

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST
Revised Land and Resource Management Plan
Administrative Change
2012 Planning Rule Monitoring Program Transition
 April 2016

This Administrative Change to the 1999 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) for the Kisatchie National Forest, brings the plan monitoring program into conformance with the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule. The 2012 Planning Rule allows for corrections or adjustments to the Forest Plan using a process called “Administrative Changes.” Administrative changes” as defined by 36 CFR 219.13(c) in the 2012 Planning Rule is “any change to a plan that is not a plan amendment or revision. Administrative changes include corrections of clerical errors to any part of the plan, conformance of the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements, or other content in the plan (219.7(f)).”

Administrative Changes

The administrative changes to the plan monitoring program are as follows:

5.1 Proposed Change 1: Monitoring Evaluation Reports

Monitoring Evaluation Reports will be produced on a biennial schedule. It is anticipated that the first biennial Monitoring Evaluation Report will be available by September 2018. The forest will complete the last annual monitoring evaluation report in September of 2016.

5.2 Proposed Change 2: Climate Change

In meeting the requirement to monitor “measurable changes on the plan area related to climate change and other stressors that may be affecting the plan area” (36 CFR 219.12(a)(5)(vi)), the following monitoring questions and indicators will be added to the Forest’s monitoring program by adding Table 5-1a. below. These monitoring questions are related to climate change and other stressors that may be affecting the plan area.

Table 5-1a. Monitoring Plan Climate Change
<i>Broad Scale Monitoring Questions</i>
1. How has climate variability changed and how is it projected to change across the region?
2. How is climate variability and change influencing the ecological, social, and economic conditions and contributions provided by plan areas in the region?
3. What effects do national forests in the region have on a changing climate?
<i>Forest Level Monitoring Question</i>
4. Are long and short leaf pine management activities moving toward a reduction in climate related vulnerability by restoring and maintaining a healthy resilient native ecosystem in appropriate management areas?

Indicators and procedures for broad scale monitoring questions will be addressed and evaluated through the Region 8 Broader-Scale Monitoring Strategy, which the Forest will incorporate into the Forest Evaluation Reports. To see the indicators and procedures that will be used at the broader-scale for these monitoring questions, see the Region 8’s Broader-Scale Monitoring Strategy at www.fs.usda.gov/main/r8/landmanagement/planning. Indicators and procedures for the forest level monitoring question is addressed in a new task sheet which was developed to show how the new Forest level monitoring question will be addressed. The proposed monitoring task sheet number 85 is available upon review.

5.3 Proposed Change 3: Social, Cultural and Economic Sustainability

In meeting the requirement to monitor plan contributions to the social, cultural, and economic sustainability of communities the following monitoring questions and indicators will be added to the Forest’s monitoring program by adding Table 5-1b. below. These monitoring questions are related to social, cultural, and economic sustainability which is a part of monitoring the progress toward meeting the desired conditions and objectives, including providing multiple use opportunities (36 CFR 219.12(a)(5)(vii)).

Table 5-1b. Monitoring Plan Social, Cultural and Economic Sustainability	
<i>Broad Scale Monitoring Questions</i>	
1.	What changes are occurring in the social, cultural, and economic conditions in the areas influenced by national forests in the region?
<i>Forest Level Monitoring Question</i>	
2.	Are the identified contributions to social and economic sustainability in the Forest Plan desired conditions being achieved?

Indicators and Procedures for this monitoring question will be addressed and evaluated through the Region 8 Broader-Scale Monitoring Strategy, which the Forest will incorporate into the Forest Evaluation Reports. To see the indicators and procedures that will be used at the broader-scale for this monitoring question, see the Region 8’s Broader-Scale Monitoring Strategy at www.fs.usda.gov/main/r8/landmanagement/planning. Indicators and procedures for the forest level monitoring question is addressed in a new task sheet which was developed to show how the new Forest level monitoring question will be addressed. The proposed monitoring task sheet number 86 is available upon review.

5.4 Proposed Change 4: Focal Species

Another requirement is the plan monitoring program must include monitoring questions and indicators on the status of a select set of focal species to assess ecological conditions (see 36 CFR 219.12(a)(5)(iii)). A “focal species” is defined as a “species whose status permits inference to the integrity of the larger ecological system to which it belongs and provides meaningful information regarding the effectiveness of the plan in maintaining or restoring the ecological conditions to maintain the diversity of plan and animal communities in the plan area” (36 CFR 219.19).

The following table (Table 5-2a.) will be added to the Forest Plan monitoring program, which shows the species that are being identified as “focal species” for this plan’s monitoring program, along with ecological system/ecological conditions that each focal species will serve as an indicator of.

Table 5-2a. Monitoring Plan Focal Species	
Focal Species	Ecological System/Conditions
Longleaf Pine, <i>Pinus palustris</i>	Longleaf pine landscapes community.
Shortleaf Pine, <i>Pinus echinata</i>	Shortleaf oak hickory landscape community.
Red-cockaded Woodpecker, <i>Picoides borealis</i>	Longleaf pine landscapes community.

These species are already being monitored in the existing monitoring program and will continue to be monitored according to the protocols already established. However, the evaluation of the information gathered from the monitoring of these species will now be used within the context of evaluating the integrity of the ecological system the species is a part of, along with the effectiveness of the plan in maintaining or restoring those ecological conditions.

5.5 Proposed Change 5: Administrative change for correction of analysis system name.

During the monitoring program transition evaluation of Goal 1, Objective 1-4, (Effectiveness question) it was determined the National Fire Management Analysis System (NFMAS) is no longer in use and has been replaced by Fire Program Analysis (FPA). This analysis program functions similar to the NFMAS and is the current analytical tool used in the fire program. The reference made to NFMAS will be replaced as FPA.

5.6 Proposed Change 6: Administrative change for correction of analysis system name.

During the monitoring program transition evaluation of Goal 5, Objective 5-1, (Implementation question) it was determined the Southern Regional Heritage Programmatic Agreement is no longer in use and has been replaced by the Kisatchie National Forest Programmatic Agreement. This agreement functions similar to the Southern Regional Agreement and is the current agreement used in the heritage program. The reference made to Southern Regional Heritage Programmatic Agreement will be replaced as Kisatchie National Forest Programmatic Agreement.

Approval and Effective Date

This Administrative Change becomes effective upon signature below, and being posted online at the Forest’s website. Administrative changes are not subject to the objection process (36 CFR 219.50). This Administrative Change will remain in effect until the 1999 Revised LRMP is revised.


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