

Francis Marion Forest Plan Revision

*Together, Shaping the Future of the
Francis Marion National Forest*



Visit
www.fs.usda.gov/scnfs
and click
Francis Marion Plan
Revision
to view information on
the plan revision
process.

The Draft Record of
Decision, Revised Plan
and FEIS will be posted
on this website
the week of August
22nd.

[View photos from
recent public meetings](#)

Dear Planning Partner,

After four-years of a public collaborative process, we are releasing the draft Record of Decision, Francis Marion Revised Plan and the associated Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) next week. These documents will be posted on the Francis Marion Forest Plan Revision website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/scnfs/fmplan> early next week. Printed and electronic copies of these documents are available upon request by calling 803-561-4000.

Last summer, the Francis Marion released a draft plan and associated draft environmental impact statement that went out for a 90-day public comment period that officially began on August 14, 2015 with the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Over the last year, we have carefully considered your comments and modified the plan and associated environmental impact statement.

Changes to the revised plan include, but are not limited to:

- Extensive reformatting to improve readability and remove duplication;
- Clarifying the integration of ecosystems, management areas and resource integration zones in the introduction of chapter 2; and
- Adding standards and guidelines to maintain and restore habitat for "at risk species," preserve water quality and quantity, conserve riparian management zones and limit the spread of non-native invasive species in chapter 4.

The Responsible Official for the Francis Marion Revised Plan is the Forest Supervisor for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. Future decisions on projects to implement the revised plan will be made on a site-specific basis using appropriate analysis and documentation in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Learn more about the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests [here](#)

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the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests Facebook page at facebook.com/scnfs



The decision to approve the revised plan for the Francis Marion is subject to the Objection process identified in 36 CFR 219 Subpart B (219.50-219.62). While the Federal Register Notice ran on Wednesday August 17, the Objection process officially begins the day after the publication of the Notice of Objection Period in The State newspaper's legal ads (anticipated the week of August 22). This phase is an opportunity for people who have provided "substantive" comments to request an administrative review on the draft Record of Decision, revised plan and FEIS. Please see the Francis Marion Forest Plan Revision website for more information on the objection process and how to submit objections.

If you have questions about the Francis Marion Forest Plan revision or if you would like to make a suggestion or give a comment to the planning team, please e-mail us at fmplanrevision@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

Mary Morrison
Forest Planner
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests