

Appendix A

This section contains suggested revisions to the existing interpretive displays and signs located in visitor's centers, main attractions and trails of the El Yunque National Forest. In addition, it lists new interpretation recommendations resulting from the collective impressions of El Yunque's VIS Interpreter staff.

As part of our reviewing process we have included comments and observations from visitors we interviewed while conducting the surveys as well as comments provided by commercial outfitter guides.

The following conditions were replicated in most of the existing signage in locations throughout the Forest:

- Reference to the Forest's old name "Caribbean National Forest;" the Forest's official name is now the El Yunque National Forest.
- Graffiti and scratches damage appearance of signs and impact interpretive message.
- Most of the information is still useful, but some new themes such as Climate Change, Forest water production and conservation should be added.

El Portal Rain Forest Center

This site is the El Yunque National Forest's interpretive visitor center with an average year visitation of 200,000 including outfitter tour buses, school groups, and family groups. This 30,000 square foot facility with adjacent parking for 150 vehicles contains:

- El Portalito, the entrance to El Portal's main structure is a covered shelter containing a map of the forest's main attractions.
- An elevated walkway at tree-top level that provides visitor access to the main building from El Portalito. The walkway features five graphically illustrated interpretive signs describing some of the flora and fauna that can be seen or heard along this elevated path.
- At the entrance to the main floor plaza there is an information desk where visitors' questions are answered. The plaza contains general forest orientation information and an introduction to tropical rain forests. At the rear of this floor there is a theater presenting a short informative movie, presented alternately in English and Spanish, about the El Yunque National Forest.

- The upper level has three separate pavilions that develop themes related to forest through the use of dioramas, interactive displays and exhibits. The pavilions are named: Understanding the Forest, Connections, and Managing for the Future.
- The center also highlights a water feature which replicates the natural ambience of El Yunque's streams, as well as a food concession and a Book store managed by Eastern National.
- Beneath the elevated walkway a short loop trail with graphically illustrated signs provides another interpretive alternative for visitors.

Interpretive Themes, goals, objectives

The main themes developed for the existing interpretive displays are still valid and current to the tropical rain forest conservation message. Forest introductory information requires some updating to include newer facts such as the forest's name change to the El Yunque National Forest.

Themes that should be considered to be developed for new exhibits are:

- The carbon cycle in tropical forests and its relationship to climate change.
- Faulty water conservation practices such as river poisoning by shrimp harvesters and trash dumping could be highlighted with a thematic interpretive display.

Site Recommendations

- Some interactive displays need repairs; others should be replaced with newer exhibits.
- An interactive display featuring forest trails and other attractions should be added to the main floor information area as an alternate visitor information source.
- A "talking screen display" that advertises the content of the pavilion exhibits should be added to the upper level plaza. We have noticed that most visitors are not aware of exhibit content and need some form of enticement.
- Each pavilion has an open "plaza" area at its rear that is not currently used. These areas could be used for future expansion of pavilion themes and displays.

- Because hurricanes impact the overall dynamics of this forest, we recommend the design and implementation of an expanded, hurricane themed natural disaster section for Understanding the Forest pavilion.
- The center has a water feature with three pools but no live display of aquatic species. Live aquatic animal displays should be added to the existing pools, or an aquarium displaying river life should be strongly considered.
- We recommend that the map at the El Portalito entrance area and similar maps at other Forest locations be replaced with newer versions that include graphically illustrated descriptions of the attractions adjacent to the location name.
- Because the tropical vegetation at this site is so exuberant, it is a unique attraction for our visitors. We recommend that labels with the common English, Spanish and scientific names of the most significant species be installed and maintained.
- The themes of the elevated walkway signs are still relevant but, some of the colors have faded on the graphics and the sign labels should be changed to “El Yunque National Forest when they are upgraded or replaced.
- Trail sign themes are still relevant but need to be replaced due to mold damage and color fading. Reference to the Caribbean NF must be removed and replaced with El Yunque NF.

La Coca Falls

Located at PR 191, km __, La Coca Falls is the first spectacular water feature seen by visitors traveling up to the Forest. The safety alert signs posted on site are badly placed, in poor condition and detract from the view. These signs should be removed and replaced with new ones and possibly relocated near to the railing. The need for a bulletin board should be evaluated as part of a comprehensive make-over of the El Yunque recreational corridor. If approved, it should be installed near the Eastern National satellite store and parking area across from the falls.

Interpretive Themes, goals, objectives:

La Coca Falls provides unique opportunities for the presentation of various topics such as:

- The origin of the name La Coca

- The volcanic origin of the island and the formation of the rock wall at this site.
- The importance of water production, conservation and overall management of reservoirs and watersheds around the forest.
- The volcanic origin of the Island and the formation of the rock wall at this site.

Site Recommendations

Because this forest attraction is the first location along PR 191 that is visited by almost every tourist or visitor, there are opportunities for more than one interpretive sign. Here are some of the most significant topics that could be developed into themes for graphic signs:

- The origin of the La Coca name is one of the most common visitor questions. A sign describing Juan Diego de la Coca, the history of his property and subsequent Forest Service land acquisition may be interesting.
- Since this is the first stop for most visitors, it is an ideal place for an “Ecological Ethics” sign, describing Forest rules, proper behavior and other important information on a Bulletin board.

Yokahu Tower

Located at PR 191, km __ Yokahu Tower can be seen from various locations on and off the Forest. Its construction was carried out from 1962 to late 1963. The tower parking area and its landscaping was refurbished in 2000; as a part of the efforts to increase its appeal, interpretive sign were added at the plaza and at the top of the tower. Magnificent views of four different forest types, mountain peaks, and the Northeastern coastal plain and offshore islands can be enjoyed from here. This is the first stop where restrooms are available.

Interpretive Themes, goals, objectives:

This tower provides a panoramic aerial view of the forest canopy and the Northeastern coastal area. This setting provides opportunities to develop the following topics:

- Forest and Ocean relationships: once again water related themes could be displayed here.
- The natural histories of the red tailed and broad-winged hawks are relevant to this site; both species are visible and active at here, year round.

- The features of other Island visitor attractions visible from here could be pointed out.
- The view from the tower provides an excellent opportunity for the interpretation of the four Forest vegetation zones.
- The cloud forest peaks visible from the tower provide an excellent interpretation opportunity.

Site Recommendations

Existing signs should be replaced because:

- Caribbean National Forest must be changed to read El Yunque National Forest.
- Existing signs are damaged by graffiti and scratches detracting from overall appearance.
- Fungus is imbedded in sign materials.
- Signs which describe coastal features do not include new and more visible structures such as the El Conquistador Hotel.
- Existing Cloud Forest, Hawk and Forest Peak signs are of poor quality and should be replaced with improved photos and graphics.
- There are presently no signs that describe specific wildlife and plant species characteristic of the area described in the signs.

Big Tree Trail

Located at road PR 191, km 10.3 it is one of two interpretive trails located on the Forest. The trail originally featured 21 graphically illustrated interpretive signs along its length; today only 18 signs remain. The signs are 37 inches high and the panels are an average of 27 inches long and 14 inches wide, and information is provided in both Spanish and English. This trail ends at La Mina Falls, a popular waterfall attraction along the PR 191 corridor. There is a bulletin board located at the parking area near the trailhead.

Interpretive Themes, goals, objectives

The developed themes for all these signs are still useful and relevant to site interpretation. Here are the main topics:

- The Tabonuco forest.
- Plants and animal diversity.
- Tree diversity.

- Sun as the ultimate source of energy.
- Insects.
- The Ausubo tree.
- A community within a community.
- Lizards.
- The “supermarket” of forest nutrients.
- Recycling.
- Birds.
- Frog and other animal sounds.
- Bats.
- Plant adaptation.
- Pioneer species,
- Coping with water.
- Water production.
- Forest ecology.

Site Recommendations

Existing signs should be replaced because:

- Caribbean National Forest must be changed to read El Yunque National Forest.
- Existing signs are damaged by graffiti and scratches detracting from overall appearance.
- The first group of signs is located very close to each other; some of them could be relocated to the lower area of trail where there are no signs.
- As mentioned above, all signs are presently grouped together at the beginning of the trail. If new signs are added, they should be located along the entire trail.

Palo Colorado Visitor Center

Located at PR 191 between km.12.1 and km 12.3, its picnic area adjacent to the visitor information center is a major attraction in the Forest. La Mina trail, the access to the popular La Mina falls and river pool begins here, while the

trailheads of the El Yunque, Caimitillo, and Baño de Oro nature trails can be found across the highway from the visitor center.

The Baño Grande and Baño de Oro pools, constructed during the CCC era, provide historic content to the area. Because of these features, the Palo Colorado Visitor Center is considered the heart of the Forest's recreational area.

The small building was used to interpret the importance and sensitivity of the Forest. There were two Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) enrollees stationed here daily. Today, Customer Service interpreters are stationed here to provide tourist information and to conduct nature trail tours. An Eastern National satellite store is located within the visitor center and one of the two attendant provides additional visitor orientation services.

The Baño Grande pool located across the road from the Palo Colorado Visitor Center is a beautiful pool filled with the waters from an upper branch of La Mina River. Surrounded by a cobblestone path with an arching stone and masonry bridge the pool also features a closed-off concrete bathhouse. Built in the late 1930's by the CCC this complex is the largest and most impressive man-made pool in the La Mina Recreational area.

Interpretive Themes, goals, objectives

The information presented on the CCC era sign located at the Baño Grande pool is still relevant although it has been badly faded by the elements. In the past there were a selection of smaller signs placed strategically around the pool area that displayed interpretive themes; today only two of them remain but they are too badly damaged to present useful information for visitors.

The Palo Colorado Visitor Center has a wall map that graphically displays forest trails, road and rivers; it is used by VIS interpreters to orient visitors to the features of the surrounding Forest recreation area. Additional trail maps are located at each trailhead in this area. Map displays are directional only, and do not contain thematic information.

Site Recommendations

All signs including maps should be replaced for the following reasons:

- The La Mina trail and the Baño Grande pool are where the water themes should be interpreted. These areas are also especially well suited for heritage interpretation of the CCC era.
- Caribbean National Forest must be changed to read El Yunque National Forest.

- Existing signs are damaged by graffiti and scratches detracting from overall appearance.
- Color lines appearing on maps are not consistent with internationally accepted map color codes; For example, the color blue typically represents water (rivers, pools, etc.) not trail segments.
- Many elevations-and distances displayed on maps are incorrect.
- Map design is not "user friendly" to visitors that have not been exposed to reading maps.
- Graphically illustrated signs that display suggested Forest ethics, regulations, littering prohibition, hours of operation, and other essential visitor information should be installed in strategic locations.
- New, graphically illustrated interpretive signs describing aquatic fauna, water production & conservation should be strategically located around the Baño Grande pool area.

Caimitillo Trail

This trail, located across from the Palo Colorado Visitor Center, adjacent to the Baño Grande pool, has been selected to interpret the contribution of the Forest Service to the recovery of the PR Parrot. Elements related to the program such as lookout & and parrot blind structures, natural and artificial parrot nests, and a Pearly-eyed Thrasher nest box constructed next to the trail.

Interpretive Themes, goals, objectives

This site is ideal for the development of many interpretive themes - the most significant for this location are:

- The Puerto Rican Parrot – in the past this site was a feeding habitat for this species: structures related to its recovery and management is displayed on site.
- The Palo Colorado vegetation zone – since this trail is located within this forest type there is an opportunity to develop a theme based on this topic.
- Sierra Palm Forest – since a section of this trail has a palm brake it could be used for interpretation of this forest type.

Site Recommendations

- Replace wooden directional signs.
- Replace map signs as described above.

This trail is used by both outfitter tours, and Customer Services interpreters. The PR Parrot related structures provide a great interpretive opportunity but require restoration and upgrading... The following signs are proposed:

- Puerto Rican Parrot natural history - presenting life cycle, nesting season, habitat needs, population decline and the species importance as one of the 10 most endangered birds in the world.
- PR Parrot recovery effort - a description of the structures presently on site.
- Sierra Palm forest - a sign describing this life zone as a unique habitat.
- The Palo Colorado tree - the life zone it forms as the preferred habitat of the Puerto Rican parrot and many other species should be interpreted, and this trail provides a prime location for an interpretive sign.
- A vista point on this trail offers a view of the coastal plain and the Tabonuco forest; it provides an interpretive opportunity to describe the interrelationship between the coastal plain, the trade winds and the Forest.

Tradewinds Trail

The Tradewinds trail begins at PR 191 km ___ and ends at El Toro Peak. At a length of 4.6 miles, it is the longest trail in the Forest. Even before it was officially designated as a Wilderness Area in January 2006, the area surrounding the trail was managed as a wilderness. The trail was constructed in the 1930s, during the CCC era.

Interpretive Themes, goals, objectives

When this area was designated a Wilderness it became the sole tropical rain forest wilderness area in the Western Hemisphere. It is an area of unique ecological and biological diversity. The following are interpretive themes and topics that could be developed for this area:

- Wilderness Areas - their importance and the vital land use ethics that must be observed by visitors.
- PETS species - Proposed, Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive unique species are a primary reason for the Wilderness designation.
- CCC Era workmanship - Because it is the longest trail constructed by the CCC this site provides an opportunity to develop a heritage theme on this topic.

Site Recommendations

- Design and install a graphically illustrated interpretive sign at the trail head that describes the ecological ethical and conservation importance of the El Toro Wilderness area; the sign should include information about the rules and regulations that will prevent potentially irreversible damage to natural resources, provide orientation to hikers, and to recruit volunteer help for the protection of this remote area.
- Install a sign that displays a map of the Wilderness area including fragile or sensitive habitats that day use visitors should avoid and indicate the location of designated camping areas.

NEW INTERPRETIVE SITES PROPOSALS

Queensland Kauri tree

This magnificent exotic pine from Australia located at the La Coca Trail head at km __ PR 191 is admired by visitors who stop to marvel at its size. This tree was planted around 1937 as part of a highway beautification program designed by Forest Service Landscape Architect Hunter Randolph.

Interpretive Themes, goals, objectives

This tree is visited by nature lovers who respect its beauty and size. An interpretive sign will increase visitor awareness of the importance of this tree which is over 70 years old and has survived the impact of five major hurricanes.

Site Recommendations

Design a graphically illustrated interpretive sign containing the information provided above; install it near this magnificent tree.

Mt. Britton Tower

This impressive, 40 foot stone masonry tower affords expansive views to the North and East. It is located off FS road # 10 which leads to El Yunque Peak. This Forest maintenance road is closed to the public; access to the site is by the one mile Mt. Britton trail beginning at the trailhead on PR 9938. The tower can also be reached by hiking the El Yunque trail to the Mt. Britton connector, a two mile hike that begins near the Baño Grande pool.

Built between 1937 and 1938 it is the tallest CCC built tower on the Forest. It is an excellent example of CCC craftsmanship. The CCC history on this site can be interpreted using a low sign at the side of the trail approaching the tower. An interpretive sign describing the many features (peaks, bays, towns, etc.) that can be viewed from the tower could be installed at its top.

Interpretive Themes, goals, objectives

This site and trail represent the quickest way to reach the cloud forest area and forest peaks. The following topics are easy to develop along trail sections or at the tower site:

- The cloud forest - vegetation characteristic of the cloud forest become more evident as hikers move up the trail.
- The CCC era - all forest trails and many building structures were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.
- Nathaniel Lord Britton and Elizabeth Knight Britton - The immense contributions to forest biological science made by this man and his wife team should be emphasized.

Site Recommendations

- Replace all three directional maps located at trail head, junction with road PR 10, and at the trails last section – they are marred by graffiti; paint and scratches and the line colors are not consistent with conventional color codes used on international maps. Many of the map's elevations and distances are incorrect. Map design is not "user friendly" for visitors that are unfamiliar with maps.
- Create a graphically illustrated sign describing Nathaniel Lord Britton's and Elizabeth Knight Britton's contributions to scientific investigation of Antilles forest flora.
- Create a sign detailing the labor and craftsmanship of the CCC enrollees in the Forest during the nineteen thirties and forties.
- Develop a theme about the cloud forest to be displayed in a new graphically illustrated sign to be located anywhere along the last section of trail or in the vicinity of the tower.
- Create a graphically illustrated sign about the Spanish Gold mining activity in the Luquillo Mountains and install it at the Mt. Britton trailhead.

Baño de Oro Trail

The Baño de Oro trail originates at PR 191, km 12.2 about 50 yards south of the Palo Colorado Visitor Center in the Forest's Recreational Area. A short 0.3 miles (0.6 km) in length, it rises from 2,132 feet (650 meters) to 2,362 feet (720 meters). Hiking time is approximately 20 minutes from the trailhead to the junction with the lower part of the El Yunque trail. The trail is steep in places, and can be muddy after a rainfall. There is a rain shelter mid-way along the trail.

From the trailhead on PR 191, a short, paved path leads uphill to the Baño de Oro pool, a swimming facility built in the 1930's by the CCC. No longer in use as a swimming pool, it still provides a tranquil view of the area. The trail continues uphill making a series of switchbacks that wind through tropical trees, many festooned with flowering Bromeliads and arboreal orchids. The trail levels out, crossing and re-crossing the La Mina river as it flows over jumbled rocks. Old stone and mortar fish hatchery tanks can be seen to the right of the trail. These tanks are the remains of a failed attempt to introduce rainbow trout, an exotic cold-water fish to tropical forest rivers.

Interpretive Themes, goals, objectives

- This site provides opportunities to develop themes about the local CCC enrollees and the intricate craftsmanship of their stone and mortar construction work.
- The fish hatchery and pool structure remains on site and its vegetation overgrowth was recently removed. This feature is frequently interpreted by our trail guides, and it is a prime location to install a graphically illustrated interpretive sign that tells the interesting story of when and why this interesting biological science experiment was conducted, how it was constructed by the CCC, and why it ultimately failed.

Site Recommendations

- Restore the Baño de Oro pool area to its original condition so that this site's heritage features can be properly interpreted with a graphically illustrated sign. Note: El Yunque NF management has approved a project to renovate the Baño de Oro site and make it into a wheel chair accessible recreation site. The project has been funded, but is stalled due to administrative constraints at the present time.
- Restore the fish hatchery pools to their original "CCC condition." Design and install a graphically illustrated sign nearby, describing the history of program. Explore the possibility of stocking the hatchery pool with local aquatic species to reinforce the visitors understanding of its use.

Rio Sabana Picnic Area

In the past, PR road 191 crosses the Forest from north to south. In 1970 the road was closed by a major landslide during heavy rains associated with a tropical storm. Other storms that occurred during the same year triggered three additional major slides in the same area. The road remains closed between gates at km 13.3 and km 21.0. Ever since the closure residents and community leaders of the Naguabo municipality have expressed their interest and support to

improve their economic opportunities by increasing the tourist traffic into Naguabo from the Forest.

A new picnic center is now ready to be opened in this area.

Interpretive Themes, goals, objectives

The Rio Sabana area provides many opportunities for developing valuable themes describing the following topics:

- Water conservation - A watershed is comprising the Sabana, Icacos, and Prieto rivers, supplies a major amount of the water needs of the Naguabo and neighboring municipalities.
- El Toro Wilderness - the Sabana River trail, a CCC era trail, which has been rehabilitated as a result of this new picnic area, provides a connection with the Tradewinds trail. All these Forest areas are now under the protection of the recently designated El Toro Wilderness Area.
- Rare, endemic and endangered species - The forest areas in this vicinity provides habitat to many protected or “special value” plant and wildlife species.

The above mentioned topics present attractive opportunities for the development of thematic interpretive signs that could be used by the students and volunteers who will provide the CE and interpretive services.

Site Recommendations

- Install a bulletin board close to the picnic shelters that provides the same general forest information, site description, safety alert, rules and regulations and other notices as those in the Forest’s recreational area.
- Develop a graphic interpretive sign describing the El Toro Wilderness area and install it at the trailhead of the Sabana River trail.

Develop a graphic interpretive sign describing the importance of this area’s watershed and install it in the vicinity of the Sabana River.

LOCATION	INITIAL	EXISTING				RECOMMENDATION
		Interp. Sign	Directional Sign	Bulletin Board	Brochure	
<p>El Portal Rain Forest Center</p> <p>The entrance is located at Km 4.3 PR 191</p>	<p>This is the main Forest visitor center. Opened to the public in June 1996 with 13,544 square feet of exhibit space. El Portal has a reception orientation area in which personal information services are provided. In this main floor there is also a Theater providing a short film about the forest, alternating between English and Spanish narration and a Book Store operated by Eastern National.</p> <p>The upper level has three separate pavilions, with a sub-theme related to the main site theme. A food concession is also located in this level.</p>		1	3	1	<p>Interpretive information is still relevant but some text has different translation in the other language. There are many references to Caribbean National Forest which should be El Yunque N.F.</p> <p>Add an interactive screen monitor in the reception desk similar to the one used by hotels to assist visitors with their common information request about forest attractions.</p> <p>There are specific recommendations for improving each one of the exhibit displays and pavilions, see details in appendix A.</p>
<p>El Portalito and elevated walkway</p>	<p>It is a covered shelter located next to the parking drop off area containing a descriptive forest map.</p> <p>The elevated walkway, with wooden floor directs the visitors to the main building while walking at canopy level.</p>	5	1			<p>All signs must be replaced, the following conditions apply to each of them:</p> <p>1) Reference to "Caribbean" National Forest, must read "El Yunque".</p> <p>2) Colors are faded and there are mold spots embedded between sign layers.</p>
<p>El Portal Trail</p> <p>It begins midway down the path from entrance shelter to lower parking lot.</p>	<p>This trail is a 1/2 mile gravel surface loop.</p>	6	1		NONE	<p>All signs must be replaced, the following conditions apply to each of them:</p> <p>1) Reference to "Caribbean" National Forest, must read "El Yunque".</p> <p>2) Colors are faded and there are mold spots embedded between sign layers.</p> <p>3) Graffiti damage is visible in one of the signs.</p>

LOCATION	INITIAL	EXISTING				RECOMMENDATION
		Interp. Sign	Directional Sign	Bulletin Board	Brochure	
<p>Information Kiosk 191 Corridor Km 4.5</p> <p>At Road side right after the Catalina Work Center.</p>			1 map			This map has the same errors described above for the Trail System El Yunque map. It shows "you are here", but this map is the one that should be at Palo Colorado. It describes all trails including some inside research area.
<p>La Coca Water Fall</p> <p>This waterfall is located along PR 191 and is the first spectacular feature seen by visitors traveling up to the Forest. It could be considered as a unique opportunity to talk about the importance of water management, soil and rock formations, and hydrological processes.</p>	Only safety alerts and location name are posted on site.	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	<p>There are many opportunities for more than one interpretive sign:</p> <p>1) One of the common questions of visitors is the origin of "La Coca" name. A sign about the history of this property & owner & FS land acquisition may be interesting.</p> <p>2) This area is the first stop of most visitors, so it provides FS an opportunity to orient about ecological ethics and other important information with the addition of a Bulletin board.</p> <p>3) Water conservation, origin, gallons, and any other related fact about the geological formation of the area are subjects for other interpretive sign.</p>
<p>La Coca/Carrillo Trail 191 Corridor Km 8.6</p> <p>La Coca is a very challenging trail at the Tabonuco Forest elevation. Carrillo is also in the Tabonuco zone and a very challenging hike.</p>	This trail leads to a primitive remote area along the Mameyes river. It requires a river crossing to get to the Carrillo trail. Carrillo is inside the Bisley research natural area.		3 maps			<p>The junction of la Coca trail with Carrillo provides a high adventure river crossing that might pose safety hazards for hikers with no experience. Also the Bisley area is a very valuable research area in natural settings, visitors could damage the goals of years of scientists work.</p> <p>Discourage the river crossing to Carrillo trail, remove all reference to it in future map.</p>

LOCATION	INITIAL	EXISTING				RECOMMENDATION
		Interp. Sign	Directional Sign	Bulletin Board	Brochure	
<p>Queensland Kauri</p> <p>This magnificent pine from Australia is located at La Coca Trail head in PR 191.</p>	<p>This tree was planted around 1937 as part of a highway beautification program designed by CNF Landscape Architect, Mr. Hunter Randolph.</p>	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	<p>This tree is visited by "nature lovers" whom respect it beauty and size.</p> <p>An interpretive sign will become useful increasing visitors' information and awakening the importance of trees and forests.</p>
<p>Yokahu Tower</p> <p>Along PR 191 and can be seen from various locations on and off the Forest. Magnificent views can be enjoyed from here which offer the opportunity to study the four different forest types, mountain peaks, and the northeastern coast, off shore islands. This is the first stop up the mountain where restrooms are available.</p>	<p>Construction was carried out from 1962 to late 1963.</p> <p>The tower parking area and it's landscape was refurbished in 2000, as result of these efforts to increase its appeal, interpretive signs were also added at the plaza and at the top area.</p>	7	NONE	1	1 for sale	<p>All signs must be replaced, the following conditions applies to each of them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reference to "Caribbean" National Forest, must read "El Yunque". 2) Graffiti and other human caused scratches are visible and have damaged the sign surface and overall appearance. 3) Fungi are also present embedded inside sign material. 4) Replacement signs which describe features in the coast should include new and more visible structures such as El Conquistador Hotel.

LOCATION	INITIAL	EXISTING				RECOMMENDATION
		Interp. Sign	Directional Sign	Bulletin Board	Brochure	
<p>Big Tree Trail 191 Corridor Km 10.4</p> <p>It is an interpretive trail. This trail is one of the most popular in the El Yunque National Forest trail system. The trail ends at La Mina Falls, an exquisite waterfall that drops over 35 feet through a jumble of huge rocks into a lovely pool where hikers can choose to enter the cool refreshing water or merely rest and enjoy the view. At this point the trail connects with La Mina River Trail.</p>	<p>The Big Tree Trail is a 0.7 miles (1.4 km) self-guided interpretive trail, descending from 1,804 feet to 1,640 feet.</p> <p>Hiking time is approximately 40 min., one-way. The trail is rated as moderate in difficulty, is steep in some places. It is asphalt paved throughout and several rain/picnic shelters are located along the way.</p> <p>Twenty one interpretive signs on the trail. They stand 37 inches high and the panels are an average of 27 inches long and 14 inches wide. Information provided is in both Spanish and English.</p>	18	2	1	NONE	<p>All signs must be replaced, the following conditions apply to each of them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reference to "Caribbean" National Forest, must read "El Yunque". 2) Graffiti and other human caused scratches are visible and have damaged the sign surface and overall appearance. 3) First of group of signs are located very close to each other; some of them could be relocated in the lower area of trail in where there are no signs. 4) Most of the themes information is still useful, but some new themes are needed such as Global Warming, water conservation & forest water production. 5) One trail head directional sign visible form parking area.

LOCATION	INITIAL	EXISTING				RECOMMENDATION
		Interp. Sign	Directional Sign	Bulletin Board	Brochure	
<p>Caimitillo Trail 191 Corridor Km 12.0</p> <p>Located on PR 191, is completely paved. This trail has been selected to interpret the contribution of the Forest Service to the recovery of the PR Parrot. Elements related to the program are evident on the trail such as: Lookout & blind structures, natural and artificial parrot nests, and Pearly-eyed thrasher nest box.</p>	<p>A proposal has been made that formal interpretive signs be located along trail. They will highlight the importance of the Forest's wildlife program (1992).</p>	NONE	2 maps 1 wooden	NONE	NONE	<p>1) Replace and restore wooden directional signs. 2) Replace map signs as described earlier. 3) None of the interpretive signs proposed earlier have been considered and their need is still relevant to trail use. Today, this trail is used by outfitter led tours, and Customer Services interpreters. The PR Parrot related structures are still here providing a great interpretive opportunity. The following signs are proposed:</p> <p>a) Puerto Rican Parrot natural history; to present life cycle, nesting season, habitat needs, population decline and species importance as one of the 10 most endangered birds in the world. b) PR Parrot recovery efforts, description of structures present on site. c) Sierra Palm forest, a sign describing this life zone as a unique habitat of El Yunque mountains. 4) The Palo Colorado tree and the life zone it form as particular habitat for the parrot and many other species should be interpret. This trail provides a good location for an interpretive sign about the Palo Colorado. 5) A vista point offers the view of the coast and the Tabonuco forest at distance. This place provides an interpretive opportunity to talk about the relationship between the coast, the Tradewinds and the Forest.</p>

LOCATION	INITIAL	EXISTING				RECOMMENDATION
		Interp. Sign	Directional Sign	Bulletin Board	Brochure	
<p>Palo Colorado 191 Corridor Km 12.2</p> <p>Located at PR 191 km. 12.1-12.3. It's a picnic area located adjacent to the visitor information center, is a major attraction in the Forest. La Mina trail, access to this highly visited fall & river pool, is also here. El Yunque, Caimitillo, and Baño de Oro trail heads are located here. The Baño Grande and Baño de Oro CCC era pools provide historic content to the area. All these components made the Palo Colorado area the heart of the Forest recreational area.</p>	<p>The small building was used to interpret the importance and sensitivity of the Forest. There are two VIS staff stationed here daily. Today, Customer Service interpreters are stationed here to provide tours services. Also a store from Eastern National operates here & one EN employee provides orientation.</p> <p>Though originally a swimming pool, swimming is not presently allowed. Surrounded with a cobblestone path and an arching stone masonry bridge the pool is accompanied by a reinforced concrete bathhouse. Built in the late 1930's by the CCC this complex is the largest and most impressive man-made swimming pool in the La Mina Recreational area. 2 Trail System El Yunque maps and 1 La Mina Trail</p>	NONE	3 maps	1	1 for sale	<p>All signs must be replaced, the following conditions apply to each of them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reference to "Caribbean" National Forest, must read "El Yunque". 2) Graffiti and other human caused scratches are visible and have damaged the sign surface and overall appearance. 3) Maps color lines are not consistent with color codes use in international maps. Ex. Blue is water; river, etc not trail segments. 4) Elevations and distances apparently are not correct. 5) Map design is not "user friendly" for visitors that have not been exposed to read maps before. 6) Other valuable information such as: outdoors ethic, regulations, littering, operational hours, rainfall, and other is missing. 7) Forest types regions: Dwarf, Tabonuco, Palo Colorado & Sierra Palm could be described in the maps.
<p>La Mina Trail 191 Corridor Km 12.2</p> <p>It begins at Palo Colorado Information Center, in the EYNF Recreation Area. Parking is available in two adjacent paved parking lots, as well as at designated areas along the road.</p>	<p>The La Mina trail is the most popular, hence the most heavily traveled trail on the EYNF. The trail follows the course of the La Mina River downward through lush tropical trees, shrubs and flowers to the La Mina waterfall.</p>		2 maps			<p>The maps information is still relevant, but additional references to safety precautions could be added if sign is replaced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Flashflood alerts. 2) Trail surface, slippery when wet. 3) Return to your car using this trail.

LOCATION	INITIAL	EXISTING				RECOMMENDATION
		Interp. Sign	Directional Sign	Bulletin Board	Brochure	
<p>Baño de Oro 191 Corridor Km. 12.25</p> <p>Located across from Palo Colorado VIS site at the trailhead of El Yunque trail is a beautiful pool presently filled with sediment that used to receive water from a branch of La Mina River.</p>	<p>Paved path leads to the Baño de Oro pool, a bathing complex built in the 1930's by the CCC. No longer used as a swimming pool, it still provides a tranquil forest view.</p> <p>Old fish hatchery tanks built of stone now overgrown with forest vegetation can be seen on the side of the trail. These tanks represent a failed attempt to introduce trout, an exotic cold-water fish to tropical forest waters.</p> <p>Trail has one Trail system El Yunque map at junction with PR 191 and a Baño de Oro map at junction with El Yunque trail.</p>	5	2 map	NONE	NONE	<p>All signs must be replaced, the following conditions apply to each of them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reference to "Caribbean" National Forest, must read "El Yunque". 2) Graffiti and other human caused scratches are visible and have damaged the sign surface and overall appearance. 3) CCC interpretive sign info is still useful and relevant, but the sign material is old. 4) New interpretive sign opportunities are present around the pool area for aquatic fauna, water production & conservation. 5) Trout pools should be restored as they were when used as fish hatchery tanks, stocked with native fish and shrimps.
<p>El Yunque/Los Picachos trails 191 Corridor to PR 10</p> <p>El Yunque trail is 2.4 miles in length rising from 2,067 feet to 3,445 feet. Hiking time is 2 to 2 1/2 hours one-way. This trail is rated as challenging, and can be quite steep and muddy in some places.</p>			2 maps			<p>Signs are highly damaged by graffiti and other action of the rain and element.</p> <p>Replace these directional signs with other type of directional sign such as pointing arrows which describe destinations.</p> <p>Trail junction of El Yunque with Los Pichachos currently does not have the orientation directional sign.</p>

LOCATION	INITIAL	EXISTING				RECOMMENDATION
		Interp. Sign	Directional Sign	Bulletin Board	Brochure	
<p>Mt. Britton Tower 191 Corridor to PR 9938</p> <p>This impressive four to five story stone masonry tower affords expansive views to the North and East.</p> <p>It is located off road FS 10 which leads to El Yunque Peak. This road is closed; therefore public access to the site is by means of Mt. Britton trail, over a mile hike from a trailhead on PR 9938 or by way of El Yunque trail then Mt. Britton trail, an over two mile hike beginning at Palo Colorado or Caimitillo trailheads on PR 191.</p>	<p>Built in 1937-38 it is the tallest CCC-built tower on the Forest. Its size and workmanship is an exceptional example of CCC craftsmanship.</p> <p>The CCC history on this site can be interpreted using a low sign at the side of the trail as one approaches the tower.</p> <p>The peaks, bays, towns, etc. visible from the top could also be identified for the visitor.</p>	NONE	3 maps	NONE	NONE	<p>1) Maps color lines are not consistent with color codes used in international maps. Ex. Blue is water; river, etc. not trail segments.</p> <p>2) Elevations and distances apparently are not correct.</p> <p>3) Map design is not "user friendly" for visitors that have not been exposed to reading maps before.</p> <p>4) Dr. Nathaniel Lord Britton's contribution to science, knowledge and investigation of the Caribbean and Forest flora is considerable and unknown for most of our visitors. A forest history interpretive sign is proposed at this site for Britton's and for the CCC craftsmanship.</p>
<p>Tradewind Trails 191 Corridor Km 13.4</p> <p>Its trailhead is located in PR 191 and it leads to El Toro Peak. It is the longest trail in the Forest, with 3.9 miles. The area along both sides of the trail has been managed as proposed Wilderness; it got the official designation in January 16, 2006.</p>	<p>Constructed as a result of the work of the CCC era, after 1930's.</p> <p>Three maps described the same area but are located at: trailhead in El Toro trail junction with PR 186, El Toro Peak and at Tradewind trail junction with PR 191.</p>	NONE	3 maps	NONE	1	<p>This area Wilderness designation becomes the first tropical rain forest wilderness area in the Western Hemisphere. It represents an area of unique ecological and biological diversity.</p> <p>An interpretive sign about the ecological ethics and conservation importance of the El Toro Wilderness area is needed to prevent potential natural resource irreversible damages, to provide orientation to hikers, and to recruit volunteer help for the protection of this remote area.</p>

LOCATION	INITIAL	EXISTING				RECOMMENDATION
		Interp. Sign	Directional Sign	Bulletin Board	Brochure	
<p>Naguabo Picnic Area 191 Corridor Km 21.0</p> <p>A picnic area was constructed in 2008 with 10 shelters and a bathroom. One accessible shelter is available. It will be managed by the Naguabo Municipality.</p>	<p>Conservation Education area Interpretive services planned with the use of students and volunteers.</p>	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	<p>This area has access to Wilderness by the Rio Sabana trail. Here is another opportunity to add an interpretive sign to describe this designation, enhance visitor's understanding of its ecology and promote its conservation.</p> <p>1) Water play will become more popular at this new picnic area. There is an imminent need for the installation of river safety alerts and flash flood warning sign.</p>

Introduction

The Program Outline is filled out by the interpreter and includes the details of the specific program. It can then be maintained in a District file for use by other interpreters in the future. It includes enough outline and reference materials so that another interpreter could put the program on with less research.

It is also helpful to keep track of when and where the programs are given, and how many attend the program. Additional notes concerning weather, particularly if it affects attendance are also important. This file can then be used at the end of the season to help calculate total numbers and cost per program. This can be kept in a separate card file, or attached at the end of the Plan.

Program attendance helps demonstrate which topics have greater appeal. Sometimes, by reviewing how the topic was presented, changes can be made in the program to make it better or more exciting.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

PROGRAM:

THEME: (one simple statement)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this program visitors will:

WHY:

HOW:

WHERE:

WHEN:

MATERIALS:

CONCERNS:

REFERENCES: