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Plan Revision
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Towsey 8-21-06

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You may comment on any parts of the DEIS and PLRMP. The following topics will help you focus your comments and help us to better respond to your comments. You do not have to fill in every section in order to comment. At the end of the form, you will find a place to comment on other issues, alternatives, management direction and monitoring. Feel free to use additional pages.

Issues in the DEIS (please check the topics you are commenting on)

- [X] Forest Vegetation
- [ ] Habitat Diversity
- [ ] Recreation
- [ ] Special Areas including Roadless Areas and Wilderness
- [ ] Other Concerns

The preferred alternative C sets the ASQ for timber harvesting at 56 MMBF per year, a figure that is 41% less than the ASQ of 94.5 MMBF per year set by the 1986 Plan and 59% less than the allowable harvest of 137 MMBF per year that was present in 1975 Functional Timber Management Plan. Additionally, the number of jobs, the amount of revenue derived by local municipalities and school districts, etc. are all based on timber harvesting at the proposed rate of 56 MMBF per year.

Interestingly, the Planning Committee openly admits that, due to current budgetary constraints, it is not possible to harvest even the 56 MMBF per year as proposed by Alternative C. The proposed ASQ is based on an approximately 40% increase in budget, yet the Proposed Plan contains no evidence that this increased funding will occur or from where it will come.

Based on the current budget, an annual offer/harvest volume of 25-30 MMBF per year is the level that the Forest Service itself claims is an appropriate figure. Given the uncertainty associated with the budget that will be available, the Proposed Plan must be rescinded and revised so that it adequately sets forth a realistic socio-economic scenario based on past budget allocations (e.g. the last 5 years adjusted for inflation) as permitted by the National Forest Management Act. This is, after all, the current budget reality.

Additionally, the Proposed Plan must be rescinded and revised so that it addresses and explores both the possibility of stewardship contracting and how the budget can be increased to permit timber harvesting at a rate of 56 MMBF per year so that the economic benefits associated with the higher ASQ can be achieved.