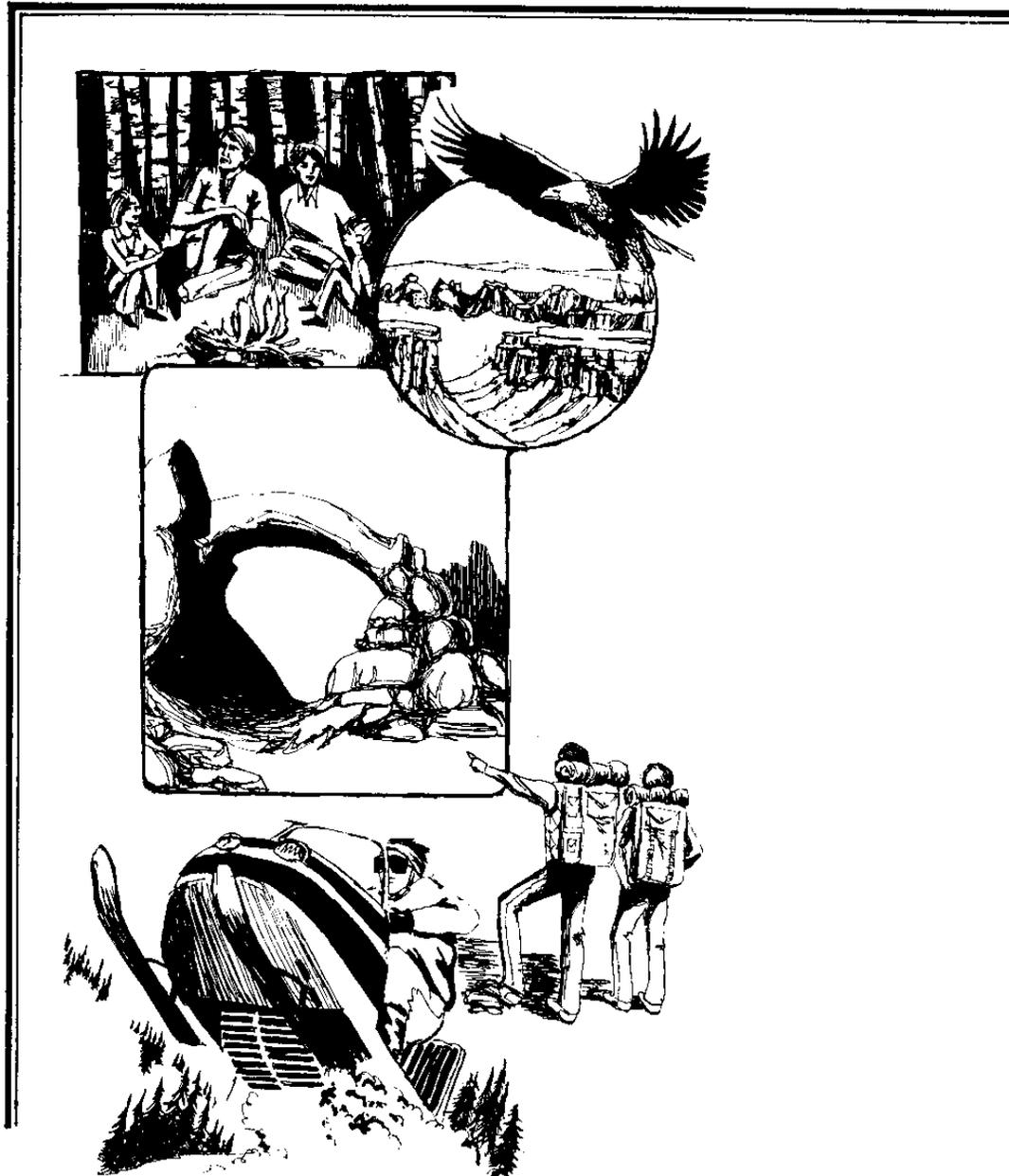


CHAPTER IV IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOREST PLAN



CHAPTER IV IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOREST PLAN

Implementation Direction

Consistency with Other Management Instruments

During implementation of this Forest Plan, the Manti-LaSal National Forest will be guided by existing and future laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines. The Forest Plan is designated to supplement, not replace, direction from these sources except in specific instances.

This Forest Land and Resource Management Plan supersedes all previous management plans. Outstanding and future permits, contracts, cooperative agreements, Allotment Management Plans, and other instruments for use, development, and occupancy will be brought into conformance as soon as legally and reasonably possible.

Budget Proposals

The Forest Plan provides the management direction for developing multi-year implementation programs. The Forest Plan's scheduled practices, shown in the Forest Activity Schedule (Appendix A), are translated into multi-year program budget proposals which identify the needed expenditures. These processes complement the Forest planning process as vehicles for requesting and allocating the funds needed to carry out the planned management direction. The Forest's proposed annual program budget is the basis for the requested funding. Upon approval of a final budget for the Forest, the Annual Program of Work is finalized and carried out. The accomplishment of the Annual Program is the incremental implementation of the management direction of the Forest Plan.

Environmental Analysis

Analysis of environmental consequences of site-specific actions should be done in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508). Future environmental analyses associated with the above processes should be tiered to the Forest Plan and EIS. Information appropriate for project-related decisions rather than land use decisions, will normally be utilized in such environmental analysis.

Projects and activities permitted within the Forest Plan should be subjected to NEPA evaluation as they are planned for implementation (Forest Service Manual FSM 1952). If project scoping shows that: (1) the Management Unit Requirements and Standards and Guidelines can be complied with, and (2) little or no environmental effects are expected beyond those identified and documented in the Forest Plan EIS; the analysis could result in a categorical exclusion. A Decision Notice should be used to document the decision (FSM 1951). If project scoping identifies significant issues or concerns not covered in the Forest Plan, then an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement would be prepared. The project file, with the NEPA evaluation and decision document, should be available for public review, but this will not necessarily be documented in the form of an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.

Monitoring and Evaluation Program

This monitoring and evaluation is designed to provide feedback to planners and the Forest Supervisor. It will provide Forest Managers with information primarily on Forest Plan implementation and the effects of implementation.

More specifically this program will determine:

- If the Forest is achieving the goals and objectives of the Forest Plan as predicted.
- If the Standards and Guidelines are being applied as specified in the Forest Plan.
- If the effects of implementation are as predicted.
- If the Forest's program and management are resolving the planning issues.
- If the cost of implementation of the Forest Plan and work force needed is as predicted.

The monitoring program that follows (Table IV-1) is comprised of the following components.

1. MIH Code - The numerical identifier of the item to be monitored.
2. Activity, Practice or Effect to be Measured - A specific statement of what will be monitored.
3. Monitoring Technique - A description of the technique and sources of information to be employed. To the extent possible, existing reporting systems and standard methods will be used.
4. Expected Precision-The accuracy of exactness with which data is collected. Precision is qualitatively rated as high, moderate or low.

Expected Reliability - A measure of how accurately the monitoring reflects the situation. A qualitative and class system is used to rate reliability (high, moderate, low).
5. Measurement Frequency - The schedules of samples stated in parts of a year or years. The stated frequencies may vary on a site-specific basis.
6. Reporting Period - The recurring interval between reports summarizing monitoring results for a particular activity or practice. The sampling period should be long enough for specialists to capture significant information. The stated reporting periods may vary on a site-specific basis.
7. Variation Which Would Cause Further Evaluation and/or Change Management Direction - A statement describing the tolerance limits within which actual performance can vary from predicted performance. When these limits are exceeded, further evaluation is triggered.

In addition to the specific monitoring shown on Table IV-1, the Unit, Functional, or Activity review system (FSM 1440) will be used to assure that the integrity of the Forest Plan and Management Units is maintained.

TABLE IV-1

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROGRAM

MIH Reference Code	Activity, Practice and/or Effect to be Measured	Data Source and/or Monitoring Technique	Expected Precision/Reliability	Measurement Frequency	Reporting Period	Variation Which Would Cause Further Evaluation and/or Change in Management Direction
<u>Recreation Resource</u>						
A07	Developed Site Condition	RIM facility condition and routine inspections/analysis.	Data sources and monitoring techniques for all activities are expected to contain sufficient accuracy and confidence from which to make reliable comparisons.	Annually	Annually	Facility condition below RIM condition Class 2.
A07	Vegetative Management	Photo points at selected key sites and/or locations/analysis.	Same	3-5 Years	3-5 Years	Code-A-Site category as specified in individual unit Standards and Guidelines, Chapter III, IMP.
A07	Developed Site Use	<u>Public Sector</u> Recreation Information Management (RIM) Use and benchmark double sampling at indicator sites.	Same	Annually	3 Year	Use is more than ± 10 percent of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) social setting criteria for the ROS Class except as specified in individual unit Standards and Guidelines, Chapter III, IMP.
		<u>Private Sector</u> Permittee occupancy plan/analysis.	Same	Annually	3 Year	Organization site or activity is reported vacant.
A02	Dispersed Campsite Condition	Code-A-Site inspection/analysis.	Same	10% sample triennially of indicator sites.	3 Year	Sites in facility Code-A-Site Category extreme impact will be rehabilitated. Sites that cannot be maintained in facility Code-A-site categories light, moderate, heavy impact will be closed. See individual unit Standards and Guidelines, Chapter III, IMP.
A08	Dispersed Area Use	RIM use by sampling/evaluation methods including road and trail traffic counters.	Same	Annually	3 Year	Use is more than ± 10 percent of the ROS social setting criteria for the ROS Class except as specified in individual unit Standards and Guidelines, Chapter III,

TABLE IV-1 (Continued)

MIH Reference Code	Activity, Practice and/or Effect to be Measured	Data Source and/or Monitoring Technique	Expected Precision/Reliability	Measurement Frequency	Reporting Period	Variation Which Would Cause Further Evaluation and/or Change in Management Direction
Recreation Resource (Continued)						
A02	Trail Condition	Trail condition surveys and project trail inspections/analysis.	Same	5% sample annually of Forest Trail mileage.	3 Year	Departure from Regional Acceptable Work Standards.
A01	Vehicle Travel	Area and travel corridor inspections/analysis.	Same	20% sample annually of vehicular travel use areas.	3 Year	Use conflicts with management goals for individual management units; lowering of Visual Quality Objective; unacceptable resource damage.
Cultural Resources						
A03	Project compliance with Forest Direction management requirements on ground disturbing projects.	Cultural resource professional field evaluation of randomly selected projects.	Data sources and monitoring techniques for all activities are expected to contain sufficient accuracy and confidence from which to make reliable comparisons.	Annually	Annual	Cultural resource properties being damaged/destroyed directly/indirectly by project activities.
A03	Protection of significant cultural resource properties.	Field condition evaluation of significant cultural resource properties; use of base year photography and records.		Biannual during 3rd and 4th quarters of year.	Biannual during 3rd and 4th quarters of year.	Cultural resource properties being damaged/destroyed by unauthorized and/or controllable natural agents.

Visual Resource

A02	Compliance with Visual Quality Objectives	One sensitivity Level I travel route, use area, or water body inspection and evaluation.	Data sources and monitoring techniques for all activities are expected to contain sufficient accuracy and confidence from which to make reliable comparisons.	Annual	Annual	Corridor or area contains more than 5 percent of the view area which does not conform to the Visual Quality Objective
		Evaluation of a minimum of 10 percent of the previous year's land, water, and/or vegetation disturbing projects.		Annual	2 year	Failure to meet intended Visual Quality Objective of the management unit

IV-4

Wilderness Resource

B03	Wilderness Campsite Condition	Code-A-Site inspection/analysis.	Data sources and monitoring techniques for all activities are expected to contain sufficient accuracy and confidence from which to make reliable comparisons.	Annual	3 Year	When sites cannot be maintained in Code-A-Site category moderate impact.
B03	Amount and Distribution of Use.	Analysis of trail registration, trail counts and trailhead counts with periodic intensive sample verification.		Annual	3 Year	Use exceeds more than ± 10 percent of the ROS evidence of human criteria for the Primitive ROS Class as described in the Standards and Guidelines, Chapter III, LMP.

Wildlife and Fish

C01	MIS Population Trends	Interagency field reviews and/or obtain State record or survey as follows:				
	a. Mule Deer and Elk	Aerial reconnaissance on winter ranges.	M	Annual	5 Year	Twenty percent
		Browse and pellet transects.	M	Annual	5 Year	Twenty percent change in winter range-land carrying capacity.
		Trend studies.	H	5 Year	5 Year	Ten percent.
		Herd composition.	M	Annual	5 Year	Ten percent.

TABLE IV-1 (Continued)

MIH Reference Code	Activity, Practice and/or Effect to be Measured	Data Source and/or Monitoring Technique	Expected Precision/Reliability	Measurement Frequency	Reporting Period	Variation Which Would Cause Further Evaluation and/or Change in Management Direction
Wildlife and Fish (Continued)						
	b. Macroinvertebrates (For baseline stations or as needed for select project activities.)	R-4 GAWS Analysis	H			
		(BCI) Biotic Condition Index.	M/H	5 Year	5 Year	Twenty percent.
		(BCI) Habitat Condition Index.	H	5 Year	5 Year	Twenty percent.
	c. Golden Eagle	Active nest site survey.	M	5 Year	5 Year	Twenty percent.
	d. Blue Grouse	Harvest record.	M	Annual	5 Year	Twenty percent.
		Spring territory survey.	M	Annual	5 Year	Twenty-five percent.
		Summer brood counts.	H	Annual	5 Year	Twenty-five percent.
	e. Abert Squirrel	Survey percent ponderosa pine in mature class.	H	10 Year	10 Year	Ten percent.
C01	Habitat Improvement Accomplishment	Attainment and wildlife report.		Annual	Annual	Twenty percent.

Range						
D07	Allotment Carrying Capacity	Grazing impact and use studies.	H/M	According to approved AMP normally 3 years of data per allotment.	As specified in AMP at the end of evaluation period.	Obligation \pm 10 percent of carrying capacity.
D07	Long-term Range Trend	Long-term permanently located range trend studies for collection of plant composition, ground cover, and soil stability.	H/M	According to approved AMP.	When Completed	If significant differences in trend occurs.

IV-6

MIH Reference Code	Activity, Practice and/or Effect to be Measured	Data Source and/or Monitoring Technique	Expected Precision/Reliability	Measurement Frequency	Reporting Period	Variation Which Would Cause Further Evaluation and/or Change in Management Direction
Range (Continued)						
D02	Range Condition	Range analysis.	M/M	Normally every 20 years from previous	When Completed	When basic data is inadequate for use in making land management planning or range management decisions.
D02	Range Allotment Inspection, Administration and Use Reporting	Allotment field inspection.	M/M	Annual field inspection on 50 percent of the allotments.	Annually	When inspections show a need for closer checks on maintenance and repair of range improvements when permittees are not following plan of use or allotment management plan.
D03	Range Forage Treatment Practices	Site analysis transects.	M/M	During 2nd and 5th year growing season after project.	After 2nd and 5th year studies.	In major change occurs such as fire, flood, etc., on field inspections show project did not accomplish objective

Timber						
E03 436	Adequate restocking of lands within 5 years of final harvest.	Silvicultural exam.	H/H	5 Year	Annual	5th Year Stocking Standards FSH 2409.268 --5.31-4.
E01 411	Maximum size of opening created by clearcutting.	Review of timber sale map and document.	H/H	Project Basis	10 Year	Clearcut sizes either restrict timber practices or adversely affect visuals or other resource values.
E02	Harvest practices in retention, partial retention and riparian areas.	Review of timber sale prescriptions and post sale surveys.	M/M	As needed on project basis.	10 Year	Violation of Visual Quality Objectives or riparian area damage.
E06	Timber Sale Action Program.	Review 5-year Action Plan as ascertain that timber sales will be offered on scheduled and volume will not exceed 10 year sale quantity.	H/M	Annual	Annual	Timber sales are not progressing as scheduled or annual volume is not being offered or sold if offered.
IV-7						

TABLE IV-1 (Continued)

MIH Reference Code	Activity, Practice and/or Effect to be Measured	Data Source and/or Monitoring Technique	Expected Precision/Reliability	Measurement Frequency	Reporting Period	Variation Which Would Cause Further Evaluation and/or Change in Management Direction
Timber (Continued)						
E03 E04	Reforestation and timber stands improvement accomplishment.	Review of T.S.I. and reforestation accomplishment reports.	H\H	Annual	Annual	Failure to meet targets or accomplish KV needs in timber sale plans.
E41	Fuelwood consumption and supply.	Determine supply by fuels inventories and acres available; demand by permits issued.	H\M	On project basis.	Annual	Supply is not meeting or projected supply not to meet demand within 10 years.
E07	Verify classification of suitable and unsuitable lands.	Examine lands during silvicultural exams, timber sale and inventories to ground truth capabilities.	M\M	On project basis as prior to Forest Plan update.	10 Year or Forest Plan update.	If over 10 percent of suitable land was found to be incorrectly identified.

Soils

F01 250	Soil Survey Activities	Progress reviews, Annual Accomplishment Report, MBO process.	H\H	Annual	Annual	Twenty percent below scheduled completion dates or annual targets.
F09 291	Maintaining Soil Productivity Forest-wide	From Activity Reports and Annual Reviews evaluate management activities and their effects on soil productivity, both beneficial and adverse. Note all lands taken out of production.	M\M	Annual	Annual	Net decline in total soil productivity maintained as summarized from evaluations in Project Impact below.
	Project impact evaluation for any soil disturbing activities that have potential of altering soil productivity.	Project monitoring plans. Techniques, if not specified in project monitoring plans, could include measurements of ground cover, soil temperatures,	M\M	Per project monitoring plans or a 10 percent sample of activities.	Annual or per project plan.	Erosion in excess of soil tolerance limits. Other effects that would reduce soil productivity by 10 percent or more. Effects which differ significantly from project objectives.
				IV-8		

TABLE IV-1 (Continued)

MIH Reference Code	Activity, Practice and/or Effect to be Measured	Data Source and/or Monitoring Technique	Expected Precision/Reliability	Measurement Frequency	Reporting Period	Variation Which Would Cause Further Evaluation and/or Change in Management Direction
Soils (Continued)						
		nutrient status, degree of soil displacement, and soil structural changes as appropriate. Document field measurements and take photographs.				
291	Sequential photo points of vehicular travel damage.	Standard methods.	M\M	Annual	As Needed	Upon evidence of excessive damage, reevaluate closure and travel maps.
Water						
F09	292					

292	Compliance with State Water Quality Standards	Other agencies, private sector, and select Forest Service stations or sites as per approved Water Quality Monitoring Plan.				
F03 264, 265	Baseline		M/M	Selected Streams	3-5 Years	If results are in violation of State Water Quality Standards.
	A sampling of Project Activities		M/M	Before and after project.	At completion of project.	Reevaluate activity if degradation of water quality occurs.
	Changes in riparian areas due to land management.	Sequential photo points and site analysis.	H/M	3-5 Years	3-5 Years	Forest Riparian Management Standards.
	Watershed Improvement Accomplishment	Annual attainment Reports.	H	Annual	Annual	Twenty-five percent planned acreage.

TABLE IV-1 (Continued)

MIH Reference Code	Activity, Practice and/or Effect to be Measured	Data Source and/or Monitoring Technique	Expected Precision/Reliability	Measurement Frequency	Reporting Period	Variation Which Would Cause Further Evaluation and/or Change in Management Direction
Minerals						
G01 G02	Number of reports prepared	Records	H\H	Annual	Three times a year.	When the number of projects varies by over 50 percent from what is normally expected for the year.
G01	Landslide Movement	On-side Inspections	H\H	Variable	Variable	When it has been determined that a slide may cause surface structure damage or be a safety hazard to people.
G03 G04 G05	Number of plans/leases completed or administered.	Records	H\H	Annual	Three times a year.	When the number of projects varies by over 33 percent from what is normally expected for the year.
G06 G05 G03 G04	Compliance with terms of completed plans.	Environmental Assessments, site inspections.	H\H	Variable according to the project.	Annual	When non-compliance is found for any particular project.
G01	Subsidence and Hydro-logic Monitoring	Aerial photography/surveying/computer analysis.	H\H	Annual	Annual	Ten years after mining operation closes down, significant changes in surface resources occur.
Protection - Air Quality						
290	Whether Utah and Colorado State Air Quality Standards and Guidelines are met.	Compliance with weather forecast, burning index and visual observation of smoke dispersal.	M/M	Ongoing	Any Violation	Adverse public reaction or settling of smoke into inhabited areas or any violation of State standards

Protection - Fire

P08	Number of wildfire and acres burned.	Frequency by size, distribution, intensity levels and acres burned.	H/H	Annual	5 Year	Twenty percent increase in cumulative 5 year average in any of the factors.
P02	Fire Prevention Program	Number and size of person-caused fires.	H/H	Annual	5 Year	Twenty percent increase in cumulative 5 year average.

TABLE IV-1 (Continued)

MIH Reference Code	Activity, Practice and/or Effect to be Measured	Data Source and/or Monitoring Technique	Expected Precision/Reliability	Measurement Frequency	Reporting Period	Variation Which Would Cause Further Evaluation and/or Change in Management Direction
Protection - Fire (Continued)						
P11	Fuel Treatment Program	On-site inspection, accomplishment reports, management attainment reports.	M/M	25 percent of sites.	Annual	Failure to treat at least 90 percent of activity fuels created during the year.
P12	Vegetation treated by burning.	On-site inspection, visual estimates of effects and objective accomplishments.	M/M	At completion of each project.	5 Year	±25 percent of resource objectives.
Protection - Forest Pest Management						
P34	Depredations by insects and disease.	Surveys by Forest Pest Management Specialists.	M/M	Annual	Annual	Increased or high pest damage.
		Plantation survival counts, port harvest timber sale reviews, silvicultural exams and range inspections.	M/M	Continuing	Annual	Infection/Infestation approaches epidemic levels.
P35	Effectiveness of dwarf mistletoe suppression projects to protect regeneration.	Field Review	H/H	Follow-up projects.	5 Year	Infection of regeneration in precommercial thinned areas.
Lands						
J15	Land purchase and acquisition	Land Adjustment Plan; Management Attainment Report	Data sources and monitoring techniques for all activities are expected to contain sufficient accuracy and confidence from	Annually Reviewed	Annual	±50 percent of planning period target.
J13	Land Exchanges	Land Adjustment Plan Management Report		Annually Reviewed	Annual	±50 percent of planning period target

TABLE IV-1 (Continued)

MIH Reference Code	Activity, Practice and/or Effect to be Measured	Data Source and/or Monitoring Technique	Expected Precision/Reliability	Measurement Frequency	Reporting Period	Variation Which Would Cause Further Evaluation and/or Change in Management Direction
Lands (continued)						
J18	Rights-of-Way Acquisition	Land Adjustment Plan; Management Attainment	which to make reliable comparisons.	Annually Reviewed	Annual	±50 percent of planning period target.
J10	Occupancy Trespass	On-site inspection and landline location; Management Attainment Report.	Same	Continuously	Annual	±25 percent of planning period target.
J06	Landline Location	Survey; Management Attainment Reports	Same	Annually Reviewed	Annual	±10 percent of planning period target.
J01	Special Use Permits, applications, amendments, transfers, and administration.	Land Use Reports	Same	5 percent of permits annually.	Annual	± 25 percent of Regional Acceptable Work Standard and Forest Direction
J22	Effects of management practices on adjacent or intermingled non-National Forest on Forest Plan goals and objectives.	Annual Interagency meetings, meetings with State and County governments, grazing associations.	Same	Continuing	Annual	Identification of significant problem in Forest Plan implementation as a result of non-Forest land management activity.
Facilities						
L2-18, 29	Road and bridge construction and reconstruction.	Accomplishment report and on-site inspection using approved project plans.	H	20 Percent Annually	5 Year	A 20 percent deviation from projected quantities.
L19	Road Maintenance	Road logs and condition surveys.	M	Continuous	5 Year	A 20 percent downward trend in the condition of road system.
L19	Road Closures	Review closures orders.	H	3 Year	3 Year	Closure order outdated.

TABLE IV-1 (Continued)

MIH Reference Code	Activity, Practice and/or Effect to be Measured	Data Source and/or Monitoring Technique	Expected Precision/Reliability	Measurement Frequency	Reporting Period	Variation Which Would Cause Further Evaluation and/or Change in Management Direction
<u>Facilities (Continued)</u>						
	Road Obliterations	TIS inventory	M	Continuous	5 Year	Deviation greater than 20 percent annually or 10 percent on a 5 year average.
L24 L25	Buildings	Inspection Reports	M	Annual	5 Year	Administrative failure to reduce the number of buildings previously undetected structural deficiency or health or safety hazard.
L28	Dam Administration	Inspections	H	Annual	Annual	Administrative failure to followup on unsafe dams

Revision and Amendment

The need to amend a forest plan is derived from several sources, including the following:

1. Recommendations of the Interdisciplinary Team based on findings that emerge from monitoring and evaluating implementation of the forest plan (36 CFR 219.12(k); FSM 1922.6).
2. Decisions by the Forest Supervisor that existing or proposed permits, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other instruments authorizing occupancy and use should be considered for approval but not consistent with the forest plan (36 CFR 219.10(e)).
3. Changes in proposed implementation schedules necessary to reflect differences between funding levels contemplated in the plan and funds actually appropriated.
4. Changes necessitated by resolution of administrative appeals.
5. Changes to correct planning errors found during plan implementation.
6. Changes necessitated by changed physical, social, or economic conditions.

Based upon advice and recommendation of the Interdisciplinary Team, the Forest Supervisor shall: determine whether proposed changes in a forest plan are significant or nonsignificant; make the determination in accordance with the requirements of 16 U.S.C. 1604(f), 36 CFR 219.10(e) and (f), 36 CFR 219.12(k), and sections 1922.33a and 1922.33b that follow; document the determination of significance or nonsignificance in a decision document; and provide appropriate public notification prior to implementing the changes. Written findings of Forest Officers regarding the consistency of projects or activities with the forest plan and the determination of the significance of an amendment are an integral part of the decision-making process; and as such appealable under 36 CFR 211.18, not as preliminary planning decisions, but as an important element of the final decision.

Nonsignificant amendments to a forest plan can result from damage such as:

1. Actions that do not significantly alter the multiple-use goals and objective for long-term land and resource management.
2. Adjustments of Management Unit boundaries or Management Requirements resulting from further site-specific analysis when the adjustments do not cause significant change in the long-term multiple use goals and objectives for land and resource management.
3. Occasions when a decision is made to proceed with consideration of a project or activity that is not consistent with the plans and the change is minor.
4. Minor changes in Standard and Guidelines.
5. Short-term fluctuations in an implementation schedule or changes in planned annual output(s).

The following examples are indicative of changes that may cause a significant amendment to a forest land and resource management plan:

1. Changes that have an important effect on the entire plan or affect land and resources throughout a large portion of the planning area such as large, forest-wide increases or decreases in source demands.
2. Changes that would significantly alter the long-term relationship between levels of multiple use goods and services originally projected (36 CFR 219.10(e)). This category would include changes in implementation schedules created by sustained differences between proposed budgets and actual appropriations.

When a significant change needs to be made to the forest land and resource management plan, the Forest Supervisor must prepare an amendment.

Documentation of a significant amendment and the analysis of it should focus on the issue(s) that have triggered the need for the change. In developing and obtaining approval of a significant amendment to the forest plan, follow the same procedures as are required for developing and approving the forest plan (36 CFR 219.10(f)).

The National Forest Management Act requires revision of forest plans at least every 15 years; however, a plan may be revised sooner if physical conditions or demands on the land and resources have changed sufficiently to affect overall goals or uses for the entire forest. The Regional Forester will monitor amendments periodically, and at least annually. If at any time plan revision appears to be appropriate or needed, the Forest Supervisor will be required to prepare the needed documentation. This Forest Plan will be revised no later than October 1, 2000.

Forest plan revision will follow procedures set forth in 36 CFR 219.12 after obtaining approval of the Chief to schedule a revision.

