

Objectives

How they came to be, feedback on the initial set,
and what's in store

Topics

- Objectives – What are they
- How were they developed (with examples)
- Feedback we received
- Next steps

Reminder: What are forest plan objectives?

What they are:

- Time-specific measurable actions to move toward Desired Conditions.
- Priorities over the next 10 to 15 years
- Based on “reasonably foreseeable budgets” (2012 Planning Rule)
- Closely linked to plan monitoring
- Some will differ by alternative

What they are *not*:

- Not targets (including them in the plan doesn't mean they come with funding)
- Not every activity we expect to do
- Not a limit on planned activities

How will objectives be displayed in the plan?

- They will be restored to the resource sections where they apply.

So, for any given resource, the headings will look like

Forest Health

Background

Desired Conditions

Objectives

Standards

Guidelines

Management Approaches

- Rationale won't be included in the body of the plan. (Maybe an appendix?)

How were they determined?



Appendix A: Criteria used to develop objectives



- Steering Team (Mtn Rangers, Staff Officers & Exec) & the FPR ID Team
- Criteria shown in Appendix A
- Input included:
 - Forest Plan Assessment Findings
 - Need for Change
 - Recent trends
 - Past experiences
 - Anticipated staffing levels, and anticipated budgets

Organization of what we shared

- Organized by 3 themes
- Within each theme:
 - Over the Life of the Plan
 - Annually
- Within “Enhancing & Restoring Resiliency,” there is one more breakdown:
 - Coarse Filter (Over the Life of the Plan, then Annually)
 - Fine Filter (Over the Life of the Plan, then Annually)

Rationale provided for each one
Appendix A criteria also provided

Let's review the rationale of a
couple examples

With some help from the IDT...

Who provided feedback on objectives?

- Stakeholder Forum discussion at July Lake Logan meeting
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Council
- NC Dept. of Agriculture
- (coming soon) NC Wildlife Federation + The Nature Conservancy

Feedback topics (1/2)

- Reorganize the “enhancing and restoring resiliency objectives” to reduce double counting and ensure accurate accounting
- More aggressive and deliberate objectives; use targets with higher maxima or higher single number
- Objectives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 16, 17 are too small in relation to need (different objectives by different commenters)
- Missed the importance of wildlife on NFS lands
- Separate objective about wildlife monitoring desired
- Need to be clearer about tool of timber harvesting and jobs it creates

Feedback topics (2/2)

- Objective on elk is too small and should be combined with other objectives
- Objectives should call for daylighting of forest gated roads to provide ESH on each side
- Fire acres that are maintained or restored should be counted separately
- Objective 21 should mention salamanders
- Objective 27 should be reworked to include gated roads
- New objectives: access to forest land; providing jobs to local economies; need to cite timber economies
- Appreciate objectives on environmental education, cultural resources and Trail of Tears

Suggestion we received: Be place based

- Input: If FS could provide objectives for “regions” of the forest with specifics for timber harvest, forest health, stream restoration, and wilderness recommendation together, this might help reduce polarization
- *Hold that thought....*

Suggestion we received: Tiered objectives

- Two examples of a tiered objective:
 - Due to the ecological importance of this system, if additional resources become available the agency will increase treatment in this ecozone by XXXX acres, annually (or over the life of the plan).

OR

- Prescribed Fire above base level: Within 3 years of plan approval, the agency will increase the amount of prescribed fire by XX,XXX acres per year for a range of XX,XXX to XX,XXX acres per year of prescribed fire.

Next Steps

- We want to converge the discussion to prepare our EIS modeling & analysis
- We will take this input and modify the plan components (objectives, management approaches, monitoring, etc)

2 questions for you:

1. How might these objectives change in an alternative where we have a (*realistic level of*) additional resources?
2. Besides what you have shared already, what did you miss or not frame well? What did we miss or not frame well?