

# FY2001



## *Kisatchie National Forest*

### **Monitoring and Evaluation Action Plan & Report**

*Claiborne, Webster, Grant, Rapides, Natchitoches, Vernon, and  
Winn Parishes of Louisiana*

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## I. Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation Report

The Kisatchie National Forest (KNF) annually monitors and evaluates programs and projects to determine whether they comply with management direction in the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (Plan).

Monitoring and evaluation is an ongoing process, specifically designed to insure that Plan goals and objectives (Plan, pages 2-1 to 2-7) are being achieved; standards and guidelines (S&Gs) are being properly implemented; and environmental effects are occurring as predicted. It also indicates whether the application of management area prescriptions are responding to public issues as well as management concerns; and if the costs of implementing the Plan are on target. The evaluation of monitoring results allows the Forest Supervisor to initiate action to improve compliance with management direction where needed, improve cost effectiveness, and determine if any amendments to the Plan are needed to improve resource management.

Monitoring is conducted by field reviews of projects and by inventory and survey work conducted by Forest Service resource specialists, Forest Service research scientists, universities, State resource agencies, and other cooperators.

This Monitoring and Evaluation Report is structured to correspond to the monitoring items listed in Chapter 5, *Monitoring and Evaluation*, of the Forest Plan. These items were developed based on the revised Plan's desired future conditions, goals and objectives, and standards and guidelines. Each monitoring item considered in this report references the corresponding monitoring item from Table 5-1 of the Plan.

This report includes the implementation status of the previous fiscal year's monitoring recommendations in addition to the detailed results and action plan for this year's report. The next page contains a certification statement from the Forest Supervisor indicating that she has evaluated the findings and recommended actions, and directs that the action plans developed to respond to the recommendations be implemented.

### ***Certification:***

I have evaluated the monitoring results and recommended actions in this Report. I have directed that the action plans developed to respond to these recommendations be implemented according to the timeframes indicated, unless new information or changed resource conditions warrant otherwise. I have considered funding requirements in the budget necessary to implement these actions.

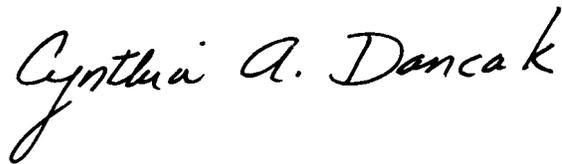
With these completed changes the Forest Plan is sufficient to guide the management of the Kisatchie National Forest for fiscal year 2002, unless ongoing monitoring and evaluation efforts identify further need for change.

Any amendments or revisions made to the current Forest Plan will be made using the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act procedures.

***Opportunity for comment:***

If you have questions or comments regarding the accomplishments for fiscal year 2000, please call or write and let us know. Telephone: 318-473-7160. Address: USDA Forest Service, 2500 Shreveport Highway, Pineville, LA 71360.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia A. Dancak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'C' and 'D'.

Cynthia A. Dancak  
Acting Forest Supervisor  
Kisatchie National Forest

## II. Summary of M&E Results and Report Findings

### A. Ecosystem Condition, Health, and Sustainability

- Twenty-one sites located on about 655 acres were planted with longleaf pine seedlings in FY2001. Twenty sites located on about 541 acres that were planted in FY 1999 were evaluated for adequate stocking with longleaf pine seedlings. Eighteen of the sites, approximately 515 acres, were found adequately stocked. Two sites or about 26 acres will require replanting.
- Habitat for sensitive and conservation plant species suffered from a lack of prescribed burning. However, at a smaller scale, some prairies and bogs were treated to benefit sensitive and conservation plant species.
- Early successional (0-10 years) pine habitat for wildlife has been reduced since 1999. Older successional pine habitats have increased slightly since 1999. Stand ages for all habitat types have become generally older due to the reduction in the timber-harvesting program. The older habitat, compared to the relatively younger habitat off-Forest, is generally beneficial to the rare species on Kisatchie NF.
- Louisiana pearlshell mussel beds were surveyed on the Evangeline Unit of the Calcasieu Ranger District and populations appear to be stable. Water samples taken on mussel streams indicated good water quality and were within state standards set by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ).
- The prescribed burning goals were accomplished in spite of unusually wet weather during the dormant season and unusually dry weather during the growing season. The Forest accomplished 97,067 acres; of this, 75,785 acres were dormant season and 21,282 acres were growing season burns.
- All areas on the Forest are attained National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ).
- The Forest lost 751 acres to wildland fires in 2001. The acceptable range in NFMAS was 2,108. The Forest was well below the acceptable range due to an unusually wet year.
- Approximately 1,060 acres were planted or site-prepared for natural regeneration in FY2001. In addition, 3,026 acres of timber stand improvement treatments were applied. These projects contributed toward restoration efforts and improved overall forest health.
- The Kisatchie National Forest did not have any SPB infestations during FY2001.
- Six timber removal units on the KNF were randomly selected and rated for compliance with soil resource standards and guidelines (best management practices). The monitoring results indicated that district personnel did an excellent job implementing these standards and guidelines.
- The estimated annual soil loss on three sites site-prepared by herbicide and burning methods in January of 2001 on the Calcasieu Ranger District ranged from .08 to .45 tons per acre. This was well below the maximum allowable soil loss for these soil types.

- 68 acres of watershed improvement work were accomplished in FY2001. Maintenance on FY2000 projects was done on 56 acres of projects from the previous year. Restoration and revegetation of these areas was successful (greater than 80% cover). Projects included riparian area restoration and sediment control on Corney Bayou, erosion control and seeding of native species in the Kisatchie Hills Wilderness, and erosion/sediment control for ORV-related damage, particularly on Kisatchie Ranger District.
- Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) activities were conducted for tornado damage that occurred in the recreation areas around Caney Lakes. The work was done through an interagency agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The activities included implementing extensive erosion and sediment control practices on about 113 acres that drain into Caney Lake.
- Preliminary findings from the Long Term Soil Productivity Study being conducted by the Southern Research Station indicated that when sites located on several soil types with a severe compaction hazard rating were subjected to severe compaction, bulk densities recovered to near original undisturbed levels within five years. Preliminary results also indicate that soil productivity is maintained when slash is retained on site.
- Ten timber management units on the Catahoula and Winn Ranger Districts were rated using "scorecards" developed to rate the effectiveness of best management practices. The effectiveness of the practices was rated as being excellent.
- The water quality of nine streams on the Winn, Catahoula, and Calcasieu ranger districts were monitored in cooperation with the LDEQ. The monitoring data indicated that all these streams met the criteria for designated uses, including propagation for fish and wildlife.
- Predator/prey populations across the Forest were sufficient for a sustainable recreational fishery. To maintain and enhance the resource, supplemental stocking of 44,625 largemouth bass fingerlings (provided by the USFWS) were stocked in Forest lakes and ponds, with 42,400 going to Corney Lake.
- Fourteen miles of Forest streams were surveyed to assess the fish assemblage, measure water quality and characterize habitat. Water quality was within acceptable norms (LDEQ), and population trends of MIS suggest that BMPs and SHPZs are adequately protecting the integrity and quality of watersheds within the Forest. Young-of-year and recruitment of all age classes show that sediment has not inhibited reproduction of fishes or altered habitat beyond natural conditions.
- Presence of forage fish and omnivores were evaluated in Forest lakes. A fall/winter drawdown was prescribed for Corney Lake for aquatic weed control, habitat restoration, and fish population manipulation (balance the ratio of predator/prey/omnivores). The levee on Fullerton Lake failed during a flood event and the 70-year-old lake is undergoing structure repair and benefiting from the full effects of a drawdown.

## ***B. Sustainable Multiple Forest and Range Benefits***

- Population levels for game species were mostly stable. Populations of gray squirrels increased due to a good acorn crop. Deer populations are and have been considerably below the habitats' carrying capacity; herd densities are too low to provide adequate aesthetic enjoyment for non-consumptive users.

- Shifts in ROS class eligibility were not needed because only minor road construction and decommissioning occurred. ROS class eligibility changes are dependant, primarily, on changes in road density.
- Meaningful Measures costing data was migrated to the corporate INFRA database. Critical standards were being met. Full compliance with all Meaningful Measures standards were not possible at given funding level.
- During FY1999 through FY2001, 111.9 miles of local and collector roads were reconstructed or constructed. Of this, 71.3 miles were reviewed. Of the roads reviewed, 97% of the road length was serviceable by the intended user and required no significant increase in the level or frequency of maintenance. Only 2.3 miles of road length experienced subgrade failure.
- No new land acquisitions were made in FY2001.
- Timber harvesting levels continued to decline on the Forest. Just over 31,000 CCF (15.5 MMBF) were harvested, compared to an FY2000 harvest of 54,000 CCF (27 MMBF).
- In FY2001, the newly created "Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000" was implemented. As a result, the Forest parishes elected to receive their payments in terms of a three-year average. There is no longer a link between payments to the parishes and the harvest level of forest products.
- The Forest received Economic Recovery (ER) grant proposals from eight communities totaling \$36,000. Four proposals were funded for \$17,150. Two proposals were from communities that had not received ER funds in the past.
- Due to ongoing litigation and re-assessment of NEPA documents, there were no substantial timber sales offered in FY2001. The total volume offered (and sold) was just over 1,300 CCF (less than 700 MBF), and were a result of a very limited amount of 'hazard tree removal' and related needs.
- Insufficient use of growing season burns and timber harvest treatments continued to delay successful establishment of desired future conditions on the Forest landscapes. Although some harvesting on existing timber sale contracts did continue (50 acres were clearcut and 3,206 acres were thinned), this rate is too slow to effectively reach some Forest Plan objectives within the Plan period. Intermediate thinning treatments were not being applied as often as needed for the development of desirable groundcover and for the reduction of excessive basal areas.
- A 25-year trend of decreasing demand from the public for grazing resources continued. Only two grazing allotments were actively used for cattle grazing, with numerous permittees taking "non-use".
- All compliance reviews and consultations pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) were completed prior to agency decisions. However, FY2001 was a year of injunctions, which resulted in a decrease of management activities. As a result, requests for inventory were much reduced from years past.
- The Forest continued government-to-government relations with five federally recognized tribal nations. These include the Caddo Tribe of Okalahoma, the Chitimacha Indian Tribe, the Coushatta Indian Tribe, the Jena Band of the Choctaw, and the Tunica Biloxi Tribe.
- Over 40 heritage sites were monitored and revisited to determine the extent of internal or externally caused damage. No evidence of damage due to Forest activities was noted, but external damage (unauthorized site looting) was recorded in a number of instances. One

formal Law Enforcement case report was generated, but the investigation was unable to identify persons responsible. There were still insufficient funds for Law Enforcement Officers and Heritage Specialists to physically monitor all sites at risk.

- No significant or potentially significant heritage sites were evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places, and the number of backlogged sites needing evaluation remained at 419. Given FY2001 funding and staffing levels, we were not able to satisfy compliance with Section 110 of the NHPA, which requires assessments of NRHP eligibility for all known cultural properties.
- The Forest publicly interpreted one site through Passport In Time (PIT) projects, and was a contributor to Louisiana Archaeology Week for the 12<sup>th</sup> year. Heritage Specialists visited primary and secondary level classrooms to make presentations on Louisiana history and archeological ethics.

### ***C. Organizational Effectiveness***

- In June of 2001, the Forest created the "*Management Indicator Species Population and Habitat Trends*" report. This "white paper" explained in detail which management indicator species (MIS) were selected for the Forest Plan, the reason for their selection, and what population trends have been seen regionally and/or across the Forest.
- The Forest identified the following research needs: (a) Effects of prescribed burning on bark beetle populations, (b) Fire effects on the growth and yield of longleaf pine, (c) Effects of prescribed burning on forest sustainability, and (d) Longleaf pine restoration techniques.
- Discussions were held with LDEQ and Louisiana State University (LSU) staff to explore the possibility of participating in a study to evaluate the effectiveness of best management practices (BMPs).
- The Forest's Geographical Information System (GIS) and soil and water staff cooperated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in developing the fifth level of delineations for watersheds that contain National Forest lands in Louisiana.
- The Forest Service and LSU established a challenge cost share (CCS) agreement to help one another accomplish mutually beneficial objectives related to the impacts of off-road vehicles (ORV) to soil, water and other resources of the Forest. The current Forest ratings will be refined and modified as needed to better classify the suitability of areas for ORV traffic. These data will be incorporated into the Forest's GIS database and should help the Forest Service determine how to best manage these areas.

### III. Detailed M&E Results and Report Findings

#### A. Ecosystem Condition, Health, and Sustainability

##### 1. BIODIVERSITY

**Objective 2–1:** Manage to restore or maintain the structure, composition, and processes of the four major landscape forest ecosystems known to occur on the Forest, and unique or under-represented inclusional communities embedded within them. Long-term objectives for each major forest community is as follows:

Longleaf pine forest: 263,000 acres.

Shortleaf pine / oak-hickory forest: 62,000 acres.

Mixed hardwood-loblolly pine forest: 27,800 acres.

Riparian forest: 181,000 acres

Are management practices designed to restore or maintain the structure, composition, and processes of the four major landscape forest ecosystems and the embedded plant communities within them being implemented? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Management practices require NEPA documentation prior to being implemented. No documents were approved for implementation during FY2001. The application of a harvesting technique and a proper fire regime is necessary to restore and/or maintain the desired structure and composition of the four major landscape forest ecosystems on the Kisatchie National Forest. Growing season burns are especially essential for the restoration and maintenance of these native plant communities.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Every year prepare documents addressing management practices, which will be implemented on approximately 10 percent of the Kisatchie National Forest ownership. Strive to implement harvesting levels consistent with Plan levels. Dependent on funding levels, increase the number of prescribed burn acres to allow the completion of 125,000 to 150,000 acres per year. Growing season burns are critical for successful gains in our restoration efforts, continue to increase the number of growing season burns. Identify by calendar date when growing season burns begin in the spring and end in the summer. Publish these dates in the Forest Supplement to the prescribed fire management handbook, when revised (FY2003).

Are the management practices successfully restoring or maintaining quality forest ecosystems; and, the structure, composition, and processes of the four major landscape forest ecosystems? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** Twenty-one sites containing about 655 acres were planted with longleaf pine seedlings in FY2001. A total of 541 acres consisting of twenty sites planted in FY1999 were evaluated for adequate stocking with longleaf pine seedlings. Satisfactorily stocked sites require a minimum of 300 well-distributed seedlings per acre. Eighteen of the sites, approximately 515 acres, were found adequately stocked. Two sites or about 26 acres will require replanting. The

failures are primarily due to competition. Increased prescribed burning during the growing season will be necessary to reduce woody stem competition and to restore native plant communities.

Five sites consisting of 150 acres were planted with shortleaf pine seedlings in FY2001. The planting spacing was wide enough to allow for a hardwood component.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Change method of site preparation from chop and burn to herbicide and burn on longleaf pine landscapes. If however, the native ground cover has been established with fire prior to a final harvest cut, than complete a site prep burn and plant. As implied, establishment of native ground cover can be accomplished with the implementation of growing season burns prior to final harvest and is a highly recommended restoration approach. Whatever the existing condition, apply growing season burns on a three year rotation starting with the second growing season after planting. If competing hardwood stems are not controlled with the burns then apply an herbicide treatment and then follow-up with the above suggested fire regime. Continue to monitor sites for additional treatment needs. Explore opportunities to conduct growing season burn training sessions in cooperation with the Southern Research Unit for all Forest personnel involved with the prescribed burning and restoration programs. Increase the number of acres burned during the growing season. Increase final harvest cut acres of off-site species on longleaf pine sites so an increase of planted longleaf can occur.

Monitor shortleaf pine plantations in FY2004 for adequate stocking, species composition and for additional treatment needs.

Monitor previously planted loblolly pine plantations for treatment needs.

Monitor management practices being implemented within 150 feet of streamside and riparian area protection zones for compliance with the Forest Plan.

**Objective 2-2:** Provide for healthy populations of all existing native and desirable nonnative wildlife, fish, and plants by managing major forest ecosystems at the scale and distribution appropriate to maintain species viability. In the next 10 years, management indicator habitat objectives are as follows:

Longleaf pine, all stages: 121,000 acres.

Shortleaf pine / oak-hickory, early stages: 0 acres.

Shortleaf pine / oak-hickory, mid-late stages: 16,000 acres.

Mixed hardwood-loblolly pine, early stages: 42,000 acres.

Mixed hardwood-loblolly pine, mid-late stages: 252,000 acres.

Riparian, small streams: 85,000 acres

Riparian, large streams: 92,000 acres

Are management practices successfully expanding quality habitats for management indicators?

(E)

**FY2001 Findings:** This monitoring task calls for using the herbarium database to track the status of habitats for management indicators. This database was created, however, it does not provide the needed data. Instead, data is being collected on management indicator species using a series of plots scattered across the Kisatchie National Forest landscapes. Data collection was started in 2000 and continued in 2001. The initial review of this data found that the methods being used had two problems. First, data collected by different observers was collected using slightly different methods. Second, some plant MIS species were not found within the plots. Data collected to date

has proved very useful in establishing a baseline for the frequency and distribution of plant management indicators.

- Longleaf pine, all stages -- 127,415 acres
- Shortleaf pine, oak, hickory -- early stages -- 1,633 ac
- Shortleaf pine, oak, hickory -- mid-to-late stages -- 48,050 ac
- Mixed hardwood-loblolly pine -- early stages -- 14,351 ac
- Mixed hardwood-loblolly pine -- mid-to-late stages -- 261,024 ac
- Riparian, small streams -- 85,000 (no annual change)
- Riparian, large streams -- 92,000 (no annual change)

Considering Kistachie habitat types and the Forest Plan goals:

	<u>FY2001 acres</u>	<u>Forest Plan goal (ac)</u>
Early (0-10 yrs) successional habitat (all Forest types included)	26,882	≥20,000
Mid-successional (31-50 yrs) habitat (all Forest types included)	86,898	≥50,000
Late-successional (71+ yrs) habitat (all Forest types included)	163,120	≥75,000

Based on these data, is meeting its goal of providing a biologically diverse ecosystem.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Modify collection methods to eliminate problems with data previously collected by multiple observers. Continue collecting baseline data on plant management indicators using the new methods. Review occurrences of plant management indicator species that have yet to be found in the existing system of plots, and begin development of a protocol to monitor these species. This will require either additional plots within known habitat for these species and/or modified methods of data collection at such sites.

Continue to adhere to Revised Plan guidance.

Are the habitat objectives for selected management indicators providing for healthy populations of all existing native and desirable nonnative wildlife, fish, and plants? (V)

**FY2001 Findings:** Monitoring of plant management indicators (MI) was conducted in a series of MI plots located across the Forest. These plots will establish a baseline of data on MI populations from which future trends can be compared. Plot methodology has yet to capture adequate data on some plants.

Regional Office personnel are working to analyze R8bird survey data; earliest availability -- late summer 2002.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** In 2002, the plant MI plots will be revised to better capture MI data. Modification will allow better comparison between observers, and avoid the collection of redundant data. Plot location will also be reconsidered, in an effort to capture data on several species that were not found in sufficient numbers in the present plant MI plots.

Continue bird surveys on the Forest.

**Objective 2–3:** Manage to protect, improve, and maintain habitat conditions for all threatened, endangered, sensitive, and conservation species occurring on the Forest. Manage habitat conditions on 303,000 acres of pine and pine-hardwood within 5 established red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) habitat management areas to achieve a long-term Forest-wide RCW population of 1,405 active clusters.

Are management practices designed to protect, improve, and maintain threatened, endangered, sensitive, and conservation species being implemented? Are management strategies designed for red-cockaded woodpecker habitat management being implemented within designated habitat management areas? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** No known occurrences of threatened or endangered plant species exist on the Kisatchie National Forest. Habitat for sensitive and conservation species suffered from a lack of management and prescribed burning as listed in No. 18. On a small scale some prairies and bogs were managed for the benefit of sensitive and conservation species. Completed projects did meet at least 90% compliance with Forest Plan direction, project design, and NEPA decision direction.

Management practices targeting TESC animal species are increasingly being implemented on the Forest, especially the four larger ranger districts. Habitat Management Areas are the principle target areas for RCW management activities.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Strive to implement harvesting levels consistent with Plan levels. Depending on funding, increase the number of prescribed burn acres to allow the completion of 125,000 to 150,000 acres per year. Growing season burns are critical for successful gains in our restoration efforts. Continue to increase the number of growing season burns. Identify by calendar date when growing season burns begin in the spring and end in the summer. Publish these dates in the Forest Supplement to the prescribed fire management handbook, when revised (FY2003).

Ecosystem Conservation personnel in the Supervisor's Office should review all Biological Evaluations completed by the districts. Environmental Assessments are to be viewed on a case-by-case basis. Periodic field reviews of completed projects should be performed.

Are habitat conditions for threatened, endangered, sensitive, and conservation species improving? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** No known occurrences of threatened or endangered plant species exist on the Kisatchie National Forest. No significant changes in acres or site quality of habitat for sensitive and conservation plant species were found. Management of sites was hampered somewhat (see No. 18), but this is thought to be a short-term trend.

Kisatchie Forest Habitat (Acres), current vs 1999

Forest Type	Successional Classes							
	0-10 years		11-30 years		31-80 years		81+ years	
	Year: 2002	1999	2002	1999	2002	1999	2002	1999
<i>Pine Types:</i>								
Longleaf	10,798	13,614	13,215	10,179	94,116	95,690	8,973	4,162
Slash	187	618	5,430	7,392	31,854	31,273	10	11
Loblolly	13,379	38,880	92,821	81,214	154,642	147,014	20,877	15,382
Shortleaf	1,168	938	906	927	7,190	8,000	5,888	4,799
Sub-Total	25,532	54,050	112,372	99,712	287,802	281,977	35,748	24,354
Sub-Total %	5.5	12	24.4	22	62.4	61	7.7	5
Forestwide %	4.2	9.0	18.4	16.6	47.2	47.0	5.9	4.1
<i>Mixed Types:</i>								
Pine-Hwd	911	1,200	4,839	4,593	13,681	15024	7,532	4438
Hwd-Pine	84	371	1,718	2,958	21,592	25071	12,332	8229
Sub-Total	995	1,571	6,557	7,551	35,273	40095	19,864	12667
Sub-Total %	1.6	3	10.5	12	56.3	65	31.7	20
Forestwide %	0.2	0.3	1.1	1.3	5.8	6.7	3.3	2.1
<i>Hardwood Types:</i>								
Upland	255	522	3,736	2752	24,701	24809	9,052	5480
Bottomland	100	311	2,544	2664	28,148	29917	17,537	12045

USDA Forest Service

Kisatchie National Forest 2001 M&E Report

Sub-Total	355	833	6,280	5416	52,849	54726	26,589	17525
Sub-Total %	0.4	1	7.3	7	61.4	70	30.9	22
Forestwide %	0.1	0.1	1.0	0.9	8.7	9.1	4.4	2.9
Forestwide								
Totals	26,882	56,454	125,209	112,679	375,924	376,768	82,201	54,546
Forestwide %	4.4	9.4	20.5	18.8	61.6	62.7	13.5	9.1

(Forestwide data acreage: 610,216 for 2002; 600,477 for 1999)

Early successional (0-10 years) pine habitat has diminished significantly since 1999. Older successional pine habitats have increased slightly since 1999. Stand ages for all habitat types generally are older which is the result of the diminished timber-harvesting program. The older habitat, compared to the relatively younger habitat off-Forest, generally is beneficial to the rare species on Kisatchie NF.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Strive to implement harvesting levels consistent with Plan levels. Increase the number of prescribed burn acres to allow the completion of 125,000 to 150,000 acres per year. Growing season burns are critical for successful gains in our restoration efforts. Continue to increase the number of growing season burns. Identify by calendar date when growing season burns begin in the spring and end in the summer. Publish these dates in the fire management handbook.

Continue to adhere to the land management practices described in the revised Land Management Plan for Kisatchie NF, which calls for relatively older timber stands.

Are red-cockaded woodpecker and Louisiana pearlshell mussel population trends responding positively to management strategies? (M)

**FY2001 Findings:**

RCW Population Survey Results:

	Year 2001	Year 2000
<u>RCW Population</u>	<u># Active Clusters</u>	<u># Active Clusters</u>
Catahoula	36	34
Evangeline	73	74
Kisatchie	27	37
Winn	12	17
Vernon	149	152
Forest Total	297	314

Louisiana pearlshell mussel beds were surveyed on the Evangeline Unit of the Calcasieu Ranger District and populations appear to be stable, despite drought conditions and at least one case of ORV damage (enforcement was notified).

Through the USDA APHIS program, beavers were removed and beaver dams were destroyed to protect this threatened species from inundation.

Water samples taken on mussel streams indicated good water quality and were within state standards set by LDEQ.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Closely monitor all populations for signs of stability. Prescribe burn RCW foraging habitat as much as feasible. Engage in RCW translocations to bolster populations, if feasible. Continue consultations with the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Identify opportunities to accelerate RCW management activities on the Forest. Target Habitat Management Areas as priority compartments for near term projects to benefit RCW populations.

Continue beaver control, enforcement of Forest Service regulations prohibiting ORVs from riding in streams, and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Streamside Habitat Protection Zones (SHPZs) that protect Louisiana pearlshell mussel habitat.

**Objective 2–4:** Develop or maintain old-growth forest attributes, for their contribution to biological and visual diversity, habitats for plant and animal species, and maintenance of a natural gene pool, within designated patches on approximately 13 percent of the Forest based upon representation of the major forest ecosystems and old-growth community types. Long-term old-growth forest objectives are as follows:

Longleaf pine forest dominated patches: 48,800 acres.

- Coastal plain upland mesic hardwood: 2,550 acres.
- Upland longleaf, woodland, and savanna: 45,350 acres.
- Southern wet pine forest, woodland, and savanna: 780 acres.
- Dry and xeric oak forest, woodland, and savanna: 120 acres.

Shortleaf pine/oak-hickory forest dominated patches: 13,500 acres.

- Coastal plain upland mesic hardwood: 1,290 acres.
- Dry and dry-mesic oak-pine forest: 11,630 acres.
- Dry and xeric oak forest, woodland, and savanna: 60 acres.
- Xeric pine and pine-oak forest and woodland: 50 acres.
- Seasonally wet oak-hardwood woodland: 350 acres.
- River floodplain hardwood forest: 120 acres.

Mixed hardwood-loblolly pine forest dominated patches: 6,100 acres.

- Coastal plain upland mesic hardwood: 700 acres.
- Seasonally wet oak-hardwood woodland: 300 acres.
- Dry and dry-mesic oak-pine forest: 4,650 acres.
- River floodplain hardwood forest: 450 acres.

Riparian forest dominated patches: 12,700 acres.

- Coastal plain upland mesic hardwood: 1,820 acres.
- River floodplain hardwood forest: 1,180 acres.
- Cypress-tupelo swamp forest: 1,400 acres.
- Eastern riverfront forest: 6,400 acres.
- Seasonally wet oak-hardwood woodland: 1,400 acres.
- Dry and dry-mesic oak-pine forest: 500 acres.

Are management practices designed to develop old-growth forest attributes being implemented?

(U)

**FY2001 Findings:** Few project-level decision documents involving management practices designed to develop old-growth forest attributes have not been completed.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Complete the inventory of designed old-growth patches and determine which forest ecosystem is represented within each patch. Supervisor's Office staff personnel should complete field visits and review NEPA documents involving old-growth patches to determine compliance with the Forest Plan.

Are the management practices successfully developing or maintaining forest attributes similar to those found in old-growth? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** A GIS theme showing the location of old-growth patches on the Kisatchie National Forest is available. Scorecards for evaluating old-growth attributes within these patches have been developed.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Begin field visits to old-growth patches and rank for quality.

**Objective 2–5:** Manage to protect or enhance the unique plant and animal communities, special habitat features, habitat linkages and corridors, and aquatic ecosystems associated with streamside habitat and riparian areas.

Are streamside habitat protection zones and riparian area protection zones being delineated and managed as prescribed? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Management practices require NEPA documentation prior to being implemented. No documents were approved for implementation during FY2001. At present, no broad scale actions have been taken which might impact these areas.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Every year prepare documents addressing management practices, which will be implemented on approximately ten percent of the Kisatchie National Forest ownership. Document the streamside habitat protection zones and actions taken to manage in and near these areas. Monitor streamside habitat protection zones as outlined for this task.

Are these zones successfully protecting or enhancing unique plant and animal communities, special habitat features, habitat linkages, and aquatic ecosystems? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** No known occurrences of threatened or endangered plant species exist on the Kisatchie National Forest. No significant changes in acres or site quality of habitat for sensitive and conservation plant species were found. Completed projects did meet at least 90% compliance with Forest Plan direction, project design, and NEPA decision direction.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** None.

**Objective 6–2:** Utilize prescribed fire in fire-dependent ecosystems, including Kisatchie Hills Wilderness, to maintain natural plant communities by varying the timing, frequency, and intensity of fire. Apply prescribed fire on 80,000–105,000 acres annually, with 10–20 percent of the area burned during the growing season. Focus growing season burning on longleaf pine landscapes.

Are the prescribed fire regimes being applied to all appropriate landscapes as prescribed, to maintain fire-dependent ecosystems? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** The prescribed burning goals were accomplished in spite of unusually wet weather during the dormant season and unusually dry weather during the growing season. The Forest accomplished 97,067 acres; of this, 75,785 acres were dormant season and 21,282 acres were growing season burns. Prescribed burning occurred in the following landtype associations (LTAs):

LTA	Dormant Season Acres	Growing Season Acres
1	31,968	16,319
2	12,276	0
3	12,487	1,325
4	3,472	402
5	15,582	3,236

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** The Forest should continue to monitor prescribed burning parameters and take advantage of available burn windows as outlined in the prescribed fire handbook. Strive to maximize the implementation of growing season burns on longleaf pine plant community landscapes. Prioritize implementation of growing season burning units based on habitat and restoration needs. Strive to treat higher priority burn units first.

Are the natural plant communities being maintained by the prescribed fire regimes? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** An aggressive prescribed burning program continues to be applied on the Kisatchie landscapes. However, additional growing season burns must be implemented to achieve the desired future conditions.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Increase acreage of growing season burns on longleaf and shortleaf pine/oak-hickory landscapes.

2. FOREST HEALTH

**Objective 1–3:** Manage for air quality consistent with the Clean Air Act by implementing practices which are designed to meet state air quality standards and are consistent with maintaining the general forest area in Class II air quality.

Are Forest Service and the La. Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry’s smoke management guidelines and regulations being applied? Are performance requirements concerning air quality being incorporated in permitted activities? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** The Kisatchie National Forest follows the direction and parameters as set in the Louisiana Smoke Management Voluntary Guidelines. A burn plan is prepared for each proposed prescribed fire burn unit. It identifies smoke sensitive areas and targets with existing visibility or air quality problems. In addition, site specific concerns and smoke management criteria for the individual burn unit are identified in the burn plan.

The daily fire weather forecast includes smoke management parameters for transport wind speed, mixing height and dispersal. A burn may not be ignited unless a forecast is obtained and all smoke management prescription parameters are met. A smoke-screening map is required to be attached to the burn plan identifying forecasted wind direction and the projected smoke plume. Smoke dispersal is monitored throughout the burn period of each fire. Smoke plume direction and spread is monitored via helicopter. Post burn evaluation is performed and includes a requirement to note any smoke management violations.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Review burn plans to evaluate how Louisiana Smoke Management Guidelines are being followed during reviews of soil and water Best Management Practices and report findings.

Does air quality meet NAAQS and state standards? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** All areas of the Kisatchie National Forest are in areas that are considered to be in attainment for National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). In addition to the 1-hour ozone standard, Grant Parish continues to meet the NAAQS for all EPA criteria pollutants, according to data that is being collected at the LDEQ monitoring station located on the Catahoula Ranger District (Bentley site, Grant Parish).

The LDEQ has been monitoring particulate matter from smoke with a Federal Reference Method PM 2.5 monitor located in Alexandria (Rapides Parish) since 1999. PM 2.5 refers to particulate matter from smoke that has a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less. The monitoring data indicates that the NAAQS for particulates is being met.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to coordinate with LDEQ Air Quality Department on monitoring.

**Objective 1–4:** Provide a level of wildfire protection which emphasizes cost effective wildfire prevention and suppression while minimizing loss of resources.

Is wildfire protection being provided in a cost effective manner? Are losses to wildfire being minimized? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Wildland fire preparedness was still below the most efficient level. As a result, wildland fire losses were not being minimized due to the funding shortfall.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to request wildland fire preparedness funding at the 100% efficiency level and staff accordingly.

Are resources identified in NFMAS being made available in accordance with budget funding levels? Are acres lost to wildfire within the range identified by NFMAS for the current budget level? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** Resources identified in NFMAS are being made available in accordance with budget funding level. The Forest lost 751 acres to wildland fires in 2001. The acceptable range in NFMAS was 2,108. The Forest was well below the acceptable range due to an unusually wet fire season.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Manage for productive and healthy forest ecosystems by utilizing prescribed fire to prevent and minimize resource losses to wildland fires.

**Objective 1–5:** Manage for productive and healthy forest ecosystems by utilizing comprehensive integrated approaches designed to prevent and minimize resource losses or damage due to insects and disease.

Do management practices provide for correct site/species selection, reduce overstocked stands to optimum levels and insure prompt detection and control of insects and diseases? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** 1,060 acres were either planted or site prepared for natural regeneration in FY2001. This figure represents less than 1/10 of a percent of National Forest ownership. The species used to regenerate these acres are native to the sites and contribute toward the Forest's restoration efforts.

A total of 3,026 acres of timber stand improvement treatments were applied during FY2001. These projects contributed toward restoration efforts and improved overall forest health.

The Forest did not have any SPB infestations during FY2001.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Identify restoration and forest health needs through the inventory process. Complete NEPA documentation that will allow the application of final harvest operations and thinning treatments through timber sales.

Continue to implement timber stand improvement treatments, including pre-commercial thinning, where appropriate. Early growing season burns within young longleaf pine plantations would be especially beneficial.

Has management resulted in a decrease of susceptibility of southern pine beetle and other pests? Are pest incidents decreasing with applied integrated management? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** Insect and disease population trends on the Kisatchie National Forest were stable and low in FY2001.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Install the SPBIS and Forest Health Decision Support Systems on all districts. Monitor for possible insect and/or disease infestations.

### 3. WATERSHED CONDITIONS

Objective 1–1: Maintain or improve the Forest's long-term soil productivity. This is accomplished through land management practices designed to meet requirements for minimizing soil erosion and compaction, by not exceeding allowable soil loss for any given soil, by revegetating disturbed areas, and by restoring degraded areas to a natural condition.

Are management practices designed to minimize soil erosion, compaction and loss of soil productivity being applied? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Six timber removal units on the Forest were randomly selected and rated for compliance with standards and guidelines (best management practices) to protect soil resources. The monitoring indicated that district personnel did an excellent job of implementing the standards and guidelines. Implementation of erosion control practices (water bars and re-vegetation) was very good on these sites. There was good placement of skid trails and landings. There was special effort made to retain slash on site and to spread the slash over skid trails and bare soils.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue monitoring timber silvicultural management activities for implementation of Best Management Practices. Continue to retain slash on site and to spread the slash over skid trails and bare soils. This practice is an excellent way to prevent soil loss and accelerated erosion as well as to retain soil productivity.

Is allowable soil loss being exceeded? Are disturbed and degraded areas being restored and revegetated to a natural condition? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** Soil loss was measured on three sites that were site-prepared by herbicide and burning methods in January of 2001 on the Calcasieu Ranger District. Soil loss was estimated by measuring bare soil on the sites using the KAT method and applying the Universal Soil Loss Equation. The estimated annual soil loss ranged from .08 to .45 tons per acre. This amount of soil loss was well below the maximum allowable soil loss for these soil types, which would indicate a loss of soil productivity.

Watershed improvement work is ongoing. There were 68 acres of watershed improvement work accomplished in FY2001 with watershed improvement funds and KV funds. Maintenance on FY2000 projects was done as needed to shorten recovery times on the 56 acres of projects from the previous year. Projects were located on all districts and all included erosion and sediment control measures. Restoration and re-vegetation of these areas was successful with greater than 80% cover. Projects ranged from riparian area restoration and sediment control on Corney Bayou to erosion control that included seeding of native species for re-vegetation in the Kisatchie Hills Wilderness. Many projects included erosion/sediment control for ORV related damage, particularly on Kisatchie Ranger District.

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) activities were conducted for tornado damage that occurred in the recreation areas around Caney Lakes. The work was done through an interagency agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The activities included implementing extensive erosion and sediment control practices on about 113 acres that drain into Caney Lake. Measures that were implemented for the EWP project included the following:

- Stumps and debris were hauled from the area.
- Disturbed areas were smoothed and shaped and stump holes filled in.
- Hauled-in topsoil was placed on selected areas.
- Water diversions and erosion control structures were constructed where needed.
- Terraces and grassed waterways were repaired and reconstructed.
- Critical area treatment was performed including seedbed preparation, fertilizing, liming, seeding, and mulching

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to restore and re-vegetate disturbed areas.

How do timber management practices, especially timber harvesting and consequent compaction, affect soil productivity? (V)

**FY2001 Findings:** Preliminary findings from the Long Term Soil Productivity Study being conducted by the Southern Research Station indicate that when sites located on several soil types with a severe compaction hazard rating, including Malbis soils, were subjected to severe compaction, bulk densities recovered to near original undisturbed levels within five years. Preliminary results also indicate that soil productivity is maintained when slash is retained on site. The Long Term Soil Productivity Study is a national study being conducted to evaluate the effects of various timber management practices on the productivity of soil. Research plots are located at various locations around the U. S. including the Catahoula and Calcasieu Ranger Districts.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to coordinate with and assist the Southern Research Station with the Long Term Soil Productivity Study.

**Objective 1–2:** Maintain or improve the integrity of aquatic ecosystems to provide for high water quality, stream-channel stability, natural flow regimes, water yield, and aquatic resources by managing in accordance with the Clean Water Act and by meeting all state and federal water quality standards.

Are management practices designed to minimize contamination, sedimentation, and maintain stream channel stability being applied? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Six timber removal units on the Winn Ranger District were randomly selected and rated for compliance with standards and guidelines (best management practices) designed to protect water resources. A team that included Forest timber management and soil and water staff and a member of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Non-Point Pollution Control staff, rated the units.

The monitoring indicated that district personnel did an excellent job of implementing the standards and guidelines. Streamside zones were implemented on all streams including numerous small side branches on the sloping sites. Although the standards and guidelines from the new Forest Plan and new requirements for the larger Streamside Habitat Protection Zones (SHPZs) and Riparian Area Protection Zones (RAPZs) did not apply to these operations (since they were older sales) almost all of the zones on these units would comply with the new requirements. Excellent sale layout on these units precluded the need to come close to streams or riparian areas and prevented the need for any stream crossings, which eliminated a major source of potential sedimentation. Implementation of erosion control practices (waterbars and re-vegetation) was very good on these sites. There was good placement of skid trails and landings.

In addition, ten timber management units on the Catahoula and Winn Ranger Districts were rated using “scorecards” developed to rate the effectiveness of best management practices. The effectiveness of the practices was rated as being excellent. Erosion/sediment control was very effective though more waterbars were recommended in some areas.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to monitor silvicultural management activities for implementation of Best Management Practices.

Are state water quality standards and state anti-degradation policies being met? Is water quality being degraded? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** The water quality of nine streams on the Winn, Catahoula, and Calcasieu Ranger districts were monitored on a quarterly basis in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. The data is included in the state's water quality database and may be accessed on the LDEQ web pages:

[www.deq.state.la.us/surveillance/wqdata/wqnsites.htm](http://www.deq.state.la.us/surveillance/wqdata/wqnsites.htm). The monitoring data indicated that all these streams met the criteria for designated uses, including propagation for fish and wildlife. The criteria specify standards for chlorides, sulfates, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and total dissolved oxygen. Almost all samples from these streams had turbidity levels that were well below 25 NTU, which is the criterion for natural and scenic streams. In addition to the criteria parameters, the streams were monitored for metals (arsenic, chromium, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel), nutrients (carbon, phosphates, potassium, nitrogen, nitrites, nitrates) and sulfates, suspended solids etc. The monitoring data indicates minimal or trace levels of these substances and no contamination that would affect fish or wildlife.

Bi-weekly testing of fecal coliform levels at Stuart Lake, Kincaid Lake and Caney Lake swim beaches indicated that water quality standards for protection of public health and safety were met.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to coordinate with LDEQ on monitoring the water quality of streams on the Forest. Conduct monitoring on streams draining watersheds where management burning was conducted to determine any impacts on water quality. Continue required monitoring of water quality of Kisatchie swim beaches.

**Objective 2-6:** Manage perennial and intermittent streams as well as natural and man-made lakes, reservoirs, and ponds for native and desirable nonnative fish species and aquatic communities.

Are lake predator-prey populations in balance? Are management practices sufficiently protecting stream and lake habitats? Are primary aquatic food chain organisms being impacted by siltation?

(I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Predator/prey populations across the Forest are sufficient for a sustainable recreational fishery. To maintain and enhance the resource, supplemental stocking of 44,625 largemouth bass fingerlings (provided by the USFWS) were stocked in Forest lakes and ponds, with 42,400 going to Corney Lake.

Fourteen miles of Forest streams were surveyed to assess the fish assemblage, measure water quality and characterize habitat. Water quality was within acceptable norms (LDEQ), and population trends of MIS suggest that BMPs and SHPZs are adequately protecting the integrity and quality of watersheds within the Forest.

Young-of-year and recruitment of all age classes were evidence that sediment had not inhibited reproduction of fishes or altered habitat beyond natural conditions.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to monitor and assess the effectiveness of management strategies on the Forest concerning aquatic resources.

Are lake populations healthy? Are nonnative and / or generalist-omnivore natives affecting lake biomass and balance? Is lake habitat sufficient? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** Relative weights of largemouth bass indicated healthy populations and adequate forage bases and there was no evidence of primary or secondary infections and disease.

Presence of forage fish and omnivores were evaluated in Forest lakes and action was taken to ensure a continuation of fish population balance. A Fall/Winter drawdown was prescribed for Corney Lake for aquatic weed control, habitat restoration, and fish population manipulation (balance the ratio of predator/prey/omnivores). The levee on Fullerton Lake failed during a flood event and the 70-year-old lake is undergoing structure repair and benefiting from the full effects of a drawdown.

Channel catfish fingerlings (4,134) were stocked in 10 recreational lake and ponds to fill a habitat niche that would otherwise be filled by undesirable species (bullheads, for example).

Water quality on Forest lakes was within the norms associated with infertile oligotrophic systems of the sandy coastal plains. Restoration projects were prescribed to maintain and enhance lake productivity and habitat. Applications of 262 tons of agricultural lime were applied to six lakes and ponds to increase and maintain pH and alkalinity. The Blue Hole and Valentine Lake were fertilized to increase primary production, therefore increasing survival rates of young-of-year fish, and suppressing unwanted aquatic weeds. The introduction of spawning beds, cover for juvenile fishes, and erosion control measures were accomplished by strategically spreading 28 yards of pea gravel in the Blue Hole.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue monitoring. Stock fish in Fullerton Lake when construction is completed. Continue restoration and enhancement projects.

## ***B. Sustainable Multiple Forest and Range Benefits***

### 1. OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

**Objective 2-7:** Provide habitat for game and fish populations. Population levels will be measured by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and agreed upon by the Forest.

Are management practices successfully expanding quality habitats for game and fish species?

**(E)**

#### **FY2001 Findings:**

Considering Forest habitat types and the Forest Plan goals:

	<u>FY2001 acres</u>	<u>Forest Plan goal (ac)</u>
Early (0-10 yrs) successional habitat (all Forest types included)	26,882	≥20,000
Mid-successional (31-50 yrs) habitat (all Forest types included)	86,898	≥50,000
Late-successional (71+ yrs) habitat (all Forest types included)	163,120	≥75,000

Based on these data, Kisatchie NF is providing ample habitat for game and fish species.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to adhere to Revised Forest Plan guidance.

Are habitat objectives for selected demand species management indicators providing game and fish populations sufficient for quality recreational opportunities? **(M)**

**FY2001 Findings:**

Estimated population densities of select game species on Kisatchie NF are as follows:

	<u>Year 2000</u>	<u>Year 2001</u>
White-Tailed Deer (acres/animal)		
Catahoula District	50	60
Evangeline District	75	75
Kisatchie District	75	75
Winn District	45	55
Vernon District	75	75
Caney District	40	40
Wild Turkey (acres/animal)		
Catahoula District	100	100
Evangeline District	200	200
Kisatchie District	75	75
Winn District	75	75
Vernon District	75	75
Caney District	200	200
Fox Squirrel (acres/animal in upland hardwoods)		
Catahoula District	5	5
Evangeline District	5	5
Kisatchie District	5	5
Winn District	5	5
Vernon District	5	5
Caney District	5	5
Gray Squirrel (acres/animal in bottomland hardwood)		
Catahoula District	4	3
Evangeline District	4	3
Kisatchie District	4	3
Winn District	4	3
Vernon District	4	3
Caney District	4	3
Northern Bobwhite (acres/covey)		
Catahoula District	1,300	1,300
Evangeline District	1,300	1,300
Kisatchie District	1,300	1,300
Winn District	1,300	1,300

Vernon District	1,200	1,200
Caney District	1,300	1,300

Population levels for game species were mostly stable. Populations of gray squirrels increased due to a good acorn crop. Deer populations are and have been considerably below the habitats' carrying capacity; herd densities are too low to provide adequate aesthetic enjoyment for non-consumptive users.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Attempt to restrict hunting seasons to lengths comparable to those of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Wildlife Management Areas with similar habitat in central and northern Louisiana. Evaluate the desirability of continuing to restrict the training of free-ranging hunting dogs during spring and summer.

**Objective 2–8:** Protect, restore, maintain, acquire, and improve habitat on the Forest for waterfowl and wetland wildlife, as stated in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Are management practices designed to protect, restore, maintain, and improve waterfowl and wetland wildlife being implemented? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** There were very few projects completed in FY2001, hence opportunities to evaluate management practices were limited.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to identify opportunities for enhancing or improving waterfowl and wetland habitat across the Forest. Monitoring of past projects (such as Lost Bayou) should be a high priority in 2002.

Are these management practices successfully providing for waterfowl and wetland wildlife? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** The Kisatchie provides 48,329 acres of riparian / bottomland habitat for waterfowl and wetland wildlife.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to adhere to Revised Plan guidance.

**Objective 4–1:** Manage the Forest to create and maintain landscapes having high scenic diversity, harmony, and unity for the benefit of society through the application of the Scenery Management System, and consistent with assigned scenic integrity objectives (sio). The sios are as follows:

Very high: 8,699 acres.

High: 93,980 acres.

Medium: 89,155 acres.

Low: 415,020 acres.

Very low: 1,278 acres.

Is the forest being managed in accordance with the assigned sios ? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Comparisons of project designs with SIO guidance were not made due to staffing limitations. However, current levels of timber harvest and road constructions are minimal compared to past years, therefore the potential risk of adverse impacts to Scenic Resources is also substantially reduced.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Dedicate additional resources to accomplishing this task in future years.

**Objective 4–2:** Provide visitors the opportunity to pursue a wide variety of developed and dispersed recreation activities, with a minimum amount of regulation, consistent with the assigned recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) class. The Forest’s ROS class objectives are as follows:

Primitive: 8,700 acres.

Semiprimitive nonmotorized: 57,269 acres.

Semiprimitive motorized: 89,963 acres.

Roaded natural-appearing: 217,152 acres.

Roaded natural modified: 191,671 acres.

Rural: 6,162 acres.

Has class eligibility shifted significantly? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** Comparisons were not made due to staffing limitations. However, shifts in ROS class eligibility are not likely to have occurred because only minor road construction or decommissioning was planned and accomplished. ROS class eligibility changes are dependant, primarily, on changes in road density.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Evaluate the feasibility of developing an automated GIS system that would periodically determine the ROS class eligibility of the Forest.

**Objective 4–3:** Develop, maintain, and protect existing and potential developed and dispersed recreation sites and trails consistent with public use and demand through construction, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation activities.

How satisfied are our recreation customers? Are recreation resources managed in a manner that is responsive to public recreation needs yet as cost effective as possible, in accordance with the negotiated recreation program of work based on Meaningful Measures standards? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Meaningful Measures costing data was migrated to the corporate INFRA database. Critical standards were being met. Full compliance with all Meaningful Measures standards were not possible at the existing funding level. The National comment card is being phased out.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue the update of the spreadsheet data converted to INFRA. Continue management of the recreation program using the Meaningful Measures system. Develop a local comment card to solicit public input on the quality of recreation management on the Forest.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE

**Objective 3–7:** Manage the transportation system to ensure that any roads constructed are designed according to standards appropriate to the planned uses.

Is the transportation facility serviceable by the intended user? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** During FY1999 through FY2001, 111.9 miles of local and collector roads were reconstructed or constructed. Of this total, 71.3 miles were reviewed. Of the roads reviewed, 97% of the road length was observed to be serviceable by the intended user and required no significant increase in the level or frequency of maintenance. Only 2.3 miles of road length experienced subgrade failure, resulting from insufficient surfacing depth.

Functional Class	FY1999		FY2000		FY2001		Totals
	Local	Collector	Local	Collector	Local	Collector	
Road Reconstruction/Construction (miles)	31.3	39.6	30.4	6.4	4.2	0.0	111.9
Roads Monitored (miles)	30.6	15.5	17.8	3.2	4.2	0.0	71.3
Roads requiring increased level/frequency of maintenance or not serviceable by use (miles)	1.8	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.3

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue use of appropriate design standards for road reconstruction and construction. Continue monitoring road condition and use.

3. HUMAN INFLUENCES

**Objective 1–6:** Manage national forest lands in an efficient manner to provide for the future needs of society by pursuing opportunities to make land ownership adjustments that improve management effectiveness and enhance public benefits through land consolidation; acquiring rights-of-way that facilitate efficient management; issuing land use authorizations necessary to meet public and private needs only when no viable alternative to long-term commitments on Forest land exists; and establishing and maintaining all landline boundaries.

Are non-federal lands being acquired to enhance public benefits and improve management effectiveness? Are acquired rights-of-way achieving better Forest management? Are land use authorizations being issued only after all other alternatives are explored to provide goods and services? How well are landline boundaries being established, maintained, and protected from obliteration? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** No new land acquisitions were made in FY2001 but prior acquisitions were made and will continue to be for public benefit and to improve management.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to manage and monitor the lands program to the level funding will allow. All right of ways will be obtained to improve and enhance access to Federal lands for both better management and public utilization of these lands. Any use authorization will be granted only after all other means and alternatives have been thoroughly examined.

Are newly acquired lands compatible with management practices in the Management Area where they are located? Are encroachments discouraged by well-defined property lines? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** No new acquisitions were made in FY2001 but all future acquisitions will be in compliance with the Forest Plan and therefore compatible with area management practices.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to manage and monitor the lands program to the level funding will allow. Continue to maintain landlines on the established 7- to 8-year cycle as long as funding allows.

**Objective 3–1:** Provide for long-term sustainable production of commodities for economies, local community stability, and people.

How does the flow of commodity outputs to local economies and people compare with the Forest Plan projections? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** The harvest level decline continued on the Forest. Just over 31,000 CCF (15.5 MMBF) were harvested, compared to an FY2000 harvest of 54,000 CCF (27 MMBF). Another measurement of commodity flow that has been used in the past is payments to states. In FY2001, the newly created “Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000” was implemented. As a result, the Forest parishes elected to receive their payments in terms of a three-year average, which is not linked to recent yearly harvest levels. There is no longer a link between payments to the parishes and the harvest of forest products.

The effect on jobs is more difficult to measure. It can be estimated that a reduction in timber sale offerings does have a negative impact on the potential number of local jobs and income.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to monitor this situation. Strive to implement the Forest Plan and accompanying harvest levels.

**Objective 3–6:** Assist local Forest communities in diversifying and enhancing existing economies with an emphasis on the conservation of natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Forest and the state.

Are programs and opportunities for improving rural economies and social conditions being developed? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** The Forest received Economic Recovery (ER) grant proposals from eight communities totaling \$36,000, which was less than the \$39,000 in requests for FY2000. Four

proposals were funded for \$17,150. This amount was only \$150 more than granted in FY2000. Two proposals in FY2001 were from communities that had not received ER funds in the past.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue outreach to new communities, emphasizing capacity building or comprehensive Action Planning project proposals.

Are programs and opportunities improving sustainable local economies and social conditions? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** Yes. One FY2001 grant assisted a rural and minority community in enhancing village appeal while providing a comfortable and safe environment. Another grant was for a land use plan on 500 acres with this acting as a starting point for a multi-parish watershed planning process.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue emphasis on new communities and capacity building projects that result in increased local job opportunities or local incomes.

#### 4. ROADLESS AREA/WILDERNESS/WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

**Objective 5–6:** Manage each special interest area (SIA) as an integral part of the Forest, with emphasis on protecting, enhancing, or interpreting its unique values.

Is Forest Plan SIA direction being applied? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Comparisons of project plans and Environmental Assessments with SIA Forest Plan direction were not made due to staffing limitations.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Dedicate additional resources to accomplishing this task in future years.

**Objective 5–7:** Manage the Kisatchie Hills Wilderness to enhance and perpetuate wilderness as a resource. Avoid resource damage resulting from overuse.

Is Kisatchie Hills Wilderness being managed to enhance and perpetuate wilderness values? Are natural processes allowed to operate freely? Is Forest Plan direction that would ensure the above being applied? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** National Meaningful Measures standards for wilderness management have not been completed. Management of Kisatchie Hills Wilderness is in compliance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Evaluate the compliance of Kisatchie Hills Wilderness management with Meaningful Measures Standards when they are completed.

#### 5. TIMBER



**FY2001 Findings:** A 25-year decreasing trend in demand from the public for grazing resources continues. Only two grazing allotments were actively used for cattle grazing, with numerous permittees taking "non-use". Otherwise, grazing resources continued to decline in acreage available due to the lack of management. Management practices require NEPA documentation prior to being implemented. No documents were approved for implementation during FY2001. The application of a harvesting technique and a proper fire regime is necessary to restore and/or maintain the desired structure and composition of the four major landscape forest ecosystems on the Kisatchie National Forest. Growing season burns are especially essential for the restoration and maintenance of these native plant communities.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Every year prepare documents addressing management practices that will be implemented on approximately 10 percent of the Kisatchie National Forest ownership. Strive to implement harvesting levels consistent with Plan levels. Dependent on funding levels, increase the number of prescribed burn acres to allow the completion of 125,000 to 150,000 acres per year. Growing season burns are critical for successful gains in our restoration efforts, continue to increase the number of growing season burns. Identify by calendar date when growing season burns begin in the spring and end in the summer. Publish these dates in the Forest Supplement to the prescribed fire management handbook, when revised (FY2003).

## 7. OTHER PRODUCTS

**Objective 3–3:** Make all U.S. minerals available for lease except in areas where consent has been legislatively or administratively withdrawn. Development of federal minerals will be allowed within the constraints of the lease and accompanying stipulations and restrictions. To the extent legally possible, manage surface occupancy to avoid or minimize environmental effects where reserved and outstanding mineral rights exist. As allowed by state and federal law and under the terms of the severance deed, ensure that surface resources will not be adversely affected to an unacceptable degree by the exercise of reserved and outstanding mineral rights.

Are parcels being made available for lease according to U.S. ownership and management restrictions? Are applications for minerals exploration and development being processed according to directions and in a timely manner? Are operating plans for exploration of private minerals being reviewed for compliance with existing state and federal laws? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Parcels were made available for lease according to the latest U.S. ownership (based on court judgments) and management restrictions.

Applications were processed according to directions and in a timely manner. Operating plans for private minerals were reviewed for compliance with existing state and federal laws.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue with current level of work and monitor.

**Objective 3–5:** Provide other forest products such as firewood and pinestraw as available, as long as their use does not impair ecosystem health or the achievement of other resource objectives.

How does management of these products compare with Forest Plan direction? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** The level of special forest products continued at about the same level of interest as in FY2000. There was still insufficient supply of firewood, but that varies with the severity of the winter.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** None.

Is the Forest providing opportunities for other specialty forest products without negatively impacting forest health or other resources? (V)

**FY2001 Findings:** Low demand for special forest products continue. No negative impact on forest health or resources was noted.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** None.

## 8. HERITAGE RESOURCES

**Objective 5–1:** Manage the nonrenewable heritage resources of the Forest in a spirit of stewardship for the American public. Include the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and interested federally recognized tribes as primary partners in managing the Forest's heritage resources.

Are significant archeological and historical sites being identified, prior to project decisions, through inventories conducted in consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) according to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 36 CFR 800, NEPA, and the Southern Regional Heritage Programmatic Agreements (PA)? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** All compliance reviews and consultations pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) were completed prior to agency decisions. However, FY2001 was a year of injunctions. These resulted in the lack of management activities. As a result, requests for inventory were much reduced from years past. In FY2001, a total of 13,274 acres were inventoried along with 16 miles. Of the acres, 11 were in support of trails, and 2,274 were for a special-use project. The 16 miles were in support of fire lines and firebreaks. No sites were recorded. The special-use project noted a previously recorded prehistoric site. The project was then modified to avoid potential effect to the site.

In FY2001, the Forest continued government-to-government relations with five federally recognized tribal nations. These include the Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma, the Chitimacha Indian Tribe, the Coushatta Indian Tribe, the Jena Band of the Choctaw, and the Tunica Biloxi Tribe.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue the current course of pre-decisional inventories and consultations. Continue working with interested tribes to establish required government-to-government relations and partnerships.

**Objective 5–2:** Provide protection for heritage resource sites that preserves the integrity of scientific data that they contain, for the benefit of the public and scientific communities.

Is law enforcement and heritage support provided at sufficient levels to protect significant heritage sites from internal and/or external activities? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Over 40 heritage sites were monitored and revisited to determine the extent of internal or externally caused damage. No evidence of damage due to Forest activities was noted, but external damage (unauthorized site looting) was recorded in a number of instances. One formal law enforcement case report was generated, but the investigation was unable to identify persons responsible.

There were still insufficient funds for Law Enforcement Officers and Heritage Specialists to physically monitor all sites at risk.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue current course of physical monitoring. The Forest still needs to request and receive funding to increase monitoring efforts, with an eye towards using remote sensing-technology to supplement physical monitoring.

Are protection measures effective at preventing unacceptable damage? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** No damage to attributable to Forest activities was recorded, and no additional cultural evidence was observed in activity buffer zones surrounding sites.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Current strategies for site and buffer zone delineation appear effective and should be continued.

**Objective 5–3:** Reduce the existing backlog of heritage sites needing formal evaluation so that the overall number decreases each year.

Are sufficient numbers of significant or potentially significant sites being evaluated so that the number of backlogged properties decreases each year? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** No significant or potentially significant heritage sites were evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places, and the number of backlogged sites needing evaluation remained at 419. Given FY2001 funding and staffing levels, we were not able to satisfy compliance with Section 110 of the NHPA, requiring assessments of NRHP eligibility for all known cultural properties.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to request additional funds needed to conduct cultural site evaluations for all sites in backlogged status.

**Objective 5–4:** Enhance and interpret appropriate sites and heritage values to the American public.

Are sites and heritage values being identified for public interpretation? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** The Forest publicly interpreted one site through Passport In Time (PIT) projects, and was a contributor to Louisiana Archaeology Week for the 12<sup>th</sup> year. Heritage Specialists visited primary and secondary level classrooms to make presentations on Louisiana history and archeological ethics.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to offer PIT projects as possible given funding constraints, and remain as a primary partner with the Louisiana SHPO in Louisiana Archaeology Week.

Has interpretation enhanced awareness of heritage values among the general public? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** Public responses from PIT projects and public presentations indicate a general increase in awareness and sensitivity about the nonrenewable cultural resource base.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to offer PIT projects, classroom and civic organization presentations, and partner with the Louisiana SHPO in Louisiana Archeology Week.

**Objective 5–5:** Provide an ongoing interpretive services program that accurately and adequately develops an interest in and understanding for the natural and cultural environment of the Forest and the mission of the Forest Service in managing it.

Does the interpretive services program provide usable information to the public about the full scope of forest management practices and philosophy? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** The full scope of forest management practices and philosophy was incorporated in presentations to the public, schools and media during FY2001. Numerous Forest tours, fairs, and festivals were attended providing presentations on National Forest management activities.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to provide funding for high profile and effective interpretive programs such as Passport In Time, Audubon Zoo Earthfest, Audubon Nature Center Demonstration, Tensas Wildlife Refuge Fire Demonstration, and Outdoor Education Classroom with Louisiana School for the Deaf.

Has interpretive services increased measurable public support of Forest Service resource management goals and objectives? (E)

**FY2001 Findings:** The Kisatchie National Forest enjoys public support on a wide range of issues and management activities including silviculture work, prescribed fire, recreation management, transportation management, and a host of other activities.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Provide increased funding for environmental education projects, printed materials, and video productions. Increase presentations to civic groups, increase participation with non-profit organizations such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; travel to destinations outside Forest boundary to reach various user groups and work with nontraditional audiences.

## ***C. Organizational Effectiveness***

### 9. ECONOMICS

(See Appendix A)

#### 10. EVALUATION OF NEW INFORMATION

**Objective 7–1:** Monitor and document the annual progress towards accomplishment of Forest goals, objectives, and desired future conditions.

Is the Forest preparing and distributing a yearly monitoring and evaluation report to the public? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Yes, this report documents monitoring results for FY2001 activities and shows recommendations for FY2002. This report will be posted at the Region 8 public web site (<http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us>) and internally at the Kisatchie's web site (<http://fsweb.kisatchie.r8.fs.fed.us>).

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue producing this report annually. Target audience continues to be the Regional Forester and any others who may request a copy of this report or wish to access it over the Internet.

**Objective 7–2:** Evaluate new information and monitoring results; adapt management accordingly.

Is the Forest Plan being kept current through timely changes as identified in the annual M&E Report? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** The Forest Plan has had no amendments made to it since the original 1999 version.

In June of 2001, the Forest produced a report entitled "*Management Indicator Species Population and Habitat Trends*". This report (or "white paper") explained in detail which management indicator species (MIS) were selected in the Forest Plan, the reason for their selection, and what population trends have been seen regionally and/or across the Forest. Current plans are to update this trends analysis at least every five years and to re-evaluate the appropriateness of the current MIS list during the 5-Year Review.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Amend the Forest Plan as new direction is needed or new allocations are required for changing land uses. Continue to collect monitoring data and compile it for the 5-Year Review to be done in FY2004.

**Objective 8–1:** Benefit from research information, technical assistance and technology development by maintaining a close, continuous working relationship with scientists at the Southern Research Station, academic institutions, and Forest Health Protection units.

Are cooperative relationships being developed and maintained? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** A list of cooperative studies with the Southern Research Station Unit FMR-4111 follows:

- Pine Straw Study (#247)
- Longleaf Pine Establishment Study on Upland Pine Sites (#268)
- Longleaf Pine Establishment Study on Wet Sites (#269)
- Comparison Study of Longleaf/Loblolly/Slash Pine Establishment on Upland Pine Sites (#270)
- Comparison Study of Longleaf/Loblolly/Slash Pine Establishment on Wet Pine Sites (#271)
- Study Comparing Management Intensity Levels Used in The Establishment of Longleaf on Upland Pine Sites (#272)
- Study Comparing Management Intensity Levels Used in The Establishment of Longleaf on Wet Pine Sites (#273)
- Delayed Prescribed Burn Study (#275)
- Croker Study Involving The Kisatchie National Forest and the Southern Research Station Units 4111 and 4501 (#3.4)
- Natural Longleaf Pine Burning Study (#3.7)
- Season of Burning Monitoring (#411262)
- Monitoring of Demonstration Areas (#411262)
- Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration Study (#411262)
- Joint Fire Science Program Demonstration Sites (#98-IA-189)

A cooperative work-study with the Kisatchie National Forest, Southern Research Station Unit FMR-4111, the forest insect unit FIR-4501, and LSU involving insect attacks on severity burned longleaf pine trees is being conducted.

Southern Research Station Unit FMR 4111 has established research plots in young longleaf and loblolly pine plantations to monitor changing management practices on growth and yield.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** All the above studies are ongoing. Continue studies. The Forest Service and LSU should continue to implement a challenge cost share agreement to help one another accomplish mutually beneficial objectives related to the impacts of off road vehicles (ORV) on soil, water and other resources of the Kisatchie National Forest. The current Forest ratings will be refined and modified in order to classify the suitability of areas for ORV traffic. These data will be incorporated into the Forest Service's GIS database and should help the Forest Service determine how to best manage these areas. In 2001 suitability ratings and maps were developed for the Kisatchie Ranger District. Criteria for closing trails due to rainfall and wetness was developed.

**Objective 8–2:** Continue to identify research needs as the Forest implements the Plan.

Are research needs being identified in a timely manner? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Future research needs are listed below:

- Effects of prescribed burning on bark beetle populations

- Fire effects on the growth and yield of longleaf pine
- Effects of prescribed burning on forest sustainability
- Longleaf pine restoration techniques

Discussions were held with LDEQ and LSU staff to explore the possibility of participating in a study that would evaluate the effectiveness of best management practices. The study would include water quality monitoring on sites on the Forest that would provide data to evaluate the effectiveness of the Kisatchie's standards and guidelines in reducing non-point source pollution.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** The Kisatchie National Forest will continue to assist the Southern Research Station in ongoing studies. The Forest will help initiate additional studies when requested and as funding allows.

**Objective 9–1:** Continue coordination and cooperation efforts with other federal and state agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Louisiana SHPO on issues of mutual concern.

Are coordination and cooperation efforts being conducted with federal and state agencies? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** Although few NEPA documents were produced in FY2001, Federal and state agencies were consulted as new proposals were developed and underwent the NEPA process. SHPO and THPO (Tribal Historic Preservation Officials) contribute during the preparation and analysis done for the EA. The USFWS and LDWF provide consultation and effects analysis for game and non-game animals potentially affected by project proposals. The Natural Heritage Program (with the LDWF) provides comment on the effects of proposed actions on plants in general, and/or at known locations.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Coordinate with federal and state agencies as needed.

**Objective 9–2:** Seek to increase the participation of other federal and state agencies, academic institutions, federally recognized Native American tribes, organizations and individuals in the accomplishment of Forest goals and objectives through the use of memorandums of understanding, cooperative agreements, partnerships, and challenge cost share agreements.

Are memorandums of understanding, cooperative agreements, partnerships, and challenge cost share agreements being developed? Are we increasing the participation of groups and individuals in the accomplishment of Forest Plan goals and objectives? (I)

**FY2001 Findings:** The Memorandum of Understanding between Kisatchie and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries needs revision to stress greater cooperation between the 2 agencies, especially in the establishment of hunting seasons on Kisatchie NF. Additionally, Kisatchie has a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with Louisiana State University to ascertain quail abundance and distribution on the Winn and Caney Districts.

The Forest continued participation in the Non-point Source Interagency Committee with LDEQ, NRCS, Louisiana Department of Forestry and other agencies under the Forest's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the state of Louisiana on Non-Point Source Pollution Control (Clean Water Act Section 319). Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Non-point Source

Pollution Control program personnel participated in Forest implementation monitoring reviews of soil and water quality Best Management Practices.

The Forest continues to conduct water quality monitoring on 9 streams. The monitoring is being done by arrangement with LDEQ under the Forest's Non-Point Pollution Control Memorandum Of Agreement with the state of Louisiana.

Emergency Watershed Protection measures were completed for the Caney Lakes tornado damage under an interagency agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

An interagency agreement was developed with the NRCS to conduct a feasibility study of constructing alternative dam locations and reservoir sizes at the Gum Springs Recreation Area. The study included information about water budget, dam and spillway design, and a preliminary cost estimate. A report was completed which indicated advantages and disadvantages of the reservoir alternatives. It was used to determine the feasibility of constructing the reservoir and help in choosing the preferred reservoir alternative.

The Kisatchie's Geographical Information System and soil and water staff cooperated with the NRCS in developing the fifth level watershed delineations that contain National Forest lands in Louisiana. These watersheds are used to facilitate the evaluation of effects of forest management activities at the watershed level, and to prioritize watershed restoration.

The Kisatchie National Forest has a Participating Agreement with Northwestern State University (NSU). This partnership agreement coordinates one or more graduate level/advanced undergraduate Intern position in NSU's Masters program in History with Cultural Resource Management emphasis or anthropology program. NSU has a need to provide these Interns with real life experience and training to complement training gained in their academic endeavors while the Forest has need for additional Heritage Resource Management program presence in Natchitoches Parish, specifically the Kisatchie Ranger District. The Forest will achieve an increased level of compliance with NEPA, Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Southern Regional PA while NSU will graduate students In Cultural Resource Management with balanced, marketable skills and experience in the workplace.

The Kisatchie National Forest also has a Participating Agreement with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (the Division) in executing Louisiana Archaeology Awareness Week. The Forest and the Division are dedicated to providing educational experiences to the public to establish that awareness and understanding and through such programs as this, the degradation of archeological and historical sites or values on Forest, state, private and other federal lands in Louisiana, and the data they contain, will diminish.

The Forest Service and LSU established a challenge cost share agreement to help one another accomplish mutually beneficial objectives related to the impacts of off road vehicles (ORV) to soil, water and other resources of the Kisatchie National Forest. The current Forest ratings will be refined and modified in order to classify the suitability of areas for ORV traffic. These data will be incorporated into the Forest Service's GIS database and should help the Forest Service determine how to best manage these areas.

**FY2002 Recommended Actions:** Continue to accommodate interested partners who wish to form partnerships, cooperative agreements, memorandums of agreements consistent to Forest Plan goals and objectives. Amend Challenge Cost Share agreement with Louisiana State University to continue ORV study described above.

## IV. Evaluation of Outcomes on the Land

This section of the Report evaluates information taken from all monitoring items for this reporting fiscal year (FY2001). However, because implementation of the Revised Plan began November 29, 1999, it is still too early to make meaningful evaluations for many items. The effectiveness of Plan direction and validation of Plan assumptions need a few more years of data before changes to the Plan direction would be considered. The effectiveness of much of the Plan's direction will be more thoroughly evaluated during the *5-Year Review*, which is scheduled for year 2004. Implementation monitoring, although limited because of the relatively few number of projects implemented during FY2001, make up the bulk of this Report.

Several monitoring items, however, can be evaluated with some certainty. A few observations follow:

- ◆ Habitat for sensitive and conservation plant species suffered from a lack of prescribed burning.
- ◆ Older successional pine habitats have increased slightly since 1999. Stand ages for all habitat types have become generally older due to the reduction in the timber-harvesting program.
- ◆ Preliminary findings indicate that when sites located on soil types with a severe compaction hazard rating are subjected to severe compaction, bulk densities recover to near original undisturbed levels within five years. Preliminary results also indicate that soil productivity is maintained when slash is retained on site.
- ◆ Population levels for game species were mostly stable. Populations of gray squirrels increased due to a good acorn crop. Deer populations are and have been considerably below the habitats' carrying capacity; herd densities are too low to provide adequate aesthetic enjoyment for non-consumptive users.
- ◆ Insufficient use of growing season burns and timber harvest treatments continue to delay successful establishment of desired future conditions on the Forest landscapes. Although some harvesting on existing timber sale contracts do continue, the rate is too slow to effectively reach some Forest Plan objectives within the Plan period.
- ◆ The number of backlogged significant or potentially significant heritage sites needing evaluation remains at 419. Given current funding and staffing levels, we are not able to satisfy compliance with Section 110 of the NHPA, which requires assessments of NRHP eligibility for all known cultural properties.
- ◆ ORV use on the Forest continues to increase. Different approaches are being examined to deal with some of the negative effects associated with this type of use.

## V. Summary of M&E Recommendations Planned for FY2002

This section of the Report provides information on all monitoring items that need action during this fiscal year (FY2002). However, because implementation of the Revised Plan began November 29, 1999, it is still too early to make many recommendations for specific changes on the effectiveness of Plan direction or validation of Plan assumptions for most monitoring items. In addition to the specific recommended actions listed below, the general recommendation for FY2002 is to continue implementing the revised Plan using guidance provided in Chapters 2 and 3 of the Plan in order to reach the objectives stated. Long-term goals for the Forest are to reach the Desired Future Conditions (DFC) stated for the Forest and the DFC stated for individual management and sub-management areas. In order to reach our planned goals and objectives, individual project proposals should consider the guidance provided for each management area, use appropriate NEPA procedures to evaluate the site-specific effects of the proposal and alternatives, and reach a decision consistent with Plan direction.

Several monitoring items, however, could be evaluated. Recommendations for those items that need attention follow:

√ Every year, prepare documents addressing management practices which will be implemented on approximately 10 percent of the Kisatchie National Forest ownership. Strive to implement harvesting levels consistent with Plan levels. Dependent on funding levels, increase the number of prescribed burn acres to allow the completion of 125,000 to 150,000 acres per year. Growing season burns are critical for successful gains in our restoration efforts, continue to increase the number of growing season burns. Identify by calendar date when growing season burns begin in the spring and end in the summer. Publish these dates in the Forest Supplement to the prescribed fire management handbook, when revised (FY2003).

√ Change the method of site preparation from chop and burn to herbicide and burn on longleaf pine landscapes. If however, the native ground cover has been established with fire prior to a final harvest cut, than complete a site prep burn and plant. As implied, establishment of native ground cover can be accomplished with the implementation of growing season burns prior to final harvest and is a highly recommended restoration approach. Whatever the existing condition, apply growing season burns on a three year rotation starting with the second growing season after planting. If competing hardwood stems are not controlled by the burns, then apply an herbicide treatment and then follow-up with the above suggested fire regime. Continue to monitor sites for additional treatment needs. Explore opportunities to conduct growing season burn training sessions in cooperation with the Southern Research Unit for all Forest personnel involved with the prescribed burning and restoration programs. Increase final harvest cut acres of off-site species on longleaf pine sites so an increase of planted longleaf can occur.

√ Continue collecting baseline data on plant management indicators using the new methods. Review occurrences of plant management indicator species that have yet to be found in the existing system of plots, and begin development of a protocol to monitor these species. This will require either additional plots within known habitat for these species and/or modified methods of data collection at such sites.

√ Ecosystem Conservation personnel in the Supervisor's Office should review all Biological Evaluations completed by the districts. Environmental Assessments are to be viewed on a case-by-case basis. Periodic field reviews of completed projects should be performed.

- √ Prescribe burn RCW foraging habitat as much as feasible. Engage in RCW translocations to bolster populations, if feasible. Continue consultations with the US Fish & Wildlife Service.
  
- √ Identify opportunities to accelerate RCW management activities on the Forest. Target Habitat Management Areas as priority compartments for near term projects to benefit RCW populations.
  
- √ Complete the inventory of designed old-growth patches and determine which forest ecosystem is represented within each patch. Supervisor's Office staff personnel should complete field visits and review NEPA documents involving old-growth patches to determine compliance with the Forest Plan.
  
- √ The Forest should continue to monitor prescribed burning parameters and take advantage of available burn windows as outlined in the prescribed fire handbook. Strive to maximize the implementation of growing season burns on longleaf pine plant community landscapes. Prioritize implementation of growing season burning units based on habitat and restoration needs. Strive to treat higher priority burn units first.
  
- √ Increase acreage of growing season burns on longleaf and shortleaf pine/oak-hickory landscapes.
  
- √ Install the SPBIS and Forest Health Decision Support Systems on all districts. Monitor for possible insect and/or disease infestations.
  
- √ Stock fish in Fullerton Lake when construction is completed. Continue restoration and enhancement projects.
  
- √ Strive to restrict hunting seasons to lengths comparable to those of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Wildlife Management Areas with similar habitat in central and northern Louisiana. Evaluate the desirability of continuing to restrict the training of free-ranging hunting dogs during spring and summer.
  
- √ Evaluate the feasibility of developing an automated GIS system that would periodically determine the ROS class eligibility of the Forest.
  
- √ Continue the update of the spreadsheet data converted to INFRA. Continue management of the recreation program using the Meaningful Measures system. Develop a local comment card to solicit public input on the quality of recreation management on the Forest.
  
- √ Evaluate the compliance of Kisatchie Hills Wilderness management with Meaningful Measures Standards when they are completed.

√ Provide increased funding for environmental education projects, printed materials, and video productions. Increase presentations to civic groups, increase participation with non-profit organizations such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; travel to destinations outside Forest boundary to reach various user groups and work with nontraditional audiences.

√ The Forest Service and LSU should continue to implement a challenge cost share agreement to help one another accomplish mutually beneficial objectives related to the impacts of off road vehicles (ORV) on soil, water and other resources of the Kisatchie National Forest. The current Forest ratings will be refined and modified in order to classify the suitability of areas for ORV traffic. These data will be incorporated into the Forest Service's GIS database and should help the Forest Service determine how to best manage these areas.

## VI. Status of FY2000 Monitoring & Evaluation Report Recommendations

### 1. Actions NOT REQUIRING Forest Plan amendment or revision

√ Develop procedures for assessing implementation of standards and guidelines for protection of water quality (Best Management Practices) required by the revised Forest Plan. Begin reviewing and evaluating silvicultural activities using these procedures. Include participation by staff from the Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality Non-point Source Pollution Control Program in reviews.

*STATUS in FY2001:* Rating forms were developed for evaluating the implementation of best management (BMP) practices for timber removal and management burning activities. Review procedures were developed that involve the evaluation and rating of randomly selected units by a team of Forest timber, soil, water and air and fire management personnel and members of the LDEQ Non-point Control Pollution Control staff. In addition, a rating form was developed and tested for monitoring the effectiveness of BMPs.

√ Prepare documents addressing management needs on approximately 10 percent of the Kisatchie National Forest ownership. Strive to implement harvesting levels consistent with Plan level. Increase the number of prescribed burn acres to allow the completion of 125,000 to 150,000 acres in FY2001. Continue to increase the number of growing season burn acres. Identify by calendar date when growing season burns begin in the spring and end in the summer. Publish these dates in the fire management handbook.

On longleaf pine landscapes change method of site preparation from chop and burn to herbicide and burn when the native ground cover has not been established prior to a final harvest cut. Establish native ground cover by implementing growing season burns prior to harvest. Apply growing season burns on the stocked sites. If competing hardwood stems are not controlled with the burns then apply herbicide treatment with a follow-up burn. Continue to monitor sites for additional treatment needs. Conduct growing season burn training sessions in cooperation with the Southern Research Unit for all Forest Personnel involved with the prescribed burning program. Increase the number of acres burned during the growing season. Increase the number of acres planted to longleaf pine.

*STATUS in FY2001:* No NEPA documents were prepared nor signed during FY2001 by line officers on the Kisatchie National Forest. Harvesting fell short of the implementation level directed by the Forest Plan.

The number of prescribed burn acreages continued to meet the Forest Plan's objective. However, the amount of growing season burn acres was less than needed to achieve the future desired conditions as presented in the Plan.

Single chop and burn continues to be the primary method of site preparation on the Kisatchie National Forest. Most of the regeneration sites on the Kisatchie and a single site on the Calcasieu Ranger Districts were site prepared using herbicides. Survival of longleaf pine seedlings was greatly improved.

A field trip showing the effects prescribed burns have on plant communities was completed on the Longleaf Tract of the Palustris Experimental Forest. The Southern Research Unit hosted the event. Most of the Forest Personnel involved with the prescribed burning program on the Kisatchie attended the session.

√ Include development of a classification system for all plant habitats by the end of FY2002, and the continue monitoring of individual sites as time permits.

*STATUS in FY2001:* The classification system for plant habitats was created using GIS. Each habitat type is designed for each rare plant site. Documentation of individual rare plant sites was completed for areas visited during FY2001.

√ Continue plant MIS monitoring, and reevaluate procedure for collecting that data for 2001.

*STATUS in FY2001:* About 60 MIS plots were monitored in FY2001. The monitoring procedure was reevaluated and a modified method is to be implemented for FY2002.

√ Survey known mussel beds on the Evangeline Unit of the Calcasieu Ranger District in Rapides Parish during the summer of 2001.

*STATUS in FY2001:* Louisiana pearlshell mussel beds were surveyed on the Evangeline Unit of Calcasieu RD and populations appear to be stable, despite drought conditions, and at least one case of ORV damage (enforcement was notified).

Water samples taken on mussel streams indicated good water quality and were within state standards set by LDEQ.

√ Complete NEPA documents for management practices necessary to achieve the desired future conditions in compartments 23 and 24 on the Kisatchie Ranger District and other compartments on the Forest. Review documents for Forest Plan compliance concerning old-growth patches. Begin field visits to old-growth patches and rank for quality.

*STATUS in FY2001:* NEPA document preparation for compartments 23 and 24 on the Kisatchie Ranger District was scheduled for completion in FY2002. Each District on the Forest identified priority projects needing NEPA and scheduled their completion in FY2002. Old growth patches contained within compartments 23 and 24 on the Kisatchie Ranger District were inventoried. Field visits to the other old-growth patches on the Forest have not begun.

√ Establish and assign condition rankings for streamside zone habitats for rare plant species.

*STATUS in FY2001:* Streamside zone habitat condition ranking were not developed in FY2001, due to funding and personnel constraints. Development of these rankings has been postponed until FY2003.

√ Implement final harvest treatments at the Forest Plan level. Increase thinning treatments to at least 25,000 acres per year.

*STATUS in FY2001:* The Forest completed 567 acres of final harvest and 2,269 acres of thinning in FY2001. The acreage of final harvest treatments have yet to come close to those indicated by the Forest Plan. Forest health is being seriously threatened by not applying thinning treatments. The restoration goals and desired future conditions as presented in the Forest Plan can not be met without timely implementation of harvest treatments.

√ Develop more accurate procedures to evaluate soil loss. Develop procedures to evaluate impacts from user-created ORV trails. Monitor completed projects and perform maintenance and re-vegetating as needed. Continue restoration and re-vegetating activities.

*STATUS in FY2001:* Methods were developed to measure soil loss on site prep and burned areas. The method uses the KAT method to measure bare soil and using the Universal Soil Loss Equation to estimate soil loss. The estimated annual soil loss can be compared to the allowable soil loss that would indicate a loss of soil productivity.

Research to address the resource impacts and management of off road vehicles (ORV) use on the Forest was identified, and a project was developed with Louisiana State University (LSU) researchers.

Watershed improvement work is ongoing. Maintenance on FY00 projects was done, as needed, to shorten recovery times on the 56 acres of projects from the previous year. Restoration and re-vegetation of these areas was successful with greater than 80% cover.

√ Work with Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to identify factors contributing to low deer populations. Identify any needed changes in hunting regulations on National Forest lands

*STATUS in FY2001:* In Spring 2001, the LDWF Deer Program leader surveyed the Kisatchie NF Districts (except the Caney) for deer abundance. Additionally, the Kisatchie NF is revising its Memorandum of Understanding with the LDWF to enable it to become more participative in making recommendations concerning hunting seasons. Hunting seasons for deer should be reduced to reflect those of LDWF's Wildlife Management Areas that are in reasonable proximity to the Kisatchie NF.

√ Evaluate the feasibility of developing an automated GIS system that would periodically determine the ROS class eligibility of forestlands.

*STATUS in FY2001:* Not accomplished due to staffing limitations.

√ Increased emphasis should be placed on the distribution of comment cards and the analysis of the results.

*STATUS in FY2001:* The national comment has met its objective and is being phased out. The forest is developing and local comment card. A draft for review has been prepared; the final will be completed in FY2003.

√ Evaluate the compliance of Kisatchie Hills Wilderness management with Meaningful Measures Standards when they are completed.

*STATUS in FY2001:* The national standards have not been completed.

√ Increase the amount of intermediate thinning acres being implemented to encourage the development of herbaceous ground cover and improve forest health. Complete NEPA documents for management practices necessary to achieve a mixture of desired future conditions in compartments 23 and 24 on the Kisatchie Ranger District and other compartments on the Forest. Assure Forest Plan compliance concerning uneven-aged management.

*STATUS in FY2001:* The high site indices offered by the Louisiana landscapes quickly increases stem densities. We have not been able to complete NEPA documents allowing the implementation of the Forest Plan for the last couple of years. Thinning treatments are essential for controlling tree crown closure that determines the amount of sunlight reaching the forest floor. Sunlight influences development of the herbaceous ground cover. 2,269 acres of thinning treatments were applied on the Forest in FY2001. This is an insufficient amount of thinning treatments necessary for the restoration of native plant communities.

No uneven-aged management practices have been implemented on the Forest since the Plan was signed in 1999.

√ Input updated mineral ownership and lease data into the Forest GIS. Conduct a workshop on state and federal laws for all personnel with mineral duties.

*STATUS in FY2001:* Reviewed title files and input available mineral ownership data in Forest GIS based on current court cases. NMTO courses made available for personnel with mineral duties.

√ Complete work on MIS Population and Habitat Trends Report and incorporate latest findings into project level assessments.

*STATUS in FY2001:* This was completed in June 2001. Project EA's began incorporating trend data from this report and continue to do so.

√ Seek additional partnership opportunities with SHPO and THPOs.

*STATUS in FY2001:* We're working with both SHPO/THPOs, along w/ RO, to revise the PA (Programmatic Agreement). Formal consultation is in progress, might expect a Final Draft of PA in 03. The Forest conducted formal consultations w/ United South & Eastern Tribes (USET) representatives in Louisiana last year. In addition, some discussions with Caddo about getting them involved in Forest Awareness Week activities.

And not exclusively involving THPOs, but also working with Jena Choctaw, Tunica-Biloxi, and Alabama Coushatta on:

- River cane restoration in riparian areas for traditional basket making
- Gathering Longleaf Pine needles for same
- Participation in FS fire program, similar to Ouachita

√ Amend Challenge Cost Share agreement with Louisiana State University to continue ORV study.

*STATUS in FY2001:* The challenge cost share agreement was amended to continue the study. Additional criteria to close trails to prevent excessive resource damage due to rainfall and wetness will be developed. The current Forest ratings will be refined and modified in order to classify the suitability of areas for ORV traffic on the Catahoula and Calcasieu districts. These data will be incorporated into the Forest Service's GIS database and should help the Forest Service determine how to best manage these areas.

## **2. Actions Requiring Forest Plan amendment or revision**

None.

***3. Amendments to be completed***

None.

***4. Recommended actions where no action was taken in FY2001***

None.

## Appendix A

### Comparison of FY2001 Budget with Revised Plan Annual Budget

<u>Budget Line Item</u>	<u>Plan EBLI</u>	<u>Prev. FY Plan EBLI</u>	<u>Plan Budget Estimate</u>	<u>FY2001 EBLI</u>	<u>FY2001 Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<b>Ecosystem Planning, Inventory, Monitoring</b>						\$ 126,407
Ecosystem management	NFEM	\$ 624,000	\$ 648,960	N/A	\$ -	
Inventory and monitoring	***	-	-	NFIM	438,801	
Land management planning	***	-	-	NFPN	215,350	
Inventory and monitoring (Title VIII funds)	***	-	-	NFMP	121,216	
<b>Recreation Use</b>						(465,476)
Recreation management	NFRM	859,040	893,402	N/A	-	
Wilderness management	NFWM	47,840	49,754	N/A	-	
Heritage resources	NFHR	208,000	216,320	N/A	-	
Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness	***	-	-	NFRW	353,033	
Cooperative work - other	CWFS	31,200	32,448	CWFS	-	
Trails, Capital Improvements & Mtce.	***	-	-	CMTL	208,635	
Recreation fee collection	***	-	-	FEFR	6,000	
Fee Demo - collection	***	-	-	FDCL	13,000	
Fee Demo - projects	***	-	-	FDDS	80,000	
New Word Fund backlog maintenance	***	-	-	NWBM	65,779	
<b>Rangeland Management</b>						(327,288)
Range management	NFRG	62,400	64,896	NFRG	17,064	
Range vegetation management	NFRV	145,600	151,424	N/A	-	
Cooperative work - KV	CWKV	208,000	216,320	CWKV	88,288	
<b>Wildlife and Fish Management</b>						(888,859)
Wildlife habitat operations and improvement	NFWL	227,760	236,870	N/A	-	

Wildlife and fisheries management	***	-	-	NFWF	729,414	
Inland fish operations and improvement	NFIF	93,600	97,344	N/A	-	
T&E species operations and improvement	NFTE	550,160	572,166	N/A	-	
Cooperative work - KV	CWKV	1,848,080	1,922,003	CWKV	1,207,851	
Cooperative work - other	CWFS	26,000	27,040	CWFS	29,300	
<b>Forestland Management</b>						(2,460,018)
Timber management	NFTM	2,496,000	2,595,840	NFTM	1,921,186	
Forest vegetation management	NFFV	443,040	460,762	N/A	-	
Vegetation and watershed management	***	-	-	NFVW	379,606	
Reforestation trust fund	RTRT	114,400	118,976	RTRT	243,860	
Cooperative work - KV	CWKV	1,456,000	1,514,240	CWKV	838,104	
Timber roads - purchaser election	PEPE	55,120	57,325	PEPE	-	
Timber roads - purchaser construction	PUCR	1,248,000	1,297,920	N/A	-	
Timber salvage sales	SSSS	280,800	292,032	SSSS	298,225	
Forest health protection	***	-	-	SPFH	160,000	
Timber pipeline - Rec. backlog	***	-	-	TPCD	20,565	
Timber pipeline - Sale prep.	***	-	-	TPPS	15,530	
<b>Soil, Water and Air Management</b>						(282,646)
Soil, water, air operations	NFSO	67,600	70,304	N/A	-	
Soil and water improvement	NFSI	94,640	98,426	N/A	-	
Cooperative work - KV	CWKV	48,880	50,835	CWKV	6,928	
Cooperative work - other	CWFS	208,000	216,320	CWFS	146,311	
Hazardous waste management	***	-	-	HWHW	-	
<b>Minerals and Geology Management</b>						(68,915)
Minerals	NFMG	332,800	346,112	NFMG	277,197	
<b>Land Ownership Management</b>						(140,159)
Lands - real estate management	NFLA	192,400	200,096	N/A	-	
Landline location	NFLL	145,600	151,424	N/A	-	
Landownership management	***	-	-	NFLM	211,361	
<b>Rural Development</b>						10,000
Resource conservation and development	***	-	-	RCRC	5,000	
Economic recovery program	***	-	-	SPEA	5,000	

State fire assistance	***	-	-	SPCH	-	
Coop.lands forest health mgt.	***	-	-	SPCH	-	
Urban community forestry	***	-	-	SPUH	-	
Forest stewardship	***	-	-	SPST	-	
<b>Construction</b>						692,414
Recreation construction	CNRF	1,211,600	1,260,064	N/A	-	
Trail construction	CNTR	55,120	57,325	N/A	-	
Roads reconstruction and construction	CNRD	977,600	1,016,704	N/A	-	
Facilities capital improv & mtce	***	-	-	CMFC	1,540,761	
Roads capital improv & mtce	***	-	-	CMRD	1,450,746	
Facilities capital improv and mtce (Title IV funds)	***	-	-	CMC2	35,000	
<b>Land Acquisition</b>						(16,126)
Land acquisition - L&W Cons. Fund	LALW	52,000	54,080	LALW	37,954	
<b>Forest Service Fire Protection</b>						1,183,887
Forest fire pre-suppression	WFPR	910,000	946,400	WFPR	983,541	
Forest fuel reduction	WFHF	520,000	540,800	WFHF	1,287,546	
Hazardous Fuel Reduction (Title IV funds)	***	-	-	WFW2	400,000	
<b>Infrastructure Management</b>						(438,989)
Road maintenance and decommissioning	CNRM	843,440	877,178	N/A	-	
Maintenance of facilities	NFFA	212,160	220,646	N/A	-	
Backlog mtce of facilities (Title VIII funds)	***	-	-	DMDM	265,000	
Cooperative work - other	CWFS	364,000	378,560	CWFS	141,100	
Federal highway program	***	-	-	HTAE	5,500	
Federal Highway Public Roads	***	-	-	HTRP	3,595	
Operations & maintenance - FS quarters	***	-	-	QMQM	19,898	
Reforestation of forest lands	***	-	-	RIRI	1,300	
Roads and trails for states (10% Fund)	***	-	-	TRTR	601,002	
<b>General Administration</b>						1,127,349
General administration	NFGA	1,304,160	1,356,326	N/A	2,449,717	
Cooperative work - KV	CWKV	790,400	822,016	CWKV	307,637	
Cooperative work - other	CWFS	102,960	107,078	CWFS	55,208	
Timber - salvage sales	SSSS	49,920	51,917	SSSS	43,775	

Operations & maintenance - FS quarters	QMQM	20,800	21,632	QMQM	-	
Roads and trails for states (10% Fund)	***	-	-	TRTR	14,222	
Reforestation trust fund	***	-	-	RTRT	27,713	
Law enforcement	***	-	-	NFLE	81,387	
Senior citizens employment program	***	-	-	NFSD	506,660	
<b>External Agreements</b>						606,000
External agents	***	-	-	NFEX	606,000	
<b>Total (in FY2001 dollars)</b>		\$ 19,529,120	\$ 20,310,285		18,967,866	\$ (1,342,419)

## Appendix B

### Avian Population Trends

Estimated trend in number of birds observed for Kisatchie National Forest Management Indicator Species at three spatial scales: physiographic stratum and state (1990-1998), and Forest (1990-1999). A “+” indicates a statistically significant increasing trend; “-” a statistically significant decreasing trend; “= =” a statistically significant trend was not detected; “=” a statistically significant trend was not detected and the number of routes in the analysis was < 14 (stratum and state trends) or species was observed on < 5% of points (Kisatchie National Forest trends); “NA” indicates data insufficient to calculate trend estimate (statistical significance set at alpha < 0.10) [Source: Table 22 of the Forest’s MIS Population and Habitat Trends report, May 2001].

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Upper Coastal Plain</b>	<b>State – Louisiana</b>	<b>Kisatchie National Forest</b>
Acadian Flycatcher	+	+	=
Bachman’s Sparrow	= =	=	= =
Cooper’s Hawk	=	NA	NA
Eastern wood-peewee	= =	= =	= =
Hooded Warbler	= =	+	= =
Kentucky Warbler	= =	= =	= =
Louisiana Waterthrush	= =	=	NA
Northern Bobwhite Quail	-	= =	-
Northern Parula	= =	-	=
Pileated Woodpecker	= =	= =	= =
Prairie Warbler	= =	=	NA
Red-Cockaded Woodpecker	-	NA	NA
Red-headed Woodpecker	= =	= =	=
Summer Tanager	+	= =	= =

<b><i>Common Name</i></b>	<b><i>Upper Coastal Plain</i></b>	<b><i>State – Louisiana</i></b>	<b><i>Kisatchie National Forest</i></b>
Warbling Vireo	+	NA	NA
White-breasted Nuthatch	= =	NA	NA
White-eyed Vireo	= =	= =	+
Wood Thrush	-	= =	= =
Worm-eating Warbler	+	-	NA
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	-	+

## Appendix C

### List of Preparers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Cynthia Dancak	<i>Team Leader - Planning, Recreation, Heritage Resources, Soil/Water/Air, GIS</i>
Thomas M. Webb	<i>Team Leader – Public Uses and Services</i>
Ed Bratcher	<i>Team Leader – Fire, Lands, Facilities, Fleet, Safety</i>
Cal Baker	<i>Team Leader – Ecosystem Conservation Management</i>
Jim Caldwell	<i>Public Affairs</i>
Carl Brevelle	<i>Forester/Resource Planner</i>
Mary Jane Close	<i>Financial Manager</i>
Velicia Bergstrom	<i>Forest Archeologist</i>
Michael Miller	<i>Forest Landscape Architect</i>
Mike Dawson	<i>Forester/Timber Sales Specialist</i>
John Nobles	<i>Forester/Fire Management Officer</i>
Ken Dancak	<i>Forest Wildlife Biologist</i>
John Novosad	<i>Forest Soil Scientist&amp;Hydrologist</i>
Finis Harris	<i>Forest Silviculturist</i>
Philip Hyatt	<i>Forest Botanist</i>
David Byrd	<i>Forest Fisheries Biologist</i>
Gretchen Hunt Moore	<i>Zone Geologist</i>
Don Ranne	<i>Forester/Lands &amp; Special Uses</i>