

assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: November 3, 2005.

**Ann M. Bartuska,**

*Deputy Chief for Research & Development.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Revision of Land Management Plan for the Uwharrie National Forest

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation to revise the Uwharrie National Forest Land Management Plan.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service is revising the Land and Resource Management Plan (hereafter referred to as Forest Plan) for the Uwharrie National Forest (UNF). This notice provides:

1. A summary of the need to change the Forest Plan;
2. Information on how the public can comment on the need to change, when those comments are due, and how comments can be submitted;
3. A list of documents available for review and how to get them;
4. How the public can participate in the planning process;
5. Who to contact for more information.

**DATES:** Revision formally begins with publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Many public comments regarding Forest Plan revision have already been received at public meetings and through e-mail. Additional comments on the need to change the Forest Plan should be submitted within 30 days of the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to: Uwharrie Plan Revision, National Forests in North Carolina, P.O. Box 2750, Asheville, NC 28802. Electronic

mail should include "Uwharrie Plan Revision" in the subject line and be sent to: [comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us). More information on the UNF and Forest Plan revision process is available at: [http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/uwharrie\\_plan/](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/uwharrie_plan/).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ruth Berner, National Forests in North Carolina, Planning Team Leader, (828) 257-4862.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Uwharrie National Forest is managed as part of the National Forests in North Carolina. The original Forest Plan for the UNF was completed in 1986.

#### Documents Available for Review

Several reports and draft documents written over the past few years help identify how the existing Forest Plan might need to change to be more useful in the future. These documents include:

1. Uwharrie National Forest Recreation Realignment Report (August 2001), hardcopy available by sending a request to [comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us).
2. Roads Analysis Process Report Uwharrie National Forest (December 2003), available online at [http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/roads/uwharrie\\_rap.pdf](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/roads/uwharrie_rap.pdf).
3. Uwharrie National Forest Watershed Analysis Draft Report (September 2004), hardcopy available by sending a request to [comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us).
4. Uwharrie National Forest—A Strategic View (July 2005, Initial Draft Comprehensive Evaluation Report), available online at [http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/uwharrie\\_plan/](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/uwharrie_plan/), or by requesting a copy.

#### Need for Change

*Growing as a Tourist Destination:* As population in the area grows, local public lands are increasingly being seen as a place of relaxation; a quiet, peaceful retreat. The UNF is the top tourist destination in Montgomery County, and one of several popular tourist destinations in Randolph County. There may be tourism-related opportunities to provide more economic benefits to local communities.

*Nature Hikes Becoming More Popular:* Most visitors to the UNF seek a place to walk, view nature, and perhaps picnic, swim, or fish. The UNF, with its lake and river frontage, rolling topography, and existing road and trail system, is currently providing a variety of these opportunities. There may be ways to make visits more enjoyable, especially along the Uwharrie Trail and the Uwharrie River.

*Game Lands Heavily Hunted:* Hunting definitely has a place on the UNF; the Forest has the highest hunting use per acre of any North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) game land. There may be opportunities to better provide the types of wildlife habitat that are in short supply on nearby private land.

*Providing Wood Products:* Timber harvested from the UNF helps to meet increasing American consumer demand for wood products while at the same time providing a cost-effective way to create and maintain wildlife habitat. Wood products also provide economic benefits to local communities. There may be opportunities to change the amount or type of timber products offered to the local forest products industry.

*Opportunities To Improve the Transportation System:* There may be opportunities to improve the existing UNF road and trail system, to enhance public access while minimizing visitor conflicts and resource damage.

*Opportunity for Off-Highway Vehicles:* Off-highway vehicles (OHV) currently have access to a sixteen-mile trail system. There are few other known opportunities in the Piedmont for this type of experience, and demand is increasing. OHV use on NFS lands is controversial due to potential resource impacts and incidents when OHV users have strayed from the trail system. There may be opportunities to better manage the OHV trail system to provide the desired experience while lessening impacts to the forest resources.

*Interpreting History:* Archeological and historical resources on the UNF provide a unique opportunity for current forest visitors to learn about those who lived here in the past, and at the same time provide an outdoor recreation experience. Careful, innovative planning may ensure that historically important sites are protected yet still accessible.

*Restoring Native Ecosystems:* Existing UNF ecosystems include native pine and hardwood communities, but also include loblolly pine communities on sites that once supported longleaf pine. Vegetation management could restore longleaf pine and other historic plant communities on appropriate sites.

*Using Fire as a Tool:* Restoring the natural role of fire is important in sustaining some ecosystems such as longleaf pine and the open woodland conditions used by a number of rare plants. Increasing use of prescribed fire may better maintain these native plant communities.

*Controlling Non-native Invasive Plants:* Controlling non-native invasive

plant species would allow us to better sustain native plant communities.

**Consistent Acorn Production:** There is a relatively limited supply of oaks in the age range when acorns are most abundantly produced. Periodic vegetation management can ensure an adequate age range of oaks for acorn production over time. Acorns are an important food source for many wildlife species on the UNF.

**Selective Stream Restoration:** Most aquatic habitats on the UNF are in good to excellent condition and support a high diversity of fish and mussel species. However, some stream channel conditions are less than optimal. There is an opportunity and a need to restore these impaired stream channels.

**Managing Roads and Trails Effectively to Reduce Erosion:** The roads and trails on the UNF are potential sediment sources that can degrade water quality and aquatic habitats. There is a need and an opportunity to reduce the sediment from these sources through partnerships, and better management and maintenance.

#### Comment Requested

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from individuals, organizations, and Federal, state, and local governments and agencies on the need to change the current UNF Forest Plan direction. The current conditions and trends of forest resources and opportunities for change are described in more detail in the Uwharrie National Forest—A Strategic View (Initial Draft of the Comprehensive Evaluation Report). The Forest Service is asking for comment on the topics identified in the Need for Change summarized above and for any other topics that individuals, organizations, and government and agencies feel should be addressed during the revision process. As described above, any comments on the Need for Change should be submitted within 30-days from the publication of this Notice of Initiation.

#### Public Participation

The plan revision is an open process with numerous opportunities for the public to obtain information, provide comments, or participate in collaborative stakeholder activities. Options for the public include the following methods: (1) Participating in collaborative dialogue at public meetings, (2) reviewing and commenting on the documents, preliminary plan components, analysis results, and supporting maps (posted on our Web site [http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/uwharrie\\_plan](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/uwharrie_plan) or sent to you

hardcopy at your request), or (3) providing input during formal comment periods.

The focal points of the collaborative work are: (1) Developing and refining plan desired conditions, (2) designing management objectives to work toward attaining or maintaining desired conditions, (3) identifying suitable uses for various parts of the UNF, (4) identifying special areas, (5) writing guidelines to serve as operational controls or environmental safeguards, (6) outlining the monitoring framework to be used for evaluating forest conditions. We expect this phase of collaboration to run through the spring of 2006. Our remaining forest plan revision schedule will be approximately as follows: (1) Release of draft forest plan and start of 90-day public comment period, fall 2006, (2) release of final plan and start of 30-day objection period, summer 2007, (3) final decision and start of plan implementation, fall 2007.

#### Responsible Official

The Forest Supervisor, National Forests in North Carolina, is the Responsible Official (36 CFR 219.2(b)(1)).

(Authority: 36 CFR 219.9(b)(2)(i), 70 FR 1023, January 5, 2005)

#### Marisue Hilliard,

*Forest Supervisor, National Forests in North Carolina.*

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#### COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

#### Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act; Annual Certification

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (The Committee) will submit the collections of information listed below to OMB for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. This notice solicits comments on these collections of information.

**DATES:** Submit your written comments on the information collection on or before January 17, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail your comments on the requirement to Janet Yandik,

Information Management Specialist, Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, Arlington, VA, 22202-3259; fax (703) 603-0655; or e-mail [rulecomments@jwod.gov](mailto:rulecomments@jwod.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request a copy of the applicable forms or explanatory material, contact Janet Yandik at information in above paragraph.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). The Committee plans to submit a request to OMB to renew its approval of the collections of information concerning annual certification of nonprofit agencies serving people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities to participate in the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. The Committee is requesting a 3-year term of approval for these information collection activities.

Federal agencies may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for these collections of information are 3037-0002 and 3037-0001.

The JWOD Act of 1971 (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) is the authorizing legislation for the JWOD Program. The JWOD Program creates jobs and training opportunities for people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. Its primary means of doing so is by requiring Government agencies to purchase selected products and services from nonprofit agencies employing such individuals. The JWOD Program is administered by the Committee. Two national, independent organizations, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH, help State and private nonprofit agencies participate in the JWOD Program.

This information collection renewal request seeks approval for the Committee to continue to collect the information required under 41 CFR 51-4.3 of the regulations so that the Committee can continue to verify the appropriateness of nonprofit agencies that participate in the JWOD Program. There are no changes to these current collections in this renewal request.