§ 219.7 Plan decisions.

Plan decisions guide or limit uses of National Forest System resources and provide the basis for future agency action. Plan decisions link the requirements of laws, regulations, Executive Orders, policies, and the Forest Service national strategic plan to specific national forests and grasslands. While plan decisions generally do not commit resources to a site-specific action, plan decisions provide a framework for authorizing site-specific actions that may commit resources. In making decisions, the responsible official should seek to manage National Forest System resources in a combination that best serves the public interest without impairment of the productivity of the land consistent with the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960. Plan decisions may apply to all or part of a plan area. Paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section describe the decisions in a plan.

(a) **Desired resource conditions.** These plan decisions define the resource conditions sought within all or portions of the plan area. Desired resource conditions may include, but are not limited to, the desired watershed and ecological conditions and aquatic and terrestrial habitat characteristics.

(b) **Objectives.** These plan decisions are concise statements describing measurable results intended to contribute to sustainability (§219.19), including a desired level of uses, values, products, and services, assuming current or likely budgets and considering other spending levels as appropriate.
§ 219.8 Amendment.

(a) Amending plans. A plan amendment may add, modify, or rescind one or more of the decisions of a plan (§219.7). An amendment decision must be based on the identification and consideration of issues (§219.4), applicable information (§219.5), and an analysis of the effects of the proposed amendment (§219.6). In developing an amendment, the responsible official must provide opportunities for collaboration consistent with §219.12 through §219.18.

(b) Environmental review of a proposed plan amendment. For each proposal for a plan amendment, the responsible official must complete appropriate environmental analyses and public involvement in accordance with Forest Service NEPA procedures. A proposed amendment that may create a significant environmental effect and thus require preparation of an environmental impact statement is considered to be a significant change in the plan. If a proposal for amendment requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement, the responsible official must give public notice and an opportunity to comment on the draft environmental impact statement for at least 90 calendar days.

§ 219.9 Revision.

(a) Application of the revision process. Revision of a plan is required by 16 U.S.C. 1604(c)(5). The revision process is a review of the overall management of a unit of the National Forest System and an opportunity to consider the likely results if plan decisions were to remain in effect.

(b) Initiating revision. To begin the revision process, the responsible official must:

(1) Provide opportunities for collaboration consistent with §219.12 through §219.18;

(2) Summarize those issues the responsible official determines to be appropriate for consideration (§219.4), any relevant inventories, new data, findings and conclusions from appropriate broad-scale assessments and local analyses, monitoring and evaluation results, new or revised Forest Service policies, relevant portions of the Forest Service national strategic plan, and changes in circumstances affecting the entire or significant portions of the plan area;

(3) Develop the information and complete the analyses described in §§219.20(a) and §219.21(a) and (b), and provide for an independent scientific peer review (§219.22) of the evaluation;

(4) Evaluate the effectiveness of the current plan in contributing to sustainability (Secs. 219.19–219.21) based on the information, analyses, and requirements described in §§219.20(a) and (b) and §219.21(a) and (b), and provide for an independent scientific peer review (§219.22) of the evaluation;

(5) Identify new proposals for special areas, special designation, or recommendation as wilderness (§219.27);

(6) Identify specific watersheds in need of protective or restoration measures;

(7) Identify lands classified as not suitable for timber production (§219.28);

(8) Identify and evaluate inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas.