

(e) The on-going review of monitored outcomes, public dialog, and the interpretation of evolving natural and social environments aids the Trust and others in the consideration of the purpose and need for necessary and appropriate stewardship actions within the Preserve. The overall procedures are intended to efficiently and effectively achieve the goals of the Trust and NEPA and eliminate unnecessary or redundant paperwork.

101.4 Proposing a Stewardship Action and Following Its Progress.

(a) When a stewardship action is proposed and its purpose and need is described by the Responsible Official and authorized for continued consideration by the Board of Trustees, the stewardship register (Exhibit I) will be made available to the public through appropriate media as soon as practicable and throughout the process, leading either to termination of the proposal or to an implementing decision. The stewardship register will also, as relevant, contain information regarding completion of the stewardship action and monitoring of one or more outcomes.

(b) The public and government officials are provided many opportunities to review the activities of the Trust and may be requested by the Responsible Official to comment on a proposed stewardship action, its purpose and need, and/or anticipated outcomes. If comments are requested and received within the dates specified, the Responsible Official must consider the comments before making an implementing decision.

(c) As information in the stewardship register is amended and/or appended, the date and nature of the change to the stewardship register and name of the person transcribing the amended or appended information must be recorded to provide an accurate record. The Trust may prepare and use documents or appropriate electronic media depicting administrative operations to aid the planning, execution, and record keeping of stewardship actions or for other purposes.

(d) To further the purposes of the Trust and NEPA, the Executive Director of the Trust is responsible for overall review of agency NEPA compliance and preparation of any necessary environmental documents.

101.5 Evaluating a Stewardship Action.

(a) To aid in the understanding of the purpose and need and/or the anticipated outcome of a pending stewardship action, the Responsible Official must consider the environmental consequences of the

stewardship action and the preparation of an environmental document before making an implementing decision.

(b) The Responsible Official, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances, may make an implementing decision without the preparation of an environmental document for those stewardship actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which have been found to have no such effect.

(c) If a stewardship action is not within a categorical exclusion listed in 101.6, an environmental document must be prepared and considered before the Responsible Official can make an implementing decision.

101.51 Environmental Impact Statement.

(a) The Responsible Official must prepare and consider an environmental impact statement as described in 40 CFR part 1502 if the outcome of a proposed stewardship action may create a significant impact on the human environment or it is otherwise desirable.

(b) An implementing decision for one or more stewardship actions under review in an environmental impact statement must be documented in a record of decision. Except for special circumstances described in CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1506.10(d), 1506.11, and 1502.9(c), a record of decision cannot be signed by the Responsible Official until 30 days after the final environmental impact statement is made available to the public by the Environmental Protection Agency. The final environmental impact statement and record of decision, if completed, is appended by reference to one or more appropriate stewardship registers.

(c) An environmental impact statement is normally required for the following implementing decisions:

(1) Adoption of one or more stewardship actions that guide or prescribe alternative uses of the Preserve upon which future stewardship actions will be based that may be significant as described in 40 CFR 1508.27. Examples of these implementing decisions include, but are not limited to, the adoption of goals, objectives, and performance requirements by the Board of Trustees for programs of:

(A) Long-term grazing for livestock over most or all of the Preserve;

(B) Long-term general public access and recreation over most or all of the Preserve; and

(C) Long-term active management of forests and forest-related products over

most or all of the forested land within the Preserve.

(2) Construction and operation of a visitor center with associated public access to the Preserve; and

(3) Activities or groups of activities within one or more stewardship actions that are anticipated to create outcomes that may be significant as described in 40 CFR 1508.27. Examples include, but are not limited to, an implementing decision by the Responsible Official for activities and groups of activities associated with the implementation of:

(A) Long-term grazing for livestock over most or all of the Preserve;

(B) Long-term general public access and recreation over most or all of the Preserve; and

(C) Long-term active management of forests and forest-related products over most or all of the forested land within the Preserve.

101.52 Environmental Assessment.

(a) An environmental assessment is prepared by the Responsible Official to aid in determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement, to prepare a finding of no significant impact, to otherwise aid compliance with NEPA, or to facilitate preparation of an environmental impact statement when one is necessary.

(b) The environmental assessment of one or more stewardship actions is combined with one or more relevant stewardship registers to create a concise document or set of documents that describe one or more stewardship actions and alternatives that meet the identified purpose and need. The environmental analysis of the proposed stewardship action and alternatives is appended to or integrated with one or more stewardship registers (40 CFR 1506.4).

(c) The purpose of the appended or integrated information is to study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal, which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

(d) The combined document includes a brief discussion of the purpose and need for the proposal, of alternatives, of the environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives, and a listing of agencies and persons consulted.

(e) The following stewardship actions within the Preserve and authorized by the Responsible Official in an implementing decision are normally accompanied by an environmental assessment:

(1) Establishing or substantively revising a program or policy for the permitting of seasonal or short-term backcountry recreation or special use