

**Decision Notice
& Finding of No Significant Impact**



**Caribbean National Forest*
Comprehensive River Management Plan
(Forest Plan Amendment #3)**



* Name of Forest was changed to El Yunque NF in March 2007

US Forest Service
El Yunque National Forest
Rio Grande, PR

November 2010

Decision Notice

Decision

My decision is to select the Proposed Action to amend the 1997 CNF Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (the Plan). This amendment incorporates the direction needed to implement the Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan for the El Yunque National Forest.

I have examined Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) which has been considered in detail, and Alternative 1 (No Action alternative) to the Proposed Action. The El Yunque National Forest resource management specialists completed an interdisciplinary analysis of the effects that the Proposed Action would have on the environment.

The purpose of this decision is to preserve the free-flowing condition of the rivers, their respective outstanding remarkable values and that their immediate environments are protected.

Based on my review of the alternatives, I have decided to select Alternative 2 (Proposed Action). The selected Alternative will:

- Approve the Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) for the Rio Mameyes, Rio de La Mina and Rio Icacos National Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- Amend the Caribbean National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (Amendment 3) by updating the Forestwide and Management Area (MA) 9 goals, objectives, standards and guidelines to emphasize the enhancement of the Rio Mameyes, Rio de la Mina and Rio Icacos Outstandingly Remarkable Values. (Direction and Standards are listed below.)
- Adopt the interim corridor boundary, approximately ¼ mile from each river banks, as the management boundary for the corridor.
- Provide programmatic direction for management of the **wild segment** of the river corridors with a focus on protecting and preserving natural processes with minimal human

influences. Access to the area is limited to a road ((FS Road #27 – East Peak Road) which is outside of the corridor and has limited access.

- Manage the **scenic segment** of the river corridor with a focus on maintaining and enhancing the near-natural environment. The riverbanks will be largely undeveloped and primitive, but may be accessible in places by trails. Recreation management will be designed to provide a natural-appearing setting with limited improvements.
- Manage the **recreational segment** of the river corridor with a focus on providing river-oriented recreation in natural-appearing or culturally-influenced settings. The river may be readily accessible by roads and trails. Recreational improvements such as trailheads and river access points are available at La Mina Falls at the end of Big Tree Trail and La Mina Trail and at Puente Roto on PR 988.
- Manage all river segments for non-motorized recreation opportunities throughout the watershed. Access points such as trailheads and parking lots are located in the corridor and watershed to aid in the dispersal of recreation use and enhancement of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the different river corridors.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

I have selected Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) because it addresses the intent of the Wild and Scenic River Act (WSRA) dated October 1968 which directs the designated agency (US Forest Service – El Yunque National Forest) to administer these rivers by protecting their free-flowing condition, water quality and outstanding remarkable values. The WSRA also requires the administrating agency prepare a comprehensive river management plan for each river segment (WSRA Section 3.d.1)

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement for the CNF Comprehensive River Management Plan began in April 2005. A public notice and scoping letter was sent out to approximately 100 entities with known interest in the CNF Wild and Scenic Rivers. The scoping letter was made available to the general public on the forest internet site at www.fs.fed.us/caribbean. A Public Announcement was also published in two island newspapers to announce the availability of the scoping letter as well as informing the readers of the comment period. There were only four (4) responses and most requested clarification of the scope of the CRMP. No specific issues, concerns or opportunities for changes of the proposed action were received. Comments that were received were evaluated to refine the project and analysis. These comments were also evaluated to explore the possibility of potential effects to the river resources.

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY AND OR RELATED TO OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

My decision will comply with all applicable laws and regulations. I have summarized some pertinent laws as follows:

Endangered Species Act and Sensitive Species (Forest Service Manual 2670) – Potential effects of this decision on threatened, endangered, and sensitive species have been analyzed and documented a Biological Assessment and summarized in the CRMP's Environmental Assessment. This administrative decision will have a “may effect, but not likely to adverse affect” for relevant endangered bird species and a “beneficial effect” for the endangered Puerto Rican Boa. There will be “no effects” for endangered plants and “no impacts” to Regional sensitive species.

1. Clean Water Act – This Act is to restore and maintain the integrity of waters. The Forest Service complies with this Act through the use of Best management Practices. This decision incorporates Best Management Practices to ensure protection of soil and water resources.
2. National Environmental Policy Act – This Act establishes policy, sets goals and provides means for carrying out the policy. This decision has complied with the procedures and the goals of the Act.
3. National Forest Management Act – After reviewing the Environmental Assessment that includes Amendment 3 to the Forest Plan, I have determined that the decision to implement this amendment will not result in a significant change to the Forest Plan. This determination was made after consulting 16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(4), 36CFR 219.10(f) (1982 regulations), and Forest Service Manual 1926.51 & 1926.52. According to the 2000 planning regulations, under 36 CFR 219.35 and Appendix B to 219.35 (see the *Federal Register*, December 18, 2009), the responsible official may elect to conduct the plan amendment process under the “1982 planning regulations” (those regulations in effect before November 9, 2000). I have elected to conduct this amendment following the 1982 planning regulations.

Based on these planning requirements, I have determined that:

- This amendment will not significantly alter the levels of goods and services projected by the Forest Plan; nor will it prevent the opportunity to achieve those outputs in later years.
- This amendment will not affect the entire land management plan, nor will it affect a large portion of the planning area during the planning period. This amendment only addresses updating/adding management direction to the Forest's Wild and Scenic River corridors.

Finding of No Significant Impact

I have determined that this Plan Amendment is not a major federal action and would significantly impact the quality of the human environment. I have considered both context and intensity in my determination, based on the environmental analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment.

Context

This Plan Amendment adds direction to ensure the ability to maintain and enhance the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the Rio Mameyes, Rio de la Mina and Rio Icacos. The outcomes anticipated from this amendment are: there would be clear standards on any future project; and there would be changes in the amounts and types of field data collected for monitoring purposes (EA, Chapter I and IV). It would not have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on any forest resource.

Intensity

Both beneficial and adverse impacts are considered. There will be no significant effects as a result of the action. The nature of the impacts of this decision has to do with the ability of maintaining and enhancing the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the Rio Mameyes, Rio de la Mina and Rio Icacos and the type of monitoring activities that will occur in the future (CRMP, Chapter V).

The action will have no discernible effects on the public health and safety. Any activities related to the changes in monitoring will be similar to other forest related outdoor activities such as hiking or nature study.

The action will not have any detrimental effects on any unique characteristics of the geographic area such as historical and cultural resources, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas (EA, Chapter IV).

Based on public involvement and analysis, the effects on the quality of the human environment are not controversial.

The action does not involve highly uncertain, unique, or unknown environmental risks to the human environment. No direct, indirect, or cumulative effects would occur to any forest resource.

This amendment may change the nature of future projects and activities, and will change some monitoring activities (EA, Chapter I). These changes should provide additional baseline information for Forest Plan revision. The decision does not establish a precedent for future actions (EA, Chapter 1-2).

The cumulative effects of the proposed action have been analyzed and no significant effects are anticipated (EA, Chapter IV).

This action does not adversely affect cultural resources listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and will not cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources

This amendment will have a “may effect, but not likely to adverse affect” for relevant endangered bird species and a “beneficial effect” for the endangered Puerto Rican Boa. There will be “no effects” for endangered plants and “no impacts” to Regional sensitive species. The amendment will not result in a trend to federal listing or cause a loss of viability of any Sensitive Species (EA, Chapter IV).

This action does not lead to violation of federal, state, or local laws imposed for the protection of the environment, since there will be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on any natural resource (EA, Chapter IV)

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OR APPEAL

For plan amendments conducted under the “1982 planning regulations”, the responsible official can elect to use either the “Optional Appeal Procedures Available during the Planning Rule Transition Period” (the former 36 CFR 217 appeal procedures that were in effect prior to November 9, 2000) or the Objection procedures of 36 CFR 219.32 from the 2000 planning rule (see Appendix A to 36 CFR 219.35 [*Federal Register*, December 18, 2009]). For this decision, I have decided to utilize the “Optional Appeal Procedures Available during the Planning Rule Transition Period”. These procedures are available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/appit/includes/PlanAppealProceduresDuringTransition.pdf>

A written notice of appeal must be filed in duplicate clearly stating that it is a Notice of Appeal pursuant to the “Optional Appeal Procedures”, and it must meet the content requirements of Section 9 of the “Optional Appeal Procedures”. Appeals must be filed with the Regional Forester for the Southern Region (by regular mail, Fax, e-mail, hand-delivered, or express delivery) at:

Elizabeth Agpaoa, Appeal Reviewing Officer
Attn: Appeals & Litigation
USDA Forest Service, Southern Region
1720 Peachtree Rd. N.W., Suite 811N
Atlanta, GA 30309-9102

Appeals may be faxed to (404) 347-5401

Electronic appeals must be submitted in a common format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc), or Adobe (.pdf) to appeals-southern-regional-office@fs.fed.us with Subject: El Yunque Plan Amendment #3. In case where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

The normal business hours for submitting hand-delivered appeals are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

Appeals, including attachments, must be postmarked or received within 45 days after the date the legal notice of this decision is published in the *El Nuevo Dia*, the newspaper of record. Appeals, including attachments, received after the 45-day appeal period will not be considered. The publication date in the *El Nuevo Dia* is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

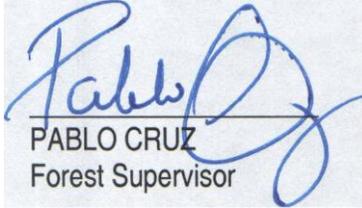
IMPLEMENTATION DATE

The implementation of this decision will begin seven calendar days following publication of the legal notice of this decision. Requests to stay the approval of the amendment will not be granted (see Section 10 of the Optional Appeal Procedures), however, where a project or activity subject to this amendment would be implemented before an appeal decision could be issued, the reviewing officer will consider written requests to stay implementation of those decisions pending completion of the review. To request a stay of implementation, an appellant must file a written request with the Appeal Reviewing Officer, and the request must meet the requirements found in Section 10 of the Optional Appeal Procedures.

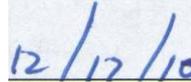
CONTACT PERSON

Further information about this decision can be obtained from José R. Ortega at the El Yunque National Forest, PR 191 Km. 4.4 Palmer, PR; Telephone 787.888-5613 or by e-mail, jrortega@fs.fed.us

SIGNATURE AND DATE



PABLO CRUZ
Forest Supervisor



12/17/10
Date

Attachment 1

**El Yunque National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan**

Amendment #3
November 2010

This amendment establishes the management direction and river corridors for the Rio Mameyes, Rio de la Mina and Rio Icaos Wild and Scenic Rivers, which were officially designated as a part of the National Wild and Scenic River System through the Caribbean National Forest Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-563 dated December 19, 2002). Forestwide and Management Area 9 direction will be modified by this amendment. Specifically, this amendment establishes desired conditions, goals, standards, and guidelines for the Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The following changes will be made to pages 4-47 to 4-50 and page 4-104 of the CNF 1997 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan:

Replace the Desired Future Condition and Goals of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Forest Wide Management Direction on the current plan with:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Desired Future Condition | River segments have been designated by Congress (CNF Wild and Scenic River Act, December 2002) as Wild, Scenic and Recreation rivers. These river segments will be managed to preserve their outstanding remarkable values and free-flowing conditions. |
|--------------------------|---|

Wild Segment

The Rio Mameyes has the only Wild Segment and it originates in the *Baño de Oro Natural Area* which is a Research Natural Area. Management of the wild segment of the river corridor will be focused on protecting and preserving natural processes with minimal human influences and have limited access. Access to the area is limited to Forest Service Road #27 (East Peak Road) which is outside of the Rio Mameyes corridor and has controlled access.

Scenic Segment

Management of the scenic segment of the river corridor will be focused on maintaining and enhancing the near-natural environment. The riverbanks will be undeveloped and primitive, but may be accessible in places by

trails. Recreation management will be designed to provide a natural-appearing setting with limited improvements. Research activity on or near these segments will be monitored for the visual impact they may cause.

Recreational Segment

Management of the recreational segment of the river corridor will be focused on providing river-oriented recreation in natural-appearing or culturally-influenced settings. The river may be readily accessible by roads and trails. Recreational activity will be established to protect the resource and complement the setting. Certain recreation controls will be implemented related to activities and accommodations. Recreational improvements such as trailheads and river access points are available at La Mina Falls at the end of Big Tree Trail, LaMina Trail, and at Puente Roto on PR 988.

Goals

All River Segments

Manage to maintain the unique characteristics and scenic values of the river corridors.

Generally allow natural processes to determine the composition and distribution of plant species.

Control invasive plants and species.

Manage streams for Mountain Mullet, River Shrimp and Goby where conditions are favorable. Identify where population inventories indicate self sustaining populations.

Scenic River Segments

Emphasize river oriented recreation opportunities favoring hiking, viewing wildlife and nature observation.

Manage use to provide a level of contact among visitors and impacts to the Outstanding Remarkable Values's that is consistent with the river classification. Implement the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) concept to monitor levels of use within the river corridor.

Recreation River Segments

Control and eradicate invasive fauna.

Emphasize river oriented recreation opportunities favoring hiking, viewing wildlife and nature observation.

Manage use to provide a level of contact among visitors and impacts to the Outstanding Remarkable Values's that is consistent with the river classification. Implement the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) concept to monitor levels of use within the river corridor.

Improve parking layout and access to river at Puente Roto

Improve public awareness and understanding of the Outstanding Remarkable Values of the three WSR's and the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Provide access for use and enjoyment of the rivers consistent with the river

classification at Big Tree Trail, Angelito Trail, La Mina Trail and La Coca Trail.
 Address capacity issues at La Mina Falls and Puente Roto

| Table 4-3. Wild, Scenic and Recreation Rivers (Designated Dec. 2002) | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|
| River | Classifications | Length Miles |
| Río Mameyes | Wild | 1.6 miles* |
| | Scenic | 1.4 miles |
| | Recreation | 1.0 miles |
| Río de la Mina | Scenic | 1.2 miles |
| | Recreation | 0.9 miles |
| Río Icacos | Scenic | 2.3 miles |

*Corrected length.

Adds the following standards and guidelines: the Wild and Scenic Rivers Forest Wide Management Direction on the current plan:

- Standards and Guidelines**
- S 1. Develop management plans with specific management requirements for designated rivers after designation. Pattern specific directions after the generic management direction in Chapter 8.2 of the Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook (FSH 1902.12). Pending designation and the subsequent development of a river management plan(s), the following management direction will be implemented to ensure protection of the qualities that make the rivers eligible.

Wild Rivers

- Timber***
- S 1. Cutting of trees is not permitted except when needed in association with a primitive recreation experience (such as clearing for trails and protection of users) or to protect the environment (such as control of fire).
- Water Supply***
- S 2. All water supply dams and diversions are prohibited.
- Hydroelectric Power***
- S 3. No development of hydroelectric power facilities is permitted.
- Flood and Erosion Control***
- S 4. No flood control dams, levees, or erosion control work is allowed.
- Road Construction***
- S 5. No roads or other provisions for overland motorized travel are permitted within 1/4 mile of the riverbank.
- Recreation Development***
- S 6. Major public-use areas, such as large picnic areas, interpretive centers, or administrative headquarters are located outside the Wild Rivers area. Recreation developments are limited to trails and unobtrusive bridges and signs, and improvements necessary for resource protection.
- Structures***
- S 7. A few existing structures could be allowed assuming such structures are not incompatible with the essentially primitive and natural values of the river and its corridor.

New structures are not allowed except in rare instances to achieve management objectives (e.g. structures and activities associated with fisheries enhancement programs could be allowed).

- Visual Resource**
- G 1. Manage to maintain the unique characteristics and scenic values of the river corridors.
 - G 2. Follow the Scenery Management System (SMS) guidance when implementing the Forest Plan.
- Vegetation Management**
- G 3. Use native plant species where possible when restoring impacted sites.
 - G 4. Allow woody debris to accumulate along river and shorelines to maintain natural character of river.
- Wildlife and Fish Resource**
- G 5. Manage habitat of Mountain Mullet streams as a first priority.
 - S 8. Trap and remove feral cats, dogs and mongoose.
 - S 9. No hunting or fishing is allowed.
- Geology**
- S10. No mining activity to occur. Rock extraction is prohibited.
- Cultural Resources**
- G 6. Manage historic sites consistent with forest-wide standards. Stabilize and protect existing sites.
- Scenic Rivers**
- Timber**
- S 1. Timber demonstration is located at least 1/4 mile away from rivers suitable for Scenic River designation. Vegetation treatments for wildlife habitat improvement is allowed provided that such practices are carried on in such a way that there is not substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment. The river should be maintained in its near natural environment.

| | | |
|--|------|---|
| <i>Water Supply</i> | S 2. | All water supply dams and major diversions, that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which the river area is included in the National System, are prohibited. Modest diversions are allowed only if there would be no direct and adverse effect on river values. |
| <i>Hydroelectric Power</i> | S 3. | No development of hydroelectric power facilities is allowed. |
| <i>Flood and Erosion Control</i> | S 4. | Flood control dams and levees are prohibited. Erosion control treatments can be implemented if they do not detract from river values. |
| <i>Road Construction</i> | S 5. | Roads should generally not be visible from the rivers suitable for Scenic River designation. No new road construction is permitted within 1/4 miles of such rivers. |
| <i>Recreation Development</i> | S 6. | Larger scale public use facilities, such as large picnic areas, public information centers, and administrative headquarters are well screened from rivers suitable for Scenic River designation. Modest and unobtrusive recreation facilities are permitted. |
| <i>Structures</i> | S 7. | New structures that would have a direct and adverse effect on river values are not allowed. |
| <i>Visual Resource</i> | G 1. | Manage to maintain the unique characteristics and scenic values of the river corridors. |
| | G 2. | Implement the Scenery Management System (SMS) when implementing the Forest Plan. |
| <i>Vegetation Management</i> | G 3. | Use native plant species where possible when restoring impacted sites. |
| | G 4. | Allow woody debris to accumulate along river and shorelines so as to maintain natural character of river. |
| <i>Wildlife and Fish Resource</i> | G 5. | Manage habitat of Mountain Mullet streams a first priority. |

S 8. Trap and remove feral cats, dogs and mongoose.

S 9. No hunting or fishing is allowed.

Cultural Resources

G 6. Manage historic sites consistent with forest-wide standards. Stabilize and protect existing sites

Geology

S10. No mining activity to occur. Rock extraction is prohibited.

Special Uses

S11. Limit land-based permits to groups of no more than 15 (including guides) from the date the CRMP is signed.

S12. Allow access to La Mina site and Rio de la Mina Trail only to guided tours by Special Use Permit.

Dispersed Recreation

G 6. Implement “Pack-it-in and Pack-it-out” and “Leave No Trace” concepts.

S13. Allow primitive camping at designated areas by permit only. No camping within 100 feet of rivers. Evidence of use to be noticeable but not dominant. No fires or fire rings allowed. Use only commercial cooking apparatus

S14. Only hikers permitted on trails. No horses, bikes or OHV’s are permitted on trails.

S15. Tubes and rafts are not permitted in rivers.

Recreation Rivers

Timber

S 1. Timber demonstration is located at least 1/4 mile from rivers suitable for Recreation River Designation. Vegetation treatments for wildlife habitat improvement are allowed provided that such practices are carried on in such a way that there is not substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment. Woody debris is allowed to remain along the river bed and its banks.

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Water Supply</i> | S 2. Low dams, diversion works, rip rap, and other minor structures are allowed provided the waterway remains generally natural in appearance. |
| <i>Hydroelectric Power</i> | S 3. No development of hydroelectric power facilities is allowed. |
| <i>Flood and Erosion Control</i> | S 4. Flood control dams and levees are prohibited. Erosion control treatments can be implemented if they do not detract from river values. |
| <i>Road Construction</i> | S 5. Paralleling roads could occur on one side of the river. There can be several bridges crossings and numerous river access points. New road construction is limited to access and parking for developed recreation sites. |
| <i>Recreation Development</i> | S 6. Picnic areas and trails constructed may be in close proximity to the river. |
| <i>Structures</i> | S 7. New structures are allowed for recreation use. |
| <i>Special Uses</i> | S 8. Limit land-based permits to groups of no more than 15 persons (including guides). |
| | S 9. Allow access to La Mina site and Rio de la Mina Trail only to guided tours by Special Use Permit. |
| <i>Geology</i> | S10. No mining activity to occur. Rock extraction is prohibited. |
| <i>Dispersed and Developed Recreation</i> | G 1. Emphasize river oriented recreation opportunities favoring hiking, viewing wildlife and nature observation. |
| | S11. Allow primitive camping at designated areas by permit only. No camping within 100 feet of rivers. Evidence of use to be noticeable but not dominant. No fires or fire rings allowed. Use only commercial cooking apparatus |
| | G 2. Manage use to provide level of contact among visitors and impacts to the Outstanding Remarkable Values that is consistent with the river classification. The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) concept to monitor level of use within the river corridor. |

- G 3. Modify corridor boundary to include Quebradas Juan Diego and La Coca for the purpose of monitoring water quality and minimize trash impacts at these sites.
- S12. Implement “Pack-it-in and Pack-it-out” and “Leave No Trace” concept.
- S13. Only hikers permitted on trails. No horses, bikes or OHV’s are permitted on trails.
- S14. Tube and rafts are not permitted in rivers.
- S15. Conduct site condition inventory to determine use patterns, site conditions and their specific limits to be monitored. Rehabilitate degraded sites and if necessary, relocate or restrict use at those sites.
- G 4. Limit use of music and sound equipment.
- S16. Prohibit BBQ grills within full bank stage at all river segments.
- S17. Prohibit glass containers within full bank stage at all river segments.
- S18. New development, bridge replacements, and landslides reconstruction will be designed to minimize disturbance of riparian areas.

Interpretation

- G 5. Improve public awareness and understanding of the Outstanding Remarkable Values of the three WSR’s and the National Wild and Scenic River System.
- S19. Focus wildlife interpretation on highly visible species.

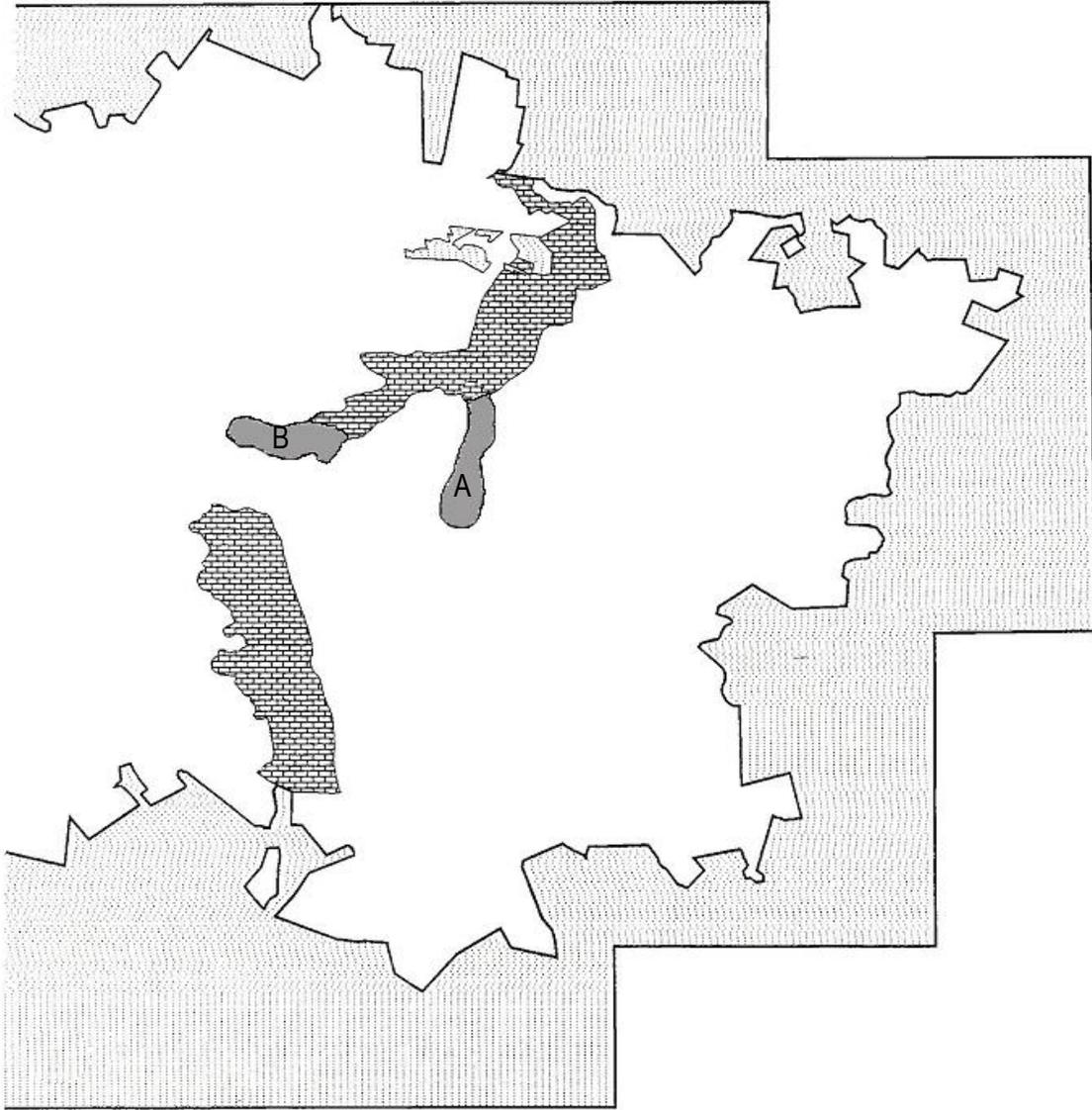
Soil and Water

- G 6. Complete a water quality monitoring Plan.
- G 7. Monitor water quality above and below recreation segments.
- G 8. Stabilize dispersed recreation sites that have exposed and/or highly compact erodible mineral soil.

Trail Management

- G 9. Manage trails for hiking use only compatible with the LRMP and the Outstanding Remarkable Values of the corridors.
- S20. Provide access to for use and enjoyment of the rivers consistent with the river classification at Big Tree Trail , Angelito’s Trail, La mina Trail, and, La Coca Trail.

1. Adds the Wild segment of Rio Mameyes (A) and Recreation segment of the Rio de la Mina (B) to Management Area #9 Map (t Figure 4-10).



2. Replace Management Area #9 direction on page 4-10 with the following:

Modified Management Area 9 – Wild, Scenic and Recreation River Corridors

**Desired
Future
Condition**

This management area was established to provide increased protection for river segments designated Wild, Scenic or Recreation Rivers for the Rio Mameyes, Rio de la Mina and Rio Icacos.

These river and their corridors will continue to exhibit the outstanding remarkable characteristics that made them Wild, Scenic and Recreation Rivers.

**Goals –
All Rivers**

All rivers remain free of impoundments within the existing forest boundary.

Periodically monitor all rivers to confirm their Outstandingly Remarkable Values are being maintained.

Provide opportunities for treatment vs. control research to the extent such use does not detract from Wild, Scenic or Recreation River qualities. Recognize that the Icacos River corridor includes forest and soil types not available for experimental use elsewhere on the Forest.

**Goals -
Río Icacos**

- S Access the river through natural openings found along PR 191 South.
- G Improve water quality by reducing sedimentation from landslides and PR 191.
- S Maintain ditches and culverts on the section of PR 191 closed to public traffic so as to reduce the concentration of water flow onto slopes prone to landslides.
- S Stabilize areas of exposed soil caused by landslides.

Río Mameyes

- G Improve recreation opportunities and water quality by providing facilities at Puente Roto.
- G Improve the parking layout at Puente Roto. Continue to provide garbage collection and periodic clean-up along the river bank at Puente Roto.

- G Conduct a capacity study for Puente Roto.
- G Provide adequate signage and interpretation which emphasizes the concept of “Leave No Trace” and “Pack-It-In and Pack-It-Out”.
- Río de la Mina** G Continue to provide garbage collection and periodic clean-up along the river banks.
- G Conduct a capacity study for the La Mina Falls area.

- G Modify Scenic Corridor boundary to include portions of Quebrada Juan Diego and Quebrada La Coca.

FIGURE 4-10. MANAGEMENT AREA 9 - WILD/SCENIC/RECREATION RIVER CORRIDORS (Revised)

GRAFICA 4-10. ZONA DE MANEJO 9 - CORREDORES DE RÍOS SILVESTRES/PANORÁMICOS/RECREACIONALES

Replaces and modifies the monitoring plan for Wild, Scenic and Recreation River's desired future condition on page 5-22 of the LMRP with the following:

| Table 5-1. Monitoring the Desired Future of the Forest | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Monitoring Item and Desired Future | Indicators of Desired Future | Item Measured Measurement Technique | Threshold of Acceptable Change | Monitoring/ Reporting Period |
| Wild, Scenic and Recreation Rivers | | | | |
| Scenic | Projects, activities, modifications do not alter landforms, vegetation, water or site character within the river corridor. | Meet establish VQO as stated in the Forest Plan. Should implement the SMS when amending the Forest Plan. | Proposed actions meet established SMS. | Monitor continuously; report annually. |
| Recreation | Quality and Quantity of experience | ROS setting parameters for minimization of user conflicts and crowding. Indirect actions such as education, information, and signing efforts. Direct actions such as enforcement, use restrictions and capacity limits. | ROS and SMS parameters are met. Site degradation and vandalism is minimal. | Periodic user satisfaction sampling at least every 5 years. Conduct site condition surveys to establish trends of impact and effectiveness of rehabilitation. |
| Fish and Wildlife | Water Quality. | Meet EPA and State standards required to support beneficial uses. | Meet EPA and State standards required to support beneficial uses are met. | Water quality baseline monitoring to include macro-invertebrates, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, total dissolved solids and fecal coliform. |
| | Fisheries Resource Condition | Meet LRMP direction for maintenance of viable populations of management indicator species and | Habitat of native species including but not limited to the Goby and River Shrimp is maintained. | Long term fish population monitoring and River Shrimp population monitoring. |

| | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | other state, federal and local regulations pertaining to the viability of aquatic species. | | |
| Historic and Cultural | Cultural Site Integrity | Compliance with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act for all land disturbing activities and use. | All historic structures and resource sites to remain in a safe and stable condition. | Annual Monitoring |
| Botanical | Integrity of Plant Communities | Maintain native species populations and plant community diversity. | Prevent unacceptable levels of disturbance along WSR's. Restore habitats, plant population and communities. | Inventory, map, and monitor plant communities within the WSR's watershed on an annual basis. |
| <p>Abbreviations: I = Implementation monitoring E = Effectiveness monitoring V = Validation monitoring</p> | | | | |

This amendment is not a significant change to the Caribbean National Forest Plan. The determination that this is a non-significant amendment is made in accordance with the regulations in 16 USC 1604(f)(4), 36 CFR 219.10(f) of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (as authorized by 36 CFR 219.35 and Appendix B to 36 CFR 219.35 of the November 9, 2000 planning rule) and Forest Service Manual 1926.5, Land Management Planning, Amendments. This plan amendment meets the criteria for a non-significant amendment because these changes will not “significantly alter the long-term relationship between levels of multiple-use goals and objectives originally projected...[or] have an important effect on the entire forest plan or affect resources throughout a large portion of the planning area during the planning period” (FSM 1926.52). The NEPA analysis for this change is documented in a Decision Notice and Environmental Assessment.