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Comments:

Comments on the draft Francis Marion EIS

Map of Francis Marion National Forest, page 9.

\* Georgetown Co./Charleston Co. boundary mislabeled - Should be Georgetown Co./Berkeley Co.

3.3.2 Geology - Pages 50 to 51

\* "?phosphate-rich Oligocene and Miocene-age deposits are found overlying the Santee Formation and underlying the Pleistocene formations?. The phosphate industry is no longer active in the state."

Comment - In time other phosphate deposits will decline and be worked out. These virgin phosphate-rich deposits could become exploration and mining targets.

3.2.2.1 Affected Environment

\* Page 53 - Minerals - Phosphate potential not discussed, yet it was noted that "?phosphate-rich Oligocene and Miocene-age deposits are found?" to the south in the forest.

\* Fossils - are there rules for collecting fossils? Should personal collecting be discussed here.?

\* Earthquakes - Is there any evident of sand blows as have occurred in the Charleston area and southeast Missouri? Could they cause significant damage?

? Holocene And Late Pleistocene?) Earthquake-Induced Sand Blows In Coastal South Carolina. Obermeier SF etc. "?discovered throughout coastal South Carolina?"

<http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70015116>

? Sand Blows and the New Madrid Earthquakes of 1811-1812, Tuttle, M. etc.

[http://www.iris.edu/hq/files/programs/education\\_and\\_outreach/aotm/20/SandBlow\\_ES\\_NESTA.pdf](http://www.iris.edu/hq/files/programs/education_and_outreach/aotm/20/SandBlow_ES_NESTA.pdf)

\* Suitability determination for mineral development - Is there documentation or guidance on making suitability determinations?

\* Page 56 - Word Missing?

Effects of Alternatives on Geologic Hazards. Implementation of Alternatives 1, 2 or 3 would be unlikely to directly or indirectly ?????? geological hazards on the forest.

\* Overall a good discussion on Mineral Operations.

3.4.4 Special Uses, Energy, Minerals

\* Utilities right-of-way, towers, windmills - What would be the effect on the view? Viewscape, is that the word used now?

3.4.6 Outdoor Recreation

\* Recreation personal fossil collecting?

Page 252 - Minerals management and development activities can involve major landform alteration?."

\* I agree, but mineral development as in a mine would extend downward and could be hidden by berms and evergreen trees. While utility lines, towers, windmills would extend upward and be hard to conceal. Fake pine trees just look fake.

Draft Francis Marion Forest Plan

### 3.3.4 Minerals and Energy Suitability

\* Look good. Mineral develop would also be on a case-by-case basis.

Outdoor recreation - General comment.

\* Understandably mineral and fossil are not seen as significant items in the Francis Marion Forest. I know of no notable and collectable minerals located in your forest area that mineral collectors would be interested in. However, there would be fossils and there are noted sites in Berkeley and Charleston counties given on internet websites. Most fossil collecting is a surface activity with little or no real disturbance. Judging from the forest plan and a couple trips passing through the Francis Marion, there is plentiful ground cover and fossil collecting usually needs open and/or disturbed ground locations. This limits opportunities to see or pick up fossils. However, where possible children/young people (young at heart) should be able to explore nature. Someone with an interest in nature picking up a shell should not be discouraged. I would hate to hear of an overzealous ranger handing out fines because there are no guidelines and he/she wants to discourage looting of the national forest.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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