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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Summary of comments received from Mr. Edauri Navarro on the Proposed Action:

Section III- Comprehensive Evaluation Report - page 6

Topic: Heritage - Desired conditions should provide emphasis on preserving and stabilizing heritage resources. Management Direction should be updated to reflect current science.

Comment: In Part III, one of the focus is to conserve the areas. But, in this part you use the word preserve. The meaning of preserve and conserve is different. Clarify that.

Section C - Environmental Illiteracy and Education - Pg 10

Topic: Increase engagement with tourism offices at the municipal level

Comment: One of the things that bother most of the visitants in El Yunque is the lack of tourist guides, provided by El Yunque. Maybe you can create a program for the people of near municipalities to become environmental interpreters of El Yunque. With this, you increase social and economic participation.

Section D. Experimental Forest - pg 10

Topic: Coordinate with the Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative and the USDA Southeastern Climate Change Hub the needs for technology transfer.

Comment: Maybe you can add how the sustainability affects the social and economic factors with the climate change.

Section E Broader Landscape and Lands pg 11

Topic: There is a need to develop strategies that foster forest-agricultural initiatives.

Comment: It will be great if you check the impact of agriculture management with this forest. Also, evaluate this impact on climate change.

Topic: The EYNF has several designated land uses, which contribute to forest conservation and social-ecological sustainability. Special designated land uses within the EYNF include federally-designated experimental forest, research natural area, wild and scenic river segments, and wilderness area. There is a need to update and/or clarify plan direction regarding the management of designated areas, including the Luquillo Experimental Forest, El Toro Wilderness Area, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and others to reflect new designations since 1997 and to enhance the ecological, economic and social sustainability of the Forest

Comment: It will be excellent if you can also check how this changes can affect the patrimonial feeling of the citizens. El Yunque is one of the monuments of Puerto Rico. If you eliminate one part of it, will affect all of the puerto ricans.

Topic: The Forest is a major service provider of water for the region. There is a need to integrate watershed management concepts by municipalities.

Comment: You also need to check how the agriculture part will affect the water resources for the adjacent citizens.

Section T Economic and Ecosystem Services pg 19

Topic: Many of the major ecosystem services provided by El Yunque National Forest identified by all stakeholder groups include: clean water, habitat for flora and fauna, air purification, recreation, and scenic value.

Comment: Maybe one of the new focus can be making some "specials" road for persons with impairments. Also, more rotation on the roads.

Section U Wetlands pg 21

Topic: Identify the areas as wetlands

Comment: Maybe, when you identified the wetlands areas, you can also place a little description of the importance of these wetlands on this ecosystem. With this, you will improve the knowledge of conservation of the visitors.

Section V Monitoring - Plant and Animal Diversity pg 25

Topic: What is the status of the key ecological conditions that help to maintain or enhance the populations of the species of conservation concern?

Comment: What is the status of key ecological conditions that contribute to minimize invasive species that threat to extinction native species?

Section - Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems pg 25

Topic: What are the effects on the forest stands because of timber removals?

Comment: How the forest management can improve the erosion with the new agriculture plans?

Topic: Scenic Resources pg 25

Is the scenic value of the forest being maintained or enhanced?

Comment: How you can restore the scenic value of El Yunque on the special lands that are assigned for agriculture?

General Comment: This proposed action is really good. Is easy to read and understand.