

E-CAP Deliverables

1. Assess the current conditions and future trends to help determine which Ecological Systems on the Cherokee National Forest are in need of ecological restoration.
 - a. Refine the LANDFIRE reference condition models.
 - b. Determine if, and to what extent, the Ecological Systems on the Cherokee National Forest vary from their natural range of variability (NRV).
 - c. Determine the primary causes of departure from the NRV.
 - d. Determine the future trends of departure from the NRV.
 - e. Target/prioritize the Ecological Systems most in need of restoration. This will be mapped.

2. Develop potential vegetation management scenarios to aid in building consensus based recommendations to the Forest Service.
 - a. Provide list of various management strategies and models for each targeted Ecological System.
 - b. Provide a suite of management scenarios. These will be mapped.
 - i. Ensure that each management scenario conforms to the current LRMP management prescriptions. If a scenario does not conform, document the deviation.
 - c. Determine which management scenarios provide the most restoration for the least cost.
 - d. Vet scenarios with stakeholders and the public to determine which scenario is most highly recommended.

E-CAP Timeline

The following is a timeline of tasks for the E-CAP process on the Cherokee National Forest. For a complete timeline of the entire project, please see the CNFLRI project timeline.

**A note about using data versus expert opinion. It is recommended that the committee begin with the best available data. If upon review, any portion of that data appears to be counter to the best judgment of the committee (based on expert opinion), then it is a very simple matter to substitute information. This may especially be the case in using the CISC (FS Veg) data because we know it has some limitations that may need to be addressed.

Task		Timeline
Preparation for Workshop 1		(7 months)
	Ecological Zone Model Review-The Steering Committee will review the description and natural range of variability of each Ecological Zone and provide input and feedback.	Complete by November or December of 2010
	Ground Truth Remote Sensing Data Option 1: Extrapolate data from Nantahala National Forest (approx. 60% accurate) Option 2: Complete inventory of Cherokee with 3-400 plots. (approx. 80% accurate)	Option 1: Complete by November or December of 2010 Option 2: Complete by January or February of 2011
	Option 1: CISC (FS Veg) Data Rastorized and updated with any additional information Option 2: Use GAP, % cover, and height class to estimate successional stage (this is currently being attempted on the GW/Jeff)	Option 1: Complete by November or December of 2010 Option 2: Still Unknown
	Calculate ecological departure for each Ecological Zone.	Complete by December of 2010
Workshop 1		February 2011
Preparation for Workshop 2		(2 months)
	Identify Ecological Zones that are likely to suffer future impairment	
	Select focal Ecological Zones for treatment	
	Develop initial conservation strategies and estimated costs	
	Review Cherokee LRMP to determine where management scenarios will be most likely based	

	on current Land Management Prescription designations.	
	Develop management scenarios to be tested for each focal Ecological Zone	
Workshop 2		April 2011
Preparation for Workshop 3		(2 months)
	Produce 20 year outcomes of computer simulations for each management scenario	
	Refine management scenarios emphasizing high ecological returns for low cost	
Workshop 3		June 2011
Preparation for Final Report		(2 months)
	Conduct Cost Benefit analysis	August 2011
	Public meetings to present final findings	Late August 2011
	Draft Final Report	
	Review by Steering Committee	
	Submit Final Report to Forest Service	September 2011