

Monongahela National Forest

Administrative Correction 10

September 20, 2010

Changes to Management Prescriptions Due to Congressional Wilderness Designations

Under the 2000 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.31), the following administrative corrections and additions may be made at any time, are not plan amendments or revisions, and do not require public notice or the preparation of an environmental document under Forest Service NEPA procedures:

- (1) Corrections and updates of data and maps;
- (2) Updates to activity lists and schedules as required by § 219.30(d)(1)-(6);
- (3) Corrections of typographical errors or other non-substantive changes; and
- (4) Changes in monitoring methods other than those required in a monitoring strategy.

The following corrections are due to congressional wilderness designations that occurred in the Wild Monongahela Wilderness Act (Public Law 111-11) of 2009. The designations resulted in a change in Management Prescription acres on the Forest. An estimated 37,648 acres formerly in Management Prescription 5.1 (Recommended Wilderness) or Management Prescription 6.2 (Backcountry Recreation) became Management Prescription 5.0, Designated Wilderness.

CORRECTIONS

Forest Plan Chapter III, page III-17

Area Description, First Sentence: The following five areas are assigned to this prescription.

Change to: The following eight areas are assigned to this prescription.

Rationale for Change: There are now eight designated Wildernesses on the Forest due to Public Law 111-11, The Wild Monongahela Wilderness Act of 2009.

Area Description, Designated Wilderness Table: The existing table appears below.

| Designated Wilderness | Acres |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Cranberry Wilderness | 35,864 |
| Dolly Sods Wilderness | 10,215 |
| Laurel Fork North Wilderness | 6,055 |
| Laurel Fork South Wilderness | 5,997 |
| Otter Creek Wilderness | 20,000 |
| Total Acres | 78,131 |

Change to:

| Designated Wilderness | Acres |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Big Draft Wilderness | 5,144 |
| Cranberry Wilderness | 47,815 |
| Dolly Sods Wilderness | 17,371 |
| Laurel Fork North Wilderness | 6,055 |
| Laurel Fork South Wilderness | 5,874 |
| Otter Creek Wilderness | 20,698 |
| Roaring Plains West Wilderness | 6,792 |
| Spice Run Wilderness | 6,030 |
| Total Acres | 115,779 |

Rationale for Change: The new table adds Designated Wilderness areas and acreage from P.L. 111-11.

Area Description, First Paragraph below Designated Wilderness Table: The 78,131 acres represent the official acreage of the Wildernesses; however the acreage for the Management Prescription is closer to 78,700. This discrepancy is due to the fact that today's GIS technology measures areas differently than technology used 20 years ago, and that there are about 550 acres in the Dolly Sods Wilderness that were not accounted for as Wilderness in 1986.

Change to: The 115,779 acres represent the official acreage of the Wildernesses as captured in the Acts that created them. However, when measured by GIS technology, the acreage for the Management Prescription is actually closer to 116,300. This discrepancy is due to the fact there are over 500 acres within the Dolly Sods Wilderness that were attributed to Botanical Areas in the 1986 Forest Plan, but because these Botanical Areas lie within the Dolly Sods Wilderness boundary, they are managed as de facto Wilderness as well.

Rationale for Change: Updates amount of Wilderness acreage due to changes from P.L. 111-11.

Area Description, Second Paragraph below Designated Wilderness Table: Lands assigned to this prescription comprise an estimated 8.6 percent of the Forest (see 5.0 map). Elevations range from 2,300 to 4,500 feet, and these areas occur on a variety of land and soil types. The major forest communities and their current age classes are depicted in the table below.

Change to: Lands assigned to this prescription comprise an estimated 12.6% of the Forest (see 5.0 map). Elevations range from 1,800 to 4,700 feet, and these areas occur on a variety of land and soil types.

Rationale for Change: Updates the percentage and elevation range of Wilderness on the Forest based on changes from P.L. 111-11.

Area Description, Current Vegetation Conditions in MP 5.0 Table: The existing table appears below.

| Current Vegetation Conditions in Management Prescription 5.0 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Forest Community | Percent of Community in Rx Area | Percent by Age Class for Each Community | | | | |
| | | Early Successional (0-19 years) | Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years) | Mid Successional (40-79 years) | Mid-Late Successional (80-120 years) | Late Successional (>120 years) |
| Conifer | 7.3 | 0 | 0.7 | 40.6 | 54.7 | 4.0 |
| Northern Hardwoods | 52.2 | 0 | 0.3 | 40.9 | 52.6 | 6.2 |
| Mixed Cove Hardwoods | 37.6 | 0 | 4.7 | 10.2 | 84.5 | 0.5 |
| Mixed Oak | 0.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100.0 | 0 |
| Pine-Oak | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 38.8 | 61.2 | 0 |

Change to: Delete table and replace with the following statement: Forest communities range from high-elevation conifer to low-elevation pine-oak, and are dominated by northern hardwoods and mixed cove hardwoods, which are primarily in the mid-successional (40-79 years) and mid-late successional (80-120 years) age classes.

Rationale for Change: This table is no longer accurate due to changes in Wilderness areas. Moreover, it was never needed for management purposes or to compare with desired conditions, as the Designated Wilderness MP does not emphasize vegetation management. The replacement sentence serves the purpose of characterizing the vegetation that occurs in the prescription area.

Forest Plan Chapter III, page III-18

Management Prescription 5.0 Map: Replace existing Management Prescription 5.0 map with an updated map that includes all eight Designated Wildernesses on the Forest.

Forest Plan Chapter III, page III-19

Area Description, Third Paragraph: None of the prescription area is in Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3, and only 5,500 acres (7%) are in Fire Regime III, Condition Class 2.

Change to: The 5.0 prescription areas have an estimated 2,300 acres in Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3, and 13,900 acres in Fire Regime III, Condition Class 2. The remaining 99,800 acres are in Fire Regime V, with stand-replacing fire intervals at 200+ years.

Rationale for Change: Updates fire regime and condition class acreage based on changes in Wilderness areas due to P.L. 111-11.

Area Description, Fourth Paragraph, First Sentence: There are an estimated 148 miles of trail in the MP 5.0 areas

Change to: There are an estimated 199 total miles of trail in the MP 5.0 areas.

Rationale for Change: Updates trail mileage in Wilderness on the Forest based on changes in Wilderness areas due to P.L. 111-11.

Area Description, Fifth Paragraph, Last Sentence: An estimated 4% of the prescription area has privately owned mineral rights.

Change to: An estimated 25% of the prescription area has privately owned mineral rights.

Rationale for Change: Updates percentage of privately owned minerals in Wilderness on the Forest based on changes in Wilderness areas due to P.L. 111-11.

Area Description, Sixth Paragraph: There are an estimated 23 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired streams within the area, including all or portions of Dry Fork, Left Fork North Fork of Cranberry River, North Fork Cranberry River, Middle Fork Williams River, Red Creek, and Tumbling Rock Run.

Change to: There are an estimated 31 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired streams within the area, including portions of Dry Fork Left Fork North Fork Cranberry River, North Fork Cranberry River, Middle Fork Williams River, Williams River, Birchlog Run, Cold Run, Lick Branch, Little Rough Run, Red Creek, Greenbrier River, and Tumbling Rock Run.

Rationale for Change: Updates mileage and names of impaired streams in Wilderness areas on the Forest based on changes in Wilderness areas due to P.L. 111-11.

Area Description, Seventh Paragraph, First Sentence: Portions of four eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, totaling 33.8 miles, occur within or adjacent to this area.

Change to: Portions of five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, totaling 40.7 miles, occur within or adjacent to this prescription area.

Rationale for Change: Updates mileage and names of eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers in Wilderness areas on the Forest based on changes in Wilderness areas due to P.L. 111-11.

Area Description, Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 5.0 Table: The existing table appears below.

| Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 5.0 | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| River Name | Classification | Outstandingly Remarkable Values | Miles |
| Otter Creek | Scenic | Scenery, Recreation | 10.7 |
| Laurel Fork | Scenic | Recreation | 16.5 |
| Red Creek | Scenic | Scenery, Recreation | 5.3 |
| Dry Fork | Recreational | Recreation | 1.5 |

Change to:

| Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 5.0 | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| River Name | Classification | Outstandingly Remarkable Values | Miles |
| Laurel Fork | Scenic | Recreation | 16.5 |
| Otter Creek | Scenic | Scenery, Recreation | 10.7 |
| Red Creek | Scenic | Scenery, Recreation | 8.7 |
| Dry Fork | Recreational | Recreation | 3.3 |
| Williams River | Recreational | Scenery, Recreation | 1.5 |

Rationale for Change: Updates mileage and names of eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers in Wilderness areas on the Forest based on changes in Wilderness areas due to P.L. 111-11.

Forest Plan, Chapter III, pages III-25 through III-30

Change to: Delete all pages.

Rationale for Change: The second paragraph of Management Prescription 5.1 (Recommended Wilderness) on page III-25 of the Forest plan states: The intent of this prescription is to maintain wilderness attributes and management options until Congress decides whether or not to designate these areas as wilderness. If Congress decides to designate them as wilderness, the areas would be assigned the 5.0 Wilderness Management Prescription. If Congress decides not to designate them, the areas would be assigned a 6.2 Management Prescription.

Congress considered decided to designate three of the four Recommended Wilderness areas as Wilderness in The Wild Monongahela Wilderness Act of 2009, leaving Cheat Mountain as the only area that was not designated. According to the Forest Plan, the undesignated Cheat Mountain area is to be assigned a 6.2 Management Prescription. Therefore, there are no more Recommended Wilderness areas on the Forest and no need for a Recommended Wilderness 5.1 Management Prescription at this time. The management direction for MP 6.2 is much the same as the direction for MP 5.1, and this direction is designed to maintain the undeveloped character of the Cheat Mountain area should Congress consider it for Wilderness designation in the future.

Forest Plan, Chapter III, page III-40

Change to: Page III-34.

Rationale for Change: All page numbers after III-25 change due to the deletion of Management Prescription 5.1, pages III-25 through III-33.

Area Description, MP 6.2 Area Table: The existing table appears below.

| MP 6.2 Area | Acres | MP 6.2 Area | Acres |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Big Draft | 5,395 | Middle Mountain | 12,197 |
| Canaan Loop | 7,850 | Roaring Plains East | 2,962 |
| Dolly Sods North | 7,215 | Roaring Plains North | 3,119 |
| East Fork Greenbrier | 10,153 | Seneca Creek | 13,001 |
| Gaudineer | 6,727 | Spice Run | 6,171 |
| Gauley Mountain East | 7,780 | Tea Creek Mountain | 8,272 |
| Gauley Mountain West | 6,624 | Turkey Mountain | 6,111 |
| Lower Laurel Fork | 3,177 | Total Acres | 106,754 |

Change to:

| MP 6.2 Area | Acres | MP 6.2 Area | Acres |
|----------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| Canaan Loop | 7,800 | Middle Mountain | 12,200 |
| Cheat Mountain | 8,000 | Roaring Plains East | 3,000 |
| East Fork Greenbrier | 10,200 | Roaring Plains North | 3,100 |
| Gaudineer | 6,700 | Seneca Creek | 13,000 |
| Gauley Mountain East | 7,800 | Tea Creek Mountain | 8,300 |
| Gauley Mountain West | 6,600 | Turkey Mountain | 6,100 |
| Lower Laurel Fork | 3,200 | Total Acres | 96,000 |

Rationale for Change: The new table updates MP 6.2 names and acreages based on changes from Wilderness designations in P.L 111-11.

Area Description, First paragraph below the MP 6.2 Area Table: Lands assigned to this prescription comprise a total of 106,800 acres in 15 separate areas, or 11.6% of the entire Forest (see MP 6.2 map). Elevations range from under 2,000 feet to over 4,700 feet, and these areas occur on a wide variety of land and soil types. The major forest communities and their current age classes are depicted in the table below. Openings presently account for about 5 to 6 percent of vegetation conditions.

Change to: Lands assigned to this prescription comprise a total of 96,000 acres (10% of the entire Forest) in 13 separate areas, or 10.4% (see MP 6.2 map). Acres have been rounded off to the nearest 100. Elevations range from 2,200 to over 4,600 feet, and these areas occur on a wide variety of land and soil types. Forest communities range from high-elevation conifer to low-elevation mixed oak, and are dominated by northern hardwoods and mixed cove hardwoods, which are primarily in the mid-successional (40-79 years) and mid-late successional (80-120 years) age classes. Openings presently account for about 4 percent of vegetation conditions.

Rationale for Change: New acreage, area number, area percentage, and elevation numbers are updates to reflect changes resulting from Wilderness designation under P.L. 111-11. The replacement sentence about forest communities serves the purpose of characterizing the vegetation that occurs in the prescription area, without the need for a detailed table.

Forest Plan, Chapter III, page III-41

Change to: Page III-35.

Rationale for Change: All page numbers after III-25 change due to the deletion of Management Prescription 5.1, pages III-25 through III-33.

Area Description, Current Vegetation Conditions in MP 6.2 Table: The existing table appears below.

| Current Vegetation Conditions in Management Prescription 6.2 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Forest Community | Percent of Community in Rx Area | Percent by Age Class for Each Community | | | | |
| | | Early Successional (0-19 years) | Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years) | Mid Successional (40-79 years) | Mid-Late Successional (80-120 years) | Late Successional (>120 years) |
| Conifer | 7.7 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 58.8 | 36.2 | 3.7 |
| Northern Hardwoods | 23.5 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 46.6 | 49.5 | 1.7 |
| Mixed Cove Hardwoods | 39.7 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 60.7 | 37.8 | 0.5 |
| Mixed Oak | 18.1 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 27.1 | 62.6 | 7.3 |
| Pine-Oak | 4.9 | 3.1 | 4.5 | 48.3 | 42.2 | 1.9 |

Change to: Delete table.

Rationale for Change: The table is no longer accurate due to changes in MP 6.2 areas from Wilderness designation under P.L. 111-11. Moreover, the table was never needed for management purposes or to compare with desired conditions, as MP 6.2 does not emphasize vegetation management.

Area Description, First Paragraph, First Sentence: An estimated 11,000 acres (10%) of the prescription area are considered to be in Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3, and 15,500 acres (15%) in Fire Regime III, Condition Class 2.

Change to: An estimated 11,100 acres (12%) of the prescription area are considered to be in Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3, and 3,700 acres (4%) in Fire Regime III, condition Class 2. Most of the remaining acres (81,000 or 84%) are in Fire Regime V, with stand-replacing fire intervals at 200+ years.

Rationale for Change: Updates fire regime and condition class acreage in all MP 6.2 areas based on changes in Wilderness areas due to P.L. 111-11.

Area Description, Third Paragraph, First Sentence: There are an estimated 160 miles of trail in this prescription area.

Change to: There are an estimated 128 miles of trail in this prescription area.

Rationale for Change: Updates trail miles in all MP 6.2 areas based on changes in Wilderness areas due to P.L. 111-11.

Area Description, Fourth paragraph, First Sentence: An estimated 50% of the total prescription area has privately owned mineral rights.

Change to: An estimated 46% of the total prescription area has privately owned mineral rights.

Rationale for Change: Updates percentage of privately owned minerals in all MP 6.2 areas based on changes in Wilderness areas due to P.L. 111-11.

Area Description, Fifth Paragraph: There are an estimated 29 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired streams within the area, including all or portions of Greenbrier River, Laurel Run, Red Creek, South Fork Red Creek, Sugar Creek, Tea Creek, and Williams River.

Change to: Three are an estimated 22 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired streams within the area, including all or portions of Laurel Run, South Fork Red Creek, Sugar Creek, Tea Creek, and Williams River.

Rationale for Change: Updates impaired streams and mileage in all MP 6.2 areas based on changes in Wilderness areas due to P.L. 111-11.

Area Description, Sixth Paragraph, First Sentence: Portions of three eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, totaling 15.9 miles, occur within this prescription area.

Change to: Portions of three eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, totaling 22.3 miles, occur within this prescription area.

Rationale for Change: Updates eligible Wild and Scenic River mileage in all MP 6.2 areas based on changes in Wilderness areas due to P.L. 111-11.

Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 6.2 Table: Existing table appears below.

| Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 6.2 | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| River Name | Classification | Outstandingly Remarkable Values | Miles |
| Williams River | Recreational | Scenery, Recreation | 5.9 |
| Red Creek | Scenic | Scenery, Recreation | 3.4 |
| Laurel Fork | Wild | Scenery, Recreation | 6.6 |

Change to:

| Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 6.2 | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| River Name | Classification | Outstandingly Remarkable Values | Miles |
| Williams River | Recreational | Scenery, Recreation | 5.9 |
| Shavers Fork | Recreational | Scenery, Recreation | 9.8 |
| Laurel Fork | Wild | Scenery, Recreation | 6.6 |

Rationale for Change: Updates eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers and mileage in all MP 6.2 areas based on changes in Wilderness areas due to P.L. 111-11.

Forest Plan, Chapter III, page III-42

Change to: Page III-36.

Rationale for Change: All page numbers after III-25 change due to the deletion of Management Prescription 5.1, pages III-25 through III-33.

Management Prescription 6.2 Map: Replace existing Management Prescription 6.2 map with an updated map that includes the thirteen MP 6.2 areas on the Forest.

SUMMARY

These administrative corrections are changes in the plan document that are not substantive changes in the plan components. The changes are not considered substantive because Management Prescriptions 5.0, 5.1, and 6.2 have substantially the same management emphasis (dispersed non-motorized recreation) and direction. Therefore, no substantive change in Forest Plan outputs, services, and expectations are anticipated from changing one of these prescriptions to another. No road construction, commercial timber harvest, or range management are expected from any of these prescriptions. Mineral availability will be much the same. Recreation opportunities and settings will be much the same, with the exception of the restriction on mountain biking in the new MP 5.0 areas. However, only one of the six new MP 5.0 areas was a popular mountain biking area prior to its Wilderness designation.

In addition, these corrections are responding to changes that resulted from a law enacted by Congress. The new Wilderness areas were widely publicized, prior to and after their designation, and the potential effects of designation were evaluated during Forest Plan revision in 2006 (see Forest Plan EIS, Appendix C).

Corrected pages III-17, III-18, III-19, III-34, III-35, and III-36 are attached below. Pages III-34, III-35, and III-36 replaced the original pages III-40, III-41, and III-42 in the 2006 Forest Plan.

Management Prescription 5.0 – Designated Wilderness

Management Emphasis

This prescription emphasizes management of congressionally designated wilderness to:

- Preserve wilderness attributes and the natural environment for future generations.
- Provide for challenging recreation opportunities in a wilderness setting.

Area Description

The following eight areas are assigned to this prescription:

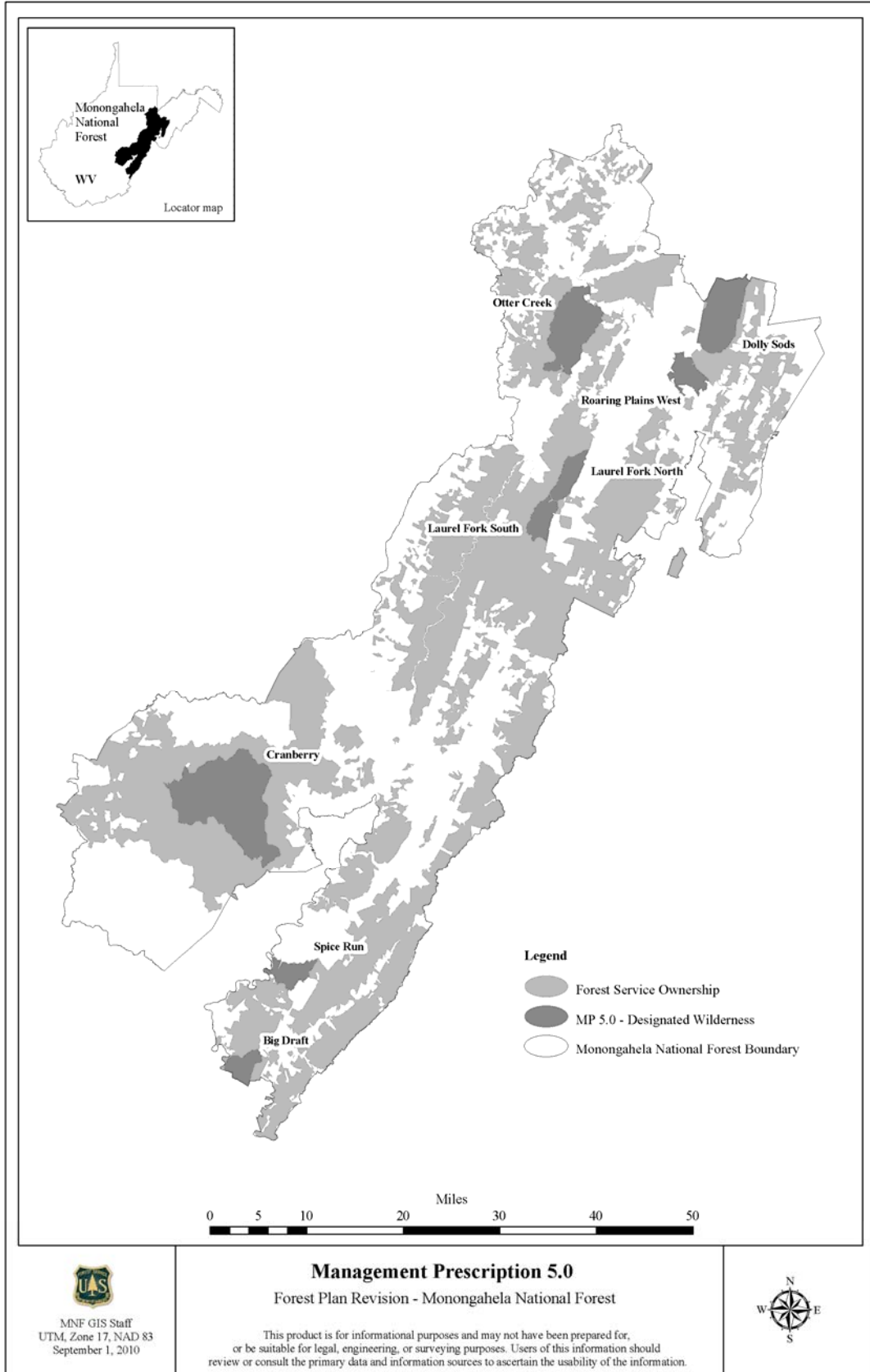
| Designated Wilderness | Acres |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Big Draft Wilderness | 5,144 |
| Cranberry Wilderness | 47,815 |
| Dolly Sods Wilderness | 17,371 |
| Laurel Fork North Wilderness | 6,055 |
| Laurel Fork South Wilderness | 5,874 |
| Otter Creek Wilderness | 20,698 |
| Roaring Plains West Wilderness | 6,792 |
| Spice Run Wilderness | 6,030 |
| Total Acres | 115,779 |

The 115,779 acres represent the official acreage of the Wildernesses as captured in the Acts that created them. However, when measured by GIS technology, the acreage for the Management Prescription is actually closer to 116,300. This discrepancy is due to the fact there are over 500 acres within the Dolly Sods Wilderness that were attributed to Botanical Areas in the 1986 Forest Plan, but because these Botanical Areas lie within the Dolly Sods Wilderness boundary, they are managed as de facto Wilderness as well.

Lands assigned to this prescription comprise an estimated 12.6 percent of the Forest (see 5.0 map). Elevations range from 1,800 to 4,700 feet, and these areas occur on a variety of land and soil types. Forest communities range from high-elevation conifer to low-elevation pine-oak, and are dominated by northern hardwoods and mixed cove hardwoods, which are primarily in the mid-successional (40-79 years) and mid-late successional (80-120 years) age classes.

Because these prescription areas have a diversity of landforms and vegetation types, they provide a variety of habitat for wildlife, fish, and plant species. For these same reasons, a variety of rare flora and fauna, including threatened and endangered species, and non-native invasive species are also found within this prescription.

These areas are primarily forested with access provided by trail. They offer a natural setting that provides opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation where natural ecological processes occur.



Although there are remnants of old roads and railroad beds in parts of the prescription areas, all roads have been abandoned and allowed to return to natural vegetation. No timber harvest activity has occurred within these prescription areas since well before their designation.

The 5.0 prescription areas have an estimated 2,300 acres in Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3, and 13,900 acres in Fire Regime III, Condition Class 2. The remaining 99,800 acres are in Fire Regime V, with stand-replacing fire intervals at 200+ years.

There are an estimated 199 total miles of trail in the MP 5.0 areas. All of the areas are managed for a Semi-Primitive Non-motorized ROS setting. Non-motorized recreation is currently featured, including hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The areas are considered to have high scenic integrity.

There are no gas wells or pipelines, utility corridors, communication sites, electronic sites, or range allotments located in the area. An estimated 25% of the prescription area has privately owned mineral rights.

There are an estimated 31 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired streams within the area, including portions of Dry Fork Left Fork North Fork Cranberry River, North Fork Cranberry River, Middle Fork Williams River, Williams River, Birchlog Run, Cold Run, Lick Branch, Little Rough Run, Red Creek, Greenbrier River, and Tumbling Rock Run.

Portions of five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, totaling 40.7 miles, occur within or adjacent to this area. River miles, classification, and values are described in the table below. Rivers are currently managed according to Wild and Scenic River Act guidance for their classification and to maintain their outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status.

| Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 5.0 | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| River Name | Classification | Outstandingly Remarkable Values | Miles |
| Laurel Fork | Scenic | Recreation | 16.5 |
| Otter Creek | Scenic | Scenery, Recreation | 10.7 |
| Red Creek | Scenic | Scenery, Recreation | 8.7 |
| Dry Fork | Recreational | Recreation | 3.3 |
| Williams River | Recreational | Scenery, Recreation | 1.5 |

Desired Conditions

Visitors can find outstanding opportunities for unconfined recreation, including exploration, solitude, risk, and challenge. The area is primarily affected by the forces of nature, with human imprint substantially unnoticeable. Native terrestrial and aquatic communities are emphasized.

The area provides a diversity of habitats for wildlife species, as well as abundant remote habitat for species that are sensitive to disturbance. Management activities are typically extremely low to non-existent. Age class distribution is moving toward dominance by late successional stands where gaps form from natural disturbances as trees age.

Management Prescription 6.2 – Backcountry Recreation

Management Emphasis

This prescription emphasizes the following:

- A semi-primitive, non-motorized setting with opportunity for a variety of dispersed recreation activities.
- A largely natural environment, with a general lack of management-related disturbance.
- Restoration and maintenance of ecological communities and habitats, predominantly through natural processes.
- Wildlife habitat for species that benefit from a general lack of human disturbance.
- Protection of watersheds and soils.

Area Description

The following areas are assigned to this prescription:

| MP 6.2 Area | Acres | MP 6.2 Area | Acres |
|----------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| Canaan Loop | 7,800 | Middle Mountain | 12,200 |
| Cheat Mountain | 8,000 | Roaring Plains East | 3,000 |
| East Fork Greenbrier | 10,200 | Roaring Plains North | 3,100 |
| Gaudineer | 6,700 | Seneca Creek | 13,000 |
| Gauley Mountain East | 7,800 | Tea Creek Mountain | 8,300 |
| Gauley Mountain West | 6,600 | Turkey Mountain | 6,100 |
| Lower Laurel Fork | 3,200 | Total Acres | 96,000 |

Lands assigned to this prescription comprise a total of 96,000 acres in 13 separate areas, or 10.4% of the entire Forest (see MP 6.2 map). Acres have been rounded off to the nearest 100. Elevations range from 2,200 to over 4,600 feet, and these areas occur on a wide variety of land and soil types. Forest communities range from high-elevation conifer to low-elevation mixed oak, and are dominated by northern hardwoods and mixed cove hardwoods, which are primarily in the mid-successional (40-79 years) and mid-late successional (80-120 years) age classes. Openings presently account for about 4 percent of vegetation conditions.

The area is characterized by a predominantly natural-appearing environment where there is a moderate to high probability of solitude. Recreation opportunities generally require a high degree of self-reliance, and pose a moderate to high degree of risk. Although there may be some evidence of other land uses, there is a high probability of experiencing isolation from the sounds and sights of man. Few roads exist and little motorized use occurs. Structures are rare, but may include rustic shelters, bridges and signs, and primitive sanitary facilities.

Because this prescription covers such a large expanse of land and diversity of landforms and vegetation types, virtually every species of wildlife, fish, and plants on the Forest is represented within it. For these same reasons, a wide variety of rare flora and fauna, and non-native invasive species are also found within this prescription.

An estimated 11,100 acres (12%) of the prescription area are considered to be in Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3, and 3,700 acres (4%) in Fire Regime III, condition Class 2. These areas represent the best opportunity to use prescribed fire to reduce fuels and restore natural habitat structure and stand density, species composition, and disturbance regimes. The remaining acres (81,000 or 84%) are in Fire Regime V, with stand-replacing fire intervals at 200+ years.

There are no Forest System Level 3, 4, and 5 roads in this prescription area, although Level 1 and 2 roads do exist in many areas (see Appendix C to the EIS for detailed descriptions). Public motorized use is prohibited, although some authorized and administrative use occurs. Some old roads have been converted to trails or linear wildlife openings. No timber harvest activity has occurred in most of the prescription area since 1986.

There are an estimated 128 miles of trail in this prescription area. Non-motorized recreation is currently featured, including hiking, mountain biking, hunting, horseback riding, fishing, and wildlife viewing. A number of visually sensitive viewpoints and travel ways occur within or adjacent to the prescription areas.

An estimated 46% of the total prescription area has privately owned mineral rights. There are no gas wells and no gas pipeline, although pipeline serves as the boundary for a couple of areas. There are no other utility corridors in this prescription area, and no communication or electronic sites, or range allotments.

There are an estimated 22 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired streams within the area, including all or portions of Laurel Run, South Fork Red Creek, Sugar Creek, Tea Creek, and Williams River.

Portions of three eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, totaling 22.3 miles, occur within this prescription area. River miles, classification, and values are described in the table below. Rivers are currently managed according to Wild and Scenic River Act guidance for their classification and to maintain their outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status.

| Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 6.2 | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| River Name | Classification | Outstandingly Remarkable Values | Miles |
| Williams River | Recreational | Scenery, Recreation | 5.9 |
| Shavers Fork | Recreational | Scenery, Recreation | 9.8 |
| Laurel Fork | Wild | Scenery, Recreation | 6.6 |

