

Plan Monitoring Program BASI

Multiple Use Monitoring

Best available scientific information (BASI): the responsible official shall document in the decision document how BASI was used to inform the plan monitoring program. This document provides additional detail to support the decision document, including how information was determined to be BASI and was determined to be most relevant, accurate, and reliable.

Desired condition in the Forest Plan	<p>From Goal 4.1a: The desired condition is that approved minerals and energy developments are managed to facilitate production of mineral and energy resources while minimizing adverse impacts to surface and groundwater resources and protecting or enhancing ecosystem health and scenic values.</p> <p>From Goal 4.1b: The desired condition for solar, wind and hydro-electric energy resources is that national forests will support the use of these renewable resources to help meet the growing energy needs in southern California while protecting other resources. The desired condition for biomass is that as national forests generate timber and chipped woody material as a by-product of ecosystem management, healthy forest restoration, fuels management and community protection projects, that biomass will provide for energy co-generation when other higher value options are not available.</p> <p>From Goal 7.1: Special-uses serve public needs, provide public benefits, and conform to resource management and protection objectives.</p>
Monitoring Question	How many of each type of special use authorization, mining permit, and forest product permit are active on the forest?
Monitoring Indicators	Number of Special Use Authorizations and Permits by Type
Describe how monitoring question and indicators evaluate changes and management effectiveness of the plan.	This question and its indicators will provide a means for tracking the volume and diversity of multiple uses across the Southern California National Forests. This information will help gauge progress towards achieving the desired conditions listed above.
Describe how this monitoring relates to one or more of the eight required items for forest plans.	This monitoring would reveal “(vii) progress toward meeting the desired conditions and objectives in the plan, including for providing multiple use opportunities.”

Best Available Scientific Information

There is high demand for special uses of the Southern California National Forests, and as a multiple use land management agency, balancing these uses against one another and ecosystem management is an ongoing, important function of the Forest Service. Fedkiw (1998) provides an overview of the history of Forest Service multiple use management in the context of the evolving uses of the National Forests. The proposed monitoring question answers basic questions for tracking special uses through time, and it directly evaluates the desired conditions for 4.1a, 4.1b, and 7.1 in terms of the extent of use authorization.

Rationale for choice of question and indicators, informed by BASI.	Monitoring special uses volume and diversity will inform Southern California National Forest managers about the level of multiple use opportunities being offered and an indication of societal values.
Monitoring protocol, method, or data source; rationale informed by BASI.	The Forest Service Special Uses Data System (SUDS), Timber Information Management System (TIMS), and Minerals and Geology Database will be queried for each National Forest to inform the monitoring report, in terms of the type of each active use and number of permits by type. These data will be compared against the previous monitoring report to evaluate change.

BASI Determination

Fedkiw (1998) is the only suitable reference found for monitoring special uses of the Southern California National Forests. It is relevant, accurate, and reliable, and the monitoring approach is similar to other Land Management Plan monitoring questions that use readily available data to evaluate progress towards its Goals.

Relevant – BASI is relevant to the plan area, question and indicators, the desired condition, objective, and required monitoring item.	Fedkiw (1998) directly addresses National Forests, many types of special uses, the need to provide uses while protecting resources, and multiple use opportunities.
Accurate – BASI describes the true condition. To support monitoring methods, the method has been shown to provide evidence that can answer the question and address the desired condition.	The method in this case is very straightforward, in that it summarizes the database that tracks special uses of the National Forests.
Reliable – BASI uses appropriate scientific methods that are consistent with scientific principles (e.g., peer-reviewed articles). To support monitoring methods, BASI reliability also includes methods that produce reliable measurements with statistical rigor.	Fedkiw (1998) is a narrative analysis of the topic without statistical analysis. It is replete with data and references that support the claims being made, and it received review sufficient for agency publication and a foreword by the former Chief of the Forest Service. No peer-reviewed article was found that addressed this topic directly.
Additional documentation of BASI for this monitoring question and indicators.	This monitoring question and indicator is similar to other elements of ongoing Land Management Plan monitoring that use existing Forest Service databases to evaluate progress towards meeting its Goals.
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References Cited

Fedkiw, J. Managing Multiple Uses on National Forests, 1905-1995: A 90-year Learning Experience and It Isn't Finished Yet. 1998. USDA Forest Service. FS-628.