

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Southern Region



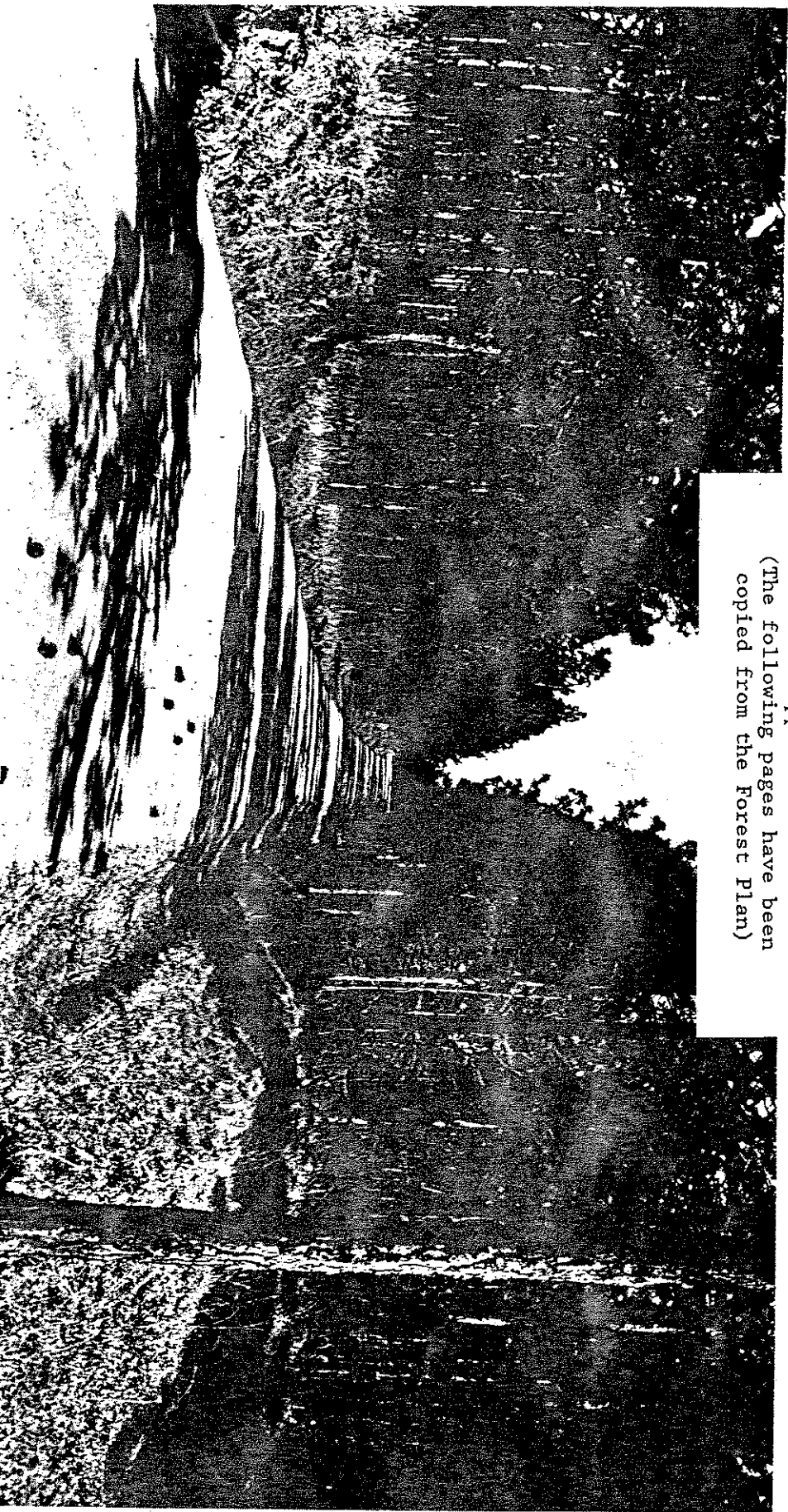
LOUISIANA

Final Land and Resource Management Plan

Kisatchie National Forest

Appendix A

(The following pages have been
copied from the Forest Plan)



- Existing coordination requirements and mitigating measures will ensure protection of surface resources and of environmental quality in accordance with laws and regulations. By the terms of the 1964 Wilderness Act, U.S. owned minerals within the Kisatchie Hills Wilderness Area were withdrawn from mineral entry as of January 1, 1984.

Issue No. 7

Wilderness: What is the best management direction for Cunningham Brake and Saline Bayou RARE II Areas?

Public issues and management concerns related to this planning question address whether these two areas should be managed for resources other than wilderness, be recommended for designation as Wilderness Study Areas, or designated for study for some other type of special area.

The Forest Plan direction includes:

- The unique central portion of Cunningham Brake along Kisatchie Bayou (approximately 1500 acres) will be studied for designation as a Research Natural Area or some other special classification. The balance of the area located on the drier sites on the periphery of the area will be managed for multiple use.
- The critical river corridor for Saline Bayou from the Forest proclamation boundary to Saline Lake (approximately 19 miles) will be studied for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. A protective corridor of one-quarter mile on either side of the bayou is

established pending completion of the study. Normal multiple use activities will take place on the remainder of the area.

Management Emphases of the Plan

Following are the first decade management emphases of the proposed Kisatchie Forest Plan:

- Increase the yield of sawtimber products through the use of genetically superior planting stock
- Increase the suitable land base status through watershed restoration projects
- Increase the fuelwood supply through improved access for firewood gatherers and thinning of hardwood stands that normally are not saleable in the regular timber sale program
- Reduce future losses from insects and diseases by implementing good integrated pest management practices, particularly thinning of overstocked stands
- Improve developed recreation facilities by completing Kincaid Recreation Area, installing electrical hookups at Kincaid, and enhancement of Kisatchie Bayou Campground
- Provide additional recreation experiences by constructing a shooting range, establishing an auto tour, adding 37 miles to the hiking trail system, establishing and maintaining a canoe trail on Saline Bayou

PREScription FOR MANAGEMENT AREA #3

Research Natural Area: Management Area No. 3 consists of 737 acres of land on the Evangeline Ranger District designated as a Research Natural Area under 36 CFR 251.23 and 1447 acres in Cunnigham Brake which will be studied for a Research Natural Area or other special classification. Research Natural Areas provide for non-manipulative research, observation, and study of undisturbed eco-systems, which typify important forest types, by scientists within and without the Forest Service and use for certain educational purposes. Forest types represented in Bayou Boeuf are sugarberry - American elm - green ash (SAF type 93), swamp chestnut - cherrybark oak (SAF type 91), and cypress, tupelo (SAF type 102). Administration and protection is carried out by the Kisatchie National Forest; scientific and educational uses of the area are coordinated through the Southern Forest Experiment Station. Management emphasis is to maintain the area in a natural condition by allowing physical and biological processes to operate without human intervention. Bottomland hardwood forest types make up most of the vegetation in Cunnigham Brake also. It has been used by Northwestern University as an outdoor laboratory for many years. Cunnigham Brake will be managed under this prescription until the study is completed.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES/ ACTIVITIES	GENERAL DIRECTION	STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
<p><u>RECREATION</u></p> <p>Recreation Planning and Inventory (A01, A02)</p> <p>Cultural Resource Planning Inventory; Evaluation and Assessment; and Protection and Enhancement (A01-A04)</p> <p>Undeveloped Recreation Use Administration (A08)</p>	<p>Meet the visual quality objective for all activities.</p> <p>See Forest-wide management Requirements.</p>	<p>This management area is assigned the visual quality objective of "Preservation."</p> <p>Limit or prohibit such public uses under 36 CFR 261.53 if research or educational values are threatened.</p>

MGT. AREA 3
RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES/ ACTIVITIES	GENERAL DIRECTION	STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
<p><u>WILDLIFE</u></p> <p>Surveys, Planning, Prescriptions, Monitoring, Cooperation and Administration (C01)</p>	<p>mitted. Allow public use as long as it does not contribute to modification of the area. If such uses threaten serious impairment of research or educational values, it should be discouraged or prohibited.</p>	<p>Close area year long to the use of motorized travel off road and trails.</p>
<p><u>RANGE</u></p> <p>Range Planning and Inventory; Range Administration and Management (D01, D02, D07)</p>	<p>Hardwood forest type is not suitable for grazing. Grazing by livestock will not be permitted.</p>	
<p>Range Structural Improvement, New;</p>	<p>Fence boundary if necessary for protection from live-</p>	

MGT. AREA 3
RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES/ ACTIVITIES	GENERAL DIRECTION	STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
Range Structural Improvement, Maintenance (D05, D06)	stock.	
<u>TIMBER</u> Timber Resource Management and Planning (E00)	Land is classified as not suited for timber produc- tion.	Insect or disease - killed trees are a part of the natural forest and should not be felled or removed. If epidemic insect or disease population exists, timber salvage could occur. See Forest Pest Management.
<u>SOIL, WATER, & AIR</u> Inventory and Plan- ning (F01, F02)	Accept resulting water quality associated with the area.	
<u>MINERALS AND GEOLOGY</u> Processing Lease Applications (G04)	No mineral exploration or development will be permit- ted. Oil and gas may be leased.	Leases will stipulate "No Surface Occupancy".
Reserved and Out- standing Rights (G08)	See Forest-Wide Manage- ment Requirements.	
<u>LANDS</u> Special Use Management (J01)	No special use permits will be issued.	

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES/ ACTIVITIES	GENERAL DIRECTION	STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
<p><u>FACILITIES</u></p> <p>Transportation Planning and Inventory; Collector and Local Road Con- struction/Reconstruc- tion; Trail Planning and Inventory; Trail Construction/ Reconstruction (L01, L06-L18, L29, L20-22)</p> <p>Road Maintenance Management and Road Maintenance (L19, 744-750)</p> <p><u>PROTECTION</u></p> <p>Fire Management Planning and Analysts (P01)</p> <p>Fire Prevention (P02)</p> <p>Fire Detection (P03)</p>	<p>Road and trail construction/reconstruction is permitted as necessary to meet Research Natural Area objectives.</p> <p>See Forest-wide management requirements.</p> <p>See Forest-wide management requirements.</p> <p>See Forest-wide management requirements.</p>	<p>Close and obliterate any existing roads that do not contribute to the objective of preserving the natural eco-system.</p> <p>Obliteration normally will be by natural revegetation unless more intensive measures are required to mitigate adverse environmental consequences.</p> <p>Maintenance of roads needed for access will be Level 2 or 3. Provide traffic management controls as required.</p>

MGT. AREA 3
RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES/ ACTIVITIES	GENERAL DIRECTION	STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
Initial Attack Forces (P04, P05)	See Forest-wide management requirements.	
Suppression (P08, P09)	Use control strategies to extinguish all fires as quickly as possible.	Suppression strategies will be defined in the Annual Fire Action Plan.
Fuel Maintenance (P14-131)	No prescribed fire.	No fire hazard reduction.
Forest Pest Management (P34-P36, P39)	Generally, no control measures will be undertaken for insect and disease control unless epidemic populations exist and adjacent lands are severely threatened or will drastically alter the natural ecological processes. Control actions will be consistent with the RNA's objectives and research projects.	

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LOUISIANA

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Kisatchie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

Appendix B
(The following pages have been
copied from the FEIS)

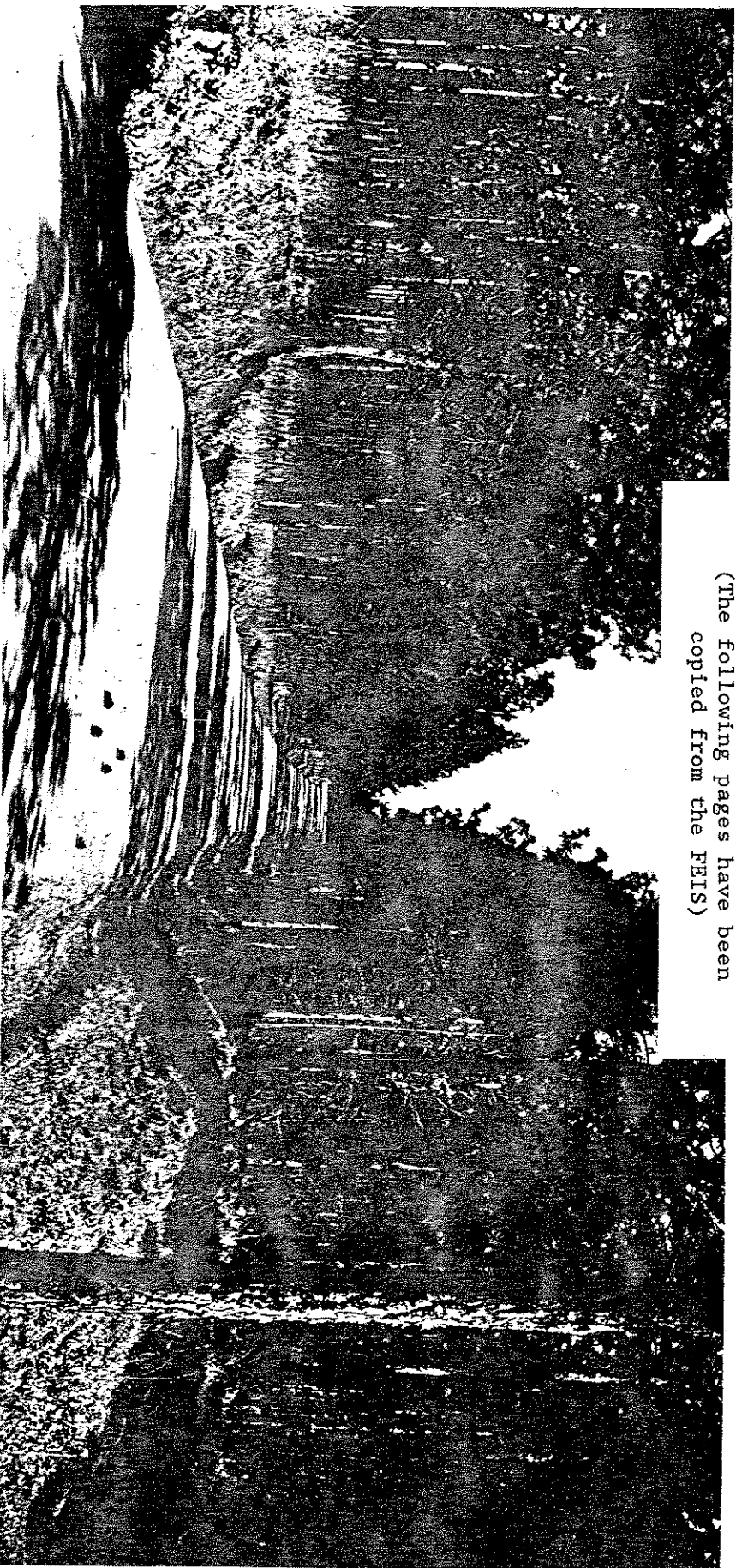






Figure 111-3 Mast Production Based on Sample Stands

Analysis Areas	Hardmast #/Acre	Softmast #/Acre
Mixed Pine & Hardwoods 	65	
Upland Hardwoods 	125	
Bottomland Hardwoods 	100	130
Wetlands Cypress, Tupelo 	20	300

Forest. The American alligator is listed as threatened by similarity of appearance in Louisiana. The primary concern with the recovery of the American alligator is protection from illegal hunting. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is responsible for the enforcement of these laws. The red-cockaded woodpecker is present in 38 percent of the compartments on the Forest. Most of the colonies are in the longleaf forest type.

The Louisiana pine snake, slender flathead snake, eastern tiger salamander, and the Southern red-backed salamander are classified sensitive because of either their limited numbers, limited range, or disjunct populations.

There are no threatened or endangered fish species in Kisatchie National Forest. The sabbine shiner is considered sensitive because of the limited geographic distribution. The sabbine shiner prefers shallow, sandy-bottomed areas of rivers and larger tributaries. The latest population survey indicated no decline in population. Population surveys should be rerun during the next 10-year period. Other species recently considered sensitive include mussels (Margarita hembeli) and a crayfish (Procambarus sp.).

There are currently no endangered or threatened plant species in the Forest. Fifteen plant species are considered sensitive because of their limited distribution and rare occurrence. These are: Louisiana Bluestar (Amsonia ludoviciana); Hairy Lip Fern (Cheilanthes lanosa); Long-leaved Wild Buckwheat (Eriogonum longifolium); Many-flowered Wild Buckwheat (Eriogonum multiflorum); Eulophia, False-coco (Eulophia ecristata); Red Cup-leaf

Beard Tongue (Penstemon murrayanus); Yellow Fringelless Orchid (Platanthera integra); Clammy Weed (Polansia erosa); Spikemoss (Selaginella riddellii); Lady's Slipper (Cypripedium kentuckiense); Shooting Star (Dodecatheon meadia); Nodding Clubmoss (Lycopodium cernuum); False Solomon's-Seal (Smilacina racemosa); Three Bird's Orchid (Triphora trianthophora); Drummonds Yellowed-eyed Grass (Xyris drummondii); and Viperina (Zornia bracteata). (1)

There are 90 fishable streams representing about 163 miles of fishery resources. Small ponds (less than 5 acres) total 54 acres and reservoirs provide about 4,400 fishable acres. Warm-water fish such as bass, bream, pickerel, crappie, and catfish provide nearly all the sport fishing. A complete discussion of aquatic systems and associated indicator species can be found in Appendix G of this document.

Issues and Opportunities

The public's primary concern is maintaining adequate game populations in the Forest. Because hardwoods, especially bottomland hardwoods, provide valuable wildlife habitat, concern for wildlife is often translated into a concern for hardwood acreage. However, a number of other factors influence the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat, including mast production, periodic rough reduction in pine stands, and removal of midstory shade in bottomland hardwood stands.

(1) Source: Natural Heritage Program, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Forest Service must ensure that the populations of the red-cockaded woodpecker and American alligator are not jeopardized by Forest management activities. To achieve this the Forest Service determines whether or not the Forest Plan alternatives may affect the species, and then consults with the USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) on those which may cause an effect.

Habitat capability for the individual management indicator species follows the same general trend with the exception of quail, which shows a sharp downward trend in the fourth planning period. The downward trend is a result of the increased acreage of yellow pine and longleaf pine moving into the 5 to 25 year age class.

Range

Current Situation

Before the purchase of lands for Kisatchie National Forest in the 1930's, cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and hogs grazed on all Districts, except the Caney, on an open range basis. In 1963, a forage resource inventory identified manageable quantities of range resource on five of the Kisatchie's six Ranger Districts. Using this information, grazing allotments were established on all Districts except the Caney Ranger District, which is considered to have no manageable range resource. In 1967, the Forest Service issued grazing permits to prior users.

The controlled grazing program on Kisatchie National Forest is operated primarily on understory vegetation associated with longleaf pine and yellow pine timber (predominantly slash pine). The Caney

DESCRIPTION, CAPABILITY, AND AVAILABILITY

Roadless Area: Cunningham Brake;
Number of Acres: 2100

Description

Location and Access

The area is located on the Kisatchie Ranger District, approximately 13 miles south of Natchitoches, Louisiana. Its boundary is accessible from LA 494 via graded Forest Road No. 348.

Geography and Topography

Most of the area is part of an extensive area of bottomland hardwoods. Kisatchie Bayou passes through the area breaking up into several streams as it goes through the brake and merging into one stream as it comes out of the brake. The area has very little relief, elevations range from just under 100' to around 180'. Sixty-nine percent of the area has soils that are saturated more than nine months out of the year.

Vegetation

Bottomland hardwood forest types make up most (72%) of the vegetation. Bottomland hardwood types present are swamp chestnut oak - cherrybark oak, sweet gum - nuttall oak - willow, and bald cypress - water tupelo and their associated understory vegetation. Vegetation on the balance of the area is composed of the following forest types: yellow pine (19%), mixed bottomland hardwood - yellow pine (7%), upland hardwood (2%), and

their associated understory species.

Ecosystem Type

Based on Kuchler and Bailey's Ecosystem Type map of the United States, the area's potential vegetation is southern mixed forest (Fagus - Liquidambar - Magnolia - Pinus - Quercus) of the Outer Coastal Plain Province.

Current Uses

Timber production and dispersed recreation are the primary current uses. About 653 acres (31%) of the area has been classified as suited for timber production for this planning period. Timber stocking on these acres consists of: 23% mature sawtimber, 23% immature sawtimber; 4% immature pole timber, and 50% seedlings and saplings. The 50% seedlings and saplings are the result of regeneration 1/ on 325 acres where final harvest cuts were made in the last 10 years. Dispersed recreation use in the form of hunting, fishing and nature study is estimated to be approximately 50 recreation visitor days (RVD's) 2/ annually. Approximately nine acres

1/ Regeneration - The renewal of a tree crop, whether by natural (seed tree, coppice, etc.) or artificial (planting, direct seeding, etc.) means. Also, the young crop itself.

2/ Recreation Visitor Day (RVD) - A unit for measuring recreation activities that aggregates 12 visitor hours. This may consist of one person for 12 hours, 12 persons for one hour, or any equivalent combination of continuous or intermittent recreation use by individuals or groups.

are cleared for a 50' right-of-way for a pipeline which runs through the west side of the area. The U.S. government owns the mineral rights on 1940 acres all of which are leased. Mineral rights on the balance of 160 acres are outstanding in perpetuity 3/. There are no improved roads in the area. There are a few unimproved roads.

Appearance

The area appears to be untrammelled by man except for: the 325 acres of regeneration in the south and east ends; the pipeline right-of-way along the west side; and some unimproved roads.

Surroundings

8.75 miles of the 11.5 mile boundary of the area joins private land. The adjacent land (private and Forest Service) is primarily forested land. There are 242 acres of Forest Service pine regeneration that borders the area on the east side. There are a few cleared fields on the adjoining private land but they do not border on the boundary. The pipeline right-of-way extends north and south from the area on private land. State road LA 478 passes approximately .4 of a mile off the northwest corner of the area. Forest road 348 terminates at the edge of the area.

3/ Outstanding in Perpetuity - The mineral rights are owned by a third party, someone other than the government or whoever the government bought the land from, forever. The Secretary of Agriculture's rules and regulations pertaining to mineral rights do not apply.

Attractions

Wildlife - There is a good variety of wildlife, with the area having the usual wildlife and fish species associated with the various forest timber types and streams. There may possibly be a few alligators. There are no outstanding wildlife attractions that would be different from other similar areas on the forest.

*

Plants - A contract was let in 1980 to Dr. R. Dale Thomas, Professor of Biology and Curator and Director of the Herbarium, Northeast Louisiana to locate, describe and determine occurrence of threatened and endangered species on the Kisatchie National Forest. Although no threatened or endangered species were found, he did identify some special habitats deserving preservation. One of these was a cypress-gum swamp (4/ Cunningham Brake proper) which he identified as containing the only population of Triphora trianthophora (drooping pogonia) in the state outside of West Feliciana Parish. He also mentioned that the large cypress trees and other plants in this area make it worthy of consideration for preservation.

Dr. Arthur S. Allen, Ph. D., Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural and Geological Sciences, Northwestern State University was one of the persons commenting on the RARE II Draft EIS. In his comments he noted that under his direction a graduate student prepared a Master of Science thesis on the vascular flora of Cunningham Brake. Dr. Allen stated the thesis presented evidence that the

4/ Cunningham Brake proper (as opposed to the entire RARE II area) is considered not suited for timber production during this plan period.

Brake contains uncommon and rare species of plants for Louisiana and most significantly, the following endangered specie of plant for Louisiana: Triphora trianthophora.

Dr. Walter C. Holmes, Associate Professor and Curator of the Herbarium at Northwestern State University, commented during the RARE II reevaluation. He mentioned that Triphora trianthophora is a good find in Cunningham Brake.

Scenic Landmarks (Quality) - The stands of old growth bottomland hardwoods are scenic especially when the undergrowth is sparse. There are 282 acres of baldcypress - water tupelo over 100 years old in the area.

Capability

Manageability and Boundaries

The boundary of the area is primarily the Forest Service property landline with the balance being the edge of the brake along the east side. The boundary is definable on the ground. A management problem that exists with the area is the pipeline right-of-way which has to be maintained in a cleared condition. Activities on adjoining private land outside the area could impact the wilderness characteristics and values in the future since 76% of the boundary borders on private land.

Natural Integrity

Natural integrity is defined as the extent to which long-term ecological processes are intact and operating. The activities that have affected

the natural integrity of the area are the cleared pipeline right-of-way, vegetative manipulation through regeneration of pine and hardwood stands, and unimproved roads. Clearing for pipeline right-of-way affects less than 1% of the area but maintaining the clearing will be a continuing activity through the years. Overall influence of pipeline right-of-way on natural integrity of the area would be high. Vegetative manipulation affected 325 acres (15%) of the area and set back natural succession on those acres. It did not introduce any vegetation that is not natural to the existing ecological stages of succession. The windrows from site preparation on 230 of the 325 acres will be visible for a significant period of time until windrows decay away. Planted pine on 280 of the 325 acres will have row effect until thinned by man or natural mortality. Influence of vegetative manipulation on natural integrity of the affected acres would be low. The few unimproved roads will continue to exist as long as they are open to use. If left alone for five years natural processes would obliterate them. Overall influence of unimproved roads on natural integrity would be low.

Natural Appearance

Natural appearance is defined as the degree to which the impacts on natural integrity are apparent to the average forest visitor. The cleared pipeline right-of-way is highly apparent to the visitor because of its straight line clearing, 50' wide, with signs marking pipeline location. The regeneration areas are only moderately apparent to the average visitor because of the irregular shape of stand boundaries, hardwood inclusions and revegetation of the cut areas by planted pine and natural vegetation. Unimproved roads are not very apparent