Appendix D
Rare Community Descriptions

These community descriptions are to provide a very basic common understanding of what is covered under the 9F Rare Community Prescription. More detailed descriptions are available and will be included to guide implementation, but will be reserved for implementation documents. Even with more detailed information, in many cases judgment by field biologists and forest botanists will be needed to identify and characterize rare communities.

Wetland Communities

Appalachian Highlands Bogs, Fens, Seeps, and Ponds

These rare communities are characterized by 1) soils that are semi-permanently to permanently saturated as a result of groundwater seepage, perched water tables, rainfall, or beaver activity, but otherwise are generally nonalluvial, and 2) presence of wetland-associated species such as sphagnum, ferns, and sedges. Dominant vegetation may be herbs, shrubs, trees, or some complex of the three. Ponds in this group include limesink, karst, and depression ponds, which may hold areas of shallow open water for signficant portions of the year. Also included are all impoundments and associated wetlands resulting from beaver activity. Artificial impoundments are not included, unless they support significant populaitons or associations of species at risk. These communities may be found in both the Appalchian and Piedmont regions. Primary management needs are protection from nontarget management disturbance and resource impacts, particularly to local hydrology. Periodic vegetation management may be necessary to maintain desired herbaceous and/or shrubby composition at some sites. These communities include Mafic and Calcareous Fens, Sphagnum and Shrub Bogs, Swamp Forest-Bog Complex, Mountain Ponds, Seasonally Dry Sinkhole Ponds, and Beaver Pond and Wetland Complex as defined in the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAMAB 1996), and all Associations within the following Ecological Groups as defined by NatureServe (2001a):

458-15 Appalachian Highlands Wooded Depression Ponds
458-20 Appalachian and Interior Highlands Limesink and Karst Wooded Ponds
470-10 Appalachian Highlands Forested Bogs
470-20 Appalachian Highlands Forested Acid Seeps
470-50 Appalachian Highlands Forested Fens and Calcareous Seeps
475-10 Appalachian Highlands Acid Herbaceous Seeps
475-20 Appalachian Highlands Alkaline Herbaceous Fens and Seeps
475-30 Appalachian and Interior Highlands Herbaceous Depression Ponds and Pondshores

Appalachian Highlands Riverine Vegetation

These rare communities are characterized by 1) sites adjacent to or within stream channels that are exposed to periodic flooding and scour, and 2) presence of significant populations or associations of species at risk. These communities may be found in both Appalachian and Piedmont regions. Primary management needs are protection from disturbance during development of road crossings, and maintenance of desirable in-stream flows. These communities include River Gravel-Cobble Bars as defined in the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAMAB 1996), and the rare Associations within the following Ecological Groups as defined by NatureServe (2001a):

457-10 Appalachian Highlands Riverine Vegetation
457-30 Rocky Riverbeds
457-40 Appalachian Highlands Riverscour Vegetation

Coastal Plain Ponds and Pond Margins

These wetland communities occur as imbedded features, usually found in pine flatwoods, in the East Gulf Coastal Plain. Cypress Ponds, Coastal Plain Vernal Pools, Gum Ponds, Bay Swamps and Shrub Bays, and Seasonally Dry Sinkhole Ponds are included as Coastal Plain Ponds and Pond Margins They are influenced by drainage changes affected by impermeable clay lenses, slight depressions, peat accumulations, or limestone karst weathering. Surrounding higher terrain is underlain by deep sand, causing these ponds to be fed almost entirely by groundwater. These drainage changes cause seasonal, periodic, or permanent inundation. When dry, or reduced in size due to seasonal drought, these communities are subject to fires spreading from adjacent uplands. Winter fires are unlikely to burn these communities, except during extreme drought cycles. Surrounding vegetation and hydrology vary widely depending on the depth of the impermeable clay lens and the size of the watershed influencing the pond. Vegetation conditions range from cypress and gum ponds, to shrub-dominated swamps or bays, to continuous herbaceous flats or depressions.

In the field, these communities can be distinguished from surrounding forests and woodlands by a marked change in overstory composition or density, the presence of ponded water or saturated soils, a decrease in elevation, Good examples of Coastal Plain Ponds and Pond Margins have a low incidence of exotics.... Occurrences are typically small in size, ranging only up to twenty acres in size.

This community includes the following rare associations identified and defined by NatureServe[1] (2001):

340-10 – Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Upland Depression Forested Ponds
Rufous Mayhaw Forest – CEGL007783
Swamp Blackgum Depression Forest – CEGL007434

340-20 – Southeastern Coastal Plain Flatwoods – Wooded Ponds and Dome Swamps
Swamp Blackgum/Myrtle Dahoon/Southern Waxy Sedge – Softhead Pipewort Forest – CEGL004720
Pond-cypress/(Swamp Blackgum)/Swamp Dog hobble – Buttonbush – Wax-myrtle Depression Forest – CEGL007420
Pond-cypress/Myrtle Dahoon/(Peatland Sedge, Pinebarren Sedge) Stringer Forest – CEGL007419
Pond-cypress/Myrtle Dahoon Depression Forest – CEGL007418
340-50 – Southeastern Coastal Plain Upland Depression Shrub Ponds
Saturated Alder Thicket – CEGL003912
Pondshore Titi Thicket – CEGL003844
345-05 – Southeastern Coastal Plain Open Ponds and Marshes
East Gulf Coastal Plain Floatingheart Pond - CEGL004621
345-10 – Southeastern Coastal Plain Open Limesinks and Emergent Vegetation
Pineland St. John's-wort/Yellow Hatpins – Willowleaf Meadow-beauty – (Kral's Yellow-eyed-grass) Dwarf-shrubland – CEGL004998
Coastal Plain Vernal Pool Depression – CEGL004100
345-30 – Southeastern Coastal Plain Emergent Ponds and Marshes
East Gulf Coastal Plain Maidencane Pond – CEGL007792

Coastal Plain Baygalls and Bayheads

These communities are dominated by sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*), redbay (*Persea borbonia*), and gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*). They may appear linearly along small stream courses or in large depressions near the head of drains. Infrequent fires during dry periods prevent this type's succession to closed canopy streamside forest.

In the field, coastal plain baygalls and bayheads can be distinguished from surrounding forests and woodlands by a decrease in elevation, an increase in shrub density, a change in overstory composition to predominately bays, and the presence of water, inundated soils, and moist conditions even during dry periods. Good examples of coastal plain baygalls and bayheads have a low incidence of exotic species. Occurrences are typically small in size ranging up to ten acres.

This community includes the following rare associations identified and defined by NatureServe[1] (2001):

360-10 – Southeastern Coastal Plain Baygalls and Bayheads
Black Titi/Shining Fetterbush – Blaspheme-vine Forest – CEGL007042
Shrub Titi Swamp – CEGL003847
Sweetbay – Swamp Blackgum – Southern Magnolia/Big Gallberry – Southern Wild Raisin/Bayhead Goldenrod Forest – CEGL007473
Atlantic/East Gulf Coastal Plain Sweetbay – Blackgum Streamhead Forest – CEGL004722
Atlantic/East Gulf Coastal Plain Sweetbay-Blackgum Seepage Forest – CEGL008552

Upper East Gulf Coastal Plain Mountain Laurel Hillside Seepage Bog – CEGL008548

Coastal Plain Seepage Bogs

Coastal Plain seepage bogs occur in a pine flatwoods landscape, on very gently sloping to almost level topography, and often have a sparse canopy (typically 5%-10% cover) of stunted longleaf (*Pinus palustris*) and slash (*Pinus elliottii var. elliottii*) pines. Characteristic species include wiregrass (*Aristida beyrichiana)*, feather bristle beaksedge (*Rhynchospora oligantha)*, Florida dropseed (*Sporobolus floridana)* (rarely), crimson pitcherplant (*Sarracenia leucophylla)*, and parrot pitcherplant (*Sarracenia psittacina)*. Patchy shrubs include wooly huckleberry (*Gaylussacia mosieri)*, inkberry (*Ilex glabra)*, wax myrtle (*Morella carolinensis* [= *Myrica heterophylla]*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida)*, coastal sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia)*, St. John's wort (*Hypericum* spp.), buckwheat tree (*Cliftonia monophylla)*, and laurel greenbriar (*Smilax laurifolia)*.

In the field, coastal plain seepage bogs can be distinguished from surrounding forests and woodlands by a drastic reduction in overstory density, the presence of wet or inundated soils, pitcherplants and other insectivorous plants, and stunted overstory trees. Good examples of coastal plain seepage bogs have a low incidence of non-native species and include wiregrass (*Aristida beyrichiana*) in the herbaceous layer. Occurrences are typically small in size, but may range up to twenty acres.

This community includes the following rare associations identified and defined by NatureServe[1] (2001):

347-10 – Southeastern Coastal Plain Herbaceous Seepage Bogs
East Gulf Coastal Plain Wet Flatwood Bog – CEGL004154

Forest Communities

Basic Mesic Forests

These communities are characterized by closed-canopy deciduous overstories and rich and diverse understories of calciphilic herbs, underlain by high-base geologic substrates. On moderate to high elevation sites, these communities are typically found in protected coves, and can be distinguished from more acidic mesic cove forests by the abundance of species such as white basswood (*Tilia americana*), yellow buckeye (*Aesculus flava*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), faded trillium (*Trillium discolor*), sweet white trillium (*Trillium simile*), black cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*), whorled horsebalm (*Collinsonia verticillata*), mock orange (*Philadelphus inodorus*), sweet shrub (*Calycanthus floridus*), sweet cicely (*Ozmorhiza* spp.), doll's eyes (*Actaea racemosa*), maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), and plantain-leaved sedge (*Carex plantaginea*). Good examples of moderate and high elevation basic mesic forests have a low incidence of white pine (*Pinus strobus*), eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), rhododendron

(*Rhododendron* spp.), and Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*). An oak-dominated variant of moderate to high elevation basic mesic forest occurs over limestone on upper to mid slopes of the Interior Plateau of Tennessee, the Cumberlands of Alabama, and the Ridge and Valley of Georgia. This basic mesic community is dominated or codominated by shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*) or chinquapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*), in combination with various species of oaks and hickories and either sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), chalk maple (*Acer leucoderme*), or southern sugar maple (*Acer barbatum*). Typical calciphilic understory species also are present. On lower elevation sites, these communities are more typically found on north slopes, where dominant and characteristic overstory species are American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), with tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), shagbark hickory (), or white ash (), with southern sugar maple, chalk maple, painted buckeye (*Aesculus sylvatica*), and pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) in the midstory and shrub layers, and understories that include faded trillium, nodding trillium (*Trillium rugelii*), black cohosh, doll's eyes, foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia var. collina*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), bellworts (*Uvularia sp.*) and trout lilies (*Erythronium spp.)*. Good examples of low elevation basic mesic forests have a low incidence of sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), and exotics such as Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) or Chinese privet (Lingustrum vulgare). Basic mesic forest communities are found in both the Appalachian and Piedmont regions. Only prime examples of these communities, as identified in the forest-wide rare community database, are managed under the Rare Community Prescription. Primary management needs are protection from nontarget management disturbance. This community includes the following Associations defined by NatureServe (2001a, 2001b):

CEGL007711	Southern Appalachian Cove Forest (Rich Foothills Type),
CEGL007695	Southern Appalachian Cove Forest (Rich Montane Type),
CEGL008442	Shumard Oak-Chinquapin Oak Mesic Limestone Forest
CEGL008466	Basic Piedmont Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest
CEGL008488	Southern Ridge and Valley Basic Mesic Hardwood Forest
CEGL004542	Piedmont Rocky Mesic Mafic Forest.

Atlantic White Cedar Swamp

This forest, or forested wetland community, occurs along streams or in basins in the East Gulf Coastal Plain of Alabama, Florida and Mississippi. Dominant and characteristic species are Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), swamp blackgum (*Nyssa biflora*), magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), and Cliftonia (*Cliftonia monophylla*) in the overstory. The shrub layer is fairly open to very dense. Understory species include titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*), Cliftonia (*Cliftonia monophylla*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), large gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*), inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). Herbaceous density and composition varies with site hydrology, litter depth, and fire history. Herbaceous species found include, beak rush (*Rhynchospora* spp.), Southern long sedge (*Carex lonchocarpa*),

netted chain-fern (*Woodwardia areolata*), sweet pitcherplant (*Sarracenia rubra*), sphagnum mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.), goldenclub (*Orontium aquaticum*), partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*), sundews (*Drosera* spp.), cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), and royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*).

In the field, Atlantic white cedar swamp can be distinguished from drier surrounding sites by the presence of moist or saturated soils. This condition is obvious during the late winter and early spring when high rainfall levels and low evapotranspiration may allow ponding of water. The presence of Atlantic white cedar is adequate to denote the community. A range of understory conditions is possible. 1.) It can be found in saturated basins or hummocks in which a heavy peat or muck layer overlies the sandy subsoil. This condition leads to a sparse herbaceous layer and a community dominated by trees. 2.) Linear occurrences along streams in saturated, highly acid, coarse sandy situations lead to sparsely forested woodlands dominated by shrubs or herbaceous ground covers. 3.) Occurrences along blackwater streamsides and springheads of uneven-aged mixed forests with well-developed shrub and herbaceous strata. Occurrences are typically small in size ranging from five to ten acres.

This community includes the following rare associations identified and defined by NatureServe[1] (2001):

360-20 - Southeastern Coastal Plain Streamhead Atlantic White Cedar Forests.
Atlantic White Cedar-Slash Pine/Swamp Blackgum-Carolina Red Maple/Saw Palmetto Forest - CEGL007145
Steephead White Cedar Woodland - CEGL003634
Gulf Coastal Plain Streamside White-cedar Swamp - CEGL007151

Wet Pine Flatwoods

This woodland community occurs in the East Gulf Coastal Plain, on low, flat terrain. It is usually dominated by slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*). Wiregrass (*Aristida stricta* var. *beyrichiana*) is a frequent groundcover, with pitcher plant bogs imbedded sporadically throughout the community. Pools, ponds, and bogs occur in the depressions in this terrain.

In the field, wet pine flatwoods can be distinguished from surrounding forests and woodlands by a reduction in overstory density, the presence of seasonally wet or inundated soils, a transition into low, relatively flat, poorly drained terrain. Good examples of wet pine flatwoods have a low incidence of exotic species, and a high likelihood of imbedded bog communities. Surface rutting or compaction has not affected drainage. Feral hog, cattle, and horse populations, if present, are managed to keep their effects to species composition and hydrology, minimal. Occurrences can range in size up to several hundred acres.

This community includes the following rare associations identified and defined by NatureServe[1] (2001):

330-20(in part) – Southeastern Coastal Plain Wet Slash Pine Savannas and Flatwoods
Slash Pine/Saw Palmetto – Little Gallberry Woodland – CEGL003653

Pine Savannas and Woodlands

This open woodland community may have an overstory composed of slash (*Pinus elliottii*), pond (*Pinus serotina*) or longleaf (*Pinus taeda*) pine. Low tree density and a sparse shrub layer are characteristic of this shallowly inundated or wet community. Topography may be nearly flat seepage areas or slight depressions in deep sands or peat over a clay lens. The shrub stratum may be dense or sparse, and may consist of inkberry (*Ilex glabra)*, titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*), and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). The rich and diverse herbaceous layer consists of wiregrass (*Aristida beyrichiana*), feather bristle beaksedge (*Rynchospora oligantha*), toothache grass (*Ctenium aromaticum*), Gulf chaffhead (*Carphephorus pseudoliatris*), and several pitcherplants including trumpet pitcherplant (*Sarracenia alata*).

In the field, pine savannas can be differentiated from surrounding upland habitats by a reduction in overstory density and elevation, wet or inundated ground conditions, scattered shrubs and a continuous herbaceous understory. Very slight topographic changes result in savannas and their sizes can range up to several hundred acres.

This community includes the following rare associations identified and defined by NatureServe[1] (2001):

330-10 – Southeastern Coastal Plain Longleaf Savannas and Flatwoods
East Gulf Coastal Plain Longleaf Pine Savanna – CEGL003645
Longleaf Pine/Saw Palmetto – Little Gallberry Woodland – CEGL003653
330-20(in part) – Southeastern Coastal Plain Wet Slash Pine Savannas and Flatwoods
Slash Pine-Pond Cypress Saturated Woodland - CEGL004768
Slash Pine (Pond Pine)/Southern Wiregrass-Feather-Bristle Beaksedge-(Yellow Pitcherplant, Hooded Pitcherplant, Parrot Pitcherplant) Woodland - CEGL003673
Slash Pine Titi Swamp - CEGL003638
Slash Pine/Saw Palmetto-Little Gallberry Woodland - CEGL003643

Xeric Sandhills

This community occurs in the East Gulf Coastal Plain, where it is restricted to extremely deep sandy soils. It is distinctive for its lack of wiregrass due to the extreme edaphic conditions. This sandhill association is widespread on Lakeland soils. Longleaf pine dominates the canopy, with 10-30% coverage. The understory of scrub oaks, mainly turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*), but also bluejack oak (*Quercus incana*), sand live oak (Quercus geminata) and sand post oak (*Quercus boyntonii*), is

highly variable, from shrubs to small trees (depending on interval, season, and pattern of fire), and from very sparse to very dense. Hawthorn (*Crataegus lacrimata*) and gopher apple (*Licania michauxii*) are typically present as low shrubs. Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), three-awn grasses (?), and goat's rue (*Tephrosia* spp.), may be contained in the herbaceous stratum.

In the field, xeric sandhills can be distinguished from surrounding forests and woodlands by an increase in elevation, extremely deep sandy soils, low overstory density, and the small, shrubby, growth form of oak species in the area. Good examples of xeric sandhills have a low incidence of sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), and exotics such as Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) or Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*). Occurrences are typically small in size, ranging up to ten acres.

This community includes the following rare associations identified and defined by NatureServe[1] (2001):

320-10 – Southeastern Coastal Plain Xeric Longleaf Pine Sandhill/Pinelands
East Gulf Coastal Plain Xeric Longleaf Pine Sandhills – CEGL003587
Longleaf Pine/Turkey Oak/Gopher-Apple/Southern Wiregrass – Sandhill Croton Woodland – CEGL003583

Cliffs and Rock Outcrops

Talus Slopes

This community is characterized by nonvegetated or sparsely vegetated accumulations of rock at 2,500 to 4,600 feet elevation. It is found in the Appalachian region. It is distinguished from Forested Boulderfields by the lack its lack of trees. It is distiinguished from rocky summits by its occurrence on side slopes as opposed to ridges and peaks. Primary management needs are protection from nontarget management disturbance. This community includes Talus Slopes as defined in the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAMAB 1996), and all Associations within the following Ecological Group as defined by NatureServe (2001a):

430-10 Eastern Acid Talus

Forested Boulderfields

This community is characterized by rock fields, normally found at 3,500 to 5,300 feet elevation, but including a subset below that elevation for Alabama, that support a variable density of trees, typically dominated by yellow birch. In Alabama it is also interspersed with longleaf and virginia pines. It is distinguished from talus slopes by the presence of trees. It is found in the Appalachian region. Primary management needs are protection from nontarget management disturbance. This community includes Boulderfields as defined in the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAMAB 1996), and the following Associations as defined by NatureServe (2001a, 2001b):

CEGL004982 Southern Appalachian Hardwood Boulderfield Forest (Typic Type)
CEGL006124 Southern Applachian Boulderfield Forest (Currant and Rockcap Fern Type)

Cliffs and Bluffs

These communities are characterized by steep, rocky, sparsely-vegetated slopes, usually above streams or rivers. Cliff communities may be dry or wet, and include communities associated with waterfalls, such as spray cliffs and rock houses. These communities are found in the Appalachian region. Primary management needs are protection from management disturbance and maintenance of hydrology near wet cliffs. This community includes Calcareous Cliffs, Mafic Cliffs, Sandstone Cliffs, and Spray Cliffs as defined in the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAMAB 1996), and all Associations within the following Ecological Groups as defined by NatureServe (2001a):

430-40 Eastern Dry Acid Cliffs
430-45 Eastern Moist Acid Cliffs
430-50 Eastern Dry Alkaline Cliffs
430-55 Eastern Moist Alkaline Cliffs
430-60 Appalachain Highlands Northern White-Cedar Bluffs
430-65 Appalachian Highlands Rock Houses

Rock Outcrops

These communities are characterized by significant areas of exposed, usually smooth, exfoliating granite or related rocks, with scattered vegetation mats and abundant lichens. These communities are found in both the Appalachian and Piedmont regions. Primary management needs are protection from nontarget management disturbance and recreational impacts. This community includes Granitic Dome and Granitic Flatrock as defined in the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAMAB 1996), and all Associations within the following Ecological Groups as defined by NatureServe (2001a):

435-10 Appalachian Highlands Granitic Domes
435-20 Appalachian Highlands Grantic Flatrock

Other Communities

Glades, Barrens, and Associated Woodlands

These communities are characterized by thin soils and exposed parent material that result in localized complexes of bare soil and rock, herbaceous and/or shrubby vegetation, and thin, often stunted woods. During wet periods they may include scattered shallow pools or areas of seepage. They vary widely in species composition

depending on the type of underlying parent material. They differ from rock outcrop communities by exhibiting some level of soil and vegetation over the majority of the site. Field delineations should include the entire complex of characteristic vegetation composition and structure. These communities may be found in both Appalachian and Piedmont regions. Primary management needs are protection from nontarget management disturbance and recreational impacts. Periodic vegetation management, especially prescribed fire, may be necessary to maintain or restore desired herbaceous and/or shrubby composition. These communities include Calcareous Woodlands and Glades, Mafic Woodlands and Glades, Serpentine Woodlands and Glades, and Shale Barrens as defined in the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAMAB 1996), and the rare Associations within the following Ecological Groups as defined by NatureServe (2001a):

401-17 Appalachian Highlands Calcareous/Circumneutral Dry-Mesic Hardwood Forests and Woodlands
440-05 Appalachian Highlands Carbonate Glades and Barrens
440-10 Interior Highlands Carbonate Glades and Barrens
440-25 Appalachian Sandstone Glades and Barrens
440-40 Appalachian Shale Glades and Barrens
440-65 Appalachian Serpentine Woodlands
440-80 Appalachian Mafic Igneous/Metamorphic Glades and Barrens

Patch Prairies and Grasslands

These communities occur on dry upland sites and are characterized by dominance of grasses and herbs, though scattered trees may be present. These communities represent remnants of naturally occuring grasslands historically maintained by fire and other natural forces, as opposed to old fields. Provisions of the Rare Community Prescription apply only to prime examples that support significant populations or associations of species at risk. Other natural grasslands will be restored and maintained within complexes of open woodlands. These communities are found in both the Appalachian and Piedmont regions. Primary management needs are maintenance and restoration using a variety of vegetation management methods including prescribed fire. Thes communities include all Associations within the following Ecological Groups as defined by NatureServe (2001a):

445-10 Interior Highlands Patch Prairies and Grasslands

Canebrakes

This community is characterized by almost monotypic stands of giant or switch cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), usually with no or low densities of overstory tree canopy. It is typically found in bottomlands or stream terraces. Although cane is found commonly as an understory component on these sites, provisions of the Rare Community Prescription apply only to larger patches (generally greater than 0.25 acres) exhibiting high densities that result in nearly monotypic conditions, or to areas selected for restoration of such conditions. This community is found in the Appalachian, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain regions. Primary management needs are

restoration and maintenance through overstory reduction and periodic prescribed fire. Although several Associations described by NatureServe (2001a, 2001b) include cane as a major component, this community most closely corresponds to:

CEGL003836 Floodplain Canebrake

Caves and Mines

This community is characterized by natural and human-made openings in the ground that extend beyond the zone of light, creating sites buffered in relation to the outside environment. Included are karst and sinkhole features that lead to such subterranean environments. Provisions of the Rare Community Prescription apply only to those sites supporting cave-associated species. This community is found in the Appalachian region. Primary management needs are protection from nontarget management disturbance and recreational impacts, and maintaining quality of water flowing into underground streams.

References:

International Classification of Ecological Communities: Terrestrial Vegetation of the Southeastern United States. Final Bankhead National Forest. Community Ecology Group. The Nature Conservancy, Southern Resources Office, Durham NC. 2000

International Classification of Ecological Communities: Terrestrial Vegetation of the Southeastern United States. DRAFT Talladega National Forest, Oakmulgee Ranger District Classification Review Subset. Community Ecology Group. The Nature Conservancy. Southern Resources Office, Durham NC. 2000.

Inventory List of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants, Animals and Natural Communities of Alabama. Alabama Natural Heritage Program, Montgomery, AL 1999

NatureServe, 2001a. International Classification of Ecological Communities: Terrestrial Vegetation. Natural Heritage Central Databases. NatureServe, Arlington, VA.

NatureServe. 2001b. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 1.6. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: http://www.natureserve.org/explorer (Accessed: January-June, 2002).

A Report on Some Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Forest-Related Vascular Plants of the South. Vol. I Isoetaceae through Euphorbiaceae. USFS. R8-TP 2 March 1983.

A Report on Some Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Forest-Related Vascular Plants

of the South. Vol. II Aquifoliaceae through Asteraceae and Glossary. USFS. R8-TP 2 March 1983

SAMAB (Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere). 1996. The Southern Appalachian Assessment Terrestrial Technical Report. Report 5 of 5. Atlanta:U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Region.

Strategies for Protection and Management of Floodplain Wetlands and Other Riparian Ecosystems. Proceeding of the symposium Callaway Gardens, GA. December 1978

Southern Appalachian Coordinated National Forest Planning Terrestrial/Aquatic Plant and Animal Issues Team. Draft Forest-wide Management Direction. USFS, Southern Region, Atlanta, GA. April 1999.

The Nature Conservancy. Natural Community Conservation Status Report. USFS Region 8, Southern Region. Status Ranks Project. 1998