



File Code: 1920

Date: September 23, 2013

Dear Interested Parties:

The Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan (Monument Plan) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) were published in September 2012. Two previous errata letters have been mailed listing errors that were found and corrected, the first in November 2012 and the second in April 2013. This third letter addresses other inconsistencies discovered during the appeals process and the instructions given in the appeal decision of May 15, 2013. All of these and previous errata have been incorporated into new electronic copies of the Monument Plan and FEIS which can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/sequoia/GSNMPlan>. New published copies of the Monument Plan which incorporate all errata will be provided as soon as possible in hardcopy and CD formats.

The following errata include responses to the instructions in May 15, 2013 appeal decision and related clarifications and corrections.

1. To further address Instruction #2 regarding the management direction to follow when land allocations overlap, modify text on p. 31 of the Monument Plan (Land Allocations and Management Areas section of Part 2), and on p. 54 of Volume 1 of the FEIS, to clarify what management direction will be used where land allocations overlap.

Change “Where they overlap, the area with the most restrictive direction is given priority, as stipulated in the 2001 SNFPA or this document. Land allocations/management areas that have more restrictive management direction preempt those with less restrictive direction...” to “Where they overlap, the more restrictive standards and guidelines would be applied, except where noted in the Dominant Management Direction table (Table 3/4).”

2. To further address Instruction #2 regarding the management direction to follow when land allocations overlap, modify text on p. 32 of the Monument Plan (Land Allocations and Management Areas section of Part 2), and on p. 57 of Volume 1 of the FEIS, to point to the overlapping management direction tables where exceptions are noted.

Change “Land allocations with standards and guidelines that protect special habitats or protected species have a higher priority than land allocations or management areas that allow more active management.” to “Except where noted in the following table, land allocations with standards and guidelines that protect special habitats or protected species have a higher priority than land allocations or management areas that allow more active management.”



3. Add the following explanation and example on p. 32 of the Monument Plan, and p. 57 of Volume 1 of the FEIS, to clarify the meaning of “Apply both” in the Dominant Management Direction table.

Add “Where the standards and guidelines for the two overlapping allocations are equally restrictive, or use different measures, so that both sets should be used in the overlapping area, the table indicates “apply both.” For example, standards and guidelines for Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) and Critical Aquatic Refuges (CARs) minimize disturbance of ground cover and riparian vegetation, while those for the Southern Sierra Fisher Conservation Area (SSFCA) support fisher habitat requirements such as overstory trees and canopy cover. Therefore, where these allocations overlap, both sets of standards and guidelines can and should be applied in the overlapping area, as shown in Table 3.

4. To further address Instruction #2 regarding the management direction to follow when land allocations overlap, modify Table 3 on pp. 33-34 of the Monument Plan, and Table 4 on pp. 58-59 of Volume 1 of the FEIS, to clarify the intent of what management direction will be used where land allocations overlap.
 - After the column heading General Monument, add a footnote to read: “The 2001 SNFPA called this land allocation General Forest. For the Monument, it is called General Monument and includes any area in the Monument that is outside of other allocations. It therefore does not overlap with any other allocations.”
 - In every table cell that shows an overlap with General Monument, change the contents to “N/A” since, by definition, this land allocation does not overlap with others.
 - Where Southern Sierra Fisher Conservation Area (SSFCA) overlaps with Tribal Fuels Emphasis Treatment Area (TFETA), change “Apply general Monument plus SSFCA-specific” to “Apply SSFCA and General Monument,” and add a footnote to read: “There are no standards and guidelines specific to the TFETA, so fire and fuels management in the TFETA is accomplished using the standards and guidelines for the General Monument allocation, in addition to those standards and guidelines specific to the SSFCA.”
 - Where SSFCA, Old Forest Emphasis Area, and TFETA overlap with Wildland Urban Intermix (WUI): Defense Zone, change “Apply SSFCA-except fuel treatments in WUI” to “Apply SSFCA. Exception: where fuels treatments are needed to meet fire behavior outcomes, apply WUI Defense Zone (S&G #15, p. 85).”

- Where SSFCA, Old Forest Emphasis Area, and TFETA overlap with WUI: Threat Zone, change “Apply SSFCA-except fuel treatments in WUI” to “Apply SSFCA. Exception: where fuels treatments are needed to meet fire behavior outcomes, apply WUI Threat Zone (S&G #18, p. 86).”
- Where SSFCA, Old Forest Emphasis Area, and Giant Sequoia Groves overlap with Protected Activity Centers (PACs), Den Sites, Home Range Core Areas (HRCAs), change “Apply PACs, Den Sites, and HRCAs” to “Apply PACs, Den Sites, and HRCAs in their respective allocations.”
- Where SSFCA and Giant Sequoia Groves overlap, change “Apply groves” to “Apply both.”
- Where Old Forest Emphasis Area and Giant Sequoia Groves overlap, change “Apply groves” to “Apply both.”
- Where WUI: Defense Zone and Giant Sequoia Groves overlap change “Apply WUI” to “Apply Groves.”
- Where WUI: Threat Zone and Giant Sequoia Groves overlap change “Apply WUI” to “Apply Groves.”
- Where TFETA and Giant Sequoia Groves overlap, change “Apply WUI threat” to “Apply Groves.”
- Where WUI: Defense Zone overlaps with PACs, Den Sites, and HRCAs, change “Apply special PACs and den sites” to “Apply PACs and/or Den Sites in their respective allocations. Apply WUI Defense Zone in HRCAs outside of den sites.”
- Where WUI: Threat Zone overlaps with PACs, Den Sites, and HRCAs, change “Apply special PACs and den sites” to “Apply PACs and/or Den Sites in their respective allocations. Apply WUI Threat Zone in HRCAs outside of den sites.”
- Where Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) and Critical Aquatic Refuges (CARs) overlap with PACs, Den Sites, and HRCAs, change “Apply both except where PACs, den sites, and HRCAs are more restrictive” to “Apply all applicable S&Gs. Exception: where S&Gs conflict, apply most restrictive.”
- Where RCAs and CARs overlap with TFETA, change “Apply both” to “Apply RCAs and CARs.”

- Where PACs, Den Sites, and HRCAs overlap with TFETA, change “Apply PACs and den sites-WUI *usually* applied over HRCA” to “Apply PACs and/or Den Sites in their respective allocations. Apply WUI Threat Zone in HRCAs outside of den sites,” and add a footnote to read: “There are no standards and guidelines specific to the TFETA, so the standards and guidelines for the WUI Threat Zone would be used in the HRCAs outside of den sites.”
 - Where PACs, Den Sites, and HRCAs overlap with Giant Sequoia Groves, change “Apply PACs, den sites, HRCAs” to “Apply PACs, Den Sites, and HRCAs in their respective allocations.”
5. To address Instruction #3 regarding hazard tree removal, modify text on p. 79 of the Monument Plan, and on p. 62 of Volume 1 of the FEIS, to correct an oversight and to clarify the intent of the R3 Public Safety removal criterion.

Change “**R3. Public Safety:** If keeping one or more trees on site would create a public safety hazard or attractive nuisance. Forest Service policy is to eliminate safety hazards from developed recreation sites, including trees or tree limbs identified as hazardous (FSM 2332). Depending on the situation, down trees in a developed recreation site may present a hazard if people are likely to climb on them and potentially fall and get hurt (becomes more likely if the logs are large and/or they are piled on top of one another).”

to “**R3. Public Safety:** If keeping one or more trees on site would create a public safety hazard or attractive nuisance. For example, Forest Service policy is to mitigate safety hazards in developed recreation sites, including trees or tree limbs identified as hazardous (FSM 2330.6a). Depending on the situation, down trees in a developed recreation site or administrative site may present a hazard if people are likely to climb on them and potentially fall and get hurt (becomes more likely if the logs are large and/or they are piled on top of one another). Down trees may also present a hazard in administrative sites, developed recreation sites, and along roadsides where they would add to existing fuel loads, making fire control and emergency evacuation more difficult; or increase the likelihood of vehicle accidents along roadways. Examples of where down trees could contribute to traffic accidents include but are not limited to instances where trees or tree limbs would obstruct drivers’ lines of sight, provide hiding cover for wildlife, or could become an obstruction in the roadway (FSH 7709.59, Sec. 41.7).”

6. Modify text on p. 80 of the Monument Plan, and on p. 62 of Volume 1 of the FEIS, to correct the wording and citation of the F4 Public Safety felling criterion.

Change “**F4. Public Safety:** If maintaining one or more standing trees on site would create a public safety hazard. Forest Service policy is to eliminate safety hazards from recreation sites, administrative sites, and the public transportation system of roads and trails, including trees or tree limbs identified as hazardous (FSM 2332).”

To “**F4. Public Safety:** If maintaining one or more standing trees on site would create a public safety hazard. Forest Service policy is to mitigate safety hazards from recreation sites, administrative sites, and the public transportation system of roads and trails, including trees or tree limbs identified as hazardous (FSM 2330.6a).”

Thank you for working with us on the Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan. For additional information, please contact Annette Fredette at (559) 784-1500, extension 1138.

Sincerely,



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Forest Supervisor

