



Sustainable Recreation

# Sustainable Recreation

An enjoyable way to be healthy, spiritual, and contribute to economic development while conserving resources for future generations.



# Sustainable Recreation

## Forest Planning Rule

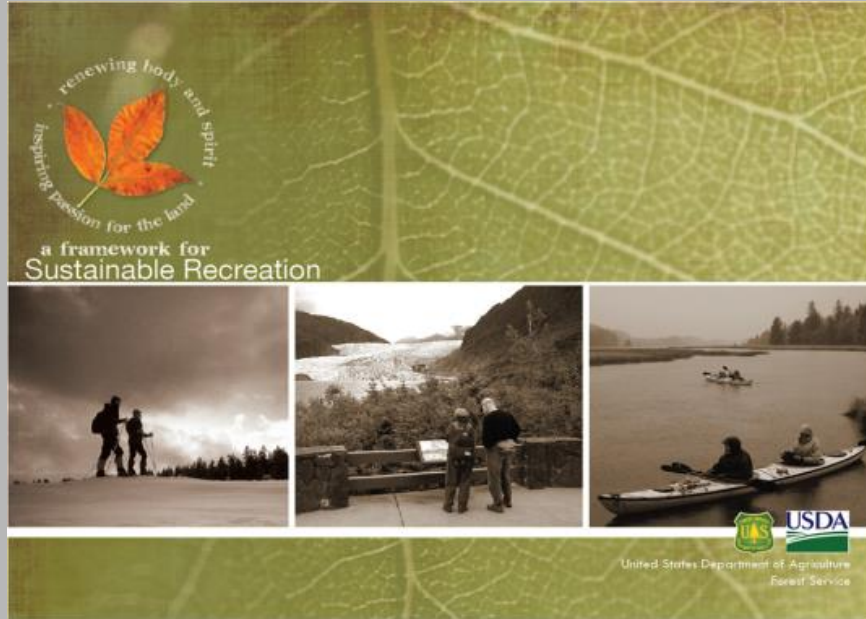
Requirements for plan components for a new plan or plan revision.

(1) The plan must include plan components, including standards or guidelines, to provide for:

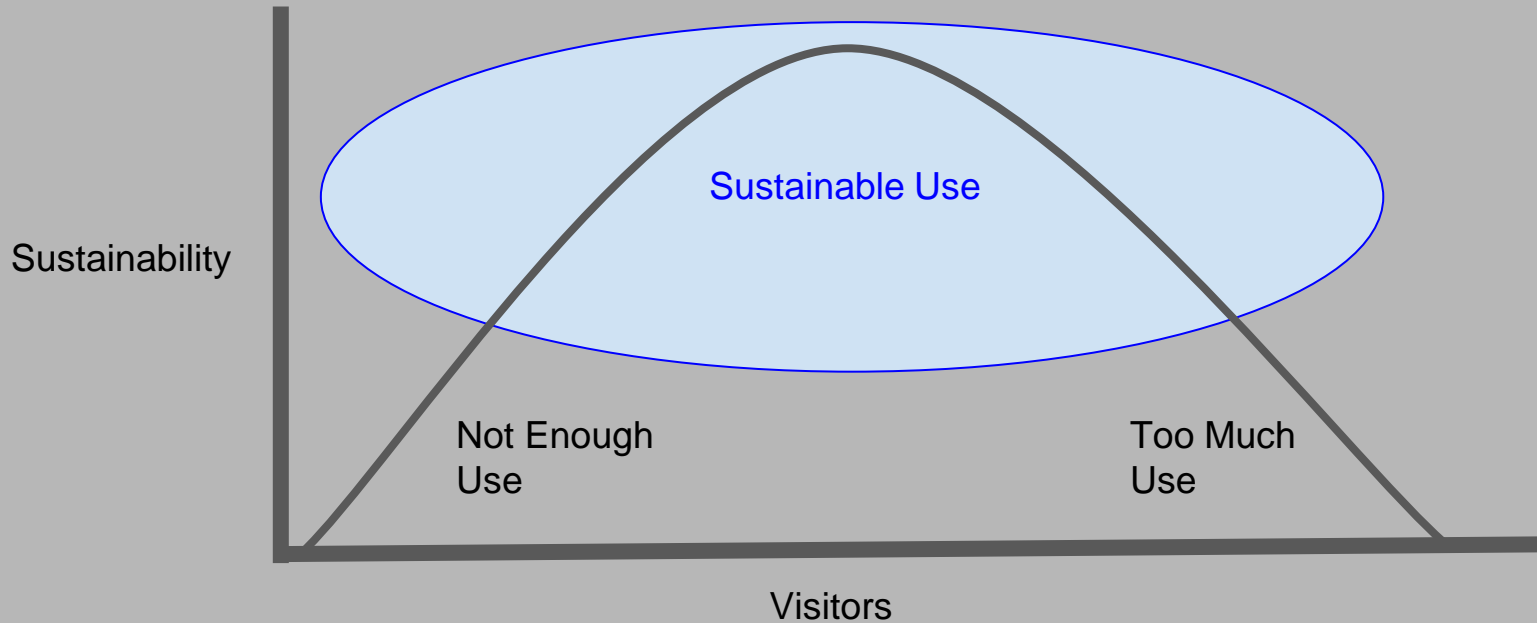
(i) Sustainable recreation; including recreation settings, opportunities, and access; and scenic character. Recreation opportunities may include non- motorized, motorized, developed, and dispersed recreation on land, water, and in the air.

# Core Principles

- Connect people with their natural and cultural heritage.
- Promote healthy lifestyles.
- Recognize interconnections of sustainability.
- Cultivate community engagement.
- Manage national Forest and grasslands as part of the larger landscape.
- Integrate recreation more deeply into the Forest Service Mission.



# Sustainable Recreation



## In North Carolina

OUTDOOR RECREATION  
GENERATES...

**\$19.2** **192K**

BILLION  
in consumer  
spending

direct  
North Carolina  
jobs<sup>2</sup>

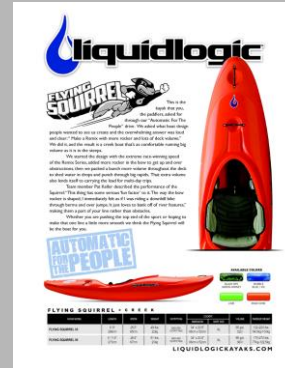
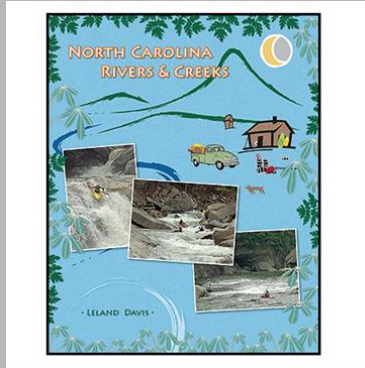
**\$5.6** **\$1.3**

BILLION  
in wages  
and salaries

BILLION  
in state and local  
tax revenue

# Sustainable Recreation

## Economic and Social Context



Spending by  
recreation visitors  
within 50 miles of  
USFS Lands: \$13  
Billion and  
224,000 jobs.

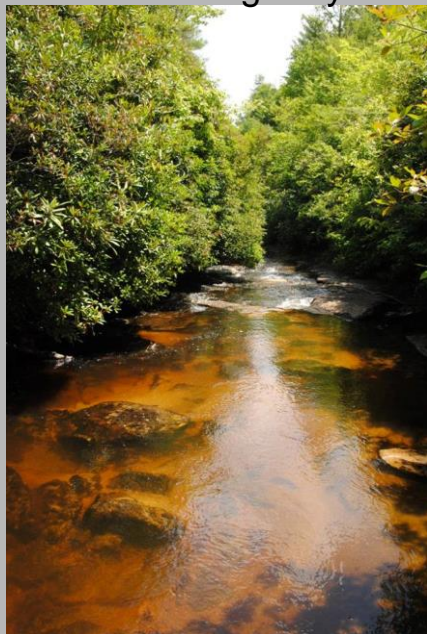


# Paddler's Hopes for the New Plan

Protect water quality, scenery, native biodiversity, and access that make paddling great



Protect additional streams from dams and other impacts through designated areas like Wild and Scenic eligibility.



Lift seasonal, flow, and geographic paddling bans in the Chattooga River watershed. Return to normal management.



Ensure that plan components value and provide for sustainable human powered outdoor recreation.



# Mountain Bikers' Hopes for the New Plan

Diversity of  
Experience

Alternatives to  
Wilderness, input on  
area selection



Greater emphasis on  
recreation, more  
biking trails

Better trail maintenance, coordination of  
volunteers.



# Equestrian hopes for the New Plan

Promoting shared trails.



Addressing access issues

Coordinating  
Volunteers & their  
training



# Climbing - Hopes for the New Plan

Greater focus on recreation management in forest plan; preserve access to existing climbing resources.



Continued partnership and balanced management for protection of wildlife/ natural resources and climbing access.



Clear policy that allows use and replacement of fixed safety anchors.



Better stewardship and maintenance of access trails and climbing area infrastructure.

# Hikers would like to see the Plan include:



- Greater protection of the natural environment on lands that trails pass through
- Greater protection of the MST and Art Loeb Trail and their viewsheds
- More responsibility by the FS for assuring that trail users do not jeopardize the safety of other trail users
- More connector, loop and long distance trails through varied environments, and to points of interest.
- More Designated Wilderness.



# Anglers Would Like To See In The Plan

. That waters on the forest be managed for the perpetuation of native fishes and their associated biological communities. That this list of species include rainbow and brown trout due to their importance to a diverse trout angling experience..



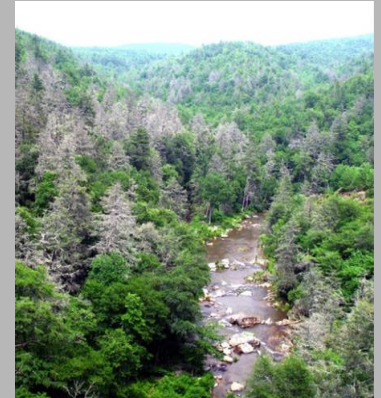
Develop land management strategies that maintain siltation levels approximating those found in forest areas without timber harvest, roads or trails. .



Adequate stream buffers  
Properly designed stream culverts (new and old) to insure aquatic connectivity for fish and invertebrate movement unless those culverts serve as barriers to protect brook trout



A comprehensive strategy to deal with known pests, pathogens and invasive species and protection and conservation of hemlock stands in riparian zones.

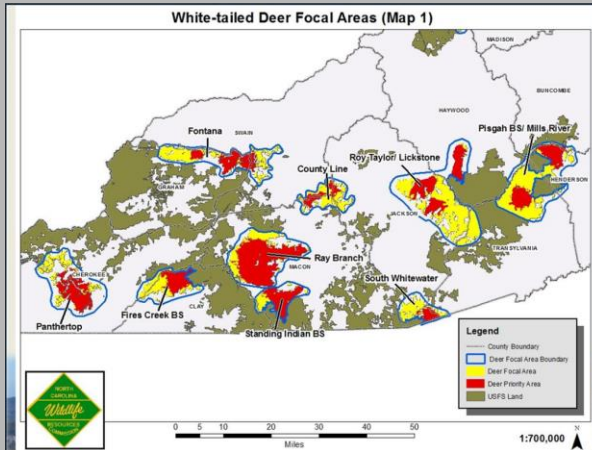


# What Hunters Would Like To See In the Plan

Address the lack of young forest across the landscape (currently 0.6% in 0-10 age class). More young forest should be created at various elevations and in various ecotypes, as is needed to address the needs of a variety of wildlife.



USFS Management Areas are compatible with habitat management focal areas developed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.



Explicit language regarding the use of prescribed fire as part of an integrated management approach within all areas of the Forests, including Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Special Interest Areas, and any areas that are proposed by USFS for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.



# What Wildlife Observers Would Like To See In the Plan

- Address the lack of Young Forests (currently <1% of NPNF) and Grass/Forb Wildlife Openings.
- Maintain old growth forest .
- Manage for diversity, health and abundance of wildlife, including insects and pollinators.

Utilization of timber harvest, prescribed fire, non-commercial treatments and other forestry and restoration methods to create and enhance wildlife habitat.

Create wildlife and bird viewing areas and trails in and near wildlife habitat improvements. Enhance the viewer's experience.

Educate the public on the importance of managing the forest for a range of wildlife species, using both active management and preservation.



# Common Interests Among Groups

Greater emphasis on recreation experiences

Better trail system (net gain of sustainable trails)

Improved trail maintenance

Safety managed professionally by the FS

Improved signage, communication and education

Protect & enhance natural resources

Improve wildlife habitat

# User Council

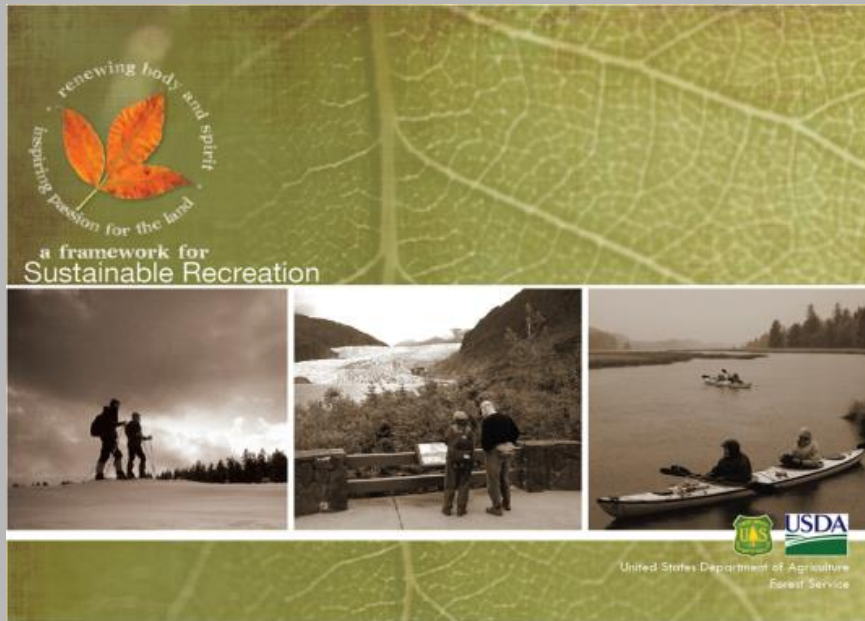
Facilitate coordination and training of trail volunteers

Educate forest users and interpret forest management practices

Proactively resolve user conflicts



# USFS Sustainable Recreation Framework



1. Restore and Adapt Settings
2. Implement Green Operations
3. Enhance Communities
4. Invest in Special Places
5. Forge Strategic Partnerships
6. Promote Citizen Stewardship
7. Know our Visitors, Community Stakeholders and Other Recreation Providers
8. Provide the Right Information
9. Develop a Sustainable Financial Foundation
10. Develop Our Workforce