

Monongahela National Forest

Administrative Correction 16

August 19, 2011

Clarification on page I-12 regarding making changes to the Forest Plan.

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.

CORRECTIONS

Forest Plan Chapter I, page I-12

Forest Plan Amendments; second paragraph, first sentence: The need to amend management direction may result from:

Change to: The need to amend management direction or prescriptions may result from:

Rationale for Change: The plan may be amended due to a change in management prescriptions as well as direction, if that change leads to a change in plan outputs, services or expectations.

Forest Plan Amendments; fourth bullet statement, last sentence: Minor technical errors may be corrected via errata and may not require a Plan amendment.

Change to: Minor technical errors, clarifications, or updates may be changed or added to the Forest Plan via errata or administrative corrections without having to do a Plan amendment or revision.

Rationale for Change: This procedural clarification reflects language in the Planning Rule that allows certain types of changes to be made to the Forest Plan (see first paragraph and bullet statements on this page) via “corrections” without doing a plan amendment or revision.

These clarifications would not result in a substantive change in the plan components. The changes are not substantive because they are simple clarifications about making changes to the Forest Plan. No substantive change in Forest Plan outputs, services, and expectations are anticipated from these corrections. No significant changes in management prescriptions or management direction are proposed. Corrected page I-12 is attached.

Budgets

Annual Forest budget proposals are based on the actions required to achieve the goals, desired conditions and objectives of the Forest Plan. These actions must be funded by Forest budgets that are approved on an annual basis by Congress. The National Forest System appropriation from Congress provides funds for stewardship and management of each national forest across the country. These appropriated funds are critical for translating the goals, desired conditions and objectives stated in the Forest Plan to on-the-ground results.

Upon receipt of the final budget, the Forest annually prepares an implementation budget. This budget is a result of program development, annual work planning, and monitoring processes. These processes supplement the Forest Plan and make the annual adjustments and changes needed to reflect current priorities within the overall management direction contained in the Plan. Therefore, the funding distribution between program components and the intensity or level of activities in those programs is a reflection of the Plan, as well as the will of Congress. The final determining factor in carrying out the intent of the Forest Plan is the level of funding, which dictates the rate and priorities of Plan implementation.

Forest Plan Amendments

Most proposed activities will be consistent with direction in the Forest Plan. When management actions are found to be inconsistent with Plan direction, or site-specific analysis shows an error in the Plan, the Plan or the proposal will be adjusted according to the analysis. Adjusting the Plan may require an amendment. The Forest Supervisor would determine whether proposed amendments to the Forest Plan are significant or non-significant.

The need to amend management direction or prescriptions may result from:

- Changes in physical, biological, social, or economic conditions.
- Recommendations of an interdisciplinary team based on the results of monitoring and evaluation.
- Determination by the Forest Supervisor that existing or proposed projects, permits, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other instruments authorizing occupancy and use are appropriate, but not consistent with elements of the Forest Plan management direction.
- Errors in planning found during implementation. Conflicts may be identified between different sections of management direction. For instance there could be discrepancies in the selected alternative map and the narrative description of the selected alternative. The Forest Plan does not prioritize management direction; therefore a discrepancy would need to be resolved by determining the management intent using a variety of information, such as the planning record, EIS, and the 2006 Forest Plan. Minor technical errors, clarifications, or updates may be changed or added to the Forest Plan via errata or administrative corrections without having to do a Plan amendment or revision.
- Legislative or Directive changes.