

FRANCIS MARION NATIONAL FOREST FOREST PLAN REVISION-ECOSYSTEMS & RESTORATION NEEDS

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The Forest Service is currently revising the previous 1995 Forest Plan for the Francis Marion National Forest in Coastal South Carolina developed in the wake of Hurricane Hugo which devastated the forest in 1989. Since 1995, the human communities surrounding the Francis Marion National Forest have grown and changed significantly. The revised Francis Marion Forest Plan is being developed under the 2012 Forest Planning Rule. More information concerning the Francis Marion National Forest Plan Revision can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/scnfs/landmanagement/planning>.

The 2012 Forest Planning Rule adopts a complementary coarse filter “ecosystem” and fine-filter “species” approach to ensure the long-term persistence of native species. The coarse-filter, “ecosystem” approach assures biological diversity. “Ecosystem” forest plan components provide direction to maintain conditions needed for most plant and animal species. As needed, fine-filter “species” direction contributes to the recovery of threatened and endangered species, conserves proposed and candidate species, and maintains a viable population of each species of conservation concern— all collectively referred to as: “At Risk Species”. The Forest Plan addresses desired conditions on a forest-wide scale (that is, the desired conditions are applicable across the landscape of the Francis Marion National Forest). Many of the desired conditions are ecosystem based and integrate resource management objectives and resource values. However, where appropriate, conditions are described in relation to specific geographic areas to allow focus on unique or localized circumstances. This presentation will discuss how the 26 subwatersheds (6th level Hydrological Unit Code) on the Francis Marion National Forest will be addressed, along with how they correlate with the coarse and fine filter approaches. Currently, three sub-watersheds including Turkey Creek have been identified as a priority for restoration on the Francis Marion National Forest.

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