

Chapter 3

Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

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Changes to Chapter 3 Between the Draft and Final EIS

All Resource Sections – For each resource section, we added an effects analysis for Alternative 2 Modified that was developed between the Draft and Final. We also updated tables to include more recent information where we had available data.

Air Quality – We added emission factors for helicopter harvest to the effects analysis.

Soil Resource – We added a discussion (Management Implications) in the Cumulative Effects section on the challenges and options for addressing potential cumulative effects from managing on sensitive soils.

Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources – We expanded the analysis for aquatic MIS.

Threatened and Endangered Species – We expanded the affected environment descriptions to include more information on the animal species and their habitats. We also expanded the effects sections to provide more detailed analyses that we carried forward into the Biological Assessment.

Timber Supply – In response to comments on the DEIS, we added a Table TR-6 showing timberland in West Virginia by ownership, and we added volume harvested to Table TR-4.

Recreation and Wilderness – In response to comments on the DEIS, we added recent information on the economic impacts of tourism in West Virginia. We explained a discrepancy in MP 5.0 wilderness acres used in the FEIS vs. DEIS. We refined and expanded the ROS analysis to better describe changes expected by Management Prescription area. We added more detailed tables to show differences in MP 6.2 and 8.1 SPNM areas by alternative. We incorporated two new IRAs into the Inventoried Roadless Area analysis.

Road Transportation System – In response to comments on the DEIS, we added a section that compares potential road miles needed for timber harvest, based on harvest area distances from existing roads.

Social and Economic Environment – In response to comments on the DEIS, we revised the county profiles to include more accurate information and added total full-time and part-time employment, and we added State statistics on employment to provide a State-wide context to the economic impacts in the MNF 10-County Region. We also re-ran all of the modeled employment and income outputs by alternative with updated budget and revenue inputs.