

National Forests in Mississippi Land and Resource Management Plan

Amendment # 14

JUNE, 1995

This Amendment designates tentative Habitat Management Areas (HMAs) for suitable RCW habitat as shown in Appendix D of the Final EIS for the Management of the Red cockaded Woodpecker and its Habitat On National Forests in the Southern Region, June, 1995.

These tentative HMAs include suitable RCW habitat between the ¾-mile radius circles around active and inactive clusters currently protected by interim standards and guidelines (May 1990, May 1991, December 1991), as well as the area within the ¾-mile radius circles. These interim standards and guidelines will remain in effect within the ¾-mile radius circles until individual Forest Plans are further amended or revised to incorporate the Revised Handbook Direction. Within the tentative HMAs, but outside the ¾-mile radius circles, current Forest Plan standards and guidelines will remain in effect with the exception that only the following silvicultural systems and practices will be allowed:

- Thinning.
- Irregular shelterwood method (two-aged).
- Single-tree and group selection methods (uneven-aged).
- Clearcutting method (even-aged) will be allowed to restore longleaf, shortleaf, or other desirable native pine species to appropriate sites currently occupied by trees less suitable for the RCW. This would require a site-specific environmental analysis showing no detrimental effect to the RCW. Before restoration can begin, sufficient recruitment stands and foraging habitat must be identified to meet tentative population objectives identified in the EIS.

The tentative HMAs and accompanying direction will remain in place until individual Forest Plans are amended/revised to incorporate the Revised Handbook.

This amendment is not a significant change in the National Forests in Mississippi Land and Resource Management Plan. The determination that this is a non-significant amendment is made in accordance with 36 CFR 219.10(f) and Forest Service Manual 1920 (53 Fed. Reg. 26:07, July 15, 1983) (see ROD, page 27). This amendment designates tentative HMAs and establishes a tentative population objective for the Mississippi National Forest of 1595 active clusters as identified in Table 2E-1 of the FEIS. The tentative population objectives are based on the acreage in tentative HMAs.

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This direction for harvest treatments within the tentative HMAs does not alter the long-term relationship between levels of goods and services projected by the land and resource Management Plan.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and documentation for this change in direction has been documented in the Draft and Final EIS for Management of the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker and its habitat on National Forests in the Southern Region, June, 1995. This EIS is available for review at the Forest Supervisor's Office, 100 West Capitol St., Suite 1141, Jackson, MS, 39269, and at the Regional Office, USDA, US Forest Service, Room 816N, 1720 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, GA, 30367-9102.