

SAR - Forest Plan - Chapter 2 - Standards and Guidelines

Comment # Comment

0029063-002

We believe that management under the proposed forest-wide Standards and Guidelines described in the Forest Plan would not necessarily afford the level of protection needed to ensure critical landscape elements serve the many functions intended. For example, the beach (page 3-62) and estuary fringe is one of the most resource-rich habitats of the CNF. It serves many ecological functions, including breeding and foraging habitats for bald eagles and habitat for old-growth dependent and associated wildlife and fish species. Beach fringe and estuary locations are not definable, and compliance monitoring would be relatively easy. However, no specific Standards and Guidelines for these areas are in the Forest Plan. We encourage the USFS to correct this oversight in the Final EIS. We believe the key to protection of these areas is that Standards and Guidelines be written precisely and definitively, stringently monitored, and rigorously enforced.

0029063-017

Standards and Guidelines We believe the Forest Plan should include additional opportunities for timely incorporation of new issues and site-specific scientific information into forest management. Methods for adaptive management (for incorporation of new information) should be included in the Standards and Guidelines. Standards and Guidelines included in the Forest Plan are vague and will not, we believe, provide for the intended accountability because compliance will be difficult or impossible to measure. We recommend that standards be measurable objectives for management practices, and that guidelines provide recommendations for achieving the standards. We recommend that wording like "where possible," "normally," "generally," "minimize," and "to extent feasible," be replaced with wording that provides specific and measurable stipulations on management activities. Our more specific recommendations can be found throughout these comments.

0028328-013

Standards and Guidelines

Without clear and measurable Forestwide standards and guidelines, levels of protection may be inadequate to ensure the ecological integrity needed to maintain their many functions. For example, although the importance of beach fringe is acknowledged (3-62), yet there are no standards and guidelines for these areas in the Forest Plan.

0035240-003

Let local forestry service people manage these designated areas as they see fit to benefit all environment, economics and recreation outside involvement only confuses matters.

0036011-003

The Forest Service should assert its right to ensure federal standards and guidelines are used for meaningful management.