



File Code: 1900
Date: August 4, 2022

Dear Interested Party:

As the responsible official for the Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), I am providing notification that I will be approving administrative changes to several monitoring questions and indicators in tables IV-1 and IV-2 in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan. The administrative changes are displayed in attached tables IV-1 and IV-2 using a format of strikethrough for deletion and italics for new or replacement. The administrative changes are needed to add clarifying language and/or remove unnecessary or irrelevant language, to correct inconsistencies between questions and indicators, and to add questions and indicators that reflect current monitoring efforts.

Chapter IV explains how management direction from the Forest Plan will be implemented, how implementation activities will be monitored and evaluated, and how the Forest Plan can be kept current due to changing conditions and other findings. The monitoring program sets out the plan monitoring questions and associated indicators. Plan components drive the monitoring questions and the indicators for answering the monitoring question. Monitoring questions are used to evaluate whether management is maintaining or moving toward or away from desired conditions and objectives. Indicators are the specific resource measures used in answering the monitoring questions.

These changes are being conducted under the administrative change procedures of 36 CFR 219.13(c). These changes to the monitoring program are being made outside of the process for plan revision or amendment, therefore, I will make the administrative changes effective 30 days after the posting date of this notice on the website for the Sawtooth National Forest and after consideration of public comment.

I request that you submit comments regarding these administrative changes to: Zach Shull, NEPA Planner, zachary.shull@usda.gov. If you are not able to submit comments online, comments may also be submitted by regular mail to Sawtooth National Forest Supervisor's Office; Attention: Forest Plan Administrative Changes Comments; 370 American Ave; Jerome, ID 83338. The office business hours for submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Sincerely,

REBECCA HOTZE
Acting Forest Supervisor

Enclosed: Table IV-1 and IV-2



Table IV-1. Physical and Biological Ecosystem

Selected Plan Component(s)	Monitoring Question(s)	Potential Indicator(s)
Terrestrial Ecosystems and Vegetation (TE&V)		
<p>Forest, grassland, shrubland, and riparian plant communities are within a desired range of variability for composition, structure, patterns, and processes.</p> <p>Vegetation forms a diverse network of habitats and connective corridors for wildlife and provides desired levels of snags, coarse woody material, and soil organic matter.</p> <p>Upland and riparian vegetation provide habitat to support species diversity, with an emphasis on maintaining or restoring threatened, endangered, petitioned, candidate and sensitive terrestrial species (TEPCS) and watch plant species.</p>	Is live vegetation and snags and CWD at, or moving towards, desired conditions as described in Appendices A and E of the Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 2012)?	<p>Mix of size classes, canopy closures, and species composition and their spatial patterns by forested PVG and non-forested cover types as measured across all three districts on the north-end of the Forest and as measured across each individual division on the south end of the Forest</p> <p>Project acres meeting or contributing to the DC for snags and CWD.</p>
	Are planned treatments being implemented within WCS <i>high</i> priority (<i>active restoration</i>) watersheds to meet desired outcomes?	Proportion of acres treated in WCS <i>high</i> priority (<i>active restoration</i>) watersheds compared to total acres treated on the Forest annually
	Are Forest management actions affecting the distribution, abundance, and habitat quality of focal species?	Population trend data for focal species in potential habitat.
	Acres of focal species habitat treated	
	Are Forest management actions affecting occupied habitat of threatened, endangered, and sensitive terrestrial species and threatened, endangered, sensitive and watch plant species at the project level?	Acres of known occupied habitat of threatened, endangered, and sensitive terrestrial species and threatened, endangered, sensitive and watch plant species maintained or restored.
Wildlife Species of Conservation Concern		
The amount, distribution, and characteristics of source habitat are present at levels necessary to support persistence of native and desired non-	Have habitat restoration and conservation been prioritized in watersheds identified in the Forest Plan WCS and priority SG habitat watersheds	Acres of restoration treatments in high priority WCS versus other 5th field watersheds



Selected Plan Component(s)	Monitoring Question(s)	Potential Indicator(s)
native terrestrial wildlife species within their respective ranges across the planning unit.	Are restoration and conservation actions being implemented within Sage Grouse Priority Habitat Management Area, Important HMA, and General HMA to meet desired outcomes?	Number of acres restored in PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA habitat. <i>Acres of restoration and conservation actions in sage-grouse PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA habitat.</i>
	<i>Are the distribution, abundance, and habitat quality of terrestrial focal species being maintained?</i>	<i>Population trend data for select terrestrial focal species in potential habitat.</i> <i>Acres of focal species habitat treated</i>
Habitats for threatened and endangered terrestrial species are managed consistent with established and approved recovery plans. Management actions either contribute to or do not prevent recovery or delisting of these species	Are the distribution, abundance, and habitat quality of TEPC terrestrial species being maintained and/or restored?	Terrestrial wildlife select focal species: Population trend data for select focal <i>TEPC</i> species in potential habitat.
Human activities do not affect source environments in a manner that prevents wildlife populations from attaining desired distribution and abundance during critical life stages.	Has winter recreation affected source environments in priority watersheds identified in the Forest Plan Source Environment Restoration Strategy (<i>Forest Plan Appendix E, Map 1</i>)?	Level of winter recreation use in priority watersheds identified in the Source Environment Restoration Strategy (<i>Forest Plan Appendix E, Map 1</i>).
Fire		
Wildland fire functions in its natural ecological role to improve the health of the land by creating fire resilient landscapes and restoring fire-adapted ecosystems.	In WCS <i>high</i> priority (<i>active and passive restoration</i>) watersheds is wildland fire and or management ignited fire moving landscapes towards desired conditions for resiliency and fire condition class.	Wildland fire and or management ignited fire acres burned in WCS <i>high</i> priority (<i>active and passive restoration</i>) watersheds contributing to desired conditions.
High fire risk within the wildland urban interface is reduced to conditions that will provide for protection of life, investment and valuable resources.	Are high wildfire risk areas being identified within the wildland urban interface and are those acres being subsequently treated to reduce that risk?	Acres of high wildfire risk within the wildland urban interface treated in a manner that reduces risk.

Selected Plan Component(s)	Monitoring Question(s)	Potential Indicator(s)
Aquatic Ecosystems		
<p>Wetlands and floodplains are maintained where they are properly functioning and restored where degraded.</p> <p>Improving watershed conditions contribute to the delisting of water quality limited water bodies to meet Clean Water Act requirements. Public waters are restored where water quality does not support beneficial uses and otherwise are maintained or improved.</p>	<p>Are planned treatments being implemented within ACS priority <i>sub</i>-watersheds to meet desired outcomes-desired conditions?</p>	<p>Watershed conditions indicators with improving trends within ACS priority watersheds</p> <p><i>Proportion of stream miles treated within ACS priority sub-watersheds compared to total stream miles treated on the forest annually.</i></p> <p>Miles of stream habitat improved NOTE: State data, including BURP data.</p> <p>Acres treated annually in wetlands, floodplain and RCAs within ACS priority watersheds.</p>
	<p><i>Are watershed conditions improving which contribute to delisting of water quality limiting bodies?</i></p>	<p><i>Proportion of stream miles fully supporting beneficial uses on the forest.</i></p>
<p>Distribution of native and desired non-native fish and other aquatic species is maintained or is expanding into previously occupied habitat, with interconnectivity between and within metapopulations.</p>	<p>Is water quality in priority watersheds being maintained or restored to fully support beneficial uses and native and desired non-native fish species and their habitats?</p> <p><i>Are the distribution and abundance of aquatic focal species being maintained?</i></p>	<p>Miles of stream habitat improved NOTE: State data, including BURP data.</p> <p><i>WCIs tracked for selected aquatic focal species:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Distribution (map)</i> <i>• Miles of occupied habitat.</i> <i>• Number of fish passage improvements and miles of habitat expanded.</i>

Selected Plan Component(s)	Monitoring Question(s)	Potential Indicator(s)
Habitats for threatened and endangered aquatic species are managed consistent with established and approved recovery plans. Management actions either contribute to or do not prevent recovery or delisting of these species.	<p>Are Forest management actions affecting the distribution, abundance and quality of habitat for TEPC aquatic species or focal species?</p> <p><i>Are forest management actions supporting approved recovery plans for TEPC aquatic species?</i></p>	<p>WCIs tracked for selected aquatic focal species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence/absence data • acres/miles of occupied habitat • number of strongholds • number of isolated populations <p><i>Number of projects designed to support TEPC aquatic species recovery plan objectives.</i></p>

Table IV-2. Productivity of the Land

Selected Plan Component(s)	Monitoring Question	Indicator
Soil protective cover, soil organic matter, and coarse woody material are at levels that maintain or restore soil productivity and soil-hydrologic functions where conditions are at risk or degraded. Soils also have adequate physical, biological, and chemical properties to support desired vegetation growth.	Is the Forest maintaining or restoring long-term soil productivity?	<p>Amount of activity area in non-detrimentally disturbed condition (annual review of selected projects)</p> <p>Amount of activity area Total Soil Resource Commitment (TSRC) (annual review of selected projects)</p>
Existing noxious weed populations are not expanding in size. New noxious weed outbreaks may occur temporarily or continue to exist as small, nonexpanding populations in areas of high susceptibility. Noxious weed populations in low susceptibility areas are small and scattered with low-to-moderate densities. New invader species to the forest are not becoming	Are Forest management strategies effectively controlling or eradicating targeted populations of noxious <i>and invasive</i> weeds and preventing new invader species from becoming established?	<p>Acres of known <i>noxious and invasive weed</i> infestation in management areas identified for eradication or control</p> <p>Acres treated of new invader species to the forest</p> <p>Acres treated of new <i>noxious and invasive weed</i> infestations.</p>

Selected Plan Component(s)	Monitoring Question	Indicator
established. Native plants are dominant on disturbed or recently restored sites.		