

Timber Suitability Item 34

OBJECTIVE: Examine lands identified as not suited for timber production at least every ten years to determine if they have become suitable. If they are determined to be suitable, such lands are returned to the timber base.

DATA SOURCE: Stand exams, land typing, and timber sale reports.

FREQUENCY: Ongoing

REPORTING PERIOD: 1988 to 2013

VARIABILITY: +/- five percent over a five-year period.

EVALUATION & MONITORING RESULTS:

Ground verification of lands suitable for timber production, as identified in the Forest Plan, has been ongoing with project planning. We are finding that site-specific mapping shows some lands identified as unsuitable in the Forest Plan are actually suitable, and vice versa. Most projects are identifying more unsuitable land than was identified in the Forest Plan; however the changes have not been significant.

Land classification to determine whether land is suitable or not suitable for timber production is being updated in the Forest Plan revision using new vegetation and soils data sets and geographic information system mapping tools. This classification process is in progress and is expected to result in changes to the acres classified as not suited for timber production.

Part of the ongoing reforestation program has been to evaluate lands burned by the fires of 2000 to determine whether they are suitable for reforestation and timber production. Many stands classified as suitable have now been changed to non-suitable. These sites have been primarily on steep, dry, south to southwest facing slopes, with rocky soils. A map of stands evaluated on the south end of the Forest was compared to the recent mapping done as part of the Forest Plan revision. The maps are similar which helps affirm the work being completed in the revision process. Our work indicates that unsuitable sites are on a variety of habitat types. This reaffirms the importance of field verification of Forest-wide mapping. It is the combination of several factors together (habitat type, landform, soils, slope, and aspect) that determine whether a site should be managed for timber production.

Previous monitoring indicated that the Douglas-fir/ninebark habitat type, which was considered unsuitable in the Forest Plan, should actually be classified as suitable. Some higher elevation habitat types were designated as having inadequate information in the Forest Plan. The consensus now is that one of the types, subalpine fir/woodrush (except the menziesia phase), should be classified as unsuitable. The draft suitability maps being used in Forest Plan revision have accounted for these adjustments, although, as noted above, in some cases these habitat types may be classified differently depending on other factors.

As we apply ecosystem management principles, we are finding the Forest Plan has limited our ability to reduce stocking levels or otherwise manage forest vegetation to meet resource objectives on some unsuitable lands. Managers need this option so fire can be restored as a natural process and vegetation can be returned to more sustainable conditions on these landscapes. Prior to 2013, site-specific amendments to the Forest Plan allowing vegetation treatment on unsuitable lands have been made for several campgrounds on each of the Districts, Larry Bass Stewardship, Lost Trail Sanitation, Lower West Fork Timber Sale, Sweeney Fuel Reduction, Trapper Bunkhouse Stewardship, West Fork Boat Launch, and MEF Recovery II.

The individual and cumulative nature of these timber suitability amendments will have an almost imperceptible effect on achieving the overall Forest Plan goals, objectives, and desired conditions forest-wide. The total harvest treatment within unsuitable lands amounts to 506 acres from 2010-2013. There are 208, 266 acres identified as unsuitable on the Forest.

Timber Volume and Area Offered and Sold Item 11

OBJECTIVE: Track timber harvest as a contribution to the local economy and as projected by the Forest Plan.

DATA SOURCE: Bitterroot NF Timber Information Management (TIM) database, FACTS data base, and Timber Sale Reports.

FREQUENCY: Annually.

REPORTING PERIOD: 1988 to 2013

VARIABILITY: +/- 20 percent difference from Forest Plan annually and +/- ten percent over a five-year period.

EVALUATION:

The 1987 Forest Plan projected a planned annual timber sale quantity (allowable sale quantity, or ASQ) of 33.37 million board feet (MMBF). The Plan predicted that this volume would be harvested each year from approximately 3,647 acres in Management Areas (MAs) 1, 2, 3a, 3b and 3c. Actual harvest volumes and acres cut would vary by year but the intent of the Forest Plan was to offer and award approximately 333.7 MMBF per decade after the Plan was signed.

Since 1988 annual harvest levels have been well below the ASQ predicted in the Plan. In 2013, the Forest offered and sold 20% of the planned annual ASQ and 34% of the planned annual harvest acres. Since 1988 the Forest has sold roughly 31% of the timber volume and 22% of the planned harvest acres predicted to be offered in the twenty-six year period since the Forest Plan was approved. More acres were sold in Management area 3a than anticipated in the Forest Plan. This is not unexpected since treating stands in the urban interface is a priority and many of these acres are in MA 3a. Harvest increased in MA 3c in the last 4 years as the Forest aggressively managed developed recreation sites to maintain the health of the trees, salvage bark beetle mortality trees and remove hazard trees.

As shown in Figure 1 below, actual volume harvested has been less than what was offered and sold during the last twenty six years. This is particularly true of sales sold since 2000 where the rapid deterioration of burned and bug-killed timber prevented all sold timber from being harvested.

In the past 26 years approximately 86% of the total volume offered was sold. All sales advertised in 2013 were awarded.

MONITORING RESULTS:

The annual, 5-year, and 26-year harvest levels are outside the desired variability, as specified in the Forest Plan. In 26 years, 2002 was the only year the Forest met or exceeded the annual ASQ. Almost all National Forests have experienced similar declines. This is a national issue tied to low housing starts, loss of milling infrastructure, changing social values, declining budgets, and many other factors. When the Forest Plan Revision is finalized, we will update the predictions of timber outputs to reflect the current social and regulatory environment.

Table 1– Timber Acres and Volume Sold By Management Area, Fiscal Year 2013 Compared to Forest Plan Predicted Annual Program

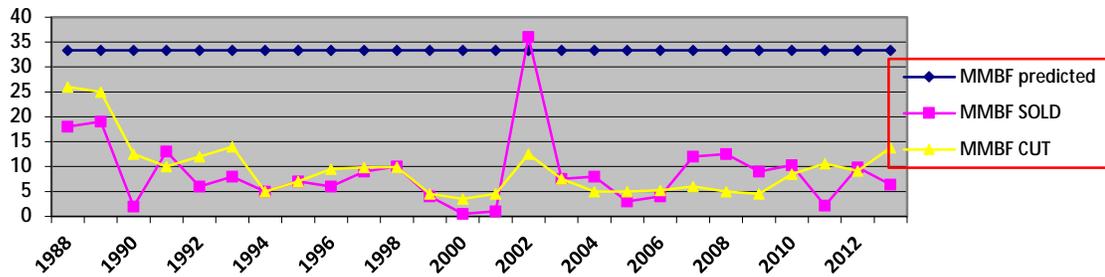
Forest Plan, p. III-80			Sold FY2013	
MA	Acres	Volume (MMBF)	Acres	Volume (MMBF)
1	1,528	14.57	0	0.00
2	1,439	12.01	0	0.00
3a	283	3.05	780	6.40

Forest Plan, p. III-80			Sold FY2013	
MA	Acres	Volume (MMBF)	Acres	Volume (MMBF)
3b	385	3.62	0	0.00
3c	12	0.12	0	0.00
Total	3,647	33.37	780	6.40

Table 2- Timber Acres and Volume Sold by Management Area, Fiscal Years 1988 to 2013 (26 years) Compared to Forest Plan Predicted Program

Forest Plan, p. III-80			Sold 1988 – 2013			
MA	Acres	Volume (MMBF)	Acres	Volume (MMBF)	% of Forest Plan	
					Acres	Volume
1	39,728	378.8	18,158	85.63	46%	23%
2	37,414	312.3	14,958	77.72	40%	30%
3a	7,358	79.3	12,248	65.35	166%	82%
3b	10,010	94.1	326.44	3.55	3.3%	3.8%
3c	312	3.12	745	2.65	239%	85%
Total	94,822	867.62	41,517	234.9	44%	27%

Figure 1– Timber Volume Sold and Harvested , Fiscal Years 1988 to 2013 (26 years). Compared to Forest Plan Predicted Program ^{1/}



Timber Volume Offered by Logging System and Harvest Method Item 13

OBJECTIVE: Track timber harvest as a contribution to the local economy and as projected by the Forest Plan. Validate Forest Plan assumptions on projected volumes by logging system and harvest method.

DATA SOURCE: Bitterroot NF Timber Information Management System Database, FACTS Database and Timber Sale Reports.

FREQUENCY: Every three years.

REPORTING PERIOD: 1988 to 2013.

VARIABILITY: Volume and acres offered by logging system are within +/- 20 percent of Forest Plan.

EVALUATION:

The Forest Plan requires that logging systems and harvest methods be prescribed for each project based on site-specific conditions. The logging methods are indicative of the land types associated with each sale. Therefore, timber volume offered by logging system and harvest method is likely to vary greatly from that anticipated in the programmatic Forest Plan. The monitoring results show that this is the case.

In the past 26 years, the most common method of logging has been to use tractors. This was anticipated in the Forest Plan since the majority of acres managed for timber are on gentle terrain. In recent years, cut-to-length and forwarding equipment has been used in lieu of tractors because this equipment results in less soil disturbance and less damage to residual standing trees. The extensive use of helicopter logging systems, in lieu of either ground-based or skyline/cable systems, was not anticipated in the Forest Plan. Helicopter logging has been required on approximately 26 percent of the acres offered for sale since 1988 compared to the Forest Plan estimate of 12 percent. Acres and volume removed via permit (firewood, poles, etc) are categorized as manual logging systems and were not included as part of the forest plan projections.

The Forest Plan expected that over 80% of the acres harvested would be regeneration harvests (clearcut, shelterwood, and seedtree harvest methods). Instead, over the last twenty six years, slightly less than half the acres harvested have been salvage removal of dead and dying trees. This has occurred either as selected trees from a forested area or (like many of the stands after the 2000 wildfires) the removal of almost all commercial trees from areas completely burned. Outside of salvage areas, less than half of the harvested stands have been regeneration harvests and about one half have been selection cuts. Since 2000, almost all non-salvage harvest has been thinning (selection harvest) to improve stand vigor or remove smaller trees (ladder fuels). With the current emphasis on fuel reduction projects, the amount of selection cutting is expected to increase. Selection harvesting often provides the best alternative for addressing a variety of resource concerns and objectives including maintaining visual quality, protecting watershed and soil resources, providing enhanced wildlife habitat, reducing fuels, and improving forest health.



MONITORING RESULTS:

Table 1- Timber Offered by Logging System 1/

	FY 2013		FY 1988 to 2013 (26 years)	
	Acres Offered	Volume Offered (MMBF)	Acres Offered	Volume Offered (MMBF)
Tractor	780	4.73	18,409	95.9
Skyline	0	0	9,660	55.0
Cable	0	0	3,633	14.0
Manual ¹	0	1.64	6,425	34.8
Aerial	0	0	13,579	60.7
Totals	780	6.40	51,706	260.4

¹Tractor - tracked or rubber-tired equipment is used to skid logs or trees over the ground. This category also includes cut-to-length and log forwarding equipment.

Skyline / Cable - logs or trees are skidded to a road by cables.

Manual - methods used to remove primarily small merchantable products and fuel wood. Estimating acres offered for fuel wood offered is not practical. Some horse logging is included in this category.

Aerial - logs are removed from harvest units by helicopters; this method does not require roads in the immediate area and does not disturb the soil.

Figure 1– Comparison between Logging Methods Predicted in the Forest Plan and Actual Logging Systems (1988 – 2013)

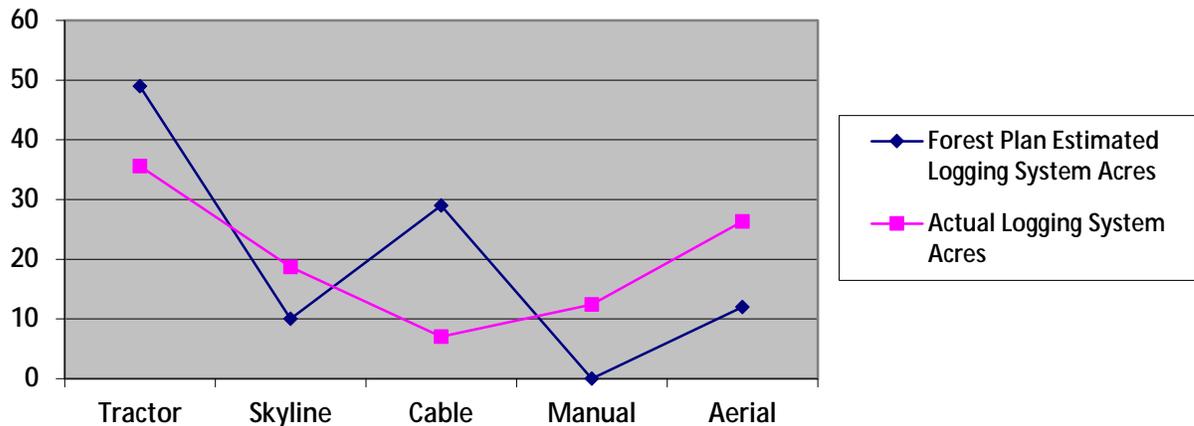
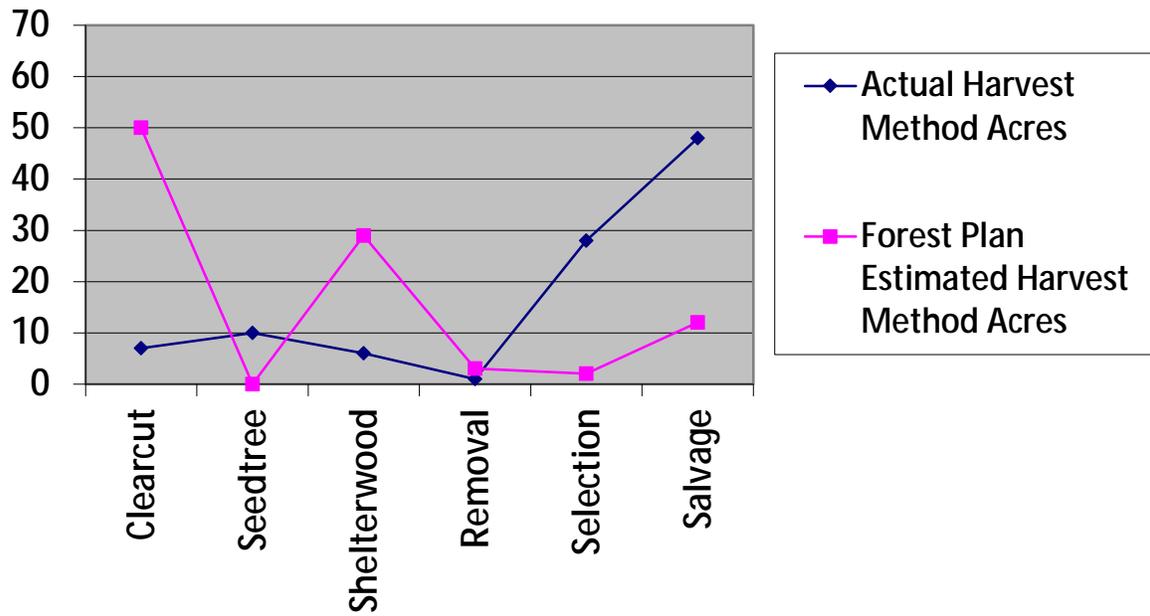


Table 2- Timber Offered by Harvest Method

	FY 2013		FY 1988 to 2013 (26 years)	
	Acres Offered	Volume Offered (MMBF)	Acres Offered	Volume Offered (MMBF)
Clearcut ¹	0	0	3491	36.71
Seedtree ²	0	0	5233	16.81
Shelterwood	0	0	3218	16.56
Removal ³	0	0	538	4.20
Selection	768	4.73	15245	60.20
Salvage ⁴	12	1.64	25955	117.76
Totals	780	6.4	53680	252.24

Figure 2– Comparison between Harvest Methods Predicted in the Forest Plan and Actual Harvest Methods (1988 – 2013)



^{1/} Seed tree and clearcutting were combined in the Forest Plan. Clearcut percent's include seed tree.

^{2, 3/} Seed tree and shelterwood final removal harvests.

^{4/} Includes salvage to remove fuelwood, post and poles.

Livestock Effects and Grazing Permit Revision Status Item 30

OBJECTIVE: To report on allotment monitoring and progress of allotment management plan (AMP) revisions.

DATA SOURCE: Technical review of condition and trends, forage production, transitory range, and other parameters as needed.

FREQUENCY: Ten percent of allotments annually.

REPORTING PERIOD: 2010-2013

VARIABILITY: +/- ten percent change in the carrying capacity

EVALUATION:

Although transitory range increases temporarily with fires, these are not calculated in any allotment's permanent carrying capacity. Therefore this does not affect the Forest Plan variability thresholds noted above. In 2010, the Forest completed and signed a NEPA decision to combine and continue grazing on the Sula Peak and East Fork grazing allotments with a reduced number of cattle. In 2012, the Forest completed and signed a NEPA decision to continue grazing on the Ambrose grazing allotment with a reduced season. The quantity of monitoring during the 2010-2013 monitoring period met minimum Forest Plan annual requirements.

MONITORING RESULTS:

Actual Use

Sixteen of the 20 grazing allotments hold active permits. In 2010, ten permittees grazed 2,270 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) on 11 allotments. In 2011, seven permittees grazed 1,500 AUM's on seven allotments. In 2012, six permittees grazed 1,131 AUM's on seven allotments and in 2013, seven permittees grazed 1,227 AUM's on seven allotments.

Land Area Grazed

Cattle grazing is authorized on approximately 11 percent of the land area of the Bitterroot NF.

Transitory Forage Status from Large Fires

The loss of tree canopy in the moderate and high severity burned areas from large fires in recent years combined with harvest of burned timber from salvage sale units did not lead to an increase in permitted grazing animals. The Forest no longer includes transitory forage in the calculation of the carrying capacity of an allotment. The transitory forage produced by the opened canopy of a burned timber habitat type is classified as secondary or supplemental rather than part of the primary permanent forage base. The amount of transitory forage does not change the allowable stocking rate of an allotment (the number of animals and the duration of grazing) in most cases. Natural plant succession eventually returns these areas to a forested cover type and phases out any flush of palatable forage plant growth.

New transitory feeding areas may change established livestock foraging patterns. The amount of grazing that occurs in these areas is dependent on the forage production and palatability, distance to water, natural barriers, elevation, steepness of slope, noxious weed invasion, and availability of other forage. Many of the sites that experienced fire and are accessible by permitted livestock are not producing palatable herbaceous forage species. For example, pinegrass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*), an unpalatable grass that livestock generally avoid, dominates many acres of Douglas-fir habitat types. As tree roots and boles weaken from fire effects, the resulting downfall increasingly prevents livestock movement through burned areas.

Allotment Compliance Results Summary

Forest rangeland specialists inspected actively grazed allotments during the 2010 - 2013 grazing seasons. The Forest uses these inspections to determine range readiness, permit compliance, and utilization levels, as well as to collect data for the AMP revision process. In addition, range specialists inspect allotments to determine if they

are in compliance with Forest Plan standards. These standards vary by management area, but generally require that forage use by livestock not exceed 50% on elk summer range or 35% on elk winter range. Rangeland monitoring work continues to focus strongly on grazing impacts to riparian condition. Specialists also employ supplemental stream bank alteration standards prescribed for some drainages to address fisheries concerns.

Table 1 – Active Allotments Inspected During the 2010-2013 Grazing Seasons

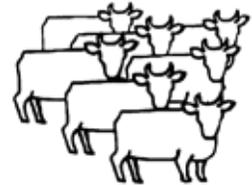
Allotment	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ambrose Creek	Grazed to standards	Rested	Rested	Rested
Andrews-Waugh Warm Springs	Rested	Rested	Rested	Rested
Bass Creek	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards
Bertie Lord *	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive
Bunch Gulch Shirley Mountain	Grazed to standards	Rested	Grazed to standards	Rested
Camp Reimel	Rested	Rested	Rested	Rested
Coal Creek	Rested	Rested	Rested	Rested
Gold Creek	Rested	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive
Harlan Gulch	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards	Rested	Rested
Little Sleeping Child*	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive
Meadow Creek	Rested	Rested	Rested	Rested
Medicine Tree	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards	Majority of allotment grazed to standards Elk Point slightly above standards
North Sleeping Child	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards	Some areas exceeded standards	Grazed to standards
Piquett Creek *	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive	Inactive
Skalkaho	Coffee & Brennan grazed within standards. Uplands were slightly above standards	Coffee & Brennan exceeded standards Uplands at standards	Rested	Coffee & Brennan exceeded standards Uplands grazed to standards.
Sula Peak /East Fork	Rested Grazed to standards	Rested Rested	Rested Rested	Grazed to standards Rested
Sweathouse/Gash	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards

Allotment	2010	2011	2012	2013
Trapper Peak	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards	Grazed to standards Exceeded standards at the Lick

*Reserve allotment in inactive status to be used when another allotment needs rest

Allotment Management NEPA and Plan Revision Status

The **Sula Peak – East Fork Grazing Allotment Environmental Assessment** was completed and a NEPA decision was signed in September 2010. The decision combined the allotments to increase efficiency of management, reduce stocking levels and institute a more progressive management approach that incorporates principles of rest/deferment. In September 2012, the **Ambrose Grazing Allotment Environmental Assessment** was completed and a NEPA decision was signed. The decision reduced the grazing season and instituted a more progressive management approach that incorporates principles of rest/deferment.



Timber Yields Per Acre Item 16

OBJECTIVE: To validate growth data used in FORPLAN Model

DATA SOURCE: Growth Study Plots, Timber inventory.

FREQUENCY: Five years.

REPORTING PERIOD: 2007-2013

VARIABILITY: +/- 5 percent change from yield information used in the Forest Plan over a 5-Year period

EVALUATION:

The Bitterroot Forest Plan recommends that we evaluate the accuracy of the Forest Plan Timber Yield Tables. In 1993 the Forest developed two methods to do this. The first method was to develop Empirical Yield tables utilizing volume data from all timber stands which had exams and plotting stand age over volume. The second method utilized Normal Yield tables for site quality and stocking.

These two methods predicted yields from 11.5 MBF to 35 MBF per acre. The Forest Plan Yield tables predicted harvest of approximately 12.5 MBF per acre on the average.

When comparing the two methods used in determining yields in conjunction with current yields derived from stand exams it is obvious that previous yield tables over predicted what current stands are able to grow. On the average most stands are able to produce around 7-15 MBF per acre based on the habitat types of the Bitterroot.

One purpose of the yield tables is to assure that timber is not being cut faster than it is growing. Harvest levels on the Forest have been significantly lower than what was projected in the Forest Plan, averaging 8-15 MMBF, which is about 5MBF per acre being harvested. There is less concern for the accuracy of the tables based on the rate of harvest because the harvest is not outpacing growth.

When the Forest Plan was created there was a commitment to a rigorous growth and yield approach to management of the forest. Currently the Forest is implementing non-traditional harvest schedules and silvicultural prescriptions in addition to integrated ecosystem management which do not coincide with growth and yield.

Benefit Values for Outputs Item 26

OBJECTIVE: To determine if unit values used in the Forest Plan model have changed significantly.

DATA SOURCE: Montana Business Quarterly, Montana Sawlog and Veneer Log Price Report Bureau of Business and Economic research, Montana Sawlog and Veneer Log Price Report

FREQUENCY: Annually

REPORTING PERIOD: 2010-2013 Oct – Dec End of year quarters

VARIABILITY: +/- ten percent of projected values.

EVALUATION:

Timber related output values have varied widely since first estimated for the 1987 Forest Plan. This information and its analysis is being reviewed in the ongoing Forest Plan revision process. Continued documentation in these annual reports is unlikely to provide additional value, and probably won't be continued in future year's reports.

MONITORING RESULTS:

Factors that affect timber supply and cost on national forests include cumulative harvest impacts, legal challenges and administrative appeals, changes in management emphasis toward ecosystem management, staff and budget reductions, large scale wildfires, and below cost timber sales.

Although mill delivered log values were not used directly in the Forest Plan to determine average stumpage values, they produce an accurate indicator of changes in the timber market. The figures in Table 1 represent values for the market region, not just for the Bitterroot National Forest. Average stumpage prices for the Bitterroot National Forest have been more volatile during the same period.

Table 1 - Mill Delivered Log Values for 1996-2003 (2003 base year dollars per MBF)

Species	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ponderosa Pine	408	408	448	638	504	510	435	430	250	330	377	394
Lodgepole Pine	439	482	393	421	404	470	433	384	286	295	322	389
Douglas-fir	456	445	393	464	401	461	372	388	265	270	304	403
Average Values	434	445	411	508	436	480	413	401	267	298	334	395

Lodgepole and Ponderosa Pine Volume Item 12

OBJECTIVE: Track volume of ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine that is harvested.

DATA SOURCE: Annual Cut and Sold Report.

FREQUENCY: Annually.

REPORTING PERIOD: 2010 to 2013.

VARIABILITY: +/- 25 percent from predictions used in the Forest Plan over a five-year period.

EVALUATION:

One of the objectives in the Forest Plan is to achieve a species mix of offered volume that is nearly proportional to the mix currently growing on the Forest. This objective and supporting monitoring item were established because of a past concern for the possible over-cutting of ponderosa pine and the avoidance of lodgepole pine harvest.

Table 1 compares the desired species mix proposed for harvest in the Forest Plan with the species mix actually harvested. More Douglas-fir has been harvested than any other species. In recent years, the removal of beetle-killed trees has been a priority across the Forest along with the removal of understory Douglas-fir (ladder fuels) from stands in the wildland urban interface.

A growing percentage of harvested timber has no species noted. Some sawtimber (lumber) is included in this category but the majority is firewood, pulpwood, and other non-saw products and is often related to harvest of insect killed trees for firewood or pulp.

MONITORING RESULTS:

The actual levels of harvest for all species are well below what was predicted in the Forest Plan. The Plan predicted that approximately 700.8 MMBF would be harvested over a 21 year period. Approximately 10%, or 70.14 MMBF, of this volume would be ponderosa pine. The actual 21-year harvest volume for ponderosa pine is 31.8 MMBF which is less than half of what was anticipated in the Forest Plan.

Table 1, below shows the species mix harvested for various reporting periods.

Table 1 – Species Mix Harvested in FY 2008, Cumulatively for the Past 5 Years, and from FY 1988 to 2008, Compared to the Forest Plan Desired Harvest Species Mix

Species	Forest Plan ASQ per year		Harvested 2010-2014		Harvested 2004 to 2008 (5 years)		Harvested 1988 to 2008 (21 years)	
	Volume (MMBF)	Percent	Volume (MMBF)	Percent	Volume (MMBF)	Percent	Volume (MMBF)	Percent
Ponderosa Pine	3.34	10%	.79	2%	2.12	8%	31.8	14%
Lodgepole pine	8.67	26%	1.07	2%	1.38	5%	35.7	15%
Douglas-fir	16.02	48%	25.05	57%	12.3	45%	79.5	34%
Engelmann spruce	1.67	5%	0	%	0.14	1%	9.5	4%
Subalpine fir /Grand fir	3.34	10%	.0	%	0.65	2%	8.0	3%
Larch	0.33	1%	0	%	0.07	0%	0.7	0%
Fuelwood/Dead/Pulp	0	0%	16.99	39%	10.64	39%	38.3	17%
Total	33.37	100%	43.90	100%	27.3	100%	203.4	100%

Mineral Activities Item 23

OBJECTIVE: Track the amount of mining related activities for use in determining economic and environmental effects.

DATA SOURCE: Number, location, and kind of activities in terms of plans of operations, notices of intent, and mineral material permits and sales.

FREQUENCY: One project per District per year.

REPORTING PERIOD: 2010-2013.

VARIABILITY: Adverse effect upon surface resources or departure from condition of the Forest Plan.

EVALUATION:

This monitoring item in the Forest Plan is concerned with the impact of gas and oil activities on surface resources. There is no gas or oil activity on the Bitterroot NF, but the Forest does have requests for use of other minerals. We have, therefore, expanded this monitoring item to encompass other minerals found on the Bitterroot NF.

There were no adverse effects on the surface resources as the result of mining, nor was there departure from conditions of the approved plans.

The Forest continues to receive numerous requests for riprap material, sand, gravel and decorative or landscaping stone. The common use and community pit designations are an effective way of meeting this need while insuring that management plans are developed and reclamation funds are available. One new source-the Ambrose Pit was opened for public use during this reporting period.

MONITORING RESULTS:

2010 Mineral Activities:

- NEPA was completed for the new Ambrose Community Collecting area. The Forest prepared the Operating plan for site administration.
- The Forest finished the Dead Cow Notice of Intent (NOI) and NEPA was completed.
- The Forest completed inspections for Christensen, Simonsen, and Valimont sites, none of which required NOI's.
- The Forest has completed administration of a Closure Order for the Weasel Creek Site - excessive digging is taking place without authorization.
- Stansbury Mine reclamation continues, tree protectors were replaced for seedlings, survival rates were at 90-95%. The Forest will continue to monitor the site and work to minimize potentially hazardous sediment levels entering the creek.

2011 Mineral Activities:

- The Forest is monitored and inspected the Dead Cow Notice of Intent.
- The Forest continued monitoring and inspection activities for the Christensen, Grett, Simonsen, and Valimont sites. None of which have required NOI's as of this date.
- Stansbury Mine reclamation continues, with the goal has to maintain trees recently planted, remove seedling protectors and continue to monitor sedimentation levels.
- Site inspections and corrective measures were taken on abandoned mine site on BNF lands with potential safety hazards: Windy Dancer, (adit was foamed-which fills the site and eliminates access) Gold Creek (shaft was foamed), and Crystal Mountain AML (adit site was looked for but not found).

2012 Mineral Activities:

- Stansbury Mine reclamation project is being monitored, shade tubes have been removed, pine seedling survival is high. The Forest will address weed issues as knapweed and houndstongue are present. More slash work will need to be done in the gully channels to reduce erosion.
- The Forest monitored the Dead Cow Notice of Intent, and have also processed a Plan of Operation for the Sheep Creek site on the West Fork Ranger District.
- The Forest continued to monitor activity at the Grett, McFadden, Simonsen, Valimont, and Weasel Creek Sites.

2013 Mineral Activities:

- The Hog Trough/Railroad reclamation project with fisheries is underway. Shrub planting and replacement of a culvert with a bridge will take place about a mile upstream of Hog Trough.
- Stansbury Mine reclamation project - Apple straw mulch is being used on the site.
- There are two Notices of Intent filed, one for Taylor Creek (Marvos) and one for Three Mile (Hertz). Site visits were completed for both.
- Site inspections and corrective measures were taken of abandon mine lands on the BNF with potential safety hazards for: Copper Canyons/ Silver Tip, Copper Queen, Windy Dancer, and Slate Creek.

Table 1, below, shows the four pit/collecting areas on the Forest used by the public for riprap material, sand, gravel and landscaping rock. Except for the Alta Shale Pit, the sites are free use.

Table 1 – Pit/Collecting Areas Used by the Public for Riprap Material, Sand & Gravel, and Landscaping Rock

Site	Number of Permits			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Community Pits				
Ambrose	Not yet operational	24	1	6
Upper Burnt Fork	9	17	10	10
Railroad	18	11	0	20
Alta Shale Pit (charge)	3	4	1	4

There are several gravel pits used by the BNF for administrative use such as graveling forest roads, rip rap, and boulder sources for administrative use. These include the Lost Horse, Nez Perce Roadside, Nez Perce Borrow (Pete Creek), Jim Hell, Rombo, and Springer Gulch Pits. Five miscellaneous roadside borrow areas, and the Piquett Creek Road roadside borrow area are also used to provide rock for administrative use.