

Monongahela National Forest

Administrative Correction 17

August 22, 2011

Clarification for Standard WF14(b) on protection of coldwater fisheries.

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.

CORRECTION

Forest Plan Chapter II, page II-31

Standard WF14, part b: Potential sediment-producing ground disturbance allowed during this period shall employ additional erosion control measures, seeding or mulching, applied concurrently with the activity.

Change to: Sediment-producing ground disturbance during this period shall use additional erosion control measures and seeding or mulching, applied concurrently with the activity.

Rationale for Change: This is a simple clarification. The word “Potential” was removed from this sentence because once the ground disturbance is occurring, it is no longer a potential activity. The word “and” was added to clarify the meaning of the sentence.

Note: These changes result in Standards WF14 and WF15 automatically moving from page II-31 to page II-32. This move thereby changes the appearance and amount of direction on page II-32, as well as II-31.

This clarification 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 this correction. No significant changes in management prescriptions or management direction are proposed. Corrected pages II-30 and II-31 are attached.

Management Direction for Wildlife and Fish		
Type	Number	Direction Description
Goal	WF04	Manage cold water streams to maintain or restore suitable habitat and native aquatic communities. a) During watershed or project-level analysis, identify and prioritize opportunities to improve water temperature and other habitat conditions. b) Restore connectivity in currently fragmented habitat where the risk of genetic contamination, predation, or competition from undesired fish species is not a concern. c) Use stream improvement structures where desirable to maintain or improve pool/riffle ratios, stream cover, and bank stability.
Goal	WF05	Maintain, enhance, or restore habitat for migratory birds, with an emphasis on Birds of Conservation Concern for the Appalachian Mountains Bird Conservation Region, as identified by USFWS. During watershed or project-level analysis, identify current and proposed activities that are likely to affect populations of Birds of Conservation Concern.
Goal	WF06	In conjunction with ongoing inventory and monitoring efforts, and in coordination with monitoring conducted by WVDNR, Forest Service Research, Universities, and other interested organizations, monitor populations and habitats of RFSS, MIS, Birds of Conservation Concern, and other species of interest sufficient to inform watershed and project-level analyses of potential negative effects, as well as opportunities for maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of habitat.
Objective	WF07	Reduce aquatic habitat fragmentation associated with the Forest transportation system by correcting 30-50 passage barriers, according to aquatic priorities, over the next 10 years. Correct existing passage problems with bridges, open bottom arches, or other structures that restore or simulate channel conditions that facilitate upstream and downstream passage of aquatic organisms, or remove barriers when roads are decommissioned or closed.
Objective	WF08	Actively restore aquatic and riparian habitat conditions in 30-50 miles of stream over the next 10 years. Activities that restore or improve the natural structure and function of channel and riparian conditions may include the installation of instream structures, large woody debris loading, riparian fencing, riparian planting, and bank and channel stabilization.
Objective	WF09	Maintain at least 50,000 acres of mid-late and late successional (>80 years old) mixed mesophytic and cove forest to meet habitat needs for cerulean warbler, a Management Indicator Species.
Objective	WF10	Maintain at least 150,000 acres of 50-150 year old oak and pine-oak forest in MPs 3.0 and 6.1 to meet habitat needs for wild turkey, a Management Indicator Species.
Objective	WF11	Maintain at least 20,000 acres of mid-late and late successional (>80 years old) spruce forest to provide optimum habitat for West Virginia northern flying squirrel, a Management Indicator Species. The long-term objective is to increase mid-late and late successional spruce forest to at least 40,000 acres.
Objective	WF12	Maintain at least 560 miles of coldwater stream habitat capable of supporting wild, naturally producing brook trout, a Management Indicator Species.
Standard	WF13	For management actions that have been identified by the Forest Service as likely to cause a negative effect on RFSS or Birds of Conservation Concern populations, negative effects shall be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practical while still accomplishing the purpose of the project or action. Unavoidable negative effects shall be mitigated to the extent practical and consistent with the project purpose.
Standard	WF14	For protection of cold water fisheries, apply the following to the channel buffers of perennial trout streams (stocked and native) during the period of October 1 to June 1: a) Potential sediment-producing ground disturbance exceeding two consecutive days shall only be initiated after consultation with a Forest fisheries biologist. b) Sediment-producing ground disturbance during this period shall use additional erosion control measures and seeding or mulching, applied concurrently with the activity.
Standard	WF15	When activities are proposed near a known active raptor nest, a wildlife biologist shall be consulted for measures to avoid or mitigate disturbance.

Management Direction for Wildlife and Fish		
Type	Number	Direction Description
Guideline	WF16	When consistent with management prescription emphasis and direction, openings may be created and maintained in coordination with other resource projects to provide for vegetation diversity. Mechanical or chemical means, prescribed fire, or grazing may be used to help maintain openings. Native or desirable non-native, non-invasive trees and shrubs with high value for wildlife may be planted, released or pruned.
Guideline	WF17	Temporary, seasonal, or permanent closures may be implemented for areas and transportation routes to address concerns over human-caused disturbances during critical life stages such as nesting, denning, or spawning. Coordinate closures with WVDNR.
Guideline	WF18	Use Forest Service-approved portions of Conservation Strategies and Agreements, as appropriate, in the management of RFSS habitat to help keep management actions from contributing to a trend toward listing for these species.
Guideline	WF19	Management actions should be designed and implemented so they do not fragment habitat for native and desired non-native fish species.
Guideline	WF20	Activities with the potential for causing adverse effects should be avoided or mitigated to the extent possible within ½ mile of active peregrine falcon nests. Seasonal closure orders may be used to control human disturbance in the vicinity of peregrine falcon nests.
Guideline	WF21	Passage for fish and other aquatic organisms should be provided at all new or reconstructed stream crossings of existing or potential fish-bearing streams. Exceptions may be allowed to prevent the upstream migration of undesired species.
Guideline	WF22	Habitat improvement structures should be designed to complement riparian areas and management prescription emphasis. Improvement structures should be constructed of native materials where available.
Guideline	WF23	Coordinate with WVDNR on their proposed introduction, reintroduction, stocking, or transplanting of native or desired non-native species.
Guideline	WF24	Habitat maintenance, enhancement, and restoration opportunities for migratory birds that are identified during watershed or project-level analysis should be implemented to the extent they are consistent with management prescription emphasis and project purposes, and to the extent practical and allowed by budget constraints.
Bald Eagle		
Standard	W25	Maintain 1,500-foot protection zones around nest sites that have been active within the last three nesting seasons. Activities within this zone must be compatible with bald eagle management. Compatibility determinations shall be made on a case-by-case basis.
Standard	W26	Seasonal closure orders may be used to control human disturbance in the vicinity of nests.
Standard	W27	A nest and the tree or structure where it is located shall not be removed or damaged as long as any usable portion of the nest remains, regardless of the time elapsed since the nest was last used, unless there is a concern for public health or safety.
<p><i>See also all direction for TEP Species; plus Fire Management Goal FM06, Recreation Goal RC07, Range Goal RA01, Fire Management Objective FM09, Vegetation Objectives VE01, VE02, VE03, Soil and Water Standards SW38 and SW39, Vegetation Standards VE13 and VE22, Heritage Resources Standards HR05 and HR06, Timber Standard TR08, Range Standard RA19, Soil and Water Guidelines SW26, SW50, SW51; Heritage Resources Guideline HR12, Timber Guidelines TR11 and TR24, Range Guideline RA08, Lands and Special Uses Guidelines LS03, LS04, LS05, LS30, and LS32; Roads and Facilities Guidelines RF12 and RF23.</i></p>		