

threats. Proposed changes will involve management area land allocations, modifications to the range and types of activities available for use in specific management areas, and changes to the standards and guidelines associated with them. There is also a need to develop guidelines for more timely and effective responses to insect and disease threats.

- *Special forest products.* This addresses production of non-timber forest products such as mushrooms, berries and medicinal herbs. Proposed changes include the addition of standards and guidelines that implement an ecologically based approach to special forest product management.

- *Reforestation techniques.* This addresses management components such as herbicide applications, deer fences and fertilization. Proposed changes include standards and guidelines that encourage the use of prescribed fire and modify the use of deer fences in certain circumstances. For herbicide use, there is a need to review the literature, make appropriate changes to standards and guidelines, and update assessments of risks to human health and wildlife.

- *Timber production suitability determinations.* This addresses lands that are classified as suited or unsuited for timber production. The Allegheny National Forest proposes to review and change lands identified as suitable and not suitable for timber production incorporating new information on ecosystem sustainability and capability. Information disclosed in the Analysis of Timber Harvest Program Capability Report for 1995–2005 will be used in harvest level determination.

- *Silvicultural systems.* This addresses the use of various types of even and uneven-aged forest management systems. Proposed changes include revised standards and guidelines that incorporate new science concerning the range and types of even and uneven-aged silvicultural systems that should be made available for use in various management areas. Current Forest Plan implementation experience has demonstrated that commercial thinning objectives identified for Management Area 3.0 may not be feasible from an operational, economic, and soil protection perspective. Standards and guidelines and timber management goals and objectives will be reviewed to address these concerns.

C. Habitat Diversity

This issue involves maintaining the viability of native and desired non-native species found on the Forest. In

addition to ecosystem and species diversity objectives across the Forest, habitat for game species and habitat connectivity across the landscape will be emphasized.

- *Native and desired non-native species.* Updated information on species needs and a landscape analysis of habitat patterns may change management direction for native and desired non-native species on the Forest.

- *Conserving habitat for threatened, endangered and sensitive species.* Proposed changes include management area land allocations and standards and guidelines to address the likelihood of these species' persistence.

- *Invasive species.* Proposed changes will incorporate new management direction for implementing a comprehensive Non-Native Invasive Species program. As a result, new standards and guidelines will be developed that address non-native invasive species of current concern while retaining flexibility to address new non-native species that may be identified in the future.

- *Habitat for game species.* A landscape analysis of habitat patterns may result in revised land allocations for various management areas and modified standards and guidelines.

- *Habitat connectivity across the landscape.* Consideration of habitat connectivity will be incorporated into the land allocations, goals, objectives, standards and guidelines for certain management areas.

- *Old-growth/late-successional habitat.* Proposed changes will draw upon clearer definitions for old-growth and late-successional forests in order to determine land allocations for these habitat types. An updated inventory may lead to re-defined goals, objectives, standards and guidelines for certain management areas.

D. Special Area Designations

This issue involves making recommendations to Congress for wilderness study areas and identifying potential opportunities to expand or designate new National Recreation Areas, Research Natural Areas, Scenic Areas, and Heritage Special Areas.

- *Wilderness.* A roadless area inventory and evaluation of potential wilderness will be part of the revision process. The inventory process will analyze areas for roadless qualities. Those areas that meet basic inventory criteria will be evaluated as potential wilderness study areas. Based on the results of this work, recommendations to Congress may be made for potential wilderness study areas.

- *Wild and Scenic Rivers.* This addresses a type of Congressional designation emphasizing the protection of rivers having outstandingly remarkable values. Proposed changes may result from a determination of the eligibility of Kinzua Creek, Bear Creek, Tionesta Creek, and the East Branch of Tionesta. The non-eligibility of previously identified and/or other rivers and streams will also be validated. Goals, objectives, desired future conditions, standards and guidelines may be revised to reflect new information and understanding about river protection and management. The Allegheny is working to complete the Clarion River Management Plan and finalize river corridor boundaries which will also be incorporated into the Revised Forest Plan.

Other Revision Changes

Other changes may be made in the Forest Plan to reflect updates, corrections or modifications that will clarify or strengthen guidance provided in the plan. They include:

1. Soil and Water Quality

- *Timber harvest methods.* Proposed changes include modifications to soil and water quality goals, objectives, standards and guidelines to address the compatibility of various conventional and unconventional harvest methods such as the use of helicopters and horses.

- *Watershed quality and restoration.* Proposed changes include identifying monitoring thresholds and mitigation measures, adoption of watershed-specific standards and guidelines, and establishment of a specific management area for riparian zones.

- *Soil resources.* Proposed changes include updating or adding goals, objectives, monitoring protocols, standards and guidelines based on new information, monitoring data, and regional guidance for protection of soil resources. New information and monitoring data will be included in the analysis of alternatives.

2. Heritage Resources

Proposed changes include revising standards and guidelines, in consultation with state and tribal historic preservation offices and other entities, to reflect changing conditions with respect to archaeological sites. These changes will incorporate all current laws and regulations.

3. Scenery

Proposed changes include incorporation of new national scenery management standards to integrate