

# Give our Forests the *Bear Essentials*

## The National Forest Management Planning Rule should include:



### Safeguards for Fish and Wildlife Populations and Habitat

- **Require** that forest plans provide for viable populations of all native species; and do not increase the loss of range for native species, make common species scarce, or interfere with the recovery of listed or candidate species; and
- **Require** forest plans to establish a mandatory monitoring program to ensure that management activities are protecting viable fish and wildlife populations.

### Protections for Water Quality & Watersheds

- **Require** forest plans to identify, establish, restore and protect a network of key watersheds to serve as aquatic strongholds for fish and wildlife and as a source of clean drinking water;
- **Require** forest plans to establish ecologically defined riparian buffers with minimum default widths of at least 100 feet, with standards that limit management activities to those that are scientifically-proven to be necessary to achieve their protection; and
- **Require** clear, measurable, enforceable standards for protecting riparian buffers and key watersheds throughout the National Forest System; include standards that limit specific harmful activities like logging, grazing and road-building; and provide a road density standard for key watersheds.

### Use of Sound Science

- **Require** forest plans to conform to the best available science.

### Wilderness Recommendations

- **Require** new forest plans and revisions to evaluate and consider recommendations for wilderness designation on all lands within the planning unit that could qualify under the criteria of section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act, without regard to acreage or other limitations.

### Guarantees for Public Participation

- **Allow** 60 days for objections to proposed final plans and to any substantive changes made following that decision;
- **Require** the agency to make publically available all supporting records and NEPA documents throughout the 60-day objection period; and
- **Permit** objections on issues to be raised by any party at *any time* during the development and final forest plan.

### Standards to Address the Impacts of Climate Change

- **Require** that each forest plan assess the risks of climate change to species, habitat, watersheds, and other ecosystem components;
- **Require** forest managers to take ecologically sustainable actions to reduce the impacts of climate change and human caused stressors on species, habitat, watersheds, and other ecosystem components;
- **Require** forest plans to preserve existing refugia for climate-sensitive species and protect corridors that facilitate population movement related to climate change; and
- **Require** forests to assess their contribution to mitigating climate change, and ensure actions authorized pursuant to forest plans do not reduce a forest's ability to continue providing climate benefits including the preservation of carbon storage capacity in naturally high carbon density forests.