Chapter III

Management Prescriptions

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Changes to Chapter III Between the Proposed and Final Plans

Introduction – We added a section to clarify how we intend to manage the development features (roads, pipeline corridors, etc.) that form the boundaries of undeveloped areas.

Management Prescriptions – Area description numbers were updated for all MPs due to the minor shifts in MP allocations from Alternative 2 to Alternative 2 Modified.

MP 4.1 – In response to comments, we changed the name of this prescription to "Spruce and Spruce-Hardwood Ecosystem Management". We updated vegetation management objectives.

MP 5.0 – In response to comments, we made a number of minor editorial, clarification, or consistency changes to all sections of this MP. We deleted Standard 5020 as the concern was already covered under direction for Vegetation. We deleted Guideline 5045 as it appeared to conflict with Forest Service Manual direction. We added direction to Transportation System Planning for clarification and consistency.

MP 5.1 - In response to comments, we made a number of minor editorial, consistency, or clarification changes to all sections of this MP. We deleted Standard 5008 as the concern was already covered under Standard 5010. We added a Wildlife Management guideline to clarify that maintenance of existing improvements may continue. We deleted Standard 5127 because it seemed to imply that we control fish stocking. We moved Standard 5138 to Forest-wide direction. We added direction to Vegetation, Fire, and Transportation System Planning for clarification and consistency.

MP 6.1 – In response to comments, we added information and direction to clarify our management intent in mixed pine-oak stands. We added a desired condition table for general forest types for consistency. We updated Vegetation management objectives and added an objective for Indiana bat habitat management. We deleted the prescribed fire objective 6144 because this concern was better addressed in the Forest-wide management direction.

MP 6.2 - In response to comments, we made a number of minor editorial, consistency, or clarification changes to all sections of this MP. We added three areas to this MP. We moved Standard 6232 to Forest-wide direction. We added direction to Vegetation, Fire, and Transportation System Planning for clarification and consistency.

MP 8.0 - In response to comments, we made a number of minor editorial, consistency, or clarification changes to all sections of this MP. We rearranged MPs 8.1 through 8.6 so they are now in sequence. We added an 8.0 guideline to clarify Vegetation management related to NNIS, insects, and pathogens. We added a map for MP 8.1 (NRA) and direction to clarify management intent within 8.1 SPNM areas. We changed the numbering for all 8.2 direction for consistency. We deleted Standards 8281, 8415, and 8452 as they were not needed. We added direction for the 8.5 Pike Knob candidate RNA. We added the Loop Road Research Area in with the 8.5 Fernow Experimental Forest.

INTRODUCTION

To provide more effective and efficient management, the Forest has been divided into smaller units called Management Prescriptions (MPs), each of which is organized around a common management emphasis. The MPs are shown on the map for Alternative 2M in the map packet that accompanies the 2006 Plan and FEIS. This section describes each of these areas in detail, highlights resource areas of importance within each area, and prescribes specific management direction to address items that were not covered, or covered more generally, in the Forest-wide direction. The MPs for the 2006 Forest Plan are:

MP 3.0 – Vegetation Diversity
MP 4.1 – Spruce and Spruce-Hardwood Ecosystem Management
MP 5.0 – Designated Wilderness
MP 5.1 – Recommended Wilderness
MP 6.1 – Wildlife Habitat Emphasis
MP 6.2 – Backcountry Recreation
MP 8.0 – Special Areas

This introduction is a user's guide for the MP area descriptions and direction that follow. The MPs describe management emphasis, current resource conditions, desired conditions, goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines for resource programs within each area. Program areas are organized similar to Forest-wide direction, by Forest Service Manual/Handbook number. Each MP area is divided into the four separate but connected subsections described below.

Management Emphasis

This is a brief statement describing what resources, settings, or activities that the MP is designed to emphasize. The management emphasis is typically expressed in bullet statements, with the level of importance or priority generally flowing from top to bottom.

Area Description

The area description summarizes the current conditions for important features and resources within each area. The purpose of this description is to familiarize the reader with the area and its characteristics and concerns. This information also helps set the stage for management direction that follows. Information in the area description typically includes:

- Overall size of the area and percentage of the Forest
- Current vegetation conditions by forest type and successional stage
- Fire regime and Condition Class data
- Miles of roads and trails, and average open road densities
- Recreational settings and opportunities
- Past or ongoing timber, range, and mineral activities or operations
- Electronic or communication facilities
- Impaired water bodies and eligible Wild and Scenic River segments

Desired Conditions

Desired conditions describe how the Forest would like to see the area look and function over time. They represent the desired result of following the management emphasis and direction for each area. They are written in the present tense to give the reader a better idea of what the areas should look like and provide once the desired conditions are achieved.

Management Direction

MP direction is designed to tier to Forest-wide direction, and to meet Forest-wide goals and desired conditions. MP direction, though, is generally intended to be more specific than Forest-wide direction, addressing specific elements or concerns related to each program area. In some cases, a program area may not have any additional direction at the MP level beyond that already provided at the Forest-wide level.

MPs use the same types of direction—goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines—that are defined in the Introduction to Chapter 2. Time frames for achieving MP objectives are essentially the same as for Forest-wide objectives—10 to 15 years (the planning period) unless otherwise stated. More specific time frames are not typically used because accomplishment can be delayed by funding, litigation, environmental changes, and other influences beyond the Forest's control.

Standards and guidelines appear in MPs to provide more explicit protection or guidance than can be provided through Forest-wide direction. This more explicit direction is based on the site-specific needs or concerns of the area. Put another way, Forest-wide standards and guidelines generally apply to all MPs on the Forest; however, this direction may be refined or expanded at the MP level to address specific concerns unique or specific to that MP.

Management Prescription Area Boundaries

Where developmental features—such as roads, pipelines, or transmission lines—are used as the boundaries for MP areas, these features are not considered to be within the areas, nor are they subject to the management direction associated with the MP areas. These features are managed under Forest-wide direction for Roads and Facilities, or Special Uses.

Emphasis Versus Actual Management

Management Prescriptions (MPs) were assigned to National Forest System lands based roughly on descriptions that the Forest Service has developed at the national level. The MPs represent management emphasis themes, ranging from areas with little or no development, such as Designated Wilderness (5.0) or Recommended Wilderness (5.1), to areas where a relatively high degree of development may be expected over time, such as Age Class Diversity (3.0).

It is important to note, however, that not every acre of every prescription area may reflect the MP emphasis. For instance, some prescription areas are intersected by administrative boundaries that have specific management requirements that may or may not match the overall MP. Eligible

Wild and Scenic River corridors are examples of these administrative areas. These areas would be managed according to their classification standards, as described in the Wild and Scenic River Act, regardless of what MP that surrounds them.

Riparian areas within channel or wetland buffers would also receive special management consideration, regardless of the surrounding MP. These considerations are described in the Forest-wide management direction of the 2006 Forest Plan.

Additionally, there are many smaller administrative units, with or without official designation, which may have management requirements that are somewhat different than the overall management emphasis of the MP. Examples of these units include developed administrative sites, recreation sites, designated utility corridors or communication sites, mines, and cultural or historical sites.

For instance, a campground would be managed as a campground, regardless of the MP in which it is located. Mineral development opportunities are determined to a large extent by mining legislation and deed terms. However, the amount or timing of operations for federally leased minerals could be influenced by specific MP management direction.

Special uses are authorized by permit, and thus MPs would not have much effect on existing uses. However, MPs could influence whether certain permits in some areas are renewed, or influence the likelihood of allowing certain types of new special uses in those areas.

Most cultural and historic sites are protected, particularly if they are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. MP assignments would not affect these sites, but they could affect the settings around, or access to, these sites.

Individual MPs are presented below.

Management Prescription 3.0 – Vegetation Diversity

Management Emphasis

This prescription emphasizes the following:

- Age class diversity and sustainable timber production.
- A variety of forest scenery.
- Habitat for wildlife species tolerant of disturbances, such as deer, grouse, and squirrel.
- A primarily motorized recreation environment.

Area Description

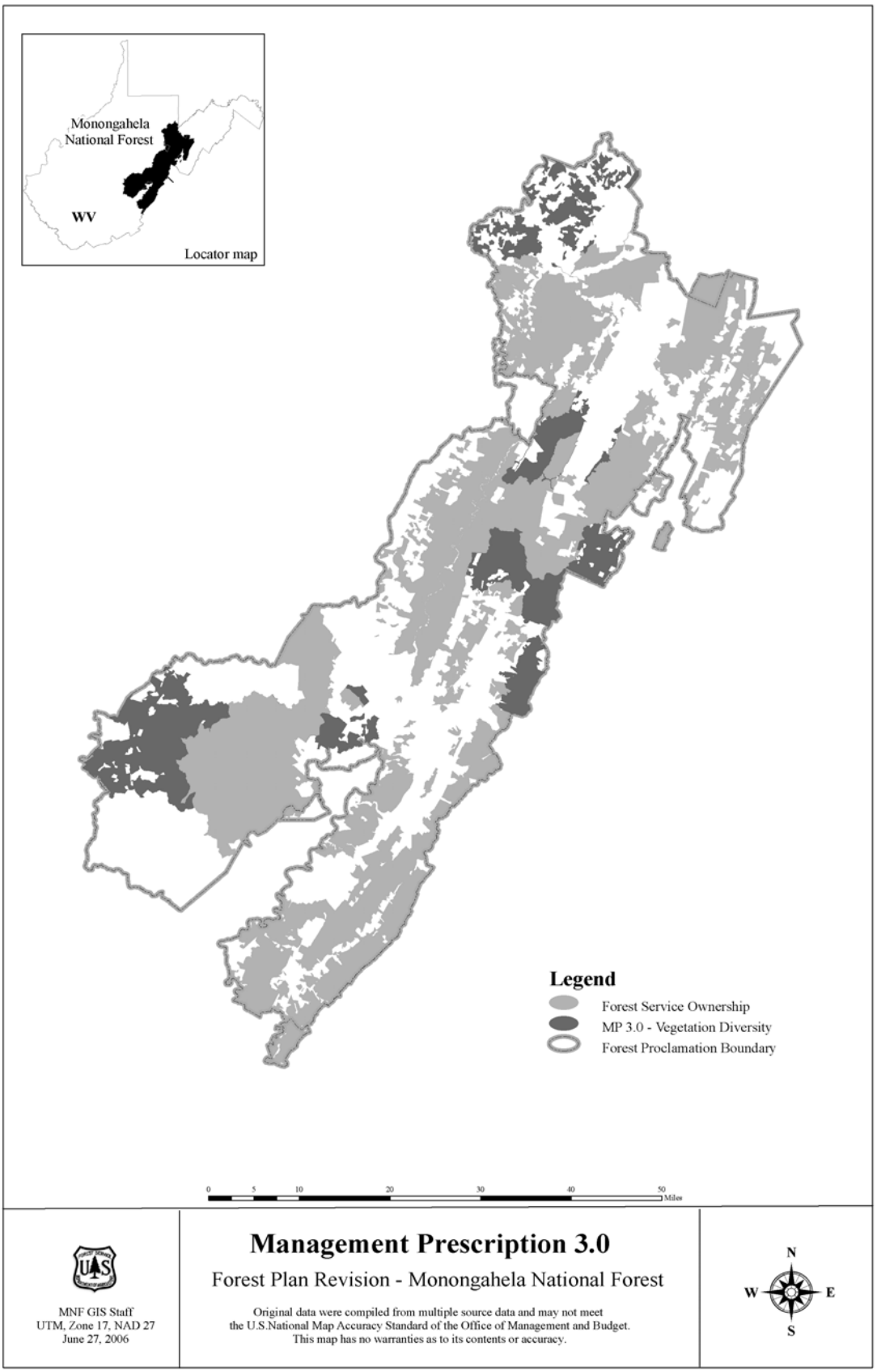
Lands assigned to this prescription comprise a total of 194,600 acres, or 21.2% of the entire Forest (see MP 3.0 map). The size of each prescription area varies widely. Elevations range from under 2,000 to over 4,000 feet, and areas occur on a wide variety of land and soil types. The major forest communities and their current age classes are depicted in the table below. An estimated 5,500 acres (3% of the MP) are also maintained and managed as wildlife openings.

Current Vegetation Conditions in Management Prescription 3.0						
Forest Community	Percent of Community in Rx Area	Percent by Age Class for Each Community				
		Early Successional (0-19 years)	Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years)	Mid Successional (40-79 years)	Mid-Late Successional (80-120 years)	Late Successional (>120 years)
Conifer	0.8	5.6	4.4	32.8	50.7	6.5
Northern Hardwoods	11.0	4.1	3.2	31.6	59.2	1.9
Mixed Cove Hardwoods	62.6	4.2	5.6	33.5	54.8	1.8
Mixed Oak	22.4	4.1	1.6	31.4	52.8	10.1
Pine-Oak	0.6	3.0	9.9	63.9	18.7	4.6

Because this prescription covers such a large expanse of land and diversity of landforms and vegetation types, most species and habitats of wildlife, fish, and plants on the Forest are represented within it. For these same reasons, a wide variety of rare flora and fauna, and non-native invasive species are also found within this prescription. There are 15 range allotments located in the area, comprising an estimated 2,233 acres.

An estimated 4,000 acres (2%) of the prescription area are considered to be in Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3, and 36,200 acres (18%) in Fire Regime III, Condition Class 2. These acres represent the best opportunity to use prescribed fire and timber management to reduce fuels and restore natural habitat structure and stand density, species composition, and disturbance regimes.

There are an estimated 177 miles of Forest System Level 3, 4, and 5 roads in this prescription, creating an average open road density of 0.6 miles per square mile. An estimated 34,000 acres of timber harvest activity have occurred within this prescription since 1986, about 70-75% of which have been intermediate treatments, mostly thinning. Less that 15% have been even-aged harvests.


Monongahela
National Forest
WV
Locator map
Legend
Forest Service Ownership
MP 3.0 - Vegetation Diversity
Forest Proclamation Boundary
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Miles
MNF GIS Staff
UTM, Zone 17, NAD 27
June 27, 2006
Management Prescription 3.0
Forest Plan Revision - Monongahela National Forest
Original data were compiled from multiple source data and may not meet
the U.S.National Map Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget.
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There are also an estimated 96 miles of trail in this prescription. Roughly 58% of the total area currently provides a Roaded Natural setting, 39% is Semi-Primitive Motorized, 2% is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, and 1% is Rural, as measured by the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). Motorized recreation is featured—including driving for pleasure and firewood collecting—but non-motorized recreation also occurs. A number of visually sensitive viewpoints and travel ways occur within or adjacent to the prescription areas.

An estimated 36% of the total prescription area has privately owned mineral rights. Within the prescription area are 38 gas wells, not all of which are active or capable of producing, and 19.8 miles of gas pipeline. There are 6.6 miles of other utility corridors in this prescription area, and 2 communication or electronic sites, including 1 Forest repeater site.

There are an estimated 39 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired streams within the area, including all or portions of Aldrich Branch, Barrenshe Run, Craig Run, Cheat River, Cranberry River, Dry Fork, and Williams River.

Portions of four eligible Wild and Scenic River segments occur within this prescription area, totaling 25.3 miles. River miles, classification, and values are described in the table below. Rivers are currently managed according to Wild and Scenic River Act guidance for their classification, and to maintain their outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status.

Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 3.0			
River Name	**Classification**	**Outstandingly Remarkable Values**	**Miles**
North Fork Cherry River	Recreational	Scenery, Recreation	10.8
Glady Fork	Recreational	Recreation	2.8
Laurel Fork	Scenic	Recreation	4.4
Williams River	Recreational	Scenery, Recreation	7.3

Desired Conditions

The Forest is a mosaic of stands of predominantly hardwood trees and associated understories that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species. The stands vary in size, shape, height, and species depending on the silvicultural system applied.

Desired Vegetation Conditions in Management Prescription 3.0					
Forest Community	**Percent by Age Class for Each Community**				
	Early Successional (0-19 years)	**Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years)**	**Mid Successional (40-79 years)**	**Mid-Late Successional (80-120 years)**	**Late Successional (>120 years)**
Conifer	10-20%	10-20%	20-40%	20-40%	10-15%
Northern Hardwoods	12-20%	12-20%	24-40%	24-40%	5-10%
Mixed Cove Hardwoods	12-20%	12-20%	24-40%	24-40%	5-10%
Mixed Oak	12-22%	12-22%	24-40%	24-40%	5-10%
Pine-Oak	12-24%	12-24%	24-40%	24-40%	5-10%

Management activities result in relatively high levels of sustainable timber and mast production. Age class distribution ranges from early to late successional stands, but the predominant age classes are represented by mid and mid-late successional stands (see table above). Roughly 3 to 8 percent of the prescription area units are in maintained or natural openings, including beaver meadows, shrub and brush fields, savannahs, grazing allotments, seeded log landings and logging roads, mine reclamations, utility corridors, and natural disturbance gaps.

The area provides a diversity of habitats for wildlife species, a diverse visual landscape, and considerable human activity resulting from a variety of uses.

A system of roads and trails provides access within the area for public recreation and for administrative and management purposes, including transportation of forest products. Motorized recreation opportunities are featured and public motorized vehicle use is generally provided. Road densities vary considerably but average within 1.0 to 2.0 miles per square mile. Open road densities average 0.5 to 1.0 miles per square mile.

Roads and trails provide abundant opportunities for motorized recreation, including driving for pleasure, forest product gathering, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. All of the area is managed for a Roaded Natural ROS setting. High scenic integrity is maintained along visually sensitive viewpoints and travel ways.

Management Direction for 3.0 – Vegetation Diversity Emphasis		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
1900 - Vegetation		
Goal	3001	Enhance diversity of forest vegetative cover through the dispersion of a variety of species, types, and ages.
Objective	3002	Over the next 10 years regenerate the following amounts of forest vegetation to begin moving toward desired age class conditions for these forest types: Northern hardwoods: 1,000-2,000 acres Mixed cove hardwoods: 8,000-12,000 acres Mixed oak: 3,000-4,000 acres
2200 – Range		
Standard	3003	Management of open areas within allotments shall be primarily for livestock grazing. Intensive management for livestock grazing may occur.
2310 – Recreation System Planning		
Goal	3004	Feature roaded natural ROS class recreation opportunities.
2350 - General Forest Environment Areas		
Standard	3005	Selected areas, trails, or roads may be closed, where appropriate, to motorized vehicles during specific periods to protect resources, provide for public safety, or reduce user conflict. The intent, however, is to provide for public motorized use.
2410 - Timber Resource Management Planning		
Standard	3006	There is no limit on the timing or proportion of the prescription area to be entered for timber practices during an entry cycle.
Guideline	3007	Management with uneven-aged silviculture systems should be based on visual quality, timber products, economics, and site and species capabilities.
Guideline	3008	The following maximum diameter at breast height (dbh) sizes should be used as

Management Direction for 3.0 – Vegetation Diversity Emphasis		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
		guidelines as to when mature trees should be harvested under the uneven-aged silvicultural system. **Forest Type** / **Low Quality Site** / **High Quality Site** Hardwoods / 22” / 28” Conifers / 16” / 22” Oak - Pine / 20” / 24”
2470 - Silvicultural Systems		
Guideline	3009	Use even-aged management when shade-intolerant vegetation is the species objective or when needed for accomplishing diversity objectives. a) Clearcutting with reserve trees is the normal regeneration cutting method to achieve these objectives. Significant exceptions include: 1) Shelterwood may be used when needed for regeneration of a particular species, or visual resource management objectives. 2) Deferred rotation (two-age) cutting may be used to retain large trees well into the next rotation. b) Thinning is a normal practice, particularly on better quality sites.
Guideline	3010	Uneven-aged management should be used when shade-tolerant vegetation is the objective, or when needed to meet scenic integrity objectives. Group selection cuts should be limited to two acres or less.
2470 - Timber Stand Improvement and Reforestation		
Guideline	3011	Healthy trees should be retained in and around developed recreation areas. Timber stand improvement should favor long-lived trees with healthy crowns, flowering trees, vegetation for screening or other objectives of a site-specific vegetation management plan.
2630 – Wildlife Habitat		
Goal	3012	Maintain natural areas of standing water as wildlife watering sources. Create artificial water sources as needed in conjunction with other resource activities.
Objective	3013	Create up to 1,000 acres of wildlife openings over the next 10 years.
Guideline	3014	Conifer species may be planted or controlled where needed to enhance vegetative diversity for wildlife.
7100 - Transportation System Planning		
Goal	3015	Provide a road system adequate to manage the area for intensive timber operations.
Guideline	3016	New road construction should not cause road density within the prescription area unit to exceed 1.0 mile per square mile for collector roads, or 4.0 miles per square mile for any combination of collector and local roads.
7730 – Transportation System Operation		
Guideline	3017	Public motorized vehicle access and use is compatible with this Management Prescription.

Management Prescription 4.1 - Spruce and Spruce-Hardwood Ecosystem Management

Management Emphasis

This management prescription focuses on restoration and management of disjunct red spruce and spruce-hardwood communities of the central Appalachians. This community has been greatly reduced and altered from its former extent, composition, and structure, primarily due to exploitative management that occurred prior to the establishment of the Monongahela National Forest. The Forest now contains most of the remaining acreage of central Appalachian spruce and spruce-hardwood forest, as well as most of the acreage upon which it formerly occurred. Therefore, the Forest bears primary responsibility for the restoration and management of this unique community. This prescription emphasizes the following:

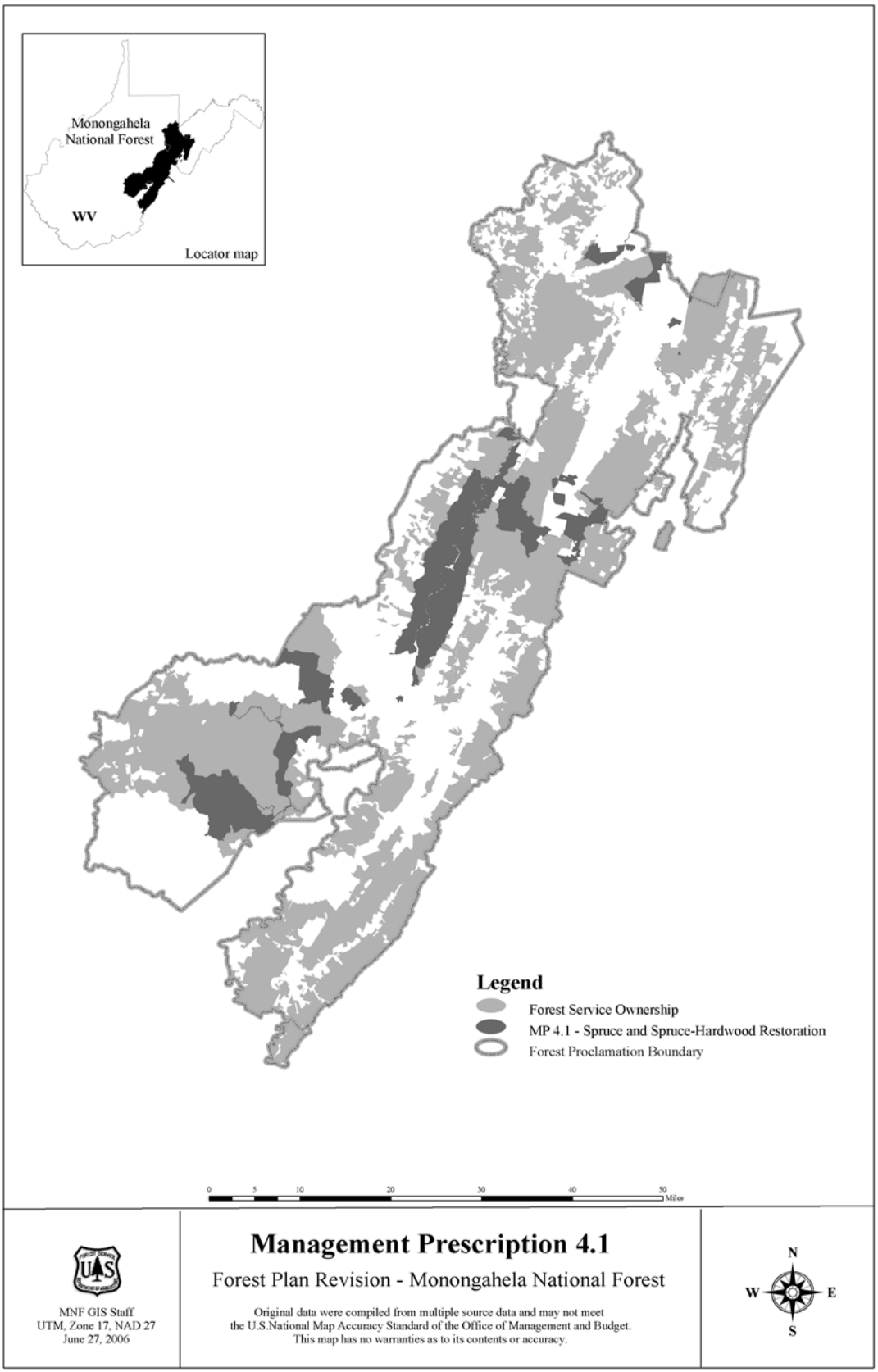
- Active and passive restoration of spruce and spruce-hardwood communities.
- Research or administrative studies on spruce restoration.
- Recovery of threatened and endangered species and other species of concern associated with spruce and spruce-hardwood communities.
- Management of hardwood communities where spruce is a negligible or absent component.
- Generally restricted public motorized access and use.
- A mix of forest products.

Area Description

This prescription area contains much of the lands that have the potential natural vegetation capable of supporting red spruce or spruce-hardwood communities. In order to effectively capture the best representation of these communities, intermixed areas that do not support spruce or spruce-hardwood communities were also included within the prescription boundaries.

Lands assigned to this prescription comprise a total of 153,600 acres, or 16.8 percent of the entire Forest (see MP map). In general, elevations are above 3200 feet. Soils tend to have frigid soil temperature regimes; however, landscape and topography can influence soil conditions greatly at lower elevations, producing areas dominated by hardwoods or incapable of supporting spruce. Soil pH ranges from extremely acidic to acidic. These areas also have a wide range of soil drainage properties. High-elevation bogs with poorly drained soils occur in this area and are identified as rare communities for terrestrial and aquatic species.

These high-elevation areas tend to receive higher levels of human-caused acid deposition than lower-elevation sites. Monitoring trends show that acidic deposition levels at sites in this region of the country are among the highest in the nation. The effects of acidic deposition on ecosystems vary within the prescription area based on the buffering capacity of soil type and underlying geology, as well as the elevation and predominant weather patterns and landforms.


Monongahela
National Forest
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Locator map
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Forest Service Ownership
MP 4.1 - Spruce and Spruce-Hardwood Restoration
Forest Proclamation Boundary
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Miles
MNF GIS Staff
UTM, Zone 17, NAD 27
June 27, 2006
Management Prescription 4.1
Forest Plan Revision - Monongahela National Forest
Original data were compiled from multiple source data and may not meet
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The major forest communities and their current age classes are depicted in the table below. Openings presently account for about 4 percent of vegetation conditions.

Current Vegetation Conditions in Management Prescription 4.1						
Forest Community	**Percent of Community in Rx Area**	**Percent by Age Class for Each Community**				
		Early Successional (0-19 years)	**Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years)**	**Mid Successional (40-79 years)**	**Mid-Late Successional (80-120 years)**	**Late Successional (>120 years)**
Spruce, Spruce-hardwood, and Hemlock	19.2	7.2	11.1	39.9	32.3	9.5
Northern Hardwoods	37.9	3.9	5.6	36.5	51.6	2.4
Mixed Cove Hardwoods	36.4	2.7	4.6	38.5	52.5	1.7
Mixed Oak	0.3	1.1	0.0	24.7	74.2	0.0
Pine-Oak	1.0	43.4	21.6	35.0	0.0	0.0

Although this prescription area provides habitat for many species, it is the primary habitat for a number of federally listed or Regional Forester's Sensitive Species, including West Virginia northern flying squirrel, Cheat Mountain salamander, and northern goshawk. This area also provides the headwaters for many of the coldwater native trout streams on the Forest. There are 9 range allotments located in the area, comprising an estimated 2,220 acres. Only 13 acres of the prescription area are estimated to be in Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3, and only 11,775 acres (8%) in Fire Regime III, Condition Class 2.

There are an estimated 182 miles of Forest System Level 3, 4, and 5 roads in this prescription, creating an average open road density of 0.75 miles per square mile. An estimated 12,000 acres of timber harvest activity have occurred within this prescription area since 1986. About 65-70% of these acres were intermediate treatments, mostly thinning. Only 15% of the acres were even-aged harvests.

There are also an estimated 144 miles of trail in this prescription area. Roughly 12% of the area has a Semi-Primitive Non-motorized ROS setting, 50% is Semi-Primitive Motorized setting, and 38% is Roaded Natural. A number of visually sensitive viewpoints and travel ways occur within or adjacent to the prescription areas, including the Highland Scenic Highway and the Cass Scenic Railroad.

An estimated 62% of the prescription area has privately owned mineral rights. Within the prescription area are 24 gas wells, not all of which are active or capable of producing, and 12.1 miles of gas pipeline. There are 12 miles of other utility corridors in this prescription area, and 3 communication or electronic sites, including 1 Forest repeater site.

There are an estimated 67 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired streams within the area, including all or portions of Armstrong Run, Big Run, Birchlog Run, Buck Run, Carpenter Run, Cranberry River, Crouch Run, Dogway Fork, First Fork, Fish Hatchery Run, Gandy Run, McGee

Run, North Fork Blackwater River, North Fork Cranberry River, Shavers Fork, Sugar Creek, Stonecoal Run, Tea Creek, Tygart Valley River, Whitmeadow Run, Williams River, Windy Run, and Yokum Run.

Portions of five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, totaling 53.9 miles, occur within the prescription area. Most portions of the Blackwater River and Shavers Fork are not actually on NFS lands, but the 0.25 mile corridors on either side of the streams extend onto NFS lands for much of their length. River miles, classification, and values are described in the table below. Rivers are currently managed according to Wild and Scenic River Act guidance for their classification and to maintain outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status.

Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 4.1			
River Name	**Classification**	**Outstandingly Remarkable Values**	**Miles**
Blackwater River	Scenic	Scenery, Recreation	4.4
North Fork Cherry River	Recreational	Scenery, Recreation	4.8
Otter Creek	Recreational	Scenery, Recreation	0.5
Shavers Fork	Recreational	Scenery, Recreation	35.2
Williams River	Recreational	Scenery, Recreation	9.0

Desired Conditions

The prescription area is a mosaic of spruce, spruce-hardwood, and hardwood communities. The spruce and spruce-hardwood communities provide habitat to help meet recovery plan objectives for WVNFS and CMS. Stands with a viable spruce component in the overstory or understory are managed to restore the natural species composition, structure, and function of spruce and spruce-hardwood communities. Restoration management focuses on achieving spruce and mixed spruce-hardwood species composition, as well as developing the multi-age stand structure that likely existed in this community prior to exploitation. Most spruce and spruce-hardwood stands are developing late successional conditions over time. At the stand level, these conditions include a mix of trees of different ages, complex vertical habitat structure, scattered small openings (< 2 acres) dominated by shrubs and saplings, scattered over-mature trees, and an abundance of snags, den trees, and downed woody debris. Research projects or administrative studies provide information and strategies for successfully restoring spruce and spruce-hardwood communities. The following table displays the desired age class distribution in spruce and spruce-hardwood restoration areas. Up to 5 percent of these areas are in openings.

Desired Vegetation Conditions in Spruce and Spruce-hardwood Restoration Areas					
Forest Community	**Percent by Age Class for Each Community**				
	Early Successional (0-19 years)	**Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years)**	**Mid Successional (40-79 years)**	**Mid-Late Successional (80-120 years)**	**Late Successional (>120 years)**
Spruce and Spruce-Hardwood	3 - 8	3 - 8	5 - 15	5 - 15	60 - 80

During the early decades of the planning period, restoration focuses on achieving spruce and spruce-hardwood species composition in the overstory, along with establishing vertical habitat structure in early-mid, mid, and mid-late successional stands. The mid-late successional and late successional age classes include stands that are trending toward multi-aged conditions. The multi-aged conditions are the result of active restoration as well as natural succession in passively managed areas. Therefore, the 80-120 and 120+ ages refer to the time elapsed since the last stand replacing disturbance, and not necessarily to the ages of individual trees.

Stands with little or no potential for spruce restoration are managed to promote healthy hardwood communities with a mix of age classes. Management activities result in relatively high levels of sustainable mast production, and they contribute to the long-term sustained yield of timber products. Age class distribution ranges from openings maintained for wildlife habitat to a network of late successional stands, but the predominant age class is represented by mid successional and mid-late successional stands that feature sustainable mast production. The following table displays desired vegetative conditions in hardwood management areas:

Desired Vegetation Conditions in Areas with No Spruce Restoration Potential					
Forest Community	**Percent by Age Class for Each Community**				
	Early Successional (0-19 years)	**Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years)**	**Mid Successional (40-79 years)**	**Mid-Late Successional (80-120 years)**	**Late Successional (>120 years)**
Northern Hardwoods	15-20%	15-20%	35-45%	15-25%	5-10%
Mixed Cove Hardwoods	15-20%	15-20%	35-45%	15-25%	5-10%
Mixed Oak	10-15%	10-15%	25-35%	20-30%	15-20%
Pine-Oak	15-20%	15-20%	25-35%	20-30%	10-15%

A system of roads provides access within the area for administrative and management purposes, including transportation of forest products. Non-motorized recreation opportunities are featured and public motorized vehicle use is often restricted. Some roads may be open to provide public access or motorized recreation opportunities. Road densities vary considerably but average within 1.0 to 2.0 miles per square mile. Open road densities are considerably lower, averaging 0.1 to 0.5 miles per square mile, primarily to reduce disturbance to wildlife and soils. New collector and local roads are typically gated or closed by barricade. Many roads are seeded and managed for wildlife habitat and travel routes.

Trails and closed roads provide opportunities for dispersed recreation, including hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The area provides limited motorized settings and opportunities. High scenic integrity is maintained along visually sensitive viewpoints and travel ways. Special uses and facilities do not detract from the desired ROS settings for the area.

Management Direction for 4.1 - Spruce and Spruce-Hardwood Ecosystem Management		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
1900 - Vegetation		
Goal	4101	Maintain or enhance the spruce component within mixed spruce-hardwood communities. Maintain a hardwood component in mixed stands as well to provide mast, nesting habitat, and species diversity.
Goal	4102	Restore a spruce component to stands that contain understory spruce or scattered overstory spruce.
Goal	4103	Restore multi-age ecosystem structure in areas where spruce is being restored, enhanced, or maintained.
Goal	4104	Work with Fernow Research Work Unit of Northeast Research Station, academia, USFWS, or State and Private Researchers on designing and monitoring spruce restoration efforts.
Goal	4105	Restore Norway spruce and red pine plantations to native red spruce and mixed hardwood species.
Goal	4106	In hardwood communities where spruce restoration is not practical, create and maintain a mix of age classes, favoring mast-producing species where possible.
Objective	4107	Within stands where spruce can be restored or enhanced, conduct approximately 1,000 to 5,000 acres of species composition and habitat structure enhancement work over the next 10 years. Prioritize efforts in areas that would restore habitat connectivity, increase the size of existing habitats, and provide travel corridors between existing habitats.
Objective	4108	Over the next 10 years regenerate approximately 2,000 to 5,000 acres of hardwoods on suited timberlands where spruce cannot be restored to begin moving toward desired age class and habitat diversity conditions.
Standard	4109	Maintain culls and snags to provide for wildlife habitat. Manage culls to provide dens and future snags. If non-commercial and in excess of wildlife needs, culls may be girdled or injected with herbicide to produce snags. When thinning or implementing other vegetation management, retain at least 5 culls per acre, if available. Retain culls and all snags except as noted below. a) Snags and culls may be removed when they are public safety hazards along roads, trails, or established campsites, or safety hazards in harvest units. b) Snags and culls may be removed for scenery management purposes in locations of very high or high scenic integrity such as in a vista or in the immediate foreground of a road open for public motor vehicle travel. See also snag and cull direction in TEP Species section for those areas that intersect with Indiana bat primary range.
Guideline	4110	Red spruce should be restored, maintained, or enhanced in stands where potential natural vegetation includes a spruce component and there is some spruce present in the overstory or understory within or immediately adjacent to the stand. Spruce restoration should not normally be conducted in stands without an understory red spruce component or natural red spruce seed source. In stands greater than 80 years old, with greater than 30% spruce in the overstory, community compostion and structure should be maintained primarily through natural processes.
See TEP Standard TE64 for vegetation management activities that may occur in WVNFS suitable habitat.		
2200 - Range		
Goal	4111	Maintain open areas within allotments predominantly by grazing cattle. Maintain a mixture of grass species suitable for supporting livestock through the grazing season.
Standard	4112	Grazing allotments shall be fenced, including division fences to allow rotational grazing. Barbed or electric fences are allowed, but wooden rail fences are preferred. Woven wire shall not be used in new fences.
Guideline	4113	Ponds, water troughs, pipes, salt boxes, gravelling around troughs and similar

Management Direction for 4.1 - Spruce and Spruce-Hardwood Ecosystem Management		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
		developments may be used, but landscaping materials and locations should be chosen to blend in with the natural environment.
2310 - Recreation System Planning		
Goal	4114	Feature primarily non-motorized recreation opportunities, but maintain motorized opportunities on major travel ways where they currently exist.
See TEP Species Standard TE65 for restrictions on recreation facility development within WVNFS suitable habitat.		
2350 – Recreation: General Forest Areas		
Standard	4115	Trail management shall be compatible with the desired ROS setting of the area.
Standard	4116	New trail construction shall not cause trail density in the prescription unit to exceed 2 miles per square mile. This standard does not apply to relocation of existing trails.
2410 - Timber Resource Management Planning		
Standard	4117	The prescription area may be entered every year for ecological restoration or timber management practices, based on the consideration of multiple resources.
Standard	4118	No more than 40 percent of forested NFS lands within each 4.1 prescription area unit shall be harvested over a 10-year period. Thus, at least 60 percent of the unit shall provide security areas for wildlife during the 10-year period.
Standard	4119	Unforeseen activities such as timber salvage or pipeline installation, shall be counted toward the 40% disturbance standard above.
2470 - Silvicultural Systems		
Guideline	4120	In areas where spruce and spruce-hardwood restoration, enhancement, or maintenance is practiced, multi-aged, uneven-aged, and stand improvement cuts are the preferred silvicultural treatments. a) Group selection, modified shelterwood and two-age harvest methods are preferred when the objective is spruce or spruce-hardwood ecosystem restoration, enhancement, or maintenance.. Group selection cuts should be limited to two acres or less. Complete overstory removal should be avoided. b) Thinning in spruce and spruce-hardwood stands should leave at least 75% of the existing basal area. c) Restoration or enhancement treatments may be implemented at any stand age.
Guideline	4121	Outside of spruce and spruce-hardwood restoration areas, either even-aged and uneven-aged silvicultural systems may be used. a) Clearcutting with reserve trees is the preferred method when regeneration of shade intolerant or moderately tolerant vegetation (e.g., black cherry, oak) is the objective. b) Shelterwood is the preferred method when advanced or potential advanced regeneration is not present. c) Uneven-aged management may be used when shade-tolerant vegetation is the objective, when needed to meet scenery management goals, or when needed to meet other objectives. Group selection cuts should be limited to two acres or less. d) Regeneration harvest may occur after a stand attains the age of 70 years old.
2470 - Reforestation and Timber Stand Improvement		
Guideline	4122	Spruce stands may be thinned at regular intervals, depending on their need.
Guideline	4123	Use artificial regeneration where needed to attain required stocking guides.
Guideline	4124	Red spruce may be planted, typically on a small scale, as part of research and administrative studies, or when determined to be a practical strategy for restoration or enhancement.

Management Direction for 4.1 - Spruce and Spruce-Hardwood Ecosystem Management		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Guideline	4125	Use 1/3 acre leave clumps around scattered residual overstory spruce trees and snags in even-age regeneration units to reduce windthrow potential. Leave clumps at the rate of one clump for each 5 to 8 acres regenerated. Channel buffers may be counted toward this requirement where their configuration allows them to serve both purposes.
Guideline	4126	TSI and site preparation work should favor spruce trees, shrubs beneficial to wildlife, vegetation for screening, and other objectives of a site-specific silvicultural prescription.
Guideline	4127	Cut all non-merchantable stems > 1″ dbh during site preparation for natural regeneration activities except for leave clump trees, marked cull trees and snags, spruce and hemlock trees or other desirable advance regeneration, and shrubs beneficial to wildlife.
Guideline	4128	Vines in regeneration areas may be controlled when they threaten adequate stocking of desirable species in the new stand. Vines may be controlled with hand tools and/or herbicide.
2430 - Other Than Commercial Sales		
Standard	4129	Moss collection is prohibited except for research or scientific purposes.
Guideline	4130	Personal use or marked firewood sales may be cut anytime during the year along Forest roads open to the public.
2630 – Wildlife Habitat		
Guideline	4131	Maintain natural areas of standing water as wildlife watering sources. Artificial areas of standing water may be created in conjunction with other resource activities as the opportunity arises.
Guideline	4132	Roads intended for intermittent use should be revegetated between uses and typically managed as wildlife habitat.
2700 – Special Uses		
See TEP Species Standard TE07 for restrictions on special use authorizations within WVNFS suitable habitat.		
2800 – Minerals		
See TEP Species Standard TE66 for restrictions on federal gas development within WVNFS suitable habitat.		
5100 – Fire		
Guideline	4133	Prescribed fire use should be avoided in spruce restoration areas.
7100 - Transportation System Planning		
Objective	4134	Reduce open road density to 0.5 miles or below over the next 10 years in order to reduce impacts to soil and water resources and wildlife species of concern.
Guideline	4135	Road densities and impacts should be minimized to reduce disturbance in the area. a) New road construction should not cause road density within the prescription area unit to exceed 1.0 mile per square mile for collector roads, or 2.5 miles per square mile for any combination of collector and local roads. b) New collector roads should generally be gated and maintained for recurring administrative use. c) New local roads should generally be closed between projects by physical barricades. Use should be intermittent. Public motorized use should generally not occur from April 15 to August 1 to reduce disturbance to wildlife.

Management Prescription 5.0 – Designated Wilderness

Management Emphasis

This prescription emphasizes management of Congressionally designated wilderness to:

- Preserve wilderness attributes and the natural environment for future generations.
- Provide for challenging recreation opportunities in a wilderness setting.

Area Description

The following five areas are assigned to this prescription:

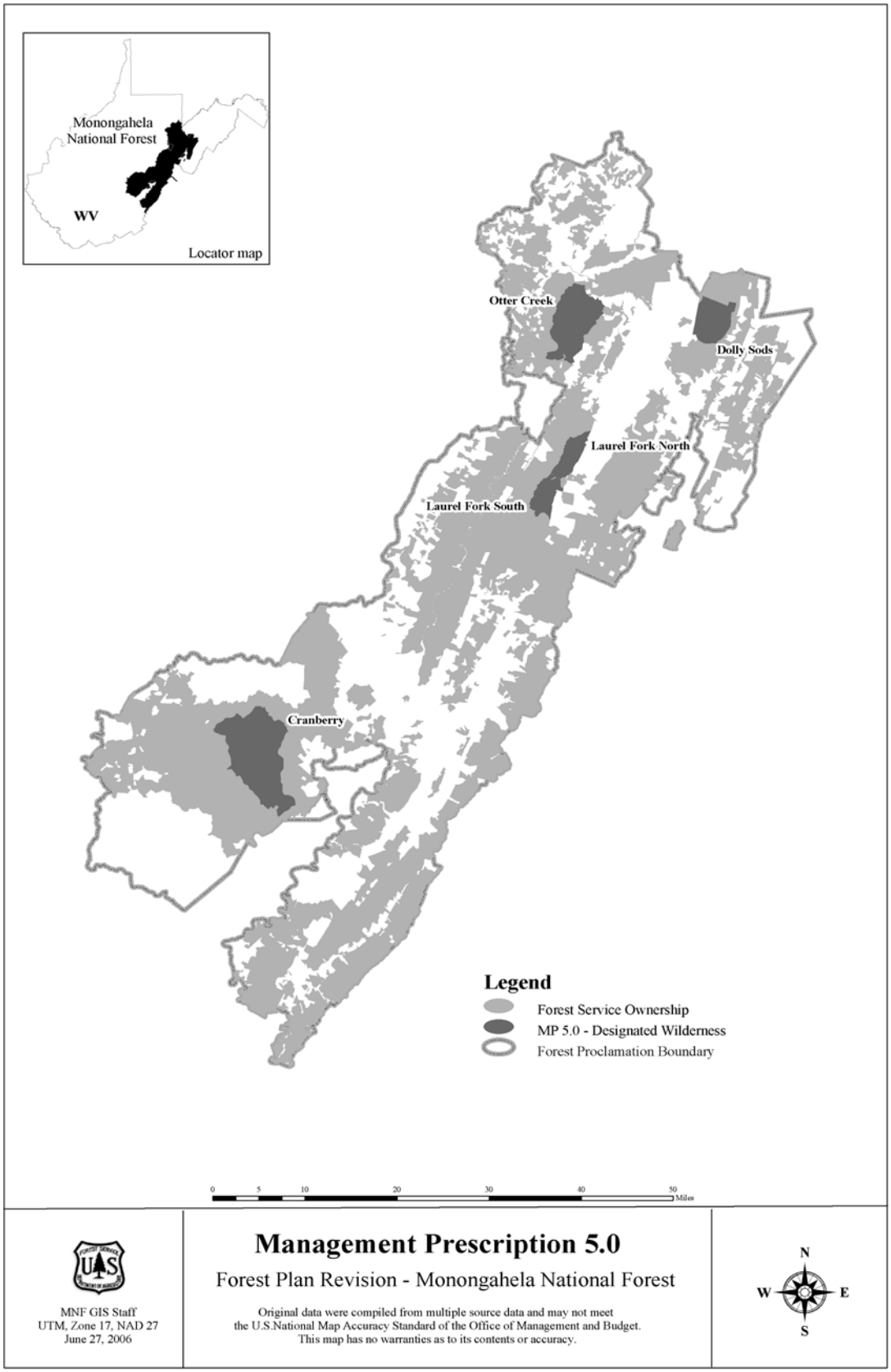
Designated Wilderness	Acres
Cranberry Wilderness	35,864
Dolly Sods Wilderness	10,215
Laurel Fork North Wilderness	6,055
Laurel Fork South Wilderness	5,997
Otter Creek Wilderness	20,000
Total Acres	**78,131**

The 78,131 acres represent the official acreage of the Wildernesses; however the acreage for the Management Prescription is closer to 78,700. This discrepancy is due to the fact that today's GIS technology measures areas differently than technology used 20 years ago, and that there are about 550 acres in the Dolly Sods Wilderness that were not accounted for as Wilderness in 1986.

Lands assigned to this prescription comprise an estimated 8.6 percent of the Forest (see 5.0 map). Elevations range from 2,300 to 4,500 feet, and these areas occur on a variety of land and soil types. The major forest communities and their current age classes are depicted in the table below.

Current Vegetation Conditions in Management Prescription 5.0						
Forest Community	Percent of Community in Rx Area	Percent by Age Class for Each Community				
		Early Successional (0-19 years)	Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years)	Mid Successional (40-79 years)	Mid-Late Successional (80-120 years)	Late Successional (>120 years)
Conifer	7.3	0	0.7	40.6	54.7	4.0
Northern Hardwoods	52.2	0	0.3	40.9	52.6	6.2
Mixed Cove Hardwoods	37.6	0	4.7	10.2	84.5	0.5
Mixed Oak	0.4	0	0	0	100.0	0
Pine-Oak	0.2	0	0	38.8	61.2	0

Because these prescription areas have a diversity of landforms and vegetation types, they provide a variety of habitat for wildlife, fish, and plant species. For these same reasons, a variety of rare flora and fauna, including threatened and endangered species, and non-native invasive species are also found within this prescription.


Monongahela
National Forest
WV
Locator map
Otter Creek
Dolly Sods
Laurel Fork North
Laurel Fork South
Cranberry
Legend
Forest Service Ownership
MP 5.0 - Designated Wilderness
Forest Proclamation Boundary
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Miles
MNF GIS Staff
UTM, Zone 17, NAD 27
June 27, 2006
Management Prescription 5.0
Forest Plan Revision - Monongahela National Forest
Original data were compiled from multiple source data and may not meet
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These areas are primarily forested with access provided by trail. They offer a natural setting that provides opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation where natural ecological processes occur.

Although there are remnants of old roads and railroad beds in parts of the prescription areas, all roads have been abandoned and allowed to return to natural vegetation. No timber harvest activity has occurred within these prescription areas since well before their designation.

None of the prescription area is in Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3, and only 5,500 acres (7%) are in Fire Regime III, Condition Class 2.

There are an estimated 148 miles of trail in these areas. All of the areas are managed for a Semi-Primitive Non-motorized ROS setting. Non-motorized recreation is currently featured, including hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The areas are considered to have high scenic integrity.

There are no gas wells or pipelines, utility corridors, communication sites, electronic sites, or range allotments located in the area. An estimated 4% of the prescription area has privately owned mineral rights.

There are an estimated 23 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired streams within the area, including all or portions of Dry Fork, Left Fork North Fork of Cranberry River, North Fork Cranberry River, Middle Fork Williams River, Red Creek, and Tumbling Rock Run.

Portions of four eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, totaling 33.8 miles, occur within or adjacent to this area. River miles, classification, and values are described in the table below. Rivers are currently managed according to Wild and Scenic River Act guidance for their classification and to maintain their outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status.

Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 5.0			
River Name	**Classification**	**Outstandingly Remarkable Values**	**Miles**
Otter Creek	Scenic	Scenery, Recreation	10.7
Laurel Fork	Scenic	Recreation	16.5
Red Creek	Scenic	Scenery, Recreation	5.3
Dry Fork	Recreational	Recreation	1.5

Desired Conditions

Visitors can find outstanding opportunities for unconfined recreation, including exploration, solitude, risk, and challenge. The area is primarily affected by the forces of nature, with human imprint substantially unnoticeable. Native terrestrial and aquatic communities are emphasized.

The area provides a diversity of habitats for wildlife species, as well as abundant remote habitat for species that are sensitive to disturbance. Management activities are typically extremely low to non-existent. Age class distribution is moving toward dominance by late successional stands where gaps form from natural disturbances as trees age.

There are no system roads open to the public, and motorized use and mechanized transport do not occur. Facilities, if they occur, are minimal and of a primitive nature. Any special uses are compatible with the wilderness setting.

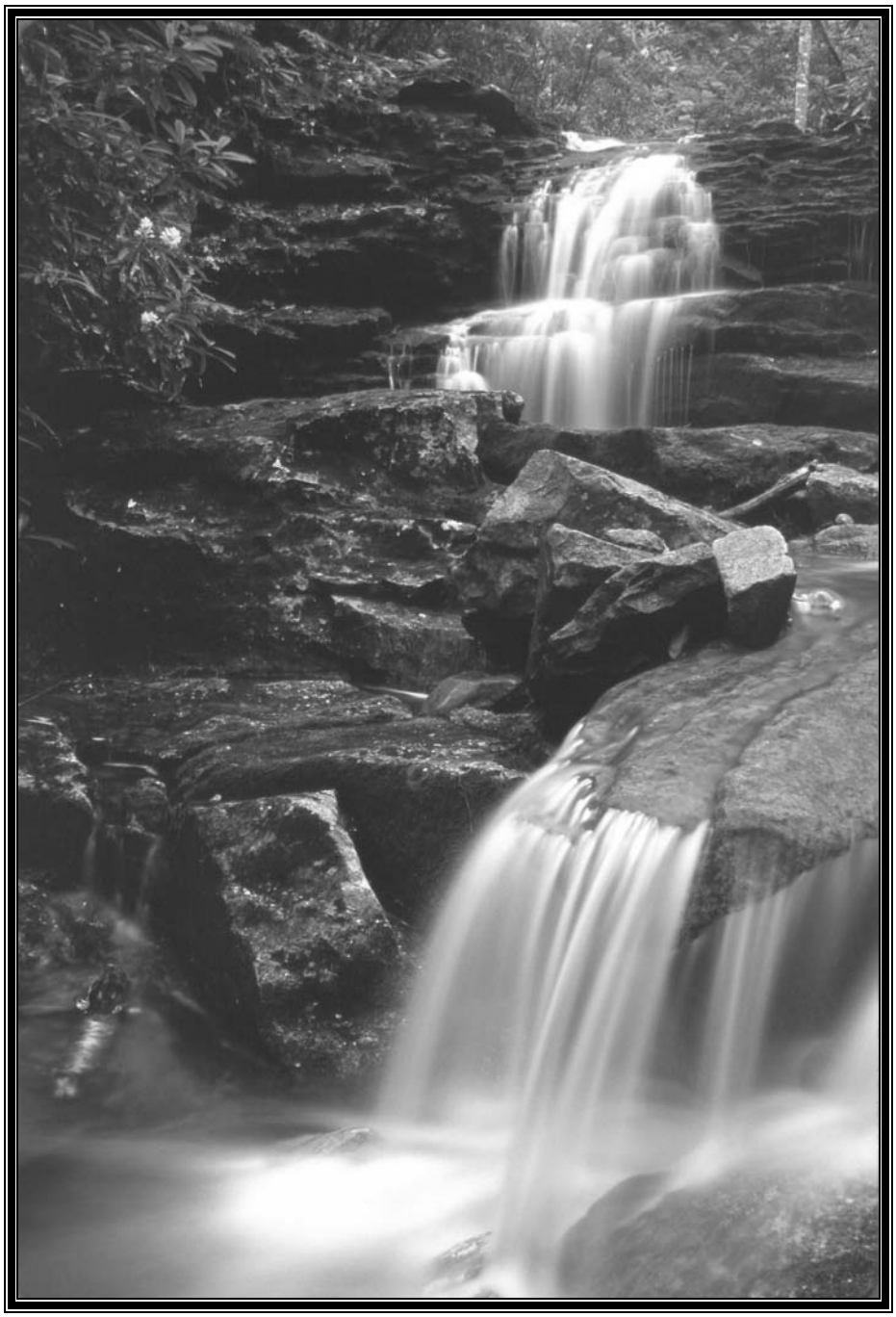
The areas provide abundant opportunities for challenging non-motorized recreation, including hiking, horseback riding, photography, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. All of the area is managed for a Semi-Primitive Non-motorized ROS setting. Very High scenic integrity is maintained throughout the areas.

Management Direction for 5.0 – Designated Wilderness		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
1530 - Interdepartmental State, County, and Local Agencies		
Guideline	5001	Coordinate with the Federal Aviation Administration and the military to prevent undesirable aircraft noise resulting from low altitude commercial and military flights across designated wilderness.
1590 – Search and Rescue		
Standard	5002	Motorized use and mechanized transport may be used for life-threatening situations in search and rescue operations, with Forest Supervisor approval. In situations that are not life-threatening, the Forest Supervisor may authorize motorized use or mechanized transport on a case-by-case basis if circumstances warrant; for example, to remove a deceased person from the area.
1900 - Vegetation		
Goal	5003	Ecological processes dominate vegetation change on the landscape.
Standard	5004	Commercial timber harvest is not allowed. Vegetation management shall not be used to create vistas or alter the natural environment. Vegetation may be treated to rehabilitate trails or recreation use sites. Revegetation activities must use native vegetation.
Standard	5005	Vegetation management is allowed as a component of actions needed to protect wilderness attributes and adjacent lands from non-native invasive species, pests, pathogens, or fire.
1920 – Planning		
Objective	5006	Develop Wilderness Implementation Schedules to guide routine activities and implement the Forest Plan.
2200 – Range		
Standard	5007	Livestock grazing is not permitted in the current Wilderness Areas on the Forest.
2350 – Recreation: General Forest Areas		
Goal	5008	Recreation uses are consistent with preservation of wilderness attributes.
Standard	5009	The maximum party size allowed is 10.
Standard	5010	Registration permits for recreation use shall not be required unless: a) Required by Regional or National Policy, or b) Needed to protect wilderness attributes by controlling levels of use, or c) Needed to collect fees.
Standard	5011	Wood fires for cooking or warming may be allowed unless prohibited to protect resource values. Only dead and down wood may be used for fuel wood. Camp stoves are highly recommended for cooking.
Standard	5012	Facilities shall not be provided for the comfort or convenience of users. Facility design must be consistent with the desired SPNM setting. Facilities such as fireplaces, wilderness pit toilets, and gravel surfaces may be provided where necessary for resource protection.

Management Direction for 5.0 – Designated Wilderness		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Guideline	5013	Trail construction should be of a more primitive standard than elsewhere on the Forest, so as to provide a more challenging recreation experience for the visitor. This challenge should be tempered, however, with adequate resource protection and reasonable precautions for visitor safety. For example, trail bridges are normally regarded as a convenience and not provided, but may be provided for safety or resource protection reasons.
Guideline	5014	Trails are maintained primarily for resource protection. A range of trail maintenance levels can occur, depending on the amount of trail use and needed resource protection measures. Hand tools are normally used, but motorized use or mechanized transport may be authorized in an emergency situation that threatens the health and safety of visitors. The Forest Supervisor is authorized to allow this use.
Guideline	5015	Appropriate uses may include, but are not limited to: hiking, backpacking, camping, nature study and research, mountain climbing, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, and cross-country skiing.
2360 - Special Interest Areas		
Standard	5016	Cultural resources may be evaluated as needed, and may be stabilized and preserved if historically significant.
Standard	5017	On-site cultural resources interpretation shall not occur.
2380 – Scenery Management		
Standard	5018	Management activities shall meet the scenery integrity level of very high.
Guideline	5019	Structures and remnants of facilities—such as old railroad ties, culverts, or bridges—may be present. Those causing unacceptable adverse impacts on visitor's experience of the wilderness should be removed. No intensive project to remove all such features is needed, but they should be phased out as the opportunity presents itself. Removal is regarded as a suitable project for volunteer groups.
2430 - Other Than Commercial Sales		
Standard	5020	Gathering firewood for home or commercial use is prohibited.
Standard	5021	The collection of forest products is prohibited except where authorized for scientific or research purposes.
2500 – Water and Soil		
Standard	5022	Activities to rehabilitate human-caused erosion and siltation are allowed but must be consistent with the ROS setting and SMS integrity level.
Standard	5023	Materials for erosion and siltation control shall be from on-site sources and be designed to blend in with the surrounding environment. Log structures shall be one log high. No concrete or gabions are allowed.
Guideline	5024	Trail construction should be located and designed to minimize soil disturbance.
Guideline	5025	Water quality should be maintained by ecological processes except: a) Where influenced by water treatment facilities located outside Wilderness boundaries; b) To correct problems caused by people, or; c) To correct problems caused by natural events that threaten downstream health or safety.
2630 - Fish Habitat		
Standard	5026	Activities to improve fish habitat are allowed but must be consistent with Wilderness attributes.
Standard	5027	Materials for fish habitat improvement shall be from on-site sources and be designed to blend in with the surrounding environment. Log structures shall be no more than one log high. No concrete or gabions are allowed.
Standard	5028	Fish stocking within the Wilderness must be by non-mechanical means only.

Management Direction for 5.0 – Designated Wilderness		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Standard	5029	No new recreational fishing impoundments are allowed.
Standard	5030	Limestone rotary drums are not allowed.
2700 – Special Uses		
Standard	5031	Corridors for reservoirs, water conservation works, power projects, transmission lines, and other facilities are not permitted, except as authorized by the act establishing the Wilderness, or as authorized by the President according to the Wilderness Act of 1964.
Standard	5032	Permits for storage of personal property, equipment, or supplies shall not be granted.
Guideline	5033	Non-recreation special use permits should not detract from the wilderness attributes of the area.
Guideline	5034	Recreation special use permits, including outfitter guide operations, should provide SPNM opportunities or at least be consistent with the wilderness attributes of the area.
2800 – Minerals		
Standard	5035	Federal minerals are withdrawn from leasing pursuant to the Wilderness Act of 1964.
Guideline	5036	Coordinate private mineral operations and mitigation measures to the extent allowed by deed and law to minimize adverse effects on wilderness attributes.
3400 – Integrated Pest Management		
Guideline	5037	Insect and disease control is allowed in Wilderness to protect Wilderness attributes and adjacent land values and landowner safety. Integrated Pest Management methods shall be used to minimize or prevent the development of pest or pathogen problems. Where problems are unavoidable, select a solution that provides the most beneficial method based on its ability to preserve wilderness attributes, effectiveness, safety, and environmental protection.
Standard	5038	Regional Forester approval must be obtained for pesticide applications in Wilderness.
4000 – Research		
Guideline	5039	Cooperate with research intended to develop basic knowledge on ecological processes, human behavior, or Wilderness management problems.
5100 – Fire		
Standard	5040	Wildfires shall typically be suppressed.
Standard	5041	Chainsaws, portable pumps, or retardant drops from aircraft in fire suppression shall not be used unless approved by the Forest Supervisor. On-the-ground applications of fire retardant chemicals may be approved by the Forest Supervisor.
Standard	5042	The Forest Supervisor must approve the use of tractors, tractor/plows, tracked or wheeled motorized equipment for emergency use within Wilderness.
5300 – Law Enforcement		
Standard	5043	Law enforcement shall be used for the prevention or correction of non-conforming uses.
5400 – Land Ownership		
Standard	5044	Recommendations for the use of condemnation shall be limited to: a) rights-of-way, and b) to acquire surface and subsurface values where conflicting uses of other ownerships preclude maintenance of Wilderness attributes, except where otherwise provided for by Law.
Standard	5045	Lands allotted to this prescription shall not be candidates for exchange.
6700 – Public Safety		
Goal	5046	Inform visitors to Dolly Sods of the presence of old ordnance remaining from military exercises during World War II. Alert the proper authority to remove ammunition discovered by visitors.
7160 – Signs		
Standard	5047	Trail signs may be provided within wilderness areas, provided:

Management Direction for 5.0 – Designated Wilderness		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
		a) The amount of signs and trail blazing is kept to the minimum needed for resource protection. b) The sign standard is a routed wooden sign allowed to weather naturally.
7300 – Buildings and Structures		
Standard	5048	No buildings or structures shall be constructed, except as authorized by the act establishing the Wilderness.
7420 – Water Supply		
Standard	5049	Drinking water sources shall not be developed.
7450 – Air Quality		
Goal	5050	Work with Federal and State air quality management agencies to maintain or improve Air Quality Related Values (AQRVs) in Class I air quality areas, which currently include the Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wildernesses.
Objective	5051	Identify the AQRVs for each Class I air quality area on the Forest. Define the limits of acceptable change (LAC) appropriate for each AQRV that would help maintain or improve protect Wilderness AQRVs.
Objective	5052	Participate in regional planning organizations (such as VISTAS) that are examining ways to reduce impacts to visibility and other AQRVs in Class I areas of the region.
Objective	5053	Review all Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permits that might affect AQRVs in Class I areas, using screening procedures specific to the Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wildernesses, current federal land manager AQRV analysis guidance, and current EPA-approved dispersion models.
7710 - Transportation System Planning		
Standard	5054	No roads shall be constructed or maintained except as authorized by the act establishing a particular area, or as required by outstanding or reserved rights.
Standard	5055	Roads that are constructed to respond to statute or outstanding/reserved rights shall be built to the minimum standard needed to protect resources and provide for user safety, and shall be decommissioned and rehabilitated at the end of operations or need.
Standard	5056	Motorized vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats and other forms of motorized use or mechanical transport are not allowed except as authorized by the act establishing a particular area, or as required by outstanding or reserved rights.



Waterfall – Dolly Sods Wilderness

Management Prescription 5.1 - Recommended Wilderness

Management Emphasis

This prescription emphasizes management of areas recommended for wilderness study to:

- Maintain wilderness attributes and the natural-appearing environment
- Provide backcountry recreation opportunities.

The intent of this prescription is to maintain wilderness attributes and management options until Congress decides whether or not to designate these areas as wilderness. If Congress decides to designate them as wilderness, the areas would be assigned the 5.0 Wilderness Management Prescription. If Congress decides not to designate them, the areas would be assigned a 6.2 Management Prescription.

Area Description

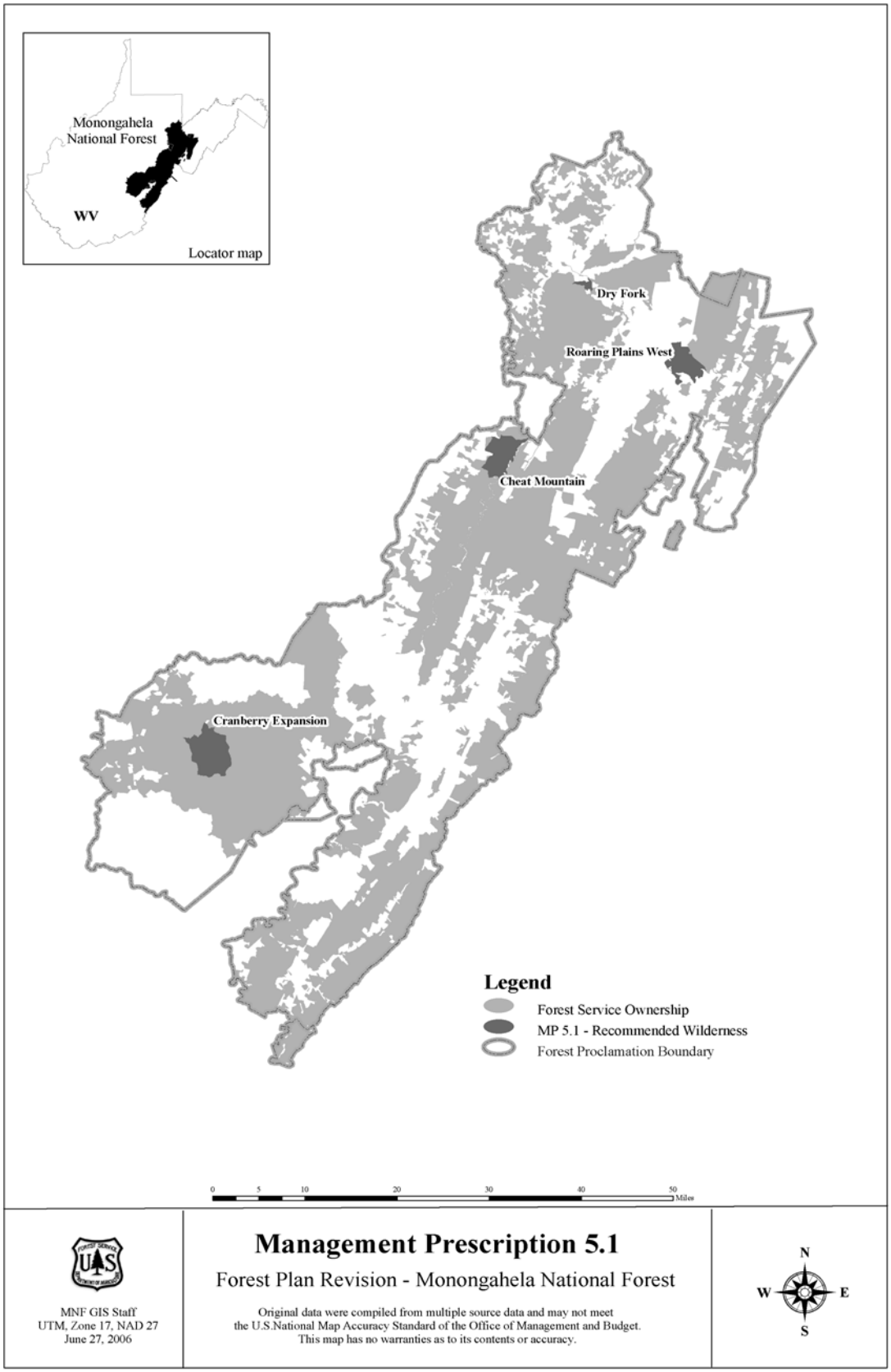
The following areas are assigned to this prescription:

Wilderness Study Areas	Acres
Cheat Mountain	7,955
Cranberry Expansion	12,165
Dry Fork	739
Roaring Plains West	6,825
Total Acres	**27,694**

Lands assigned to this prescription are in four separate areas totaling an estimated 27,700 acres, or about 3 percent of the Forest. Elevations range from 1,800 to 4,700 feet (see map below). These areas occur on a variety of land and soil types. The major forest communities and their current age classes are depicted in the table below.

Current Vegetation Conditions in Management Prescription 5.1						
Forest Community	Percent of Community in Rx Area	Percent by Age Class for Each Community				
		Early Successional (0-19 years)	Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years)	Mid Successional (40-79 years)	Mid-Late Successional (80-120 years)	Late Successional (>120 years)
Conifer	10.0	0.0	0.0	55.6	44.1	0.3
Northern Hardwoods	35.6	0.0	1.3	51.6	47.0	0.1
Mixed Cove Hardwoods	48.1	0.0	5.4	57.2	36.0	1.4
Mixed Oak	1.6	0.0	0.0	19.8	80.2	0.0
Pine-Oak	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Because these prescription areas have a diversity of landforms and vegetation types, they provide a variety of habitat for wildlife, fish, and plant species. For these same reasons, a variety of rare flora and fauna, including threatened and endangered species, and non-native invasive species are also found within this prescription.


Monongahela
National Forest
WV
Locator map
Dry Fork
Roaring Plains West
Cheat Mountain
Cranberry Expansion
Legend
Forest Service Ownership
MP 5.1 - Recommended Wilderness
Forest Proclamation Boundary
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Miles
MNF GIS Staff
UTM, Zone 17, NAD 27
June 27, 2006
Management Prescription 5.1
Forest Plan Revision - Monongahela National Forest
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These areas are mostly forested and offer a natural setting that provides opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation where natural processes primarily occur. Remnants of old roads and railroad beds exist in parts of the prescription areas, but almost all of these features have been abandoned and allowed to return to natural vegetation. There are no roads open to public vehicle traffic. Only 7 acres of timber harvest activity have occurred in one of the areas (Cranberry Expansion) within the last 10 years.

An estimated 27 miles of trail exist in the prescription areas. An estimated 59 percent of the area currently meets a Semi-primitive Non-motorized (SPNM) ROS setting, 32 percent meets a Semi-Primitive Motorized setting, and 9% meets a Roaded Natural setting. Non-motorized recreation is currently featured, including hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, camping, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. These areas are considered to have high scenic integrity. A number of visually sensitive viewpoints and travel ways occur within or adjacent to the prescription areas.

An estimated 61% of the prescription area has privately owned mineral rights. There are no gas wells or pipeline in the prescription areas, but a gas pipeline forms one of the boundaries of Roaring Plains West. There are no other utility corridors in this prescription area, but there is one communication/electronic site. There are no range allotments located in the area.

There are an estimated 9 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired streams within the area, including portions of Birchlog Run, Cold Run, Lick Branch, Little Rough Run, Shavers Fork, and Williams River.

Portions of three eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, totaling 13.1 miles, occur within or adjacent to this area. River miles, classification, and values are described in the table below. Rivers are currently managed according to Wild and Scenic River Act guidance for their classification and to maintain their outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status.

Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 5.1			
River Name	**Classification**	**Outstandingly Remarkable Values**	**Miles**
Shavers Fork	Recreational	Scenery, Recreation	9.8
Williams River	Recreational	Scenery, Recreation	1.5
Dry Fork	Recreational	Recreation	1.8

Desired Conditions

Visitors can find outstanding opportunities for semi-primitive and unconfined recreation, including exploration, solitude, risk, and challenge. The area is primarily affected by the forces of nature, with human imprint substantially unnoticeable. Native terrestrial and aquatic communities are emphasized.

The area provides a diversity of habitats for wildlife species, as well as abundant remote habitat for species that are sensitive to disturbance. Management activities are typically extremely low to non-existent. Age class distribution is moving toward dominance by late successional stands where gaps form from natural disturbances as trees age.

There are no system roads open to the public, although infrequent administrative motorized use may occur. Facilities, if they occur, are minimal and of a primitive nature. Special uses do not detract from the SPNM setting.

The areas provide abundant opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation, including hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, photography, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. All of the areas are managed for a SPNM setting. Very High scenic integrity is maintained throughout the areas.

Management Direction for 5.1 – Recommended Wilderness		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
1590 – Search and Rescue		
Standard	5101	Motorized and mechanized equipment may be used for search and rescue operations.
1900 – Vegetation		
Standard	5102	No programmed commercial timber harvest shall occur. However, vegetation may be treated for the following reasons: a) To maintain or enhance public safety consistent with the degree of risk posed by SPNM areas b) To help control insect or disease outbreaks c) To salvage or restore areas extensively damaged by natural phenomena such as insects, disease, wind or ice/snow storms, and fire
Standard	5103	No timber stand improvement is allowed.
Standard	5104	Vegetation management shall not be used to create vistas or alter the natural environment. Vegetation management may be used to rehabilitate and maintain trails or recreation use sites. Chainsaws and brush-clearing power tools are allowed. Revegetation activities must use native vegetation.
Guideline	5105	Vegetation management may occur as a component of actions needed to protect adjacent lands from fire, non-native invasive species, pest, or pathogen damage.
2200 – Range		
Standard	5106	Livestock grazing may continue where it is currently permitted. No new range allotments shall be established in these areas while they are under this prescription.
2350 – Recreation: General Forest Areas		
Goal	5107	Recreation uses are consistent with maintaining wilderness attributes.
Standard	5108	Camp stoves are recommended for cooking. Wood fires for cooking or warming may be permitted unless prohibited to protect resource values. Only dead and down wood may be used for fuel wood.
Standard	5109	Facilities shall not be provided for the comfort or convenience of users. Facilities such as fire rings, pit toilets, and graveled surfaces may be provided where needed for resource protection. Facility design must be consistent with the desired ROS setting.
Guideline	5110	Mechanized trail construction equipment may be used. Trail construction should be of a more primitive standard than most areas on the Forest, so as to provide a more challenging recreation experience for the visitor. This challenge should be tempered, however, with adequate resource protection and reasonable precautions for visitor safety. For example, trail bridges are normally regarded as a convenience and not provided, but may be provided for safety or resource protection reasons.
Guideline	5111	Trail density should average between 0.0 and 2.0 miles per square mile.
Guideline	5112	Trails are maintained primarily for resource protection. A range of trail maintenance levels can occur, depending on the amount of trail use and needed resource protection measures. Hand tools, chainsaws, and brush-clearing power tools may be used. Approved cooperative trail maintenance programs should continue.

Management Direction for 5.1 – Recommended Wilderness		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Guideline	5113	Appropriate uses may include, but are not limited to hiking, backpacking, camping, nature study and research, bicycling, mountain climbing, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, and cross-country skiing.
2360 - Special Interest Areas		
Standard	5114	Cultural resources may be evaluated as needed, and may be stabilized and preserved if historically significant.
Guideline	5115	On-site cultural resources interpretation should generally not occur.
2380 – Scenery Management		
Standard	5116	Management activities shall meet the scenery integrity level of high or very high.
Guideline	5117	Structures and remnants of facilities—such as old railroad ties, culverts, or bridges—may be present. No intensive project to remove such features is needed, but they may be phased out as the opportunity presents itself. Removal is regarded as a suitable project for volunteers.
2410 – Timber Resource Management Planning		
Standard	5118	Programmed commercial timber harvest is not allowed.
2430 - Other Than Commercial Sales		
Standard	5119	Gathering firewood for home or commercial use is not allowed.
2500 – Water and Soil		
Guideline	5120	Watershed improvement or restoration may occur for the purpose of reducing soil erosion and improving surface and ground water quality. Watershed improvement projects should be designed to blend in with the natural environment and the desired ROS setting.
Guideline	5121	Trail construction should be located and designed to minimize soil disturbance.
Guideline	5122	Water quality should be maintained by ecological processes except: a) Where influenced by water treatment facilities located outside area boundaries, b) To correct problems caused by people, or c) To correct problems caused by natural events that threaten downstream health or safety.
2600 – Wildlife Management		
Standard	5123	New wildlife habitat improvements are allowed if they: a) Are compatible with the desired ROS setting, b) Can be built and maintained without additional system roads, and c) Are needed for ecosystem restoration or TEP or RFSS wildlife species habitat needs.
Guideline	5124	Maintenance of existing wildlife habitat improvements may continue.
2630 - Fish Habitat		
Standard	5125	Activities to improve fish habitat are allowed but must be consistent with the desired ROS setting and SMS integrity level.
Standard	5126	Materials for fish habitat improvement shall be from on-site sources and be designed to blend in with the surrounding environment. Log structures shall be one log high. No concrete or gabions are allowed.
Standard	5127	No new recreational fishing impoundments are allowed.
Standard	5128	Addition of limestone fines to improve water quality and fish habitat shall only be allowed where existing roads provide access, or through delivery by other feasible means consistent with the desired ROS setting.
2700 – Special Uses		
Standard	5129	Existing corridors for reservoirs, water conservation works, power projects, transmission lines, and other facilities may be used, but no new corridors shall be developed except for the exercise of prior and/or private rights.
Guideline	5130	Non-recreation special use permits should not detract from the desired ROS setting.

Management Direction for 5.1 – Recommended Wilderness		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Guideline	5131	Recreation special use permits, including outfitter guide operations, should provide SPNM opportunities or at least be consistent with the desired ROS setting.
2800 – Minerals		
Standard	5132	Federal oil, gas, and coal leases may only be issued if subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.
Guideline	5133	Coordinate private operations and mitigation measures to the extent allowed by deed and law in order to minimize adverse effects on wilderness attributes.
Guideline	5134	Extra restrictions, such as timing of operations, may be needed to minimize impacts inconsistent with the desired ROS setting or to limit disturbance to wildlife.
3400 – Integrated Pest Management		
Guideline	5135	Insects and diseases may be controlled to maintain wilderness attributes, and protect adjacent land values and landowner safety. Integrated Pest Management methods should be used to minimize or prevent the development of pest or pathogen problems. Where problems are unavoidable, a solution should be selected that provides the most beneficial method based on effectiveness, safety, environmental protection, and cost.
5100 – Fire		
Standard	5136	Wildfires shall typically be suppressed.
Guideline	5137	Motorized and mechanized equipment and vehicles may be used for suppression activities, although hand tools and low impact techniques are preferred. Bulldozers and other heavy earth-moving equipment should not be used unless necessary to protect the lives or property of adjacent landowners.
Guideline	5138	Prescribed fire may be used to help restore or maintain fire-dependent ecosystems, wildlife openings, or range allotments.
5400 – Land Ownership		
Standard	5139	Lands allotted to this prescription shall not be candidates for exchange.
7160 – Signs		
Guideline	5140	Trail signs and blazing may be provided, but they should be kept to the minimum needed for visitor safety or resource protection.
7300 – Buildings and Structures		
Standard	5141	No buildings or structures shall be constructed, except as required by outstanding or reserved rights. Existing shelters are allowed.
7710 - Transportation System Planning		
Goal	5142	Reduce existing roads through any one or combination of the following strategies: a) Decommission roads where they are no longer needed for management/access, b) Restore roads to productivity where needed, c) Convert roads to trails and/or linear wildlife openings, or d) Allow roads to return to productivity and natural appearance on their own.
Standard	5143	No new roads shall be constructed except as required or allowed by statute, outstanding or reserved rights, or existing permits, leases, or contracts.
Standard	5144	Roads that are constructed for exceptions listed in Standard 5143 shall be built to the minimum standard needed to protect other resources and provide for user safety, and shall normally be decommissioned and rehabilitated at the end of operations or need.
Standard	5145	Existing authorized roads shall be closed to public motorized use. Infrequent administrative use may occur, and motorized use by permittees, lessees, contactors, and cooperators may be authorized with appropriate controls and limitations.
Guideline	5146	Existing authorized roads may be maintained to provide for necessary administrative and authorized access.

Management Prescription 6.1 - Wildlife Habitat Emphasis

Management Emphasis

This management prescription is designed to use vegetation management to enhance the variety of wildlife habitat on the Forest. Improvement includes favoring tree species and forest communities that are beneficial to wildlife, as well as increasing stand age class distribution over current conditions. This prescription also focuses on restoration and management of fire-adapted oak-pine and oak-hickory communities. These communities have been altered from their former extent, composition, and structure, primarily due to fire suppression, a disruption in fire cycles, and an increase in shade-tolerant and fire-intolerant species such as red maple.

This prescription emphasizes the following:

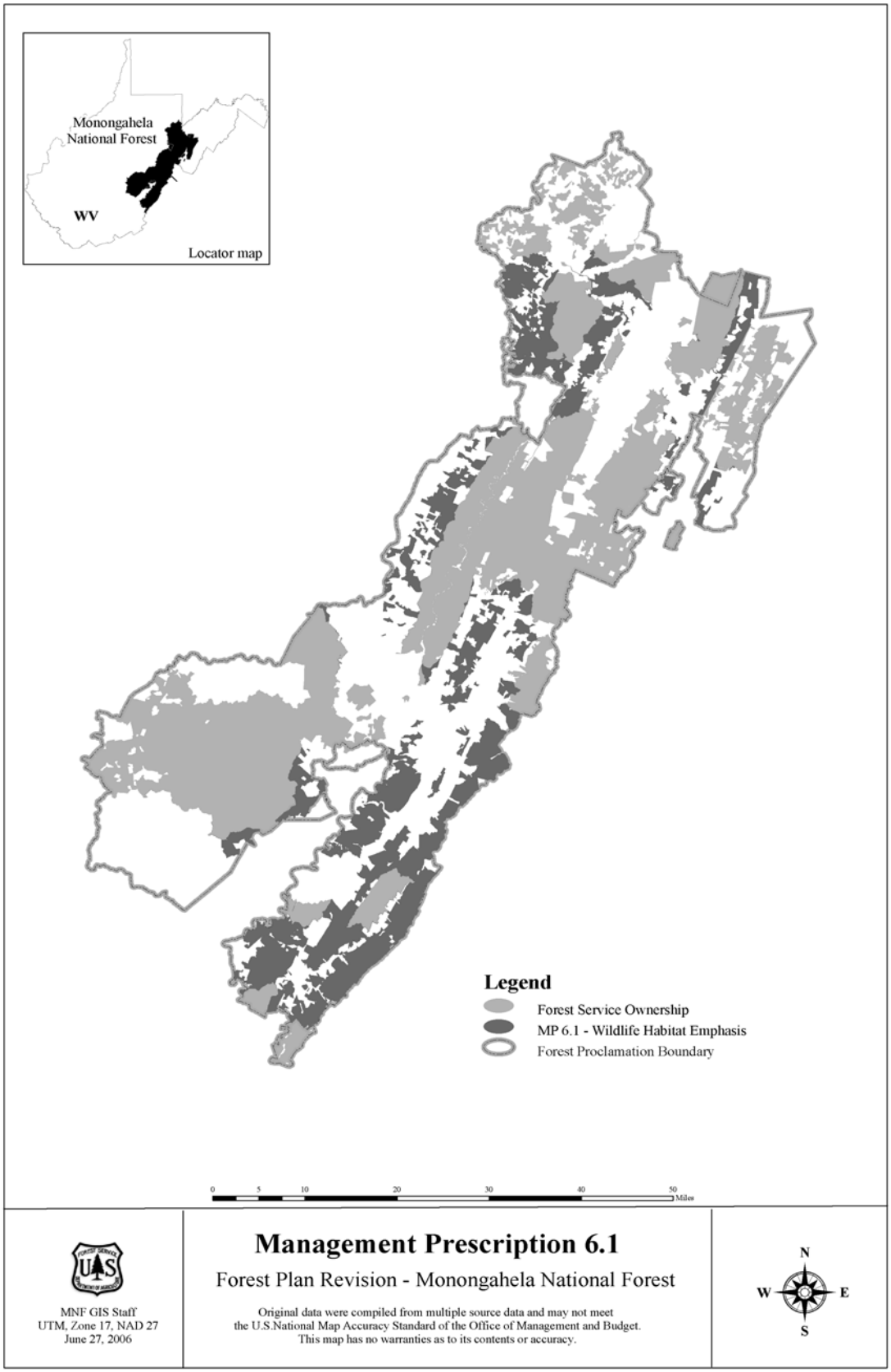
- A vegetation management strategy that emphasizes sustainable production of mast and other plant species that benefit wildlife.
- Active restoration of pine-oak and oak-hickory communities.
- Restricted motorized access and a network of security areas that reduce disturbance to wildlife.
- A primarily non-motorized recreational setting.
- A mix of forest products.

Area Description

Lands assigned to this prescription comprise a total of 277,600 acres, 30.3% of the entire Forest (Figure 3-5). Elevations range from around 1,500 to 4,500 feet, and these areas occur on a wide variety of land and soil types. This prescription area includes fire-dependent and fire-adapted ecosystems on the Forest. Fire return intervals for the natural fire regimes are estimated at 7-15 years for many oak communities. Oak communities are most widespread in xeric and dry-mesic situations on the eastern side of the Forest, but other areas of oak dominance occur on southerly and westerly aspects throughout the Forest. White pine share dominance with oaks on some dry-mesic sites in the southeastern part of the Forest. Other areas in this prescription are dominated by mixed cove and northern hardwoods. The major forest communities and their current age classes are depicted in the table below. Openings presently account for about 1 to 2 percent of vegetation conditions.

Current Vegetation Conditions in Management Prescription 6.1

Forest Community	Percent of Community in Rx Area	Percent by Age Class for Each Community				
		Early Successional (0-19 years)	Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years)	Mid Successional (40-79 years)	Mid-Late Successional (80-120 years)	Late Successional (>120 years)
Conifer	0.4	6.0	3.3	33.5	51.6	5.6
Northern Hardwoods	3.9	2.4	2.6	32.6	60.1	2.3
Mixed Cove Hardwoods	25.9	3.9	5.8	23.3	64.0	3.0
Mixed Oak	54.8	4.1	3.9	21.7	62.4	7.9
Pine-Oak	13.7	2.7	8.6	29.6	52.8	6.3


Monongahela
National Forest
WV
Locator map
Legend
Forest Service Ownership
MP 6.1 - Wildlife Habitat Emphasis
Forest Proclamation Boundary
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Miles
MNF GIS Staff
UTM, Zone 17, NAD 27
June 27, 2006
Management Prescription 6.1
Forest Plan Revision - Monongahela National Forest
Original data were compiled from multiple source data and may not meet
the U.S.National Map Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget.
This map has no warranties as to its contents or accuracy.
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For this prescription area, oak types comprise over two thirds of the stands. Oak restoration and mast production are important management objectives. For this reason, the vegetation has been aggregated into similar mast-producing groups, as seen in the table below.

Current Vegetation Conditions in Management Prescription 6.1						
Forest Community	Percent of Community in Rx Area	Percent by Age Class for Each Community				
		Early Successional (0-19 years)	Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years)	Mid Successional (40-79 years)	Mid-Late Successional (80-120 years)	Late Successional (>120 years)
White Oak Group	20	3	7	24	59	7
Red Oak Group	27	4	3	21	65	7
Mixed Oak Group	24	4	5	25	61	6
Black Cherry Group	27	3	5	26	63	4

White Oak Group = white and chestnut oaks Red Oak Group = northern red, scarlet, and black oaks
Mixed White and Red Oak Group = chestnut and red oaks
Black Cherry Group = mixed and northern hardwoods without oaks; hardwood/conifer stands with cherry potential
The Pine-Oak group has been incorporated into the oak groups according to the dominant oak species

Because this prescription covers such a large expanse of land and diversity of landforms and vegetation types, most species and habitats of wildlife, fish, and plants on the Forest are represented within it. For these same reasons, a wide variety of rare flora and fauna, and non-native invasive species are also found within this prescription. There are 13 range allotments located in the area, comprising an estimated 702 acres.

An estimated 78,200 acres (27%) of the prescription area are in Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3, and 96,200 acres (34%) are in Fire Regime III, Condition Class 2. These areas represent the best opportunity to use prescribed fire and timber management to reduce fuels and restore natural habitat structure and stand density, species composition, and disturbance regimes.

There are an estimated 136 miles of Forest System Level 3, 4, and 5 roads in this prescription, creating an average open road density of 0.3 miles per square mile. An estimated 19,030 acres of regeneration and thinning harvest activities have occurred since the 1986 Forest Plan was signed.

There are also an estimated 179 miles of trails in this prescription area. Roughly 6% of the area has a Semi-Primitive Non-motorized (SPNM) ROS setting, 39% is Semi-Primitive Motorized, 54% is Roaded Natural, and 1% is Rural. Non-motorized recreation is currently featured, including hiking, camping, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. A number of visually sensitive viewpoints and travel ways occur within or adjacent to the prescription areas.

An estimated 29% of the prescription area has privately owned mineral rights. There are 9 gas wells and 18.2 miles of gas pipeline. There are 6.4 miles of other utility corridors in this prescription area, and 7 communication or electronic sites, including 3 Forest repeater sites.

There are an estimated 71 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired streams within the area, including all or portions of Buffalo Run, Dry Fork, Greenbrier River, Jordan Run, Laurel Run, Meadow Creek, Shavers Fork, Shock Run, Tygart Valley River, and Williams River.

Portions of six eligible Wild and Scenic River segments occur within this prescription area, totaling 51.4 miles. Parts of Shavers Fork, Dry Fork, and Blackwater River are not actually on NFS lands, but the 0.25 mile corridors on either side of the stream extend onto NFS lands. River miles, classification, and values are described in the table below. Rivers are currently managed according to Wild and Scenic River Act guidance for their classification and to maintain their outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status.

Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 6.1			
River Name	**Classification**	**Outstandingly Remarkable Values**	**Miles**
Blackwater River	Scenic	Scenery, Recreation	4.3
Shavers Fork	Scenic	Scenery, Recreation	17.0
Dry Fork	Recreational	Recreation	3.0
Glady Fork	Recreational	Recreation	4.3
Glady Fork	Scenic	Recreation	15.1
Glady Fork	Wild	Recreation	7.7

Desired Conditions

The area provides a diversity of habitats for wildlife species, as well as abundant security areas to provide habitat for local wildlife populations that are sensitive to disturbance. On sites where existing vegetation includes an oak component, oak restoration management focuses on achieving and maintaining oak-dominated species composition, as well as developing the more open stand structure that likely existed in these communities prior to a period of extensive fire suppression that began about 70-80 years ago. Where the pine component is being lost from mixed pine-oak stands, management seeks to maintain or enhance the mixed pine-oak species composition. Management activities result in relatively high levels of sustainable mast production in important species such as oak, hickory, and black cherry. These activities contribute to the long-term sustained yield of timber products. Age class distribution ranges from openings maintained for wildlife habitat to a network of late successional stands, but the predominant age class is represented by mid successional and mid-late successional stands that feature sustainable mast production. The table below shows desired age class distributions for those portions of the prescription that are considered suitable timber land.

Forest Community	Desired Vegetation Conditions in Management Prescription 6.1				
	Early Successional (0-19 years)	**Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years)**	**Mid Successional (40-79 years)**	**Mid-Late Successional (80-119 years)**	**Late Successional (≥120 years)**
Conifer	15-20%	15-20%	30-40%	20-30%	8-12%
Northern Hardwoods	15-20%	15-20%	30-40%	20-30%	5-10%
Mixed Cove Hardwoods	15-20%	15-20%	30-40%	20-30%	5-10%
Mixed Oak	10-15%	10-15%	25-35%	20-30%	15-20%
Pine-Oak	15-20%	15-20%	25-35%	20-30%	10-15%

Desired conditions related to oak restoration in the oak groups are given in the table below.

Desired Vegetation Conditions for Oak and Black Cherry Groups in MP 6.1					
Forest Community	**Percent by Age Class for Each Community**				
	Early Successional (0-19 years)	**Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years)**	**Mid Successional (40-79 years)**	**Mid-Late Successional (80-120 yrs)**	**Late Successional (>120 years)**
White Oak Group	8-12%	8-12%	15-25%	15-25%	35-45%
Red Oak Group	15-20%	15-20%	30-40%	30-40%	5-10%
Mixed Oak Group	10-15%	10-15%	20-30%	20-30%	15-25%
Black Cherry Group	15-25%	15-25%	35-45%	15-25%	5-10%

Roughly 3 to 8 percent of the prescription area units are in maintained or natural openings, including meadows, fields, shrub and brush fields, savannahs, grazing allotments, seeded log landings and logging roads, mine reclamations, utility corridors, and natural disturbance gaps.

An estimated 33 percent of MP 6.1 is comprised of Indiana bat primary range. Indiana bat primary range is not considered suitable timber land because Forest-wide management direction for primary range emphasizes maintenance and improvement of Indiana bat habitat. Management for Indiana bat habitat focuses on developing older stands with large trees, creating canopy gaps through thinning and uneven-aged harvesting, and providing abundant snags. Extensive even-aged management to create age class diversity is not emphasized in primary range; therefore, the portions of this prescription in primary range are developing a large component of late successional forest over time.

A system of roads and trails provides access within the area for administrative and management purposes, including transportation of forest products. Non-motorized recreation opportunities are featured and public motorized vehicle use is generally restricted. Where roads are temporarily open, motorized opportunities are available. Road densities vary considerably but average within 1.5 to 2.5 miles per square mile. Open road densities are considerably lower, averaging 0.2 to 0.8 miles per square mile, to reduce disturbance to wildlife. New collector and local roads are typically gated or closed by barricade. Many roads are seeded and managed for wildlife habitat and travel routes.

Trails and closed roads provide abundant opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation, including hiking, camping, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The area is managed for a combination of ROS settings (SPNM, SPM, RN). High scenic integrity is maintained along visually sensitive viewpoints and travel ways.

Special uses and facilities such as utility corridors are compatible with minimizing disturbance to wildlife populations and the ROS settings for the area.

Management Direction for 6.1 – Wildlife Habitat Emphasis		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
1900 - Vegetation		
Goal	6101	Enhance diversity of wildlife habitat by managing for a variety of vegetation species, types, and age classes.

Management Direction for 6.1 – Wildlife Habitat Emphasis		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	6102	Maintain, restore, or enhance the oak component within oak-pine and oak-hickory communities to provide long-term mast supplies, sustainable timber, and habitat diversity. Maintain or enhance the pine component in pine and mixed pine-oak stands.
Goal	6103	Work with Fernow Research Work Unit of Northeast Research Station, academia, or State and Private Researchers on designing and monitoring oak restoration efforts.
Objective	6104	Within oak ecosystems that can be restored, enhanced, or maintained, conduct 10,000 to 15,000 acres of prescribed fire over the next 10 years to enhance species composition and stand structure.
Objective	6105	Over the next 10 years regenerate an estimated 2,000 to 5,000 acres of mixed and northern hardwoods to begin moving toward desired age class and habitat diversity conditions.
Objective	6106	Over the next 10 years regenerate the following amounts of forest vegetation to begin moving toward desired age class and habitat diversity conditions for these forest types: White oak: 700 to 1,200 acres Red oak: 2,000 to 4,000 acres Mixed oak: 1,000 to 3,000 acres
Standard	6107	Maintain culls and snags to provide for wildlife habitat. Manage culls to provide dens and future snags. If non-commercial and in excess of wildlife needs, culls may be girdled to produce snags. When thinning or implementing other vegetation management, retain at least 5 culls per acre, if available. Retain culls and all snags except as noted below. a) Snags and culls may be removed when they are public safety hazards along roads, trails, or established campsites, or safety hazards in harvest units. b) Snags and culls may be removed for scenery management purposes in locations of very high or high scenic integrity such as in a vista or in the immediate foreground of a road open for public motor vehicle travel. c) See also snag and cull direction in TEP Species section for those areas that intersect with Indiana bat habitat.
Guideline	6108	Grapevines should not be controlled unless necessary to achieve wildlife habitat objectives. Grapevine control needs should be evaluated at the project level.
Guideline	6109	Camphor vines should be controlled when needed to ensure adequate stocking of desirable species.
Guideline	6110	Oak species should be restored, maintained, or enhanced in stands where existing natural vegetation includes an oak component and or there is some oak present in the overstory or understory within or adjacent to the stand. Final overstory removal should not normally be conducted in stands without adequate advance reproduction of oak or sprouting potential.
2200 – Range		
Goal	6111	Provide for low to moderate levels of grazing in established allotments. Maintain adequate mixtures of grass species suitable for supporting livestock through the grazing season.
Standard	6112	Grazing allotments shall be fenced, including division fences to allow rotational grazing. Barbed or electric fences are allowed, but wooden rail fences are preferred. Woven wire shall not be used in new fences.
Standard	6113	Planting non-native forage plants is prohibited without a project-level analysis.
Guideline	6114	Ponds, water troughs, pipes, salt boxes, gravelling around troughs and similar developments may be used, but landscaping materials and location should be chosen to blend in with the natural environment.
Guideline	6115	Mowing practices should judiciously leave clumps of shrubs, shrubs along stream courses and wet areas, along woodland borders, steep slopes, rocky or rough areas, and sites needed for diversity and edge effect.
2310 – Recreation System Planning		
Goal	6116	Feature primarily non-motorized recreation opportunities, but maintain motorized opportunities on major travelways where they currently exist.

Management Direction for 6.1 – Wildlife Habitat Emphasis		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
2350 – Recreation: General Forest Areas		
Standard	6117	Trail management shall be compatible with the ROS setting of the area.
Guideline	6118	New trail construction should not cause trail density in the prescription unit to exceed two miles per square mile. This guideline does not apply to existing trail relocation.
Guideline	6119	Selected areas, trails, or roads may be open, where appropriate, to motorized vehicles during specific periods for specific purposes such as firewood access, hunter distribution, emergencies, or administrative use. Travelways should normally be closed to public motorized vehicles from April 15 to August 1 to reduce disturbance to wildlife.
Guideline	6120	In areas where oak restoration is emphasized, work with WVDNR to facilitate hunter access during deer season.
2380 – Scenery Management		
Guideline	6121	Natural-appearing materials should be used to build and maintain trails and recreation facilities.
2410 - Timber Resource Management Planning		
Standard	6122	No more than 40 percent of forested NFS lands within each 6.1 prescription area unit shall be harvested over a 10-year period. Thus, at least 60 percent of each unit shall provide security areas for wildlife during the 10-year period.
Standard	6123	Unforeseen activities, such as timber salvage or pipeline installation, shall be counted toward the 40 percent disturbance standard above.
Guideline	6124	The prescription area may be entered every year for ecological restoration or silvicultural treatments, based on the consideration of multiple resources.
2430 - Other Than Commercial Sales		
Standard	6125	Firewood: a) Personal use or marked firewood sales may be cut anytime during the year along Forest roads open to the public. b) Firewood cutting may be permitted following the closure of the timber sale unit. In these areas, cutting may only occur during the period August 2 to October 31 and January 1 to April 14. Sale area roads shall be posted as needed to help avoid conflicts with hunters and other recreationists. c) Along roads that are normally closed, green firewood sales may be made available during the period January 1 to April 14 and August 2 to October 31. Sale area roads shall be posted as needed to help avoid conflicts with hunters and other recreationists. d) Firewood permittees or assistants are not allowed to hunt when given access to gather firewood behind closed gates.
Guideline	6126	Firewood sales should be managed so that disturbance is minimized during critical habitat periods such as turkey brood season.
2470 - Silvicultural Systems		
Guideline	6127	Emphasize use of the even-aged silvicultural system to improve or maintain wildlife habitat diversity.
Guideline	6128	In areas where oak restoration, enhancement, or maintenance is practiced, silvicultural treatments, including prescribed fire, should be designed to achieve oak regeneration or to maintain oak dominance of the site. Active management should not seek to convert oak-pine or oak-hickory stands to conifer.
Guideline	6129	On sites where mast-producing tree species normally occur, oaks or other site-appropriate mast-producing tree species should be planted if natural regeneration does not provide an adequate future mast source.
Guideline	6130	In areas where oak restoration, enhancement, or maintenance is practiced, even-aged and stand improvement cuts are the preferred silvicultural treatments. a) Two-age harvest and group selection methods are preferred when the objective is oak

Management Direction for 6.1 – Wildlife Habitat Emphasis		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
		ecosystem restoration, enhancement, or maintenance. b) Even-aged harvests and/or prescribed fire may be used to mimic medium to large disturbance events. c) Group selection may be used where deer browsing on regeneration is not a concern. d) Thinning in oak stands should leave at least 65 percent of the existing basal area and should leave trees capable of producing relatively stable supplies of mast. e) Restoration or enhancement treatments may be implemented at any stand age.
Guideline	6131	When designing even-age regeneration areas retain a one-third acre clump of trees or shrubs for each five to eight acres of regeneration cutting. Where possible, clumps should include retained culls or snags. Channel buffers may be counted toward this guideline where the configuration allows them to serve both purposes.
2470 - Timber Stand Improvement and Reforestation		
Goal	6132	Maintain, restore, or enhance mast-producing trees and habitat diversity.
Guideline	6133	Non-merchantable stems greater than 1” dbh should be cut in regeneration areas. Exceptions may include: a) Leave clump trees, b) Marked cull trees and snags, c) Trees capable of producing an adequate growth response after release, d) Shrubs beneficial to wildlife, or e) Areas where site preparation is not necessary to achieve desired regeneration.
Guideline	6134	TSI and reforestation activities should retain trees and shrubs beneficial to wildlife (e.g., dogwood, crabapple, hawthorn, witch hazel, American hazel nut, American hornbeam, and serviceberry), if available on site.
2630 – Wildlife Habitat		
Goal	6135	Maintain natural areas of standing water as wildlife watering sources. Create artificial water sources as needed in conjunction with other resource activities.
Objective	6136	Over the next 10 years treat 3,000 to 7,000 acres within Indiana bat primary range to maintain or enhance habitat.
Objective	6137	Create an annual average of 100 to 300 acres of wildlife openings.
Guideline	6138	Developed openings should be located away from open roads or main collector roads, and from active hiking and mountain biking trails. They should be accessible for maintenance and where feasible, dispersed within the prescription area.
Guideline	6139	Conifer trees may be planted or controlled where needed to maintain or enhance vegetation diversity for wildlife. Habitat management should not seek to convert conifer stands to hardwoods or eliminate the conifer component of mixed stands.
Guideline	6140	Between periods of use, local roads closed to public vehicle use should be seeded to wildlife food plants and managed as wildlife openings and hiking travel ways.
2700 – Special Uses		
Standard	6141	Utility corridors shall not be developed for or used by motorized vehicles, except for administrative use or where authorized for maintenance of the corridor.
Guideline	6142	Special uses should generally not include developed recreation facilities or rights-of-way open to public motorized use in order to reduce disturbance to wildlife.
2800 – Minerals		
Standard	6143	Extra restrictions, such as timing of operations, may be necessary in this prescription to limit disturbance to wildlife populations and to provide the semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunity.
Standard	6144	Exploration and development of federal minerals is allowed but is included in the 40 percent disturbance restriction in Standard 6122, above.
Guideline	6145	During turkey and deer hunting season, motorized access to federal gas wells and pipelines

Management Direction for 6.1 – Wildlife Habitat Emphasis		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
		should be avoided before 11 a.m. and after 3 p.m., except during construction phases or in out-of-the-ordinary maintenance situations.
5100 – Fire		
Objective	6146	Within oak ecosystems that can be restored, enhanced, or maintained, conduct an annual average of 1,000 to 1,500 acres of prescribed fire to help control species composition and stimulate oak regeneration.
7100 - Transportation System Planning		
Guideline	6147	Road densities and impacts should be minimized to reduce disturbance in the area. a) New road construction should not cause road density within the prescription area unit to exceed 1.0 mile per square mile for collector roads, or 2.5 miles per square mile for any combination of collector and local roads. b) New collector roads should generally be gated and maintained for recurring administrative use. c) New local roads should generally be closed between projects by physical barricades. Use should be intermittent. Public motorized use should generally not occur from April 15 to August 1 to reduce disturbance to wildlife. See also Guideline 6119 and Standard 6125.

Black Bear near Cranberry Glades

Management Prescription 6.2 – Backcountry Recreation

Management Emphasis

This prescription emphasizes the following:

- A semi-primitive, non-motorized setting with opportunity for a variety of dispersed recreation activities.
- A largely natural environment, with a general lack of management-related disturbance.
- Restoration and maintenance of ecological communities and habitats, predominantly through natural processes.
- Wildlife habitat for species that benefit from a general lack of human disturbance.
- Protection of watersheds and soils.

Area Description

The following areas are assigned to this prescription:

MP 6.2 Area	Acres	MP 6.2 Area	Acres
Big Draft	5,395	Middle Mountain	12,197
Canaan Loop	7,850	Roaring Plains East	2,962
Dolly Sods North	7,215	Roaring Plains North	3,119
East Fork Greenbrier	10,153	Seneca Creek	13,001
Gaudineer	6,727	Spice Run	6,171
Gauley Mountain East	7,780	Tea Creek Mountain	8,272
Gauley Mountain West	6,624	Turkey Mountain	6,111
Lower Laurel Fork	3,177	Total Acres	106,754

Lands assigned to this prescription comprise a total of 106,800 acres in 15 separate areas, or 11.6% of the entire Forest (see MP 6.2 map). Elevations range from under 2,000 feet to over 4,700 feet, and these areas occur on a wide variety of land and soil types. The major forest communities and their current age classes are depicted in the table below. Openings presently account for about 5 to 6 percent of vegetation conditions.

The area is characterized by a predominantly natural-appearing environment where there is a moderate to high probability of solitude. Recreation opportunities generally require a high degree of self-reliance, and pose a moderate to high degree of risk. Although there may be some evidence of other land uses, there is a high probability of experiencing isolation from the sounds and sights of man. Few roads exist and little motorized use occurs. Structures are rare, but may include rustic shelters, bridges and signs, and primitive sanitary facilities.

Because this prescription covers such a large expanse of land and diversity of landforms and vegetation types, virtually every species of wildlife, fish, and plants on the Forest is represented within it. For these same reasons, a wide variety of rare flora and fauna, and non-native invasive species are also found within this prescription.

Current Vegetation Conditions in Management Prescription 6.2						
Forest Community	Percent of Community in Rx Area	Percent by Age Class for Each Community				
		Early Successional (0-19 years)	Early-Mid Successional (20-39 years)	Mid Successional (40-79 years)	Mid-Late Successional (80-120 years)	Late Successional (>120 years)
Conifer	7.7	1.3	0.0	58.8	36.2	3.7
Northern Hardwoods	23.5	0.5	1.7	46.6	49.5	1.7
Mixed Cove Hardwoods	39.7	0.3	0.7	60.7	37.8	0.5
Mixed Oak	18.1	1.4	1.6	27.1	62.6	7.3
Pine-Oak	4.9	3.1	4.5	48.3	42.2	1.9

An estimated 11,000 acres (10%) of the prescription area are considered to be in Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3, and 15,500 acres (15%) in Fire Regime III, Condition Class 2. These areas represent the best opportunity to use prescribed fire to reduce fuels and restore natural habitat structure and stand density, species composition, and disturbance regimes.

There are no Forest System Level 3, 4, and 5 roads in this prescription area, although Level 1 and 2 roads do exist in many areas (see Appendix C to the EIS for detailed descriptions). Public motorized use is prohibited, although some authorized and administrative use occurs. Some old roads have been converted to trails or linear wildlife openings. No timber harvest activity has occurred in most of the prescription area since 1986.

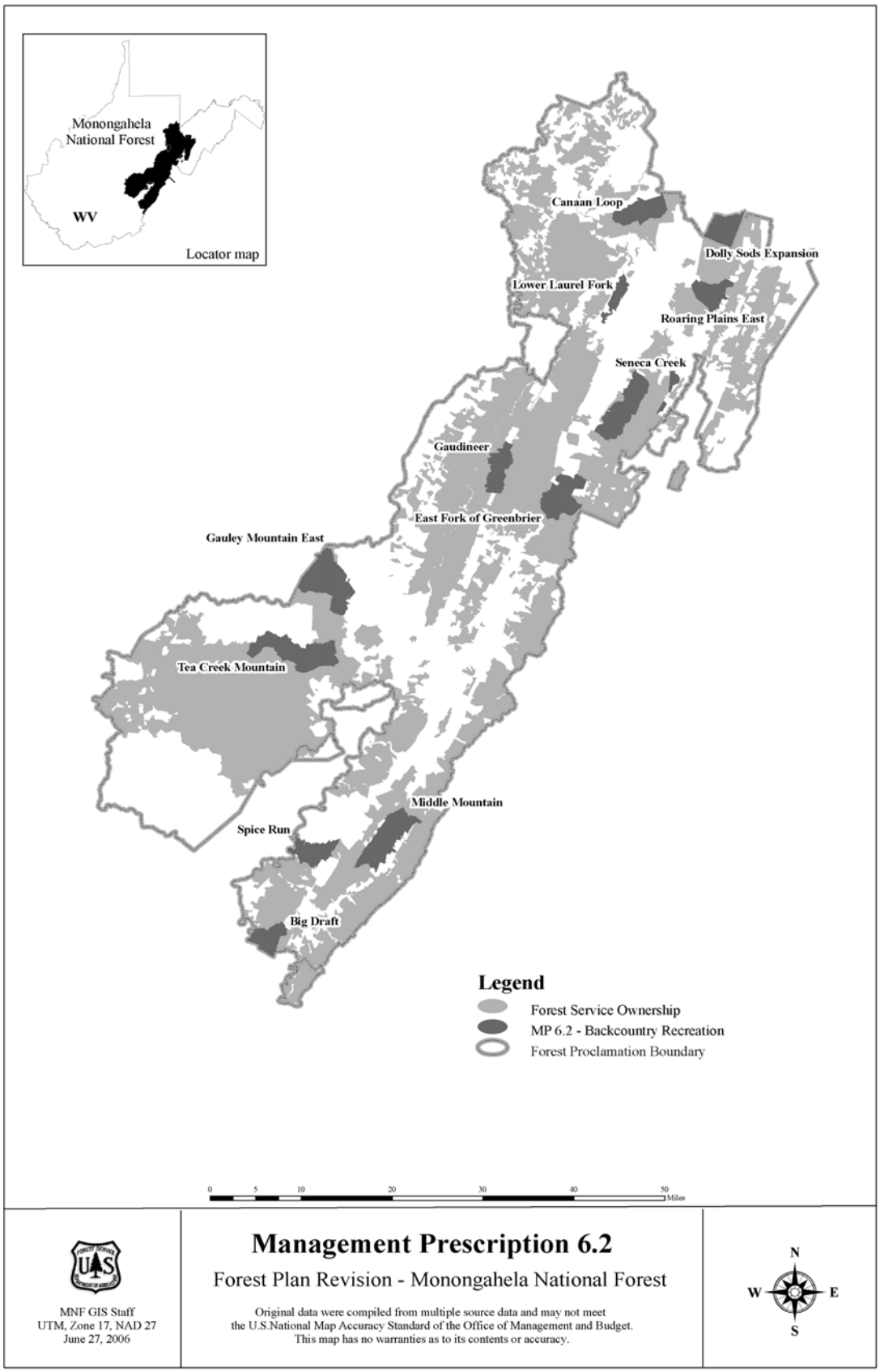
There are an estimated 160 miles of trail in this prescription area. Non-motorized recreation is currently featured, including hiking, mountain biking, hunting, horseback riding, fishing, and wildlife viewing. A number of visually sensitive viewpoints and travel ways occur within or adjacent to the prescription areas.

An estimated 50% of the total prescription area has privately owned mineral rights. There are no gas wells and no gas pipeline, although pipeline serves as the boundary for a couple of areas. There are no other utility corridors in this prescription area, and no communication or electronic sites, or range allotments.

There are an estimated 29 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired streams within the area, including all or portions of Greenbrier River, Laurel Run, Red Creek, South Fork Red Creek, Sugar Creek, Tea Creek, and Williams River.

Portions of three eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, totaling 15.9 miles, occur within this prescription area. River miles, classification, and values are described in the table below. Rivers are currently managed according to Wild and Scenic River Act guidance for their classification and to maintain their outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status.

Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 6.2			
River Name	Classification	Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Miles
Williams River	Recreational	Scenery, Recreation	5.9
Red Creek	Scenic	Scenery, Recreation	3.4
Laurel Fork	Wild	Scenery, Recreation	6.6


Monongahela National Forest
WV
Locator map
Canaan Loop
Dolly Sods Expansion
Lower Laurel Fork
Roaring Plains East
Seneca Creek
Gaudineer
East Fork of Greenbrier
Gauley Mountain East
Tea Creek Mountain
Middle Mountain
Spice Run
Big Draft
Legend
Forest Service Ownership
MP 6.2 - Backcountry Recreation
Forest Proclamation Boundary
0 5 10 20 30 40 50 Miles
MNF GIS Staff
UTM, Zone 17, NAD 27
June 27, 2006
Management Prescription 6.2
Forest Plan Revision - Monongahela National Forest
Original data were compiled from multiple source data and may not meet
the U.S.National Map Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget.
This map has no warranties as to its contents or accuracy.
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Desired Conditions

The areas are managed to meet the physical, managerial, and social settings consistent with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum descriptions for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. They provide a wide variety of dispersed recreation opportunities and settings. Natural processes are the primary agents for vegetative change, with vegetation management used only to protect the resource or complement the recreational value. Recreation facilities—including bridges, signs, fire rings, shelters, and sanitation structures—are relatively uncommon and rustic in appearance.

The transportation system is closed to public motorized use. Non-motorized recreation opportunities are featured.

Trails and closed roads provide abundant opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation, including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing, although some restrictions may occur in order to achieve management prescription objectives. The area is managed for a SPNM ROS setting. High scenic integrity is maintained along visually sensitive viewpoints and travel ways.

In order to reflect the SPNM emphasis of this prescription, the type, amount, and intensity of management activities are limited in these areas. Restrictions on vegetation management, motorized access, and other activities are described in the management direction below.

Management Direction for 6.2 – Backcountry Recreation		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
1590 – Search and Rescue		
Standard	6201	Motorized and mechanized equipment may be used for search and rescue operations.
1900 – Vegetation		
Standard	6202	No programmed commercial timber harvest shall occur. However, vegetation may be treated for the following reasons: a) To enhance dispersed recreation opportunities or settings b) To maintain or enhance public safety consistent with the degree of risk posed by SPNM areas c) To help control insect or disease outbreaks d) To salvage or restore areas extensively damaged by natural phenomena such as insects, disease, wind or ice/snow storms, and fire e) To meet the emphasis of the management area.
Standard	6203	No timber stand improvement is allowed.
Standard	6204	Vegetation management is allowed to rehabilitate and maintain trails or recreation use sites. Chainsaws and brush-clearing power tools are allowed. Revegetation activities must use native vegetation.
Standard	6205	Planting native species for the enhancement of visual quality or recreational settings is allowed.
Guideline	6206	Vegetation management may occur as a component of actions needed to protect adjacent lands from fire, non-native invasive species, pest, or pathogen damage.
Guideline	6207	Openings should constitute a minor component of the landscape, but may be maintained or developed to enhance visual and recreational settings.

Management Direction for 6.2 – Backcountry Recreation		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
2200 – Range		
Goal	6208	Design and implement forage management practices to be consistent with the desired SPNM recreation settings and opportunities.
Guideline	6209	Range improvements may occur on existing allotments to provide a viable grazing opportunity and to maintain the visual and recreation benefits of the openings.
Guideline	6210	Encroaching woody vegetation and non-native invasive herbaceous species may be controlled as specified in the appropriate NEPA document.
2310 – Recreation System Planning		
Standard	6211	Recreation planning shall be consistent with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) settings and opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM).
2350 – Recreation: General Forest Areas		
Goal	6212	Provide facilities and trails that are consistent with SPNM opportunities and settings.
Guideline	6213	Recreation facilities should be relatively uncommon, and they should be designed to blend in with the natural environment.
Guideline	6214	Trail densities should not exceed 4 miles per square mile to help maintain semi-primitive opportunities. Mechanized trail construction equipment may be used.
Guideline	6215	Trails should be constructed to Trail Class I, II or III standards. Trail bridges may be used to protect resources and to provide for visitor safety consistent with the degree of risk posed by these areas. Bridge construction and design should be consistent with the SPNM setting.
Guideline	6216	Trails should be maintained to Trail Class I, II or III standards. Power and mechanical tools may be used for trail maintenance.
Guideline	6217	Appropriate uses for SPNM opportunities and settings may include, but are not limited to: hiking, backpacking, camping, nature study, bicycling, mountain climbing, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, and cross-country skiing.
2360 - Special Interest Areas		
Guideline	6218	Interpretation of remote cultural and natural resources may be allowed and should be consistent with SPNM recreation emphasis.
2380 – Scenery Management		
Standard	6219	SPNM recreation areas shall be managed consistent with the Scenery Management System Integrity Objective of High. Deviations to the Moderate Scenic Integrity Objective are allowed to maintain recreation values, provide for public safety, or to restore ecological communities or natural habitat structure.
2500 – Water and Soil		
Guideline	6220	Watershed improvement or restoration may occur to reduce soil erosion and/or to improve surface and ground water quality. Watershed improvement projects should be designed to blend in with the natural environment and the SPNM setting.
2600 – Wildlife Management		
Goal	6221	Provide habitat for native or desired non-native species of game and non-game wildlife. Manage existing openings and grasslands to enhance backcountry recreational opportunities, including wildlife viewing and hunting.
Standard	6222	New wildlife habitat improvements are only allowed if they: a) Are compatible with the SPNM recreation setting, b) Can be built and maintained without additional system roads, and c) Use native vegetation as prescribed in FW Guideline VE05.
Guideline	6223	Maintenance of existing wildlife habitat improvements may continue.
2630 - Fish Habitat		
Standard	6224	Fish management practices—such as fish stocking, stream liming, and stream habitat improvement or protection—are subject to the following constraints designed to help

Management Direction for 6.2 – Backcountry Recreation		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
		practices meet the desired SPNM setting of the area. a) Trucks and other heavy equipment are allowed only in areas accessible by existing roads that are designed to accommodate this type of vehicle traffic. b) Stream structures shall be constructed from logs and rocks to blend in with the natural setting. c) Log structures shall generally be small, usually not more than 2 or 3 logs high.
Standard	6225	Structure materials shall be from an on-site or a natural-appearing source. Concrete and gabions are not allowed. Quarried rock may be allowed on a case-by-case basis.
Standard	6226	Addition of limestone fines to improve water quality and fish habitat shall only be allowed where existing roads provide access, or through delivery by other feasible means consistent with SPNM setting.
Guideline	6227	Streamside shade planting may be allowed to maintain or enhance stream temperature or to provide habitat cover.
2700 – Special Uses		
Standard	6228	Discretionary special uses shall generally not be permitted unless they are compatible with the emphasis of the area.
Guideline	6229	Non-recreation special use permits should not detract from the area's desired ROS setting.
Guideline	6230	Recreation special use permits, including outfitter guide operations, should provide SPNM opportunities or at least be consistent with the desired ROS setting.
2800 – Minerals		
Standard	6231	Federal oil, gas, and coal leases may only be issued if subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.
Guideline	6232	Extra restrictions, such as timing of operations, may be necessary in this prescription to minimize impacts inconsistent with the SPNM setting and to limit disturbance to wildlife.
5100 – Fire		
Standard	6233	Wildfires shall typically be suppressed.
Guideline	6234	Motorized and mechanized equipment and vehicles may be used for suppression activities, although hand tools and low impact techniques are preferred.
Guideline	6235	Prescribed fire may be used to help restore or maintain fire-dependent ecosystems, wildlife openings, or range allotments.
7100 - Transportation System Planning		
Goal	6236	Reduce existing roads through any one or combination of the following strategies: a) Decommission roads where they are no longer needed for management/access, b) Restore roads to productivity where needed, c) Convert roads to trails and/or linear wildlife openings, or d) Allow roads to return to productivity and natural appearance on their own.
Standard	6237	No new roads shall be constructed except to respond to statute, or to provide access for outstanding or reserved rights, or existing permits, leases, or contracts.
Standard	6238	Roads that are constructed for exceptions listed in Standard 6237 shall be built to the minimum standard needed to protect resources and provide for user safety, and shall be decommissioned and rehabilitated at the end of operations or need.
Standard	6239	Existing roads shall be closed to public motorized use. Infrequent administrative use and use by contractors and cooperators is allowed to the extent needed to accomplish management objectives. Motorized use by permittees and lessees is allowed to the extent needed to accomplish the purpose of the permit or lease.
Guideline	6240	Existing authorized roads may be maintained or reconstructed to provide for necessary administrative and authorized access.

Management Prescription 8.0 – Special Areas

Management Emphasis

This prescription emphasizes:

- The preservation of unique ecosystems or areas for scientific or recreational purposes.
- Areas to conduct research.
- The protection of special areas of national significance.

The MP 8.0 Special Areas on the Forest have been categorized into similar groupings and are shown in the table below.

Number	Name of Area	District	Acres
8.1	Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area	Cheat-Potomac	57,200
8.2	Big Run Bog National Natural Landmark (NNL)	Cheat-Potomac	660
8.2	Shavers Mountain Spruce-Hemlock NNL	Cheat-Potomac	60
8.2, 8.4	Blister Run Swamp NNL and Botanical Area	Greenbrier	260
8.2, 8.4	Cranberry Glades NNL and Botanical Area	Gauley	780
8.2, 8.4	Fisher Spring Run Bog NNL and Botanical Area*	Cheat-Potomac	410
8.2, 8.3	Falls of Hills Creek Scenic Area and NNL	Gauley	150
8.2, 8.3	Gaudineer Scenic Area and NNL	Greenbrier	140
8.3	Dolly Sods Scenic Area	Cheat-Potomac	2,180
8.4	Bear Rocks Bog Botanical Area*	Cheat-Potomac	10
8.4	Bickle Slope Botanical Area	Cheat-Potomac	10
8.4	Big Draft Botanical Area	Marlinton-WSS	70
8.4	Black Mountain Botanical Area	Marlinton-WSS	10
8.4	Fanny Bennett Hemlock Grove	Cheat-Potomac	70
8.4	Glade Run Swamp Botanical Area	Greenbrier	60
8.4	Meadow Creek Botanical Area	Marlinton-WSS	20
8.4	Mt. Porte Crayon Botanical Area	Cheat-Potomac	390
8.4	North Fork Mountain Red Pine Botanical Area **	Cheat-Potomac	10
8.4	Rohrbaugh Plains Bog Botanical Area	Cheat-Potomac	140
8.4	Max Rothkugel Plantation	Greenbrier	150
8.4	Stuart Knob Botanical Area	Cheat-Potomac	350
8.4	Virgin White Pine Botanical Area	Marlinton-WSS	10
8.4	Whites Draft Botanical Area	Marlinton-WSS	70
8.4	Blue Rock Geological Area***	Cheat-Potomac	260
8.5	Pike Knob Candidate Research Natural Area (RNA)	Cheat-Potomac	1,950
8.5	Black Cherry Candidate RNA	Greenbrier	120
8.5	Red Spruce Candidate RNA	Greenbrier	60
8.5	Yellow Poplar Candidate RNA	Gauley	110
8.5	Fernow Experimental Forest (Research Area)	Cheat-Potomac	4,550
8.5	Loop Road Research Area	Greenbrier	800
8.6	Spruce Mountain Grouse Management Area	Cheat-Potomac	1,750
8.6	Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Area	Marlinton-WSS	6,830
		Total Acres	79,360

*Within Dolly Sods Scenic Area **Within Pike Knob Candidate NRA
***Within the NRA

Area Descriptions

The areas included in this prescription are scattered throughout the Forest and are of varying sizes (see MP 8.0 map). Their special characteristics are recognized by various administrative designations. Some areas have more than one special designation, such as the Cranberry Glades Botanical Area, which is also a National Natural Landmark and a candidate Research Natural Area. These designations have been separated into the following categories:

8.1 – Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area

This 99,900 acre NRA is divided into two units. The Spruce Knob unit comprises 27,000 acres, including 5,800 acres of private and 21,200 acres of NFS lands, and the Seneca Rocks unit, which is 72,800 acres in size, including 36,900 acres of private and 36,000 of NFS lands. The public lands are managed to provide a variety of recreation opportunities and settings. Recreation opportunities range from a high degree of development (Seneca Rocks Discovery Center and Seneca Shadows Campground) to very low development in backcountry areas, such as North Fork Mountain.

8.2 – National Natural Landmarks

The Park Service, Department of Interior, administers the Natural Landmarks Program. The objective of the program is to assist in the preservation of a variety of significant ecological and geological natural areas which, when considered together, will illustrate the diversity of the country's natural heritage. The seven current National Natural Landmarks on the Forest are: Blister Run Swamp Botanical Area, Cranberry Glades Botanical Area, Fisher Spring Run Bog Botanical Area, Falls of Hills Creek Scenic Area, Gaudineer Scenic Area, Big Run Bog, and Shavers Mountain Spruce-Hemlock area. Together they comprise an estimated 2,460 acres.

8.3 – Scenic Areas

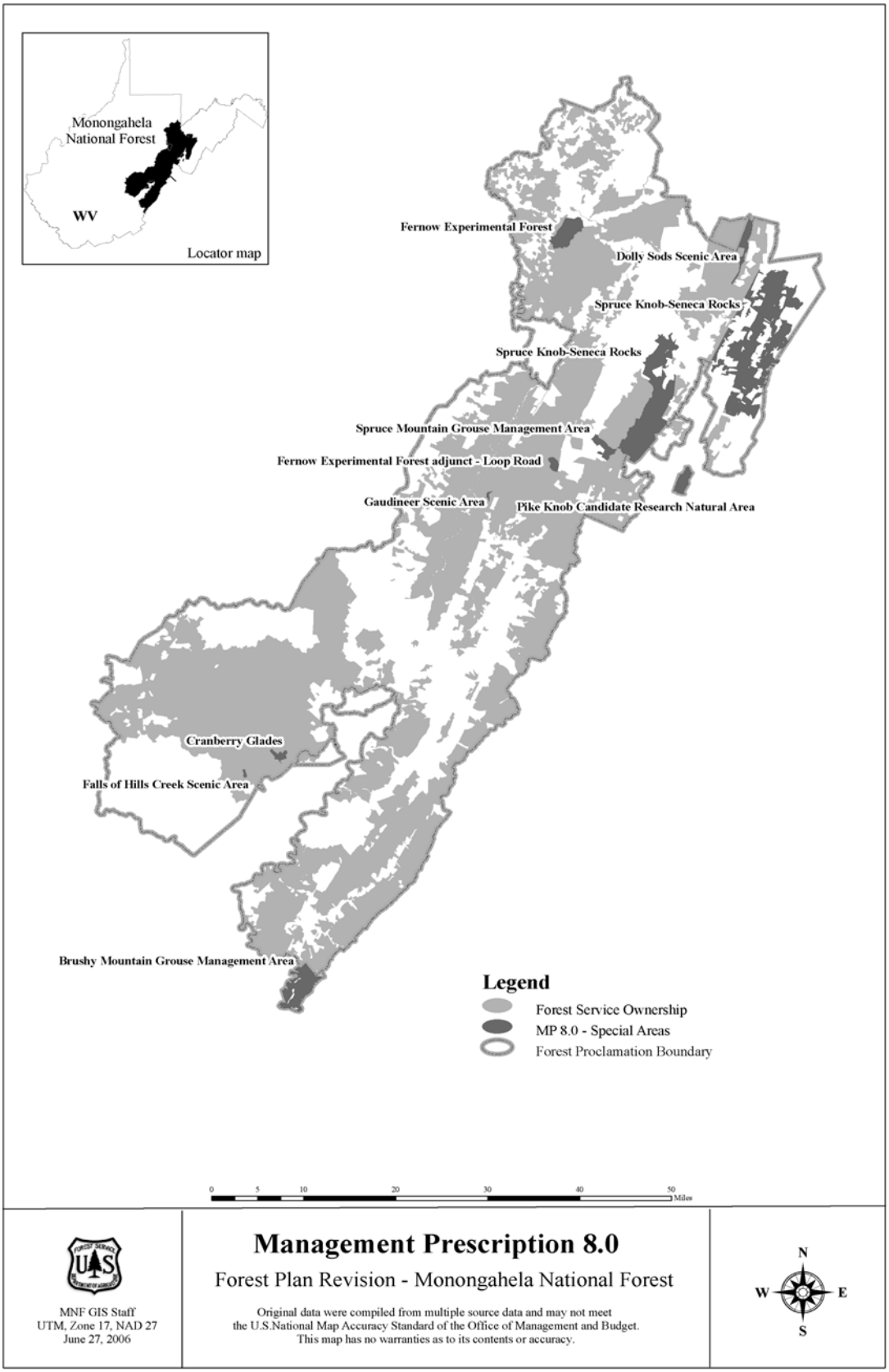
Scenic areas are places of outstanding beauty that require special management to preserve visual quality. There are currently three scenic areas on the Forest: Dolly Sods, Falls of Hills Creek, and Gaudineer. Together they comprise an estimated 2,470 acres.

8.4 – Ecological Areas

Ecological areas have been established to preserve rare ecosystems or areas to enhance biological diversity and provide for scientific or recreational activities. There are currently 17 Botanical Areas and one Geological Area on the Forest, comprising an estimated total of 3,080 acres.

Botanical Areas. Botanical areas contain specimens or groups of plants in plant communities that are significant because of the form, color, occurrence, habitat, location, life history, arrangement, ecology, environment, or variety.

Geological Area. The Blue Rock Geological Area is the only designated area on the Forest. This area is of special interest due to its high scenic quality, rare plant species, and cliff and talus habitats.


Monongahela National Forest
WV
Locator map
Fernow Experimental Forest
Dolly Sods Scenic Area
Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks
Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks
Spruce Mountain Grouse Management Area
Fernow Experimental Forest adjunct - Loop Road
Gaudineer Scenic Area
Pike Knob Candidate Research Natural Area
Cranberry Glades
Falls of Hills Creek Scenic Area
Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Area
Legend
Forest Service Ownership
MP 8.0 - Special Areas
Forest Proclamation Boundary
0 5 10 20 30 40 50 Miles
MNF GIS Staff
UTM, Zone 17, NAD 27
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Management Prescription 8.0
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8.5 – Research Areas

These are areas on the Forest set aside for research purposes. They include the candidate Research Natural Areas (RNAs) and the Fernow Experimental Forest. RNAs represent distinct combinations of subsection and natural community alliances. All of the recommended or candidate RNAs on the Forest have establishment reports, but none have been designated as RNAs. Additional documentation through the NEPA process is needed to support designation of RNAs. The candidate RNAs comprise a total of 2,240 acres.

The Fernow Experimental Forest, an estimated 4,600 acres, is managed to conduct research activities. The Fernow was formally mandated in 1934 to be made "permanently available for forest research and the demonstration of its results".

8.6 – Grouse Management Areas

There are currently two Grouse Management Areas on the Forest, one southwest of Spruce Knob Lake, and one in the southeast corner of the Forest. They are managed to create and maintain habitat suitable for ruffed grouse. These areas are considered to be in the suited timber base, and together they comprise an estimated 8,570 acres.

Desired Conditions

Special Areas retain the values and qualities for which they were originally designated. Areas contribute to the diversity of the Forest by preserving rare species, communities, habitats, and features. These areas also provide opportunities for scientific research and public enjoyment.

Management Direction

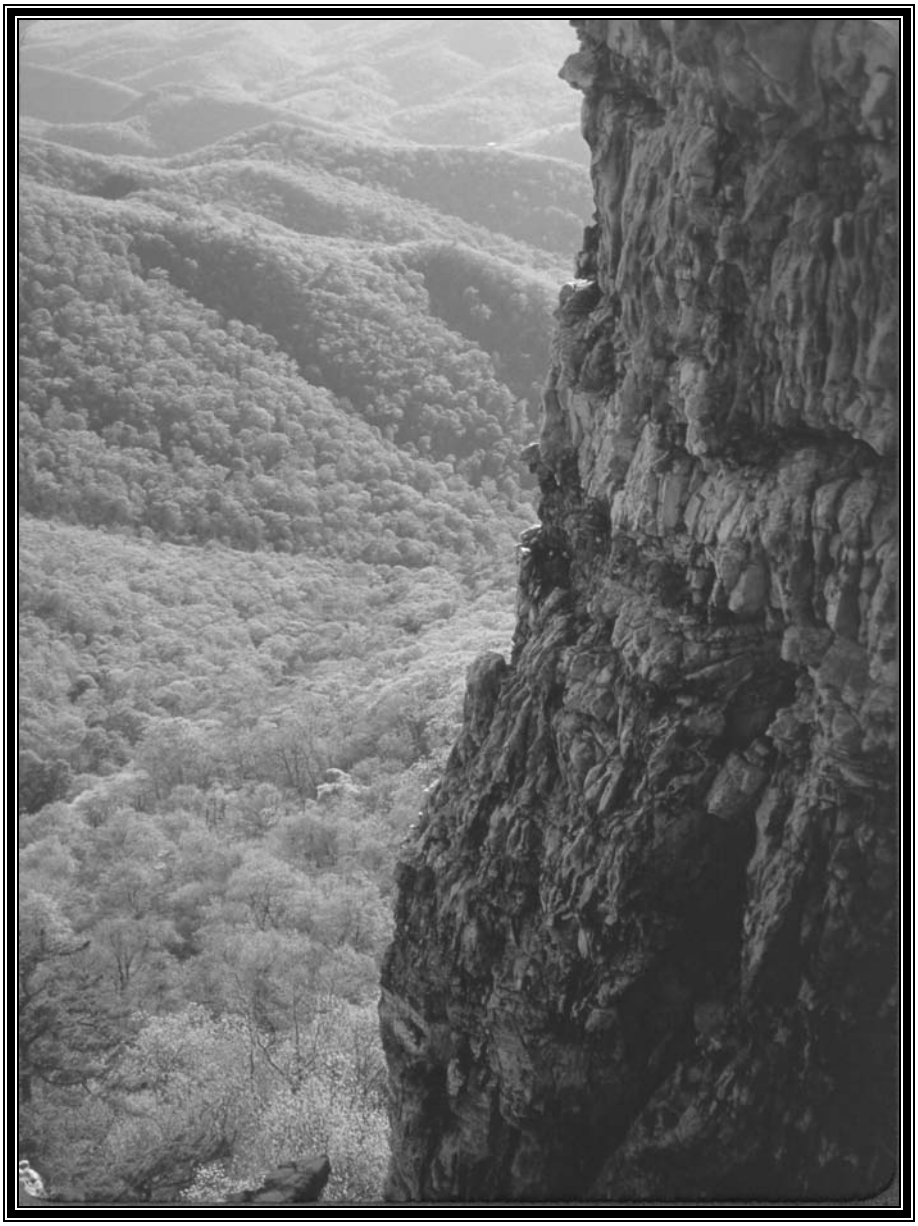
Management direction for special areas includes Forest-wide Management Direction, the General Management Direction in the table below, and the area-specific direction that follows this table.

General Management Direction for MP 8.0 - Special Areas		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
1900 - Vegetation		
Standard	8001	The purpose of any vegetation treatment must be to protect or enhance the special values of these sites or contribute to research programs. Any silvicultural practice may be used for these purposes.
Guideline	8002	The frequency of entry to a stand and the proportion of an area operated at one time should be based on the management emphasis and objectives of the specific area.
Guideline	8003	Age and size class desired conditions should be defined by the Vegetation Management Plan for the area, if applicable.
Guideline	8004	Vegetation management may occur as a component of actions needed to protect special areas and adjacent lands from fire, non-native invasive species, pest, or pathogen damage.
2200 – Range		
Standard	8005	Forage management shall not adversely affect the overall values and qualities for which the special area was established.
2310 – Recreation System Planning		
Guideline	8006	ROS classes should be consistent with the management emphasis and direction of each

General Management Direction for MP 8.0 - Special Areas		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
		special area.
2350 – Recreation: General Forest Areas		
Guideline	8007	Trails should be consistent with the special area management emphasis and direction.
2360 - Special Interest Areas		
Guideline	8008	Cultural resources interpretation should be consistent with the management emphasis and direction of each special area.
2380 – Scenery Management		
Guideline	8009	Scenic Integrity Objectives should be consistent with the management emphasis and direction of each special area.
2500 – Water and Soil		
Goal	8010	Maintain acidic conditions where they are essential to the ecosystem.
Standard	8011	Activities to rehabilitate human-caused erosion and sedimentation are allowed.
Standard	8012	Materials for erosion and sedimentation control shall be from on-site sources and be designed to blend in with the surrounding environment.
2600 – Wildlife Management		
Guideline	8013	Wildlife habitat management should be consistent with the management emphasis and direction of each special area.
2630 - Fish Habitat		
Standard	8014	Activities to improve fish habitat are allowed.
Standard	8015	Materials for fish habitat improvements shall be from on-site sources and be designed to blend in with the surrounding environment. Log structures shall be one log high. No concrete or gabions are allowed.
Standard	8016	No new recreational fishing impoundments are allowed.
Standard	8017	Limestone Rotary Drums are not allowed. Addition of limestone fines is allowed where consistent with the management emphasis of the area.
2700 – Special Uses		
Standard	8018	Special uses may be authorized as long as they do not adversely affect the overall values and qualities for which the special area was established.
2800 – Minerals		
Standard	8019	Surface-disturbing exploration (including core-drilling) and development are allowed as long as they do not adversely affect the overall values and qualities for which the special area was established.
5100 – Fire		
Guideline	8020	Prescribed fire may be used to establish, maintain, or restore vegetation.
5400 – Land Ownership		
Standard	8021	Lands in this prescription shall not be conveyed or exchanged unless: a) The transaction would be in the public's and agency's interest, and b) The land is not required to protect or maintain the values for which the area was created.
7100 - Transportation System Planning		
Goal	8022	Provide a transportation system that meets the needs of each special area on a case-by-case basis.
7730 – Transportation System Operation		
Guideline	8023	Roads may be closed to public use or restricted by vehicle type or season of use to mitigate impacts on values for which the special area was established.

Additional management direction for 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, and 8.6 areas is described below.

Because the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks NRA is managed under a separate law from the rest of the Forest, it has been given a separate Management Prescription section, complete with Management Emphasis, Area Description, Desired Conditions, and Management Direction.



From North Fork Mountain in the Spruce Knob – Seneca Rocks NRA

Management Prescription 8.1 - Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks NRA

This prescription applies to the entire National Recreation Area but provides for different types of management within the area. Whereas the 1986 Forest Plan had a number of different Management Prescriptions within the boundaries of the NRA, the 2006 Plan has only one prescription, and will manage different types of areas though application of the direction found below and descriptions associated with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) that the Forest uses to identify and track a variety of recreational opportunities and settings. For example, developed recreation areas—such as Seneca Rocks Discovery Center, Seneca Shadows Campground, Big Bend Campground, and the Spruce Knob Overlook—will be managed as Rural ROS settings. However, areas that had a 6.2 prescription in the 1986 Plan—Seneca Creek, North Fork Mountain, and Smoke Hole—will be managed as Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized ROS settings. Additional management direction has been provided to help clarify how that management will maintain the undeveloped character of these SPNM areas. Other areas within the NRA will be managed as Roaded Natural or Semi-Primitive Motorized settings, according to their current level of development and desired conditions.

Management Emphasis

This prescription emphasizes management of the Congressionally designated National Recreation Area (NRA) to provide:

Primary

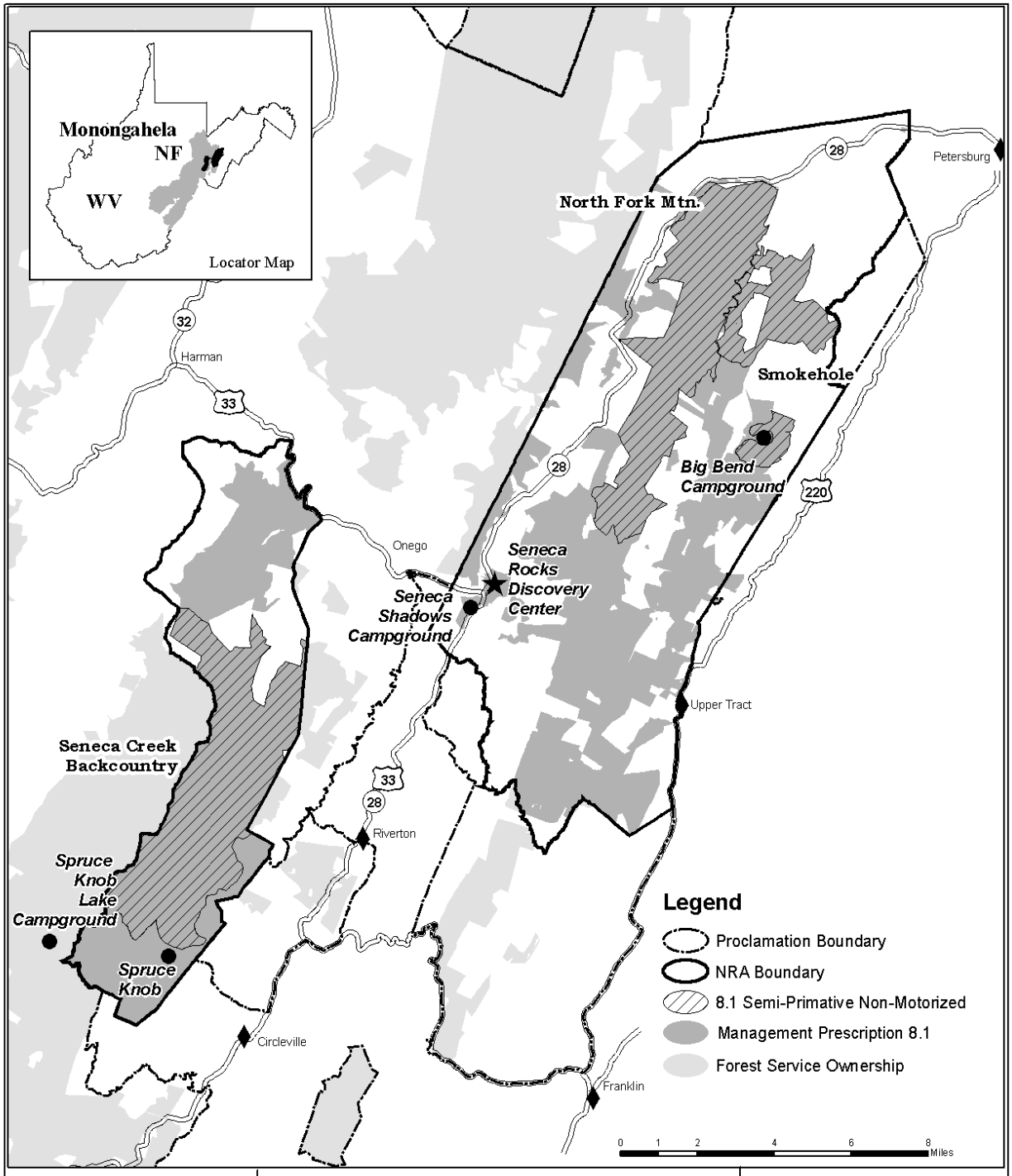
- Public outdoor recreation benefits.
- Conservation of scenic, scientific, historic and other values contributing to public enjoyment.
- A variety of recreation opportunities and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum settings, ranging from urban/rural to semi-primitive non-motorized.

Secondary

- Restoration of ecological communities and natural habitat structure.
- Wildlife habitat for a variety of species.

Area Description

The area is characterized by a mix of public and private lands. The public lands are managed to provide a variety of recreation opportunities and settings. Recreation opportunities range from a high degree of development (Seneca Rocks Discovery Center and Seneca Shadows Campground) to very low development in backcountry areas (North Fork Mountain, Smoke Hole, and Seneca Backcountry). The ROS settings also vary, from Rural at developed recreation settings to Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized in backcountry settings. The area provides a variety of trails and trail uses with opportunities for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Structures within the NRA vary significantly depending on the ROS setting.



MNF GIS
UTM, Zone 17,
NAD 83
06/29/06

Management Prescription 8.1

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N W E S

The 99,862-acre NRA is divided into two units. The Spruce Knob unit comprises 27,032 acres, including 5,821 acres of private and 21,211 acres of public land, and the Seneca Rocks unit, which is 72,830 acres in size, including 36,853 acres of private and 35,977 of National Forest System lands. The 57,188 acres of public land within the NRA is about 7 percent of the entire Monongahela National Forest. Elevations within the NRA range from about 1,000 feet near Petersburg to 4,861 feet at Spruce Knob.

The major forest communities and their current age classes are depicted in the table below. Openings presently account for about 5.4 percent of vegetation conditions on NFS lands.

Current Vegetation Conditions on NFS Lands in Management Prescription 8.1						
Forest Community	Percent of Community in Rx Area	Percent by Age Class for Each Community				
		Early Successional (0-19 years)	Early to Mid Successional (20-39 years)	Mid Successional (40-79 years)	Mid to Late Successional (80-120 years)	Late Successional (>120 years)
Conifer	3.2	0	4.9	52.3	38.8	4.0
Northern Hardwoods	4.3	2.7	0.7	39.2	57.4	0
Mixed Cove Hardwoods	33.2	9.7	2.2	53.8	31.7	2.6
Mixed Oak	44.9	5.5	2.2	32.1	50.4	9.8
Pine-Oak	8.8	2.2	5.2	31.5	49.8	11.3

Because this prescription area has a diversity of landforms and vegetation types, it provides a variety of habitat for wildlife, fish, and plant species. For these same reasons, a variety of rare flora and fauna, and non-native invasive species are also found within this prescription. There are 11 range allotments located in the area, comprising an estimated 1,400 acres.

At least half of the prescription area is considered to be in Fire Regime 1, Condition Class 3 or Fire Regime III, Condition Class 2. These areas represent the best opportunity to use prescribed fire to reduce fuels and restore natural habitat structure and stand density, species composition, and disturbance regimes.

The NRA provides a wide variety of access, ranging from federal highways to remote backcountry trails. There are an estimated 25 miles of Forest System Level 3, 4, and 5 roads in this prescription, creating an average open road density of 0.3 miles per square mile. There are also an estimated 66 miles of trail in this prescription.

An estimated 2% of the total prescription area has privately owned mineral rights. There are no gas wells and about 11 miles of gas pipeline in this prescription area. There are no other utility corridors in the area, and there are two communication or electronic sites.

There are an estimated 13 miles of currently listed 303(d) impaired stream, the South Branch Potomac River, in the area.

Portions of five eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, totaling 38.7 miles, occur within this prescription area. All segments are within the NRA, but not all of the Potomac River segments are on NFS lands. River miles, classification, and values are described in the table below.

Rivers are currently managed according to Wild and Scenic River Act guidance for their classification and to maintain outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status.

Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments in MP 8.1			
River Name	**Classification**	**Outstandingly Remarkable Values**	**Miles**
South Branch Potomac River	Recreational	Scenery, Recreation, geology, wildlife	13.2
South Branch Potomac River	Scenic	Scenery, Recreation, geology, wildlife	9.3
NF S. Branch Potomac River	Scenic	Scenery, Recreation	3.2
Seneca Creek	Recreational	Fisheries	5.0
Seneca Creek	Wild	Scenery, Recreation, Fisheries	8.0

Desired Conditions

People visiting the NRA within the National Forest can find outstanding opportunities for a variety of recreation opportunities, ranging from viewing scenery from major highways and viewing interpretive exhibits at the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center, to semi-primitive and unconfined recreation, including exploration, solitude, risk, and challenge in the backcountry areas. Moderate to Very High Scenic Quality is maintained based on the ROS classification on National Forest System lands within this management prescription.

The area provides a diversity of habitats for wildlife species, including remote habitat for species that are sensitive to disturbance. Age class distribution varies significantly from open areas to backcountry areas dominated by late successional stands that form gaps from natural disturbances as they grow older.

Management Direction for 8.1 – Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks NRA		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
1900 – Vegetation		
Standard	8101	No programmed commercial timber harvest shall occur. However, vegetation may be treated for the following reasons: a) To enhance recreation opportunities or settings, b) To maintain or enhance public safety, c) To help control insect or disease outbreaks, d) To salvage or restore areas damaged by natural phenomena such as insects, disease, wind or ice/snow storms, and fire, or e) To help restore or maintain natural habitat structure or declining ecological communities (e.g., oak, oak-pine, aspen)
Standard	8102	In areas managed as SPNM, no timber stand improvement is allowed.
Guideline	8103	In areas managed as SPNM, vegetation treatments should not detract from the overall undeveloped character of the area.
Guideline	8104	Planting native species for enhancement of visual quality or recreational settings may occur. Non-native grasses, shrubs and trees that are not considered invasive may be planted in developed recreation areas.
Guideline	8105	Openings may be maintained or developed to enhance scenery, recreational settings, and wildlife habitat.
2200 – Range		
Goal	8106	Design and implement forage management practices to be consistent with the desired ROS setting within the NRA.

Management Direction for 8.1 – Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks NRA		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Standard	8107	Range improvements are permitted on existing allotments to provide a viable grazing opportunity and to maintain the visual and recreation benefits of the openings.
Standard	8108	Encroaching woody vegetation and non-native invasive herbaceous species may be controlled as needed on existing allotments
2310 – Recreation System Planning		
Goal	8109	Develop a management plan for the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area. This document will provide the desired ROS zoning indicated throughout this management direction.
Standard	8110	Recreation planning shall be consistent with the desired Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) opportunities and settings.
2320 – Develop Recreation Sites in the Public Sector		
Goal	8111	Provide facilities and trails that are consistent with the desired ROS setting.
2350 – Recreation: General Forest Areas		
Goal	8112	Provide facilities and trails that are consistent with the desired ROS setting.
Guideline	8113	In areas managed for SPNM opportunities, recreation facilities should be relatively uncommon, and they should be designed to blend in with the natural environment.
Guideline	8114	Trail densities should not exceed 4 miles per square mile in Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, 6 miles per square mile in Roaded Natural, and no maximum limit within Rural ROS settings.
Guideline	8115	Appropriate uses in areas managed for SPNM opportunities may include, but are not limited to hiking, backpacking, camping, nature study, bicycling, mountain climbing, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, and cross-country skiing.
2380 – Scenery Management		
Goal	8116	Design management activities to blend with the natural character of the landscape.
Goal	8117	Manage the NRA to provide moderate to very high scenic integrity, consistent with the ROS setting.
2470 – Silvicultural Systems		
Goal	8118	Identify and evaluate opportunities to restore ecological communities and natural habitat structure.
Guideline	8119	Uneven-aged silviculture, thinning, and prescribed fire are the preferred methods for restoration of ecological communities and natural habitat structure in accessible stands.
2500 – Water and Soil		
Guideline	8120	Watershed improvement or restoration is permitted for the purpose of reducing soil erosion and improving surface and ground water quality.
Guideline	8121	Watershed improvement projects should be designed to blend in with the natural environment and be consistent with the desired ROS setting within the NRA.
2600 – Wildlife Management		
Goal	8122	Provide habitat for native or and desired non-native species. Manage wildlife openings and grasslands to enhance recreational opportunities, including wildlife viewing and hunting.
Guideline	8123	New openings should use native vegetation as prescribed in Guideline VE05.
2630 - Fish Habitat		
Standard	8124	Addition of limestone fines to improve water quality and fish habitat is allowed.
Standard	8125	In areas managed as SPNM, addition of limestone fines to improve water quality and fish habitat shall only be allowed where existing roads provide access, or through delivery by other feasible means consistent with the SPNM setting.
Guideline	8126	Fish management practices, such as fish stocking and stream habitat improvement or

Management Direction for 8.1 – Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks NRA		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
		protection should be consistent with the desired ROS setting within the NRA
Guideline	8127	Streamside shade planting should be designed to maintain or enhance stream temperature and provide habitat cover.
2700 – Special Uses		
Guideline	8128	Special use permitted activities, both recreation and non-recreation, should not alter or detract from the desired ROS settings within the NRA.
Guideline	8129	In areas managed as SPNM, non-recreation special use permits should not detract from the desired undeveloped character of the area. Recreation special use permits, including outfitter guide operations, should provide SPNM opportunities or at least be consistent with the ROS setting.
Guideline	8130	New utility corridors should not be permitted, except for the exercise of prior and/or private rights. Power and telephone lines should be placed underground whenever practical. They should always be placed underground in developed recreation areas.
2800 – Minerals		
Standard	8131	In areas managed as SPNM, federal oil and gas leases may only be issued if subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.
Guideline	8132	Extra restrictions, such as timing of operations, may be necessary in this prescription to protect the outstanding values and recreation opportunities of the NRA.
5100 – Fire		
Standard	8133	Wildfires shall typically be suppressed.
Guideline	8134	In areas managed as SPNM, motorized and mechanized equipment and vehicles may be used for suppression activities, but hand tools and low impact techniques are preferred.
Guideline	8135	Prescribed fire may be used to help restore or maintain fire-dependent ecosystems, wildlife openings, or range allotments.
5400 – Land Ownership		
Guideline	8136	Acquisition of lands and rights-of-way to enhance scenic quality, or to provide additional or expanded recreational opportunities or trail access should be given high priority.
7100 - Transportation System Planning		
Goal	8137	Manage authorized Forest roads to provide public access and to provide or enhance recreational opportunities consistent with the desired ROS setting within the NRA.
Goal	8138	In areas managed as SPNM, reduce existing roads through any one or combination of the following strategies: a) Decommission roads where they are no longer needed for management/access, b) Restore roads to productivity where needed, c) Convert roads to trails and/or linear wildlife openings, or d) Allow roads to return to productivity and natural appearance on their own.
Standard	8139	In areas managed as SPNM, no new roads shall be constructed except as required or allowed by statute, outstanding or reserved rights, or existing permits, leases, or contracts.
Standard	8140	In areas managed as SPNM, roads that are constructed for exceptions listed in Standard 8139 shall be built to the minimum standard needed to protect other resources and provide for user safety, and shall normally be decommissioned and rehabilitated at the end of operations or need.
Standard	8141	In areas managed as SPNM, Forest System roads shall be closed to public motorized use. Infrequent administrative use may occur, and motorized use by lessees, permittees, contactors, and cooperators may be authorized with appropriate controls and limitations.
Guideline	8142	In areas managed as SPNM, authorized roads may be maintained or reconstructed to provide for necessary administrative and authorized access.

Management Prescription 8.2 – National Natural Landmarks

The Falls of Hills Creek and Gaudineer NNLs are addressed under Management Prescription 8.3, as they are also Scenic Areas.

8.2 – Big Run Bog National Natural Landmark		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8201	Maintain and study the bog community.
Standard	8202	Do not sign area for public or identify area on maps intended for public distribution.
Standard	8203	No facilities shall be constructed within the bog to support recreation use.
Standard	8204	Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission.
Standard	8205	Vegetation manipulation, planting, or introduction of non-native invasive species shall not be allowed within the bog.
Standard	8206	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.
Standard	8207	Erosion control work in areas draining into the glades shall be done promptly, using methods that will produce quick and effective control.
Standard	8208	Use of limestone gravel shall be limited or prohibited where it could adversely affect the natural pH level of the bog.

8.2 – Shavers Mountain Spruce-Hemlock Stand National Natural Landmark		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8209	Maintain old growth/mature forest ecosystem.
Standard	8210	Timber harvest is prohibited, as much of this area is in the Otter Creek Wilderness.
Standard	8211	No new facilities or roads shall be constructed.
Standard	8212	Livestock grazing is not permitted.
Standard	8213	Public motorized use is prohibited.
Standard	8214	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.

8.2, 8.4 – Blister Run Swamp National Natural Landmark and Botanical Area		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8215	Maintain and study red spruce and balsam fir characteristics.
Standard	8216	Do not sign area for public or identify area on maps intended for public distribution.
Standard	8217	No facilities or roads shall be constructed. Existing facility or road maintenance is allowed.
Standard	8218	Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission.
Standard	8219	Silvicultural practices are allowed to maintain vegetation types.
Standard	8220	Use of limestone gravel shall be limited or prohibited where it could adversely affect the natural pH level of the swamp.
Standard	8221	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.

8.2, 8.4 – Cranberry Glades National Natural Landmark and Botanical Area		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8222	Protect the bog ecosystem, while providing recreation and interpretive uses of the area to a level consistent with its protection.
Standard	8223	Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission, with one exception. The gathering of cranberries for personal use is allowed from the boardwalk.
Standard	8224	Livestock grazing is prohibited.
Standard	8225	No campgrounds or picnic areas shall be constructed within ½ mile of the area.
Standard	8226	No impoundments shall be constructed upstream from the glades.
Standard	8227	Hazard or down trees near the boardwalk may be removed for trail maintenance and public safety purposes.
Standard	8228	No timber products, including firewood, shall be removed.
Standard	8229	No timber stand improvement or reforestation is allowed.
Standard	8230	No wildlife habitat management involving vegetation manipulation is allowed.
Standard	8231	Erosion control work in areas draining into the glades shall be done promptly, using methods that will produce quick and effective control.
Standard	8232	Use of limestone gravel shall be limited or prohibited where it could adversely affect the natural pH level of the glades.
Standard	8233	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.

8.2, 8.4 – Fisher Spring Bog National Natural Landmark and Botanical Area		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8234	Maintain the integrity of the bog and its associated flora and fauna.
Standard	8235	Do not sign area for public or identify area on maps intended for public distribution.
Standard	8236	No facilities or roads shall be constructed. Existing facility or road maintenance is allowed.
Standard	8237	Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission.
Standard	8238	Open campfires are prohibited.
Standard	8239	Mineral exploration and development are prohibited.

Management Prescription 8.3 – Scenic Areas

8.2, 8.3 – Falls of Hills Creek Scenic Area and National Natural Landmark		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8301	Emphasize recreational use of the area, while maintaining the high scenic quality.
Standard	8302	Livestock grazing is not permitted.
Standard	8303	Camping is prohibited within the area boundary. Picnicking and interpretation are allowed.
Standard	8304	Commercial timber harvest is prohibited except to address public safety concerns.
Standard	8305	Hazard trees may be removed, and vegetation may be cut to create or improve scenic overlooks.
Standard	8306	No timber stand improvement or reforestation is allowed.
Standard	8307	No wildlife openings shall be created or maintained.
Standard	8308	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.

8.2, 8.3 – Gaudineer National Natural Landmark and Scenic Area		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8309	Maintain virgin forest characteristics.
Standard	8310	Recreation development is limited to interpretation of the area's special characteristics.
Standard	8311	Trail maintenance shall conform to the level of public access and use. Favor native materials. Hazard trees or branches adjacent to or leaning over the trail may be removed.
Standard	8312	Public motorized use on trails is prohibited.
Standard	8313	No new facilities shall be constructed. Maintenance of existing facilities is allowed.
Standard	8314	No timber products, including firewood, shall be removed from the area.
Standard	8315	No timber stand improvement, intermediate harvests, or reforestation are allowed.
Standard	8316	Use of limestone gravel on the loop trail is prohibited to minimize potential effects to the plant communities in the area.
Standard	8317	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.
Standard	8318	Insect and disease control is not allowed except to protect adjacent land values or control non-native invasive pests.
Standard	8319	No wildlife openings shall be created or maintained.
Guideline	8320	Visitors should be made aware of the inherent danger in the area during high winds.

8.3 – Dolly Sods Scenic Area		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8321	Maintain the natural appearance, and the scenic, recreational, and botanical qualities of the area.
Standard	8322	Livestock grazing may only be permitted if there is no conflict with the scenic and botanical qualities of the area.
Standard	8323	Structural and non-structural range improvements are prohibited.
Standard	8324	Camping is prohibited within 300 feet of Forest Road 75.
Standard	8325	No commercially owned facilities are allowed.
Standard	8326	Public motorized transport and equipment is restricted to Forest maintained roads.
Standard	8327	Open campfires are prohibited.
Standard	8328	Pack and saddle stock may only be used on trails and areas maintained for this use.
Standard	8329	Green commercial timber sales are prohibited.
Standard	8330	Timber cutting, pesticides, or prescribed fire are allowed if used to improve scenic or botanical qualities, or for safety reasons, salvage, or insect and disease control.
Standard	8331	Personal use firewood collecting is prohibited.
Standard	8332	Use of limestone gravel shall be limited or prohibited where it could adversely affect the natural pH level of bogs or other rare communities within the area.
Standard	8333	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.
Standard	8334	No new wildlife openings, impoundments, or water holes shall be constructed.
Standard	8335	Commercial special uses that require the construction of permanent structures are not allowed.
Standard	8336	Existing roads within the area shall be maintained or improved, but no new roads shall be built for Forest management.

Management Prescription 8.4 – Botanical and Geological Areas

The Blister Run Swamp, Cranberry Glades, and Fisher Spring Run Bog Botanical Areas are addressed under Management Prescription 8.2, as they are also National Natural Landmarks.

8.4 – Botanical Areas: Bear Rocks Bog, Bickle Slope, Big Draft, Glade Run Swamp, Meadow Creek, Mt. Porte Crayon, Rohrbaugh Plains Bog, Stuart Knob, and Whites Draft		
Type	**No.**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8401	Maintain rare plant communities for which the areas were established.
Standard	8402	Commercial timber harvest is prohibited except to address public safety concerns or to protect the special characteristics of the area.
Standard	8403	Do not sign area for public or identify area on maps intended for public distribution.
Standard	8404	No facilities or roads shall be constructed.
Standard	8405	Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission.
Standard	8406	Use of limestone gravel shall be limited or prohibited where it could adversely affect the natural pH level of bogs within the areas.
Standard	8407	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in these prescription areas, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy. The exception is Rohrbaugh Plains Bog in the Dolly Sods Wilderness, where mineral exploration and development is prohibited.
Standard	8408	Motorized travel is prohibited except as authorized by the District Ranger for outstanding rights, health or safety emergencies, or management of natural resources.

8.4 – Black Mountain Botanical Area		
Type	**No.**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8409	Maintain stands of Black Mountain purple rhododendron. Treat overstories to perpetuate purple rhododendron and blossom production along Forest Road 76.
Standard	8410	Do not sign area for public or identify area on maps intended for public distribution.
Standard	8411	No new facilities shall be constructed. Maintenance of existing facilities is allowed.
Standard	8412	Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission.
Standard	8413	Motorized travel is prohibited except as authorized by the District Ranger for outstanding rights, health or safety emergencies, or management of natural resources.
Standard	8414	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.

8.4 – Fannie Bennett Hemlock Grove Botanical Area		
Type	**No.**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8415	Emphasize the preservation of virgin forest.
Standard	8416	No facilities or roads shall be constructed. Existing facility or road maintenance is allowed.
Standard	8417	Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission.
Standard	8418	Commercial timber harvest is prohibited except to address public safety concerns.
Standard	8419	Commercial special uses that require a permanent facility shall not be permitted.
Standard	8420	Motorized travel is prohibited except as authorized by the District Ranger for outstanding rights, health or safety emergencies, or management of natural resources.
Standard	8421	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.

8.4 – North Fork Mountain Red Pine Botanical Area		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8422	Emphasize the preservation of virgin forest.
Standard	8423	No facilities or roads shall be constructed. Existing facility or road maintenance is allowed.
Standard	8424	Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission.
Standard	8425	Commercial timber harvest is prohibited except to address public safety concerns or to help maintain the special characteristics of the area.
Standard	8426	Commercial special uses that require a permanent facility shall not be permitted.
Standard	8427	Motorized travel is prohibited except as authorized by the District Ranger for outstanding rights, health or safety emergencies, or management of natural resources.
Standard	8428	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.

8.4 – Max Rothkugel Plantation		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8429	Emphasize plantation development and protection. a) Release, thin, and display planted trees. b) Study and promote the regeneration of Norway spruce and European larch. c) Use Integrated Pest Management methods to minimize development of pest problems.
Standard	8430	Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission.
Standard	8431	Recreational development shall be limited to interpretive opportunities related to the area's unique characteristics. A small parking area near US Highway 250 may be provided.
Standard	8432	Trail construction and maintenance shall conform with the level of interpretive opportunities offered to facilitate public access and use. Favor the use of native materials. Obvious hazards, such as dead trees or branches near or over the trail, may be removed.
Standard	8433	Rotation age shall be defined by the age of physiological decline.
Standard	8434	Timber products, except firewood, may be removed by commercial sales.
Standard	8435	Activity fuels may be removed or treated by any means other than burning.
Standard	8436	In and around the developed site, vegetation management shall normally occur between November 1 and May 1.
Standard	8437	All fires within the area shall be suppressed.
Standard	8438	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.

8.4 – Virgin White Pine Botanical Area		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8439	Emphasize the preservation of virgin forest.
Standard	8440	Do not sign area for public or identify area on maps intended for public distribution.
Standard	8441	No facilities or roads shall be constructed. Existing facility or road maintenance is allowed.
Standard	8442	Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission.
Standard	8443	Commercial timber harvest is prohibited except to address public safety concerns.
Standard	8444	Firewood collecting and sales are prohibited.
Standard	8445	Hazard trees adjacent to and posing a threat to traffic on Forest Road 96 may be removed.
Standard	8446	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.

8.4 – Blue Rock Geological Area		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8447	Maintain the geological feature and associated resources for which the area was established.
Standard	8448	Commercial timber harvest is prohibited except to address public safety concerns.
Standard	8449	No new facilities or roads shall be constructed.
Standard	8450	Motorized travel is prohibited except as authorized by the District Ranger for outstanding rights, health or safety emergencies, or management of natural resources.
Standard	8451	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.

Management Prescription 8.5 – Research Areas

8.5 – Black Cherry, Red Spruce, and Yellow Poplar Candidate Research Natural Areas		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8501	Maintain designated cover types for research purposes.
Standard	8502	Commercial timber harvest is prohibited except to address public safety concerns.
Standard	8503	Do not sign area for public or identify area on maps intended for public distribution.
Standard	8504	No facilities or roads shall be constructed.
Standard	8505	Livestock grazing is not permitted.
Standard	8506	Public motorized use is prohibited.
Standard	8507	Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission.
Standard	8508	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.

8.5 – Pike Knob Candidate Research Natural Area		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8509	Maintain existing cover types for research purposes.
Goal	8510	Cooperate with adjacent landowner on management of red pine and other rare plants.
Standard	8511	Commercial timber harvest is prohibited except to address public safety concerns, to conduct research, or to maintain the values for which the area was created.
Standard	8512	No facilities or roads shall be constructed.
Standard	8513	Livestock grazing is not permitted.
Standard	8514	Public motorized use is prohibited.
Standard	8515	Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission.
Standard	8516	Federal oil and gas leases may be issued in the prescription area, but shall be subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.
Standard	8517	Commercial special uses that require a permanent facility shall not be permitted.
Standard	8518	Prescribed fire may be used to maintain the existing forest or as part of research efforts conducted in the area.

Because the Fernow Experimental Forest is managed under a separate mandate, different than the rest of the Forest, it has been given a separate Management Prescription section, complete with Management Emphasis, Area Description, Desired Conditions, and Management Direction.

Management Prescription 8.5 – Fernow Experimental Forest

Management Emphasis

This prescription emphasizes management of the Fernow Experimental Forest for research activities. The Fernow was formally mandated in 1934 to be made "permanently available for forest research and the demonstration of its results". The land management goal is to facilitate scientific research of central Appalachian forest ecosystems in order to improve their management. Therefore, maintaining the ability to conduct manipulative research is a primary objective on the Fernow Experimental Forest.

Area Description

The 4,600-acre Fernow Experimental Forest is located south of Parsons, West Virginia, and is administered by the staff of RWU-NE-4353, Sustaining the Diversity and Productivity of Appalachian Forests, of the Northeastern Research Station. The Fernow encompasses most of the Elklick Run drainage basin and the Stonelick Run drainage basin. The Fernow is well-roaded, but basically undeveloped, with no access to electrical power. An estimated 58% of the Fernow area has privately owned mineral rights. The area includes Big Springs Cave, a winter hibernacula for Indiana bats, and throughout the forest, many populations of running buffalo clover. Both are federally endangered species.

The ecological land type of the Fernow Experimental Forest is referred to as the Allegheny Mountains Section of the Central Appalachian Broadleaf Forest (M221B) in the Forest Service National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units. The landtype association is designated as Allegheny Front Side Slopes (Ba10) and vegetation is classified as mixed mesophytic. Elevations range from 1750 to 3650 feet above sea level, and slopes ranging from 20 to 50 percent cover most of the area. There are no current or planned range allotments within the area.

The Loop Road Research Area is also assigned to this Management Prescription; however it is not within the boundary of the Fernow Experimental Forest. This 800-acre area on the Greenbrier Ranger District on Middle Mountain is managed by the Experimental Forest staff for conducting research studies related to the management of Appalachian timber types, specifically growth and yield studies of managed and unmanaged stands.

Desired Conditions

The Fernow Experimental Forest supports an active research program that includes both long-term and short-term experiments, and research that is manipulative as well as observational in nature. The research program addresses research needs of a wide variety of clients. Ongoing, long-term research is continued and opportunities for new research are available.

Management Direction

Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines are generally applicable to the Fernow, except where they conflict with research activities, or as described below.

Management Direction for 8.5 – Fernow Experimental Forest		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
1900 - Vegetation		
Goal	8519	Manage vegetation in conjunction with ongoing and proposed research studies, while providing habitat for populations of non-game, game and threatened, endangered and sensitive species.
Guideline	8520	Silvicultural treatments, including fire, harvesting and herbicides, may be utilized in designed research studies.
Guideline	8521	Monitor and maintain populations of endangered and sensitive plants.
2310 – Recreation System Planning		
Goal	8522	Protect the integrity of research studies from uncontrolled recreational disturbance by limiting recreational use.
2350 - General Forest Environment Areas		
Standard	8523	No overnight camping or campfires are permitted on the Fernow Experimental Forest.
Standard	8524	Only ORV use approved for administrative purposes is allowed; no recreational ORV use is allowed.
2500 – Water and Soil		
Goal	8525	Maintain the integrity of water and soil resources during research manipulations.
Guideline	8526	Use West Virginia's Best Management Practices for providing streamside zone protection, including erosion and sedimentation control.
2600 – Wildlife Management		
Goal	8527	Provide habitat for game and non-game species.
Guideline	8528	Monitor and maintain habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife species.
2800 – Minerals		
Standard	8529	Federal oil and gas leases may only be issued if subject to a stipulation that prohibits surface occupancy.
Standard	8530	Federal coal may only be leased in those cases where it would be extracted in conjunction with adjacent private mineral development.
Guideline	8531	Extra restrictions, such as timing of operations, may be necessary in this prescription to protect ongoing research projects.
5100 – Fire		
Standard	8532	Wildfires shall typically be suppressed. Any suppression techniques, including the use of motorized and mechanical equipment, may be used.
Standard	8533	Prescribed natural fire shall not occur without an approved plan.
Guideline	8534	Prescribed fire may be used as part of ongoing research projects.
7100 - Transportation System Planning		
Standard	8535	Roads that are constructed for outstanding rights or the development of approved oil and gas and other federal mineral operations shall be built to the minimum standard needed to protect other resources, and will normally be decommissioned and rehabilitated at the conclusion of operations.

Management Prescription 8.6 – Grouse Management Areas

8.6 – Spruce Mountain and Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Areas		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Goal	8601	Emphasize the creation and maintenance of ruffed grouse habitat. Coordinate vegetation management with the habitat needs of species requiring relatively high degrees of diversity.
Standard	8602	Rotation ages may be reduced to achieve a cutting pattern desirable for habitat diversity.
Standard	8603	Consult with WVDNR biologists in the planning of project activities for this area.
Standard	8604	Construction, drilling, and development under federal gas or oil leases is not allowed during grouse hunting season.
Guideline	8605	Public motorized use should be restricted to reduce grouse disturbance and vulnerability. Work with WVDNR to provide sufficient motorized access for adequate hunter distribution during the grouse hunting season. Unlimited motorized access should be avoided.
Guideline	8606	Opening size and spacing limitations may be varied in order to increase edge effect and provide habitat diversity. Linear openings and forest clearings may be developed to provide brood habitat.
Guideline	8607	Favor non-invasive legumes when developing new wildlife openings.
Guideline	8608	Prescribed fire should be used as a tool to delay succession where possible, especially in pine-oak stands.
Guideline	8609	At least 3 drumming logs should be left per acre in regeneration areas.
Guideline	8610	Grapevine and greenbrier vines should be retained along road edges and in regeneration areas.