priority watersheds for restoration, over the life of the plan, and implement two more watershed restoration action plans, for a total of five to six over the life of the plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improve 15 to 20 water quality and aquatic habitat conditions from “impaired” or “functioning at risk” to “properly functioning” condition. ii. Restore 50 to 100 acres of stream ecosystem, focusing on restoring floodplain connectivity, stream channel function (for example, large woody debris), and native riparian vegetation.
<p>WSD-O-02</p>	<p>Tier 1: Assess acid neutralizing capacity in one priority watershed annually and utilize the information to inform watershed management and restoration.</p>
<p>AQS –O-01</p>	<p>Tier 1: Maintain or expand the occupied range of brook trout across the Forests. Additionally, maintain or increase populations within this range over the life of the plan.</p>

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AQS –O-01	Tier 1: Maintain or expand the occupied range of freshwater mussels and other aquatic species of conservation concern and federally listed species across the Forests. Additionally, maintain or increase populations within this range over the life of the plan.
AQS –O-03	Tier 1: Work with partners to complete the assessment of aquatic organism passage (AOP) needs across the Forests over the life of the plan. Prioritize completion of AOP needs that enables reconnection of fragmented populations of brook trout and other aquatic federally listed species or species of conservation concern, or restoration of these species to suitable unoccupied habitat. Replace a minimum of two impaired stream crossings annually to improve aquatic organism passage and aquatic community connectivity across the planning unit.
SZ-O-01	Tier 1: Restore at least three acres of streamside zones annually to increase vegetation diversity. Tier 2: Restore at least 20 acres of streamside zones annual to increase vegetation diversity.
SZ-O-02	Tier 1: Implement between three and five stream channel improvement projects annually, using natural channel concepts, focusing on restoring floodplain connectivity, streambank stability, and enhancement of aquatic habitat diversity. Tier 2: Implement between six to ten stream channel improvement projects annually, using natural channel concepts, focusing on restoring floodplain connectivity, streambank stability, and enhancement of aquatic habitat diversity.
TA-O-03	Tier 1: Develop and implement a forest-wide road maintenance plan that identifies priority maintenance activities, funding sources, and performance responsibilities over the life of the plan. The work presented in this plan is prioritized to promote public safety, prevent erosion and sedimentation, protect water quality, and maintain Forest access with an emphasis on priority watersheds.
TA-O-04	Tier 1: Unauthorized road and trail miles within priority watersheds and Inventoried Roadless Areas will be identified and prioritized for obliteration to minimize erosion and sedimentation. A minimum of 50 miles of unauthorized roads and trails will be restored to natural contours during the life of the plan.

Partnering with Others

The U.S. Forest Service collaborates with partners to enhance its mission to sustain the National Forests in North Carolina. Forest managers work with other federal, state and local governments, Tribes, and partners across boundaries to achieve shared objectives. Working collaboratively allows us to accomplish more work on the ground than any one agency could do alone.

Plan direction under this theme prepares the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests to be a model for partnerships. A section on public involvement describes how citizens and groups can engage in project development early in the process; tiered objectives reflect additional outcomes that may be possible with added capacity of partners and partner resources; and geographic area goals identify opportunities to accomplish cross boundary needs that serve the American public.

All Tier 2 objectives	Tier 2: All Tier 2 objectives across the remaining three themes reflect additional outcomes that may be possible with added capacity of partners and partner resources.
COM-O-01	Tier 1: Every other year, host a discussion at the Supervisor’s Office with interested WNC local governments or their economic development offices to foster shared actions that support local jobs, attract tourism, and encourage coordination on public health and safety issues.
REC-O-01	Tier 1, part a: Move toward a more ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable recreation program by implementing collaborative recreation planning with stakeholders and local communities to develop a strategic guidance and a shared vision for sustainable recreation for the future within five years.
TR-O-01	Tier 1: Within two years of plan implementation, complete a Tribal Communication Plan to identify contacts and respective responsibilities and a Memorandum of Understanding clarifying roles and authorities.
TR-O-02	Tier 1: Within three years of plan implementation, develop a Tribal partnership for restoration.
TA-O-05	Tier 1: Annually daylight at least 2 miles of roads , with an emphasis on closed roads within NC WRC Wildlife Habitat Active Management Area priority areas, for the purposes of creation of young forest conditions and road improvement. Tier 2: Annually daylight at least 5 miles, with an emphasis on closed roads within NC WRC Wildlife Habitat Active Management Area priority areas and creation of young forest conditions for the purposes of creation of young forest conditions and road improvement.
PAD-O-05	Tier 1: Coordinate with the NC Natural Heritage program to identify Natural Areas in potential project areas. Review the boundaries of Natural Areas and make updates based on current information. Discuss unique values that are present in the area and management opportunities to enhance or maintain those values, including but not limited to the use of prescribed burning, thinning, regeneration and non-native invasive treatments. The intent is to complete the review prior to initiating projects.

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	<p>Tier 2: Coordinate with the NC Natural Heritage program to review all Natural Areas on the Forest to discuss unique values and potential boundary adjustments and opportunities to enhance or maintain unique values. Where resources are limited, prioritize those areas that have higher State Natural Heritage Area rankings.</p>
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