

FY2002



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 is 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 2003, 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 (NEPA) procedures.

Opportunity for comment:

If you have questions or comments regarding the accomplishments for fiscal year 2002, 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, appearing to read 'Margrett L. Boley', written in a cursive style.

MARGRETT L. BOLEY
Forest Supervisor
Kisatchie National Forest

II. Summary of M&E Results and Report Findings

A. Ecosystem Condition, Health, and Sustainability

- Five environmental documents were completed during FY2002, with the focus on silvicultural needs, pre-commercial thinning, salvage, and RCW management objectives. All projects were designed to restore, maintain or improve the forest ecosystems and plant communities of the Forest. This was the first year of significant preparation of environmental documents for stand management in the past three years. An increased emphasis on prescribed burning further aided restoration and enhancement, although growing season burns were curtailed due to the national fire situation.
- 408 acres were planted with longleaf pine seedlings in FY2002. Satisfactorily stocked sites require a minimum of 300 well-distributed seedlings per acre. 239 acres were planted with shortleaf pine seedlings in FY2002. The planting spacing was wide enough to allow for a hardwood component.
- Data is being collected on management indicator species using a series of plots scattered across the Kisatchie National Forest landscapes. Data collection continued in 2002. 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 proven very useful in establishing a baseline for the frequency and distribution of plant management indicators.
- Kisatchie NF has a surplus of shortleaf pine/oak-hickory (mid-late stages) and a deficiency of mixed hardwood-loblolly pine (early stages); overall, Kisatchie NF is meeting its goal of providing a biologically diverse ecosystem.
- Early successional (0-10 years) pine habitat has diminished significantly since 1999. Older successional pine habitats have increased significantly since 1999. Stand ages for all habitat types generally are older as a result of the diminished timber-harvesting program. The older forested habitat, compared to the relatively younger forested habitat off-Forest, generally is beneficial to the rare species on Kisatchie NF.
- The prescribed burning goals were accomplished due to having sufficient burning windows. The Forest accomplished 97,611 acres; of which 83,785 acres were dormant season and 13,826 acres were growing season burns.
- 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.
- Resources identified in NFMAS are being made available in accordance with budget funding level. The Forest lost 1,570 acres to wildland fires in FY2002. The acceptable range in NFMAS was 2,108. The Forest was below the acceptable range.
- 640 acres were planted in FY2002. Additional areas were site prepared for natural regeneration in FY2002. 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.

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- A total of 1,959 acres of timber stand improvement treatments were applied during FY2002. These projects contributed toward restoration efforts and improved overall forest health.
- The Kisatchie National Forest did not have any southern pine beetle (SPB) infestations during FY2002.
- Four timber removal units on the KNF were randomly selected and rated for compliance with standards and guidelines (BMPs) to protect soil resources. Implementation of most erosion control practices was very good on most of these sites. There was good placement of skid trails and landings. Equipment was used on the sites during dry conditions and there was no evidence of rutting or compaction. A site prep burn had a good cover of litter so that minimal bare soil was exposed to potential soil loss.
- Using natural barriers, roads, etc., as much as possible, minimized the use of fire lines. This minimizing of fire lines is an important way to reduce impacts of erosion and sedimentation due to management burning. Bladed lines as opposed to plowed lines were constructed on the prescribed burn areas, which reduced soil disturbance and the potential for erosion. Re-vegetation was very good on these lines. Fire lines were “contoured” which allows runoff to flow off the line reducing soil movement.
- Soil loss was measured on units that were site prepared by chop and burning methods in Compartments 61, 76 and 96 on the Winn Ranger District. Soil loss was estimated by measuring bare soil on the sites using the KAT method and applying the Universal Soil Loss Equation. Results were compared to the maximum allowable soil loss for each soil type. The maximum allowable soil loss is an indicator of loss of soil productivity. The estimated annual soil loss ranged from 0.19 to 0.64 and averaged 0.37 tons per acre per year, which is well below the maximum allowable soil loss for these soil types.
- Watershed improvement work is ongoing. There were 83 acres of watershed improvement work accomplished in FY2002 with watershed improvement funding and KV funding. Maintenance on FY2001 projects was done, as needed, to shorten recovery times on the 68 acres of projects from the previous year. Projects were located on all districts and all included erosion and sediment control measures. Projects included reconstruction of a stream terrace/berm along Iatt Creek to protect research plots established by the Bottomlands Hardwood Research Center, stream bank stabilization along a National Scenic River (Saline Bayou) and stabilization of a gully that is threatening Red Cockaded Woodpecker trees. Many projects included erosion/sediment control for ORV related damage particularly on the Kisatchie RD.
- Presence of forage fish and omnivores were evaluated in FS lakes and action was taken to ensure a continuation of fish population balance. The Fall/Winter draw-down prescribed for Corney Lake for aquatic weed control, habitat restoration, and fish population manipulation (balance the ratio of predator/prey/omnivores) was successful. The levee that failed on Fullerton Lake during a flood event underwent structure repair and the 70-year-old lake has reached pool stage and has been re-stocked.
- Water quality on FS 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 lime and fertilizer (nine ponds and lakes totaling 115 acres) were applied to increase and maintain pH and alkalinity, increase primary production; therefore increasing survival rates of young-of-year fish, and suppressing unwanted aquatic weeds.

B. Sustainable Multiple Forest and Range Benefits

- Meaningful Measures costing data was migrated to the corporate INFRA database. Critical standards are being met. Full compliance with all Meaningful Measures standards is not possible at current funding level. The National comment card is being phased out. Local comment card was developed. The Forest was selected to beta test a Regional comment card. The test period will begin October 1, 2003.
- During FY2000 through FY2002, 41.0 miles of local and collector roads were reconstructed or constructed. Of this total, 19.8 miles were reviewed. Of the roads reviewed, 100% 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.
- Tracts C-192, a, c, and d, in Compartment 1, near the National Forest boundary of the Winn Ranger District were conveyed in full compliance with Forest Plan Direction (FW-193, FW-194, FW-195, FW-196, FW-197, FW-198, FW-199 and FW-200). Five road right-of-ways were acquired through this exchange to improve and enhance access to Federal lands for both better management and public utilization of these lands.
- Tracts K-40, a, b, and c, in Compartments 28 & 37, near the Kisatchie Bayou on the Kisatchie Ranger District were acquired. These lands totaled 230 acres and totally complied with Forest Plan Direction (FW-193, FW-194, FW-195, FW-196, FW-197, FW-198, FW-199 and FW-200). Landlines will continue to be established, maintained and protected on the established 7- to 8-year cycle as long as funded, to discourage encroachments.
- The harvest level decline on the Forest was somewhat reversed. Nearly 51,000 CCF (26 MMBF) were harvested, compared to an FY2001 harvest of 31,000 CCF (15.5 MMBF).
- One FY2002 grant foci was provided to assist women landowners, minority landowners, small-scale landowners and new landowners through workshops on basic timberland concepts, federal and state programs in an effort to improve community economy.
- Some of the issues raised by litigants concerning the approval of NEPA documents were worked out to such a level that timber sales were offered in FY2002. A total of 11,700 CCF (1.17 MMCF or 5.85 MMBF) was offered. This is an increase over FY2001. To reach the level outlined in the Forest Plan will require a time period of between 2-3 years.
- The level of special forest products continues at about the same level of interest as in FY2001. There is still insufficient supply of firewood, but that varies with the severity of the winter.
- All compliance reviews and consultations pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) were completed prior to agency decisions. However, FY2002 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 FY2002, a total of 2,555.3 acres were inventoried. All these acres were in support of timber. Twenty four new sites were added to the KNF heritage data base. In addition to these surveys, another twenty four sites, discovered in 1983, were relocated and re-evaluated as part of another 4000 acres in support of timber management.
- No significant or potentially significant heritage sites were evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places, and the number of backlogged sites dropped from 419 to 416. Given FY2002 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.

- The Forest Service was a contributor to Louisiana Archaeology Week for the 13th year. Heritage Specialists visited primary and secondary level classrooms to make presentations on Louisiana history and archeological ethics. Specialist also taught continuing education to the Louisiana Forest Association.

C. Organizational Effectiveness

- The Forest Plan had no amendments made to it during FY2002.
- The Forest Service and Louisiana State University (LSU) continued 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 KNF ratings were refined and modified in order to classify the suitability of areas for ORV traffic. In 2002 reports were prepared containing suitability ratings and maps for the Kisatchie and the Calcasieu Ranger Districts. This study will help the Forest Service determine how to best manage these areas.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between the Kisatchie NF and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries needs revision to stress greater cooperation between the two agencies, especially in the establishment of hunting seasons on Kisatchie NF. Additionally, KNF has a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with Louisiana State University to ascertain quail abundance and distribution on the Winn and Caney Districts.
- Soil and water staff and GIS staff cooperated with NRCS in developing the 5th 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.
- A Hydrologic Condition Assessment (HCA) of the Cane River (Kisatchie Bayou) Watershed was initiated. The HCA will be used as a vehicle to collaborate with LDEQ on the Total Maximum Daily Load process, which is being conducted on Kisatchie Bayou. Kisatchie Bayou, which flows through the Kisatchie RD, is a Section 303d listed (impaired stream) with sedimentation/ turbidity listed as causes.

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 are 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)

FY2002 Findings: Five environmental documents were completed during FY2002, with the focus on silvicultural needs, pre-commercial thinning, salvage, and RCW management objectives. All projects were designed to restore, maintain or improve the forest ecosystems and plant communities of the Forest. This was the first year of significant preparation of environmental documents for stand management in the past three years. An increased emphasis on prescribed burning further aided restoration and enhancement, although growing season burns were curtailed due to the national fire situation.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Every year continue to 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. 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.

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)

FY2002 Findings: 408 acres were planted with longleaf pine seedlings in FY2002. Satisfactorily stocked sites require a minimum of 300 well-distributed seedlings per acre.

239 acres were planted with shortleaf pine seedlings in FY2002. The planting spacing was wide enough to allow for a hardwood component.

No mixed hardwood-loblolly pine forest areas were planted in FY2002.

Riparian plant communities continue to be maintained in concert with management practices. Typically riparian zones are excluded from silvicultural improvement activities, harvesting, thinning, and mid-story removal activities.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Apply growing season burns on a three year rotation starting with the second growing season after planting. Continue to monitor sites for additional treatment needs. 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 FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: This monitoring task calls for using the herbarium database to track the status of habitats for management indicators. This database was created, but 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 continued in 2002. 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 proven very useful in establishing a baseline for the frequency and distribution of plant management indicators.

The following table compares planned and actual inventoried acreage by landscape community type:

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Landscape Community	Forest Plan goal (acres)	FY2001 acres	FY2002 acres
Longleaf pine, all stages:	121,000	127,415	120,483
Shortleaf pine / oak-hickory, early stages:	0	1,633	2,897
Shortleaf pine / oak-hickory, mid-late stages:	16,000	48,050	34,912
Mixed hardwood-loblolly pine, early stages:	42,000	14,351	15,519
Mixed hardwood-loblolly pine, mid-late stages:	252,000	261,024	247,710
Riparian, small streams:	85,000 (no annual change)	85,000	85,000
Riparian, large streams:	92,000 (no annual change)	92,000	92,000

Considering Kisatchie NF habitat types and the Forest Plan goals:

Successional Habitat (all Forest Types)	Forest Plan goal (acres)	FY2001 acres	FY2002 acres ¹
Early (0-10 yrs)	>= 20,000	26,882	24,921
Middle (31-50 yrs)	>= 50,000	86,898	55,265
Late (71+ yrs)	>= 75,000	163,120	151,111

Kisatchie NF has a surplus of shortleaf pine/oak-hickory (mid-late stages) and a deficiency of mixed hardwood-loblolly pine (early stages); overall, Kisatchie NF is meeting its goal of providing a biologically diverse ecosystem.

FY2003 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 KNF 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)

FY2002 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.

Southeast regional abundance trends of Kisatchie NF Terrestrial Management Indicator Species (total number of birds observed / total number of visits):

¹ Forestwide acreage analyzed: 576,925 acres (600,477 acres for 1999). CISC data contained the following coding errors: Forest Type '1' = 2,934 ac, 165 stands; no Forest Type listed = 12,165 ac, 603 stands; no age listed = 35,857 ac, 786 stands.

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Management Indicator (terrestrial)	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002 ²
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	0.2909	0.2703	data not available
BACHMAN'S SPARROW	0.0872	0.0698	data not available
COOPER'S HAWK	0.0019	0.0048	data not available
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	0.1559	0.1565	data not available
HOODED WARBLER	0.5119	0.4317	data not available
KENTUCKY WARBLER	0.1122	0.1095	data not available
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH	0.0209	0.0247	data not available
NORTHERN BOBWHITE	0.066	0.0669	data not available
NORTHERN PARULA	0.11	0.0824	data not available
PINE WARBLER	0.7289	0.4889	0.3333
PILEATED WOODPECKER	0.3155	0.3115	data not available
PRAIRIE WARBLER	0.1289	0.1424	0.3333
RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER	0.0114	0.0145	data not available
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	0.0868	0.0557	data not available
SUMMER Tanager	0.3618	0.3072	0.3333
WARBLING VIREO	0.0019	data not available	data not available
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	0.088	0.108	data not available
WHITE-EYED VIREO	0.3531	0.2505	data not available
WORM-EATING WARBLER	0.1236	0.141	data not available
WOOD THRUSH	0.2272	0.2495	0.3333
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	0.229	0.3866	data not available

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue to develop method for capturing MIS plant species that are not showing up in current survey methodology. Consult with University for possible CCS project to monitor the species. 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 Kisatchie NF.

² Some data was not available. The R8 Regional Office provides the R8 corporate database (R8 Bird) for R8 landbird data. Most of the most recent landbird data generated by R8 forests have not been assimilated into R8 Bird; therefore, these analyses currently are unavailable. Analyses from the 2 previous years are provided for trend information.

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)

FY2002 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. 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.

The Supervisors Office reviews most environmental documents for compliance with NEPA and Forest Plan consistency. Biological Evaluations for TES species are reviewed by Ecosystem Conservation personnel.

FY2003 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 increased emphasis on RCW management across the Forest. Identify and prioritize thinning of foraging habitat, improvement and expansion of RCW clusters, and mid-story removal projects. Work with the USFWS to prioritize future projects and identify habitat needs. Identify all Pearlshell mussel beds on the Forest, and develop means of monitoring the number of mussels on a recurring basis.

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

FY2002 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 but this is thought to be a short-term trend.

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KNF Forest Habitat (Acres) by forest types, current compared to 1999:

Pine Forest Types	Successional Classes							
	0-10 years		11-30 years		31-80 years		81+ years	
Year:	2003	1999	2003	1999	2003	1999	2003	1999
Longleaf	5,867	13,614	29,032	10,179	63,912	95,690	21,461	4,162
Slash	2,464	618	9,518	7,392	17,523	31,273	6,017	11
Loblolly	10,558	38,880	71,586	81,214	150,420	147,014	34,380	15,382
Shortleaf	1,412	938	2,832	927	8,312	8,000	1,497	4,799
Sub-Total	20,301	54,050	112,968	99,712	240,167	281,977	63,355	24,354
Sub-Total %	4.6	11.7	25.9	21.7	55.0	61.3	14.5	5.3
Forestwide %	3.5	9.0	19.6	16.6	41.6	47.0	11.0	4.1

Mixed Forest Types	Successional Classes							
	0-10 years		11-30 years		31-80 years		81+ years	
Year:	2003	1999	2003	1999	2003	1999	2003	1999
Pine-Hwd	938	1,200	6,708	4,593	15,750	15,024	1,522	4,438
Hwd-Pine	1,691	371	10,412	2,958	20,281	25,071	2,553	8,229
Sub-Total	2,629	1,571	17,120	7,551	36,031	40,095	4,075	12,667
Sub-Total %	4.4	4.9	28.6	23.7	60.2	125.8	6.8	39.7
Forestwide %	0.5	0.3	3.0	1.3	6.2	6.7	0.7	2.1

Hardwood Forest Types	Successional Classes							
	0-10 years		11-30 years		31-80 years		81+ years	
Year:	2003	1999	2003	1999	2003	1999	2003	1999
Upland	1,353	522	8,535	2,752	20,116	24,809	4,283	5,480
Bottomland	638	311	10,925	2,664	27,810	29,917	6,619	12,045
Sub-Total	1,991	833	19,460	5,416	47,926	54,726	10,902	17,525
Sub-Total %	2.5	1.1	24.2	6.9	59.7	69.7	13.6	22.3
Forestwide %	0.3	0.1	3.4	0.9	8.3	9.1	1.9	2.9

Forestwide³	Successional Classes							
	0-10 years		11-30 years		31-80 years		81+ years	
Year:	2003	1999	2003	1999	2003	1999	2003	1999
Total Acres	24,921	56,454	149,548	112,679	324,124	376,798	78,332	54,546
Forestwide %	4.3	9.4	25.9	18.8	56.2	62.7	13.6	9.1

³ Forestwide acreage analyzed: 576,925 acres (600,477 acres for 1999). CISC data contained the following coding errors: Forest Type '1' = 2,934 ac, 165 stands; no Forest Type listed = 12,165 ac, 603 stands; no age listed = 35,857 ac, 786 stands.

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

FY2003 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? (V)

FY2002 Findings:

RCW Population Survey Results:

RCW Populations	# Active Clusters			
	Year 2003	Year 2002	Year 2001	Year 2000
Catahoula	27	25	36	34
Evangeline	89	79	73	74
Kisatchie	29	30	27	37
Winn	20	17	12	17
Vernon	149	142	149	152
Forest Total	314	293	297	314

Louisiana pearlshell mussel populations appear to be stable from recent surveys. Activities from ORVs and urban sprawl continue to threaten the pearlshell's habitat. The FS is working with the USFWS and several partners to establish an active task force with a panel of experts and interested parties for the betterment of the pearlshell.

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.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Closely monitor all populations for signs of stability. Prescribe burn the foraging habitat as much as feasible. Engage in RCW translocations to bolster populations, if feasible. Continue consultations with the USFWS.

Continue beaver control, enforcement of FS 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. Encourage collaboration from other agencies and partners to help protect the pearlshell.

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?

(I)

FY2002 Findings: Few project-level decision documents involving management practices designed to develop old-growth forest attributes have not been completed.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Complete the inventory of designed old-growth patches and determine which forest ecosystem is represented within each patch. SO staff personal 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)**

FY2002 Findings: A GIS theme (map layer) 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.

FY2003 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)**

FY2002 Findings: Management practices require NEPA documentation prior to being implemented. The application of harvesting techniques consistently included streamside habitat protection zones and riparian area protection. At the present, no broad scale actions have been taken which might impact these areas.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Every year, conduct silvicultural surveys and prepare documents addressing management practices where needed, 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)**

FY2002 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.

FY2003 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

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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)

FY2002 Findings: The prescribed burning goals were accomplished due to having sufficient burning windows. The Forest accomplished 97,611 acres; of which 83,785 acres were dormant season and 13,826 acres were growing season burns. Prescribed burning occurred in the following landtype associations (LTAs):

<u>LTA</u>	<u>Dormant Season Acres</u>	<u>Growing Season Acres</u>
1	51,086	13,826
2	20,652	0
3	8,208	0
4	2,417	0
5	702	0

FY2003 Recommended Actions: The Forest should continue to monitor the weather and take advantage of every burning opportunity. Strive to maximize the implementation of growing season burns on longleaf pine plant community landscapes.

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

FY2002 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 Plan’s desired future conditions.

FY2003 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 Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry’s smoke management guidelines and regulations being applied? Are performance requirements concerning air quality being incorporated in permitted activities? (I)

FY2002 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 identifying 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 plum direction and spread is monitored via helicopter. Post burn evaluation is performed and includes a requirement to note any smoke management violations. Sensitive areas were identified and protected from smoke.

The implementation of standards and guidelines for smoke management activities were reviewed on the Catahoula District. The findings indicated that the District is continuing to use the capabilities of GIS for planning burns, to aid in identifying sensitive sites and to project smoke dispersal so that sensitive sites are protected. In addition to sensitive sites the district is making extra efforts to seek out smoke sensitive individuals and taking measures to insure that they are protected from the smoke.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Review burn plans to evaluate how Louisiana Smoke Management Guidelines are being followed during reviews of soil, water and air standards and guidelines (Best Management Practices (BMPs)) and report findings.

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

FY2002 Findings: All areas of the Kisatchie National Forest are in areas that are considered to be in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In addition to the 1-hour ozone standard, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) reports that Grant Parish continues to meet the NAAQS for all EPA criteria pollutants. Monitoring data is continuously collected at the LDEQ air monitoring station located on the Catahoula Ranger District at the Bentley site in 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.

FY2003 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)

FY2002 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.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue to request wildland fire preparedness funding at the 100% efficiently 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)

FY2002 Findings: Resources identified in NFMAS are being made available in accordance with budget funding level. The Forest lost 1,570 acres to wildland fires in FY2002. The acceptable range in NFMAS was 2,108. The Forest was below the acceptable range.

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: 640 acres were planted in FY2002. Additional areas were site prepared for natural regeneration in FY2002. 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 1,959 acres of timber stand improvement treatments were applied during FY2002. These projects contributed toward restoration efforts and improved overall forest health.

The Kisatchie National Forest did not have any SPB infestations during FY2002.

FY2003 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 are 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)

FY2002 Findings: Insect and disease population trends on the Kisatchie National Forest were stable and low in FY2002.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: 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)

FY2002 Findings: Four timber removal units on the KNF were randomly selected and rated for compliance with standards and guidelines (BMPs) to protect soil resources. Implementation of most erosion control practices was very good on most of these sites. There was good placement of skid trails and landings. Equipment was used on the sites during dry conditions and there was no evidence of rutting or compaction. A site prep burn had a good cover of litter so that minimal bare soil was exposed to potential soil loss.

Using natural barriers, roads, etc., as much as possible, minimized the use of fire lines. This minimizing of fire lines is an important way to reduce impacts of erosion and sedimentation due to management burning. Bladed lines as opposed to plowed lines were constructed on the prescribed burn areas, which reduced soil disturbance and the potential for erosion. Re-vegetation was very good on these lines. Fire lines were "contoured" which allows runoff to flow off the line reducing soil movement.

Timber management units on the Catahoula and Winn Ranger Districts were rated using a scorecard designed to measure the effectiveness of standards and guidelines designed to maintain soil productivity. The effectiveness of most practices as rated on the scorecards was indicated to be excellent on most of the units. Control practices were being effectively applied and little soil disturbance was minimal and much less than 15 % of the units. The scorecard rating for one site prep/burned site indicated the need for corrective action.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue monitoring timber silvicultural management activities for implementation of Standards and Guidelines.

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

FY2002 Findings: Soil loss was measured on units that were site prepared by chop and burning methods in Compartments 61, 76 and 96 on the Winn Ranger District. Soil loss was estimated by measuring bare soil on the sites using the KAT method and applying the Universal Soil Loss Equation. Results were compared to the maximum allowable soil loss for each soil type. The maximum allowable soil loss is an indicator of loss of soil productivity. The estimated annual soil loss ranged from 0.19 to 0.64 and averaged 0.37 tons per acre per year, which is well below the maximum allowable soil loss for these soil types.

Watershed improvement work is ongoing. There were 83 acres of watershed improvement work accomplished in FY2002 with watershed improvement funding and kv funding. Maintenance on FY2001 projects was done, as needed, to shorten recovery times on the 68 acres of projects from the previous year. Projects were located on all districts and all included erosion and sediment control measures. Projects included reconstruction of a stream terrace/berm along Iatt Creek to protect research plots established by the Bottomlands Hardwood Research Center, stream bank stabilization along a National Scenic River (Saline Bayou) and stabilization of a gully that is threatening Red Cockaded Woodpecker trees. Many projects included erosion/sediment control for ORV related damage particularly on the Kisatchie RD.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue to restore and revegetate disturbed areas.

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

FY2002 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 were subjected to experimental compaction, bulk

densities recovered to near original undisturbed levels within ten years and pine productivity was unaffected. However, the experimental compaction did not disturb the soils in a manner similar to harvesting, and wet-weather harvesting without remediation may reduce productivity. Preliminary results also indicate that soil productivity may be decreased by slash removal or increased by phosphorus fertilization on phosphorus-deficient sites. In general, less productive sites are more susceptible to detrimental harvesting impacts than highly productive sites. 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.

FY2003 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? (1)

FY2002 Findings: Timber removal and burning operations were monitored on the Catahoula Ranger District using procedures developed for assessing implementation of Forest Plan standards and guidelines for protection of water quality (BMPs). The review team consisted of the KNF Ecological Conservation Team Leader, Hydrologist/Soil Scientist, district timber staff and a representative of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Non-Point Pollution Control staff. District personnel did a good job of implementing the standards and guidelines. Equipment was used on the sites during dry conditions and there was no evidence of rutting or compaction. Streamside zones were implemented on all streams. Although they were older sales, the zones on these units would comply with the requirements for Streamside Habitat Protection Zones in the revised Forest Plan. There was good sale layout on these units to avoid streams and riparian areas and the need for stream crossings, which eliminated a major source of potential sedimentation. There was good placement of skid trails and landings. A skid trail across an ephemeral drainage was well placed and showed little signs of soil disturbance. Slash was spread over skid trails and bare soil to prevent erosion. The site prep burn had a good cover of litter so that minimal bare soil was exposed to potential soil loss. Using natural barriers, roads, etc., as much as possible, minimized the use of fire lines. Minimizing fire lines is the best way to reduce impacts of erosion and sedimentation. Bladed lines as opposed to plowed lines are being constructed on the prescribed burn areas, which greatly reduces soil disturbance and the potential for erosion. Re-vegetation was very good on these lines.

Firelines were “contoured” which allows runoff to flow off the line reducing soil movement. Implementation of most erosion control practices was very good on most of these sites. However, the site prep/burned site on Compartment 56 had a plowed line with inadequately constructed waterbars. On the lower position of the site-prepped site, waterbars were diverting sediment to a swale area towards a stream. The week after the review district personnel reconstructed the line and adequate water bars were constructed according to specifications. This was done just in time to prevent erosion/ sedimentation that could have resulted from heavy rains that occurred the following week. The line was revegetated.

The timber management units were rated using a scorecard designed to measure the effectiveness of Soil and Water standards and guidelines. The effectiveness of most practices as rated on the scorecards was indicated to be excellent on most of the units. There were no signs

of sedimentation on most units. However, the scorecard rating for the site prep/burned site in Compartment 56 indicated the need for corrective action.

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: The water quality of nine streams on the KNF continued to be monitored quarterly in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). The data was incorporated into the State's Clean Water Act Sect. 305b Water Quality Inventory www.deq.state.la.us/surveillance/wqdata/wqnsites.stm. The monitoring is being done according to a cooperative arrangement with LDEQ under the KNF's Non-Point Source Pollution Control Memorandum of Agreement with the State. The measured parameters include suspended solids and turbidity. The monitoring data indicated that all these streams met the criteria for designated uses, including propagation for fish and wildlife. Almost all samples from these streams had turbidity levels that were well below 25 NTU, which is the criterion for natural and scenic streams. The streams were monitored for metals (arsenic, chromium, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, and nickel), nutrients (carbon, phosphates, potassium, nitrogen, nitrites, and nitrates) and sulfates, suspended solids etc. The monitoring data indicated minimal or trace levels of some of these substances but no contamination that would affect fish or wildlife.

In addition, in FY2002, water samples were collected monthly at sites on three of the streams that are habitat of the threatened Louisiana Pearlshell mussel. Most of the watersheds draining into these streams were burned by the Forest Service in January 2002. The data from the streams will be analyzed by a graduate student at Louisiana State University and related to Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality/US EPA water quality standards and other water quality criteria. The study will address any effects on water quality due to the burning activities in these watersheds and any potential effects on the threatened Louisiana Pearlshell mussel.

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.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue to coordinate with LDEQ on monitoring the water quality of streams on the KNF. Continue monitoring on streams draining watersheds where management burning was conducted to determine any impacts on water quality. Continue required monitoring of water quality of KNF 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)

FY2002 Findings: Predator/prey populations across the Forest are sufficient for a sustainable recreational fishery. To maintain and enhance the resource, supplemental stocking of 5,165 largemouth bass fingerlings and 900 sunfish (provided by the USFWS) were stocked in Fullerton and Caney Lakes.

Sixteen miles of FS 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 (see 2001 MIS report) 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 provided evidence that sediment has not inhibited reproduction of fishes or altered habitat beyond natural conditions.

The Blue Hole underwent a habitat restoration project to prevent sediments from entering the pond. Bank stabilization was achieved by planting vegetation through a cooperative effort with the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

A diversion dam was constructed at Anderson Pond to prevent further sediment and debris from entering the pond due to road construction.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Stock threadfin shad in Fullerton and Valentine Lakes to improve the forage base. Continue to monitor and collect data.

Continue to monitor and assess (analyze and interpret data) the effectiveness of management strategies on the Forest concerning aquatic resources.

Continue to monitor and identify any future restoration projects.

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

FY2002 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 FS lakes and action was taken to ensure a continuation of fish population balance. The Fall/Winter draw-down prescribed for Corney Lake for aquatic weed control, habitat restoration, and fish population manipulation (balance the ratio of predator/prey/omnivores) was successful. The levee that failed on Fullerton Lake during a flood event underwent structure repair and the 70-year-old lake has reached pool stage and has been re-stocked.

Channel catfish fingerlings (32,500) were stocked in Corney Lake to improve the sport fishery and fill a habitat niche that would otherwise be filled by undesirable species (ex. bullheads).

Water quality on FS 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 lime and fertilizer (nine ponds and lakes totaling 115 acres) were applied to increase and maintain pH and alkalinity, increase primary production; therefore increasing survival rates of young-of-year fish, and suppressing unwanted aquatic weeds.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Stock catfish fingerlings when available. Continue to monitor. 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.

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

(E)

FY2002 Findings:

Successional Habitat (all Forest Types)	Forest Plan goal (acres)	FY2001 acres	FY2002 acres ⁴
Early (0-10 yrs)	>= 20,000	26,882	24,921
Middle (31-50 yrs)	>= 50,000	86,898	55,265
Late (71+ yrs)	>= 75,000	163,120	151,111

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue to adhere to Revised Plan guidance.

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

FY2002 Findings: Estimated population densities of select game species on Kisatchie NF are as follows:

White-Tailed Deer (acres/animal)		Year 2000	Year 2001
	Catahoula District	60	90
	Evangeline District	75	90
	Kisatchie District	75	90
	Winn District	55	75
	Vernon District	75	75
	Caney District	40	50
Wild Turkey (acres/animal)		Year 2000	Year 2001
	Catahoula District	100	200
	Evangeline District	200	300
	Kisatchie District	75	100
	Winn District	75	150
	Vernon District	75	250
	Caney District	200	300
Fox Squirrel (acres/animal in upland hardwoods)		Year 2000	Year 2001
	Catahoula District	5	5
	Evangeline District	5	5
	Kisatchie District	5	5
	Winn District	5	5
	Vernon District	5	5
	Caney District	5	5

⁴ Forestwide acreage analyzed: 576,925 acres (600,477 acres for 1999). CISC data contained the following coding errors: Forest Type '1' = 2,934 ac, 165 stands; no Forest Type listed = 12,165 ac, 603 stands; no age listed = 35,857 ac, 786 stands.

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Gray Squirrel (acres/animal in bottomland hardwood)		Year 2000	Year 2001
	Catahoula District	3	3
	Evangeline District	3	3
	Kisatchie District	3	3
	Winn District	3	3
	Vernon District	3	3
	Caney District	3	3
Northern Bobwhite (acres/covey)		Year 2000	Year 2001
	Catahoula District	1,300	1,800
	Evangeline District	1,300	1,800
	Kisatchie District	1,300	1,800
	Winn District	1,300	1,800
	Vernon District	1,200	1,200
	Caney District	1,300	1,800

Populations of squirrels were stable. 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. Bobwhite populations are low region-wide.

FY2003 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. Attempt 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)

FY2002 Findings: The Supervisors Office reviews most environmental documents for compliance with NEPA and Forest Plan consistency. Biological Evaluations for TES species are reviewed by Ecosystem Conservation personnel.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: To be determined by KNF Management Team, if any.

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

FY2002 Findings: The Forest continued to provide 45,992 acres of riparian/bottomland habitat for waterfowl and wetland wildlife.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue to adhere to Revised KNF 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)

FY2002 Findings: Comparisons of project designs with SIO guidance were not made due to staffing limitations. Recreation staff assistant position to be filled will free up time for Forest Landscape Architect accomplish scenery management tasks.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Accomplish task after Recreation Assistant is on board.

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)

FY2002 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 and OHV management status.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Evaluate the feasibility of developing an automated GIS system that would periodically determine the ROS class eligibility of forest lands.

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)

FY2002 Findings: Meaningful Measures costing data was migrated to the corporate INFRA database. Critical standards are being met. Full compliance with all Meaningful Measures standards is not possible at current funding level. The National comment card is being phased out. Local comment card was developed. The Forest was selected to beta test a Regional comment card. The test period will begin October 1, 2003.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue the update of the spreadsheet data converted to INFRA. Continue management of the recreation program using the Meaningful Measures system.

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)

FY2002 Findings: During FY2000 through FY2002, 41.0 miles of local and collector roads were reconstructed or constructed. Of this total, 19.8 miles were reviewed. Of the roads reviewed, 100% 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.

Functional Class	FY2000		FY2001		FY2002		Totals
	Local	Collector	Local	Collector	Local	Collector	
Road Reconstruction/Construction (miles)	30.4	6.4	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	41.0
Roads Monitored (miles)	12.4	3.2	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.8
Roads requiring increased level/frequency of maintenance or not serviceable by use (miles)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: Tracts C-192, a, c, and d, in Compartment 1, near the National Forest boundary of the Winn Ranger District were conveyed in full compliance with Forest Plan Direction (FW-193, FW-194, FW-195, FW-196, FW-197, FW-198, FW-199 and FW-200). Five road right-of-ways were acquired through this exchange to improve and enhance access to Federal lands for both better management and public utilization of these lands.

We administered a total of 491 Special Use Authorizations for a variety of uses including roads, utilities, recreation events, Recreation Residences, and other uses. (Twenty-two of these were granted in 2003 after all other means and alternatives were thoroughly examined.)

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue to manage and monitor the lands program to the level funding will allow.

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)

FY2002 Findings: Tracts K-40, a, b, and c, in Compartments 28 & 37, near the Kisatchie Bayou on the Kisatchie Ranger District were acquired. These lands totaled 230 acres and totally complied with Forest Plan Direction (FW-193, FW-194, FW-195, FW-196, FW-197, FW-198, FW-199 and FW-200). Landlines will continue to be established, maintained and protected on the established 7- to 8-year cycle as long as funded, to discourage encroachments.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue to manage and monitor the lands program to the level funding will allow.

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)

FY2002 Findings: The harvest level decline on the Forest was somewhat reversed. Nearly 51,000 CCF (26 MMBF) were harvested, compared to an FY2001 harvest of 31,000 CCF (15.5 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" went into effect. 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 an increase in timber sale offerings does have a positive impact on the potential number of local jobs and income. Whether or not this trend continues will remain to be seen.

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)

FY2002 Findings: The Forest received Economic Recovery (ER) grant proposals from four communities totaling \$23,000, which was less than the \$36,000 in requests for FY2001. All four proposals were funded. This amount was only \$5,850 more than granted in FY2001. All four communities had received ER funds in the past.

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: One FY2002 grant foci was provided to assist women landowners, minority landowners, small-scale landowners and new landowners through workshops on basic timberland concepts, federal and state programs in an effort to improve community economy.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue emphasis on new communities and capacity-building projects that result in increased local job opportunities and 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)

FY2002 Findings: Comparisons of project plans and Environmental Assessments with SIA Forest Plan direction were not made due to staffing limitations.

FY2003 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.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Increase the amount of harvesting and prescribed burning on the Kisatchie National Forest to improve forest health and to achieve desired future conditions as presented in the Forest Plan.

6. FORAGE

Objective 3–4: Maintain or improve forage resources for domestic livestock grazing on 86,000 acres within designated grazing allotments to meet the needs of local demand.

Are forage resources being maintained or improved on the designated allotments? (I)

Are active allotments meeting the needs of the local demand for forage resources? (E)

FY2002 Findings: A 25-year trend in a decrease 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 are declining 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.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Given the continued non-use of the majority of KNF allotments, carefully scrutinize future expenditure as to their cost-effectiveness.

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)

FY2002 Findings: Parcels are being made available for lease according to the latest U.S. ownership (based on court judgments) and management restrictions.

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

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue efforts to hire Lands/Minerals/Special Use Forester to maintain current level and monitor results.

Objective 3–5: Provide other forest products such as firewood and pine straw 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)

FY2002 Findings: The level of special forest products continues at about the same level of interest as in FY2001. There is 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)

FY2002 Findings: Low demand for special forest products continues. No negative impact on forest health or resources was noted.

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: All compliance reviews and consultations pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) were completed prior to agency decisions. However, FY2002 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 FY2002, a total of 2,555.3 acres were inventoried. All these acres were in support of timber. Twenty four new sites were added to the KNF heritage data base. In addition to these surveys, another twenty four sites, discovered in 1983, were relocated and re-evaluated as part of another 4,000 acres in support of timber management.

In FY2002, 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.

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: Over 33 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. No formal Law Enforcement case reports were generated.

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

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: No damage attributable to Forest activities were recorded and no additional cultural evidence was observed in activity buffer zones surrounding sites.

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: No significant or potentially significant heritage sites were evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the number of backlogged sites dropped from 419 to 416. Given FY2002 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.

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: The Forest Service was a contributor to Louisiana Archaeology Week for the 13th year. Heritage Specialists visited primary and secondary level classrooms to make presentations on Louisiana history and archeological ethics. Specialists also taught continuing education to the Louisiana Forest Association.

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: Public responses from public presentations indicate a general increase in awareness and sensitivity about the nonrenewable cultural resource base.

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: The full scope of forest management practices and philosophy was incorporated in presentations to the public, schools and media during FY2002. Numerous Forest tours, fairs, and festivals were attended providing presentations on National Forest management activities.

FY2003 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, 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)

FY2002 Findings: The Kisatchie National Forest enjoys public support on a wide range of issues and management activities including silvicultural work, prescribed fire, recreation management, transportation management, and a host of other activities.

FY2003 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

1. ECONOMICS

FY2002 Findings: (See Appendix B)

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue providing funds as needed to meet Plan objectives.

2. 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)

FY2002 Findings: Yes, this report documents monitoring results for FY2002 activities and shows recommendations for FY2003. This report will be posted at the Region 8 public web site (<http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us>) and internally at the Kisatchie web site (<http://fsweb.kisatchie.r8.fs.fed.us>).

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: The Forest Plan had no amendments made to it during FY2002.

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: A list of cooperative studies with the Southern Research Station Unit FMR-4111 follows:

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- 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.

The Forest Service and LSU continued 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 KNF ratings were refined and modified in order to classify the suitability of areas for ORV traffic. In 2002 reports were prepared containing suitability ratings and maps for the Kisatchie and the Calcasieu Ranger Districts. This study will help the Forest Service determine how to best manage these areas.

Following are some preliminary findings:

- Predicted ORV ownership in Louisiana would double in next 10 yrs.
- Results mainly confirm/support the existing KNF ORV soil suitability ratings
- Their analyses shows that most soils are suitable within the Catahoula District (Livingston) and Evangeline unit (Claiborne) and trails can be maintained.
- Recommend that all the user created and designated trails within Kisatchie RD be closed due to poor soil suitability for ORVs - 49% have severe erosion potential; 11% have severe rutting potential
- Recommended closing trails in areas where there is potential erosion and rutting during wet conditions:

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- Close trail if 2 inches of rainfall occurs within about 1 day; should keep trail closed a week after there is no ponded water.
- Based on seasonal soil moisture data - closures from December through March or April
- Low KBDI values could be used as a basis for closing the trails in the Forest

Kisatchie NF has maintained a Challenge Cost Share (CCS) Agreement with Louisiana State University since 2001 to ascertain quail abundance and distribution on the Winn and Caney Districts.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: All the above studies are ongoing. Continue studies.

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

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

FY2002 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
- Management impacts on soil productivity and the resulting longleaf pine ecosystem
- Effectiveness of the Kisatchie National Forest standards and guidelines in reducing non-point source pollution
- Reducing soil loss due to burning on erosive soils particularly the Kisatchie severely eroded soil type
- Effectiveness and suitability of poultry litter amendments in restoring disturbed and degraded sites.

Kisatchie NF conducted a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with Louisiana State University to ascertain quail abundance and distribution on the Winn and Caney Districts.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: The Kisatchie National Forest should continue to assist the Southern Research Station in ongoing studies. The Forest will help initiate additional studies when requested and as funding allows.

The effects of deer dog training and hunting on Kisatchie NF, while all other Louisiana public lands remain closed to these activities, should be assessed.

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)

FY2002 Findings: Federal and state agencies are consulted as new proposals are developed and undergo the NEPA process. SHPO and THPO (Tribal Historic Preservation Officials) contribute during the preparation and analysis done EAS. 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.

FY2003 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)

FY2002 Findings: The Memorandum of Understanding between the Kisatchie NF 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, KNF has a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with Louisiana State University to ascertain quail abundance and distribution on the Winn and Caney Districts.

The KNF continued participation in the Non-point Source Interagency Committee with Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (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). LDEQ Non-point Source Pollution Control program personnel participated in KNF implementation monitoring reviews of soil and water Best Management Practices (BMPS).

The KNF continues to conduct water quality monitoring on nine 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. The data is incorporated into the State's Clean Water Act Section 305b Water Quality Inventory (www.deq.state.la.us/surveillance/wqdata/wqnsites.stm). Soil and water staff cooperated with LSU staff to initiate a study of the water quality of three Louisiana Pearlshell Mussel streams.

Soil and water staff and GIS staff cooperated with NRCS in developing the 5th 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.

A Hydrologic Condition Assessment (HCA) of the Cane River (Kisatchie Bayou) Watershed was initiated. The HCA will be used as a vehicle to collaborate with LDEQ on the Total Maximum Daily Load process, which is being conducted on Kisatchie Bayou. Kisatchie Bayou, which flows through the Kisatchie RD, is a Section 303d listed (impaired stream) with sedimentation/ turbidity listed as causes.

The soil and water and GIS staff cooperated with the LDEQ Source Water Protection program to protect water supply wells on the KNF. The KNF cooperated with LDEQ on the inventory of water well data on the KNF. The well data will be placed in the KNF GIS system to use in ensuring protection of these waters sources.

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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 the 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 Kisatchie National 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.

FY2003 Recommended Actions: Continue accommodating interested partners who wish to participate in implementing the revised Forest Plan.

Continue to accommodate interested partners who wish to form partnerships, cooperative agreements, memorandums of agreements consistent to Forest Plan goals and objectives.

Continue to participate in existing agreements. Amend Challenge Cost Share agreement with Louisiana State University to continue ORV study described above. Continue to seek interested partners who wish to participate in implementing the revised Forest Plan.

IV. Evaluation of Outcomes on the Land

This section of the M&E Report evaluates information taken from all monitoring items for this reporting fiscal year (FY2002). 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 FY2002, 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.
- Populations of squirrels were stable. 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. Bobwhite populations are low region-wide.
- Insufficient use of timber harvest treatments continues to delay successful establishment of desired future conditions on the Forest landscapes. Although some harvesting on existing timber sale contracts does continue, the rate is still too slow to effectively reach some Forest Plan objectives within the Plan period.
- No significant or potentially significant heritage sites were evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places, and the number of backlogged sites dropped from 419 to 416. Given FY2002 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.
- 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 FY2003

This section of the M&E Report provides information on all monitoring items that need action during the current fiscal year (FY2003). In addition to the specific recommended actions listed below, the general recommendation for FY2003 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.

Although still in the early stages of Plan implementation, several monitoring items could be evaluated. Recommendations for those items that need attention follow:

- Every year, continue to 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. 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.
- Apply growing season burns on a three year rotation starting with the second growing season after planting. Continue to monitor sites for additional treatment needs. Increase final harvest cut acres of off-site species on longleaf pine sites so an increase of planted longleaf can occur.
- Modify plant management indicator 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.
- 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. 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.
- Complete the inventories of designed old-growth patches and determine which forest ecosystem is represented within each patch.

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- 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. Attempt 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 forest lands
- Continue the update of Meaningful Measures costing spreadsheet data converted to INFRA.
- Dedicate additional resources to comparisons of project plans and Environmental Assessments with SIA Forest Plan direction in future years.
- Given the continued non-use of the majority of KNF range allotments, carefully scrutinize future expenditure as to their cost-effectiveness.
- Continue efforts to hire Lands/Minerals/Special Use Forester to maintain current level and monitor results.
- The Forest still needs to request and receive funding to increase monitoring of heritage sites, with an eye towards using remote sensing-technology to supplement physical monitoring.
- Continue to request additional funds needed to conduct cultural site evaluations for all sites in backlogged status.
- The effects of deer dog training and hunting on Kisatchie NF, while all other Louisiana public lands remain closed to these activities, should be assessed.
- Amend Challenge Cost Share agreement with Louisiana State University to continue ORV study.

VI. Status of FY2001 Monitoring & Evaluation Report Recommendations

- ✓ **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).**

STATUS in FY2002: In FY2002, a deliberate shift was initiated across most of the Forest to concentrate near-term analysis on Habitat Management Areas (HMAs) in order to focus needed work on RCW habitats and population needs. As a result, the 10 percent of the KNF assessed were generally in HMAs, with the exception of holdover projects that were already in progress when the shift was initiated. Good progress was made in starting a number of new compartment analyses.

Burning accomplishments totaled 97,611 acres across the Forest. This included 13,800 acres of growing season burns. This was less than desired. A high nationwide fire danger caused a restriction of prescribed burning across the National Forest System, including the Kisatchie National Forest, in order to support active forest fires elsewhere in the nation. This restriction limited total burn acres, and growing season burn acres on the Forest.

- ✓ **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, 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.**

STATUS in FY2002: Prescribed burning, and chopping and burning continued to be the predominant site preparation means in longleaf pine habitats in FY2002. Identification of a regular cycle of burning has begun to be established across the Forest. This cycle commonly involves both dormant and growing season burns. Growing season burning is believed to be much more effective at killing hardwood stems; hence an increased emphasis is being placed on spring burning. The Southern Research Station continues to monitor some of the prescribed burns on the Forest. Opportunities for conversion of off-site species to longleaf pine continue to be evaluated consistent with the Forest Plan.

- ✓ **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.

STATUS in FY2002: Baseline data on MIS plant indicators continued to be gathered in FY2002. A few species continue to not be found in the existing system of plots. Internal and external discussions with Universities occurred to develop a means of surveying for these species. The potential for a Challenge Cost share agreement with a University is being explored.

✓ **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.**

STATUS in FY2002: Biological Evaluations are now regularly reviewed in the S.O. by Ecosystem Conservation personnel. Suggested improvements to the BEs are forwarded to the submitting Districts. Environmental Assessments and EIS's are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

✓ **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.**

STATUS in FY2002: RCW foraging habitat is being identified as priority burn areas, and incorporated into District burning schedules. Prescribed burning was curtailed in FY2002 however, due to a high National fire danger, and numerous forest fires elsewhere in the nation. In July of each year, the Kisatchie N.F. meets with the USFWS and other RCW land managers to prioritize translocation opportunities on a regional basis. In 2002, priority translocation needs were identified on the Kisatchie District and Peason Ridge. In addition, opportunities for internal re-locations of RCWs were identified on all four Kisatchie N.F. Districts with RCWs. There were several individual consultations with the USFWS in FY2002, including the S.O., Kisatchie, Winn and Calcasieu Districts.

✓ **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.**

STATUS in FY2002: This occurred in FY2002. See response to previous question regarding management practices on 10% of the National Forest.

✓ **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.**

STATUS in FY2002: The status of the inventory is uncertain due to the transfer of the Forest Silviculturist in October, 2002. However, old-growth patches are generally not being assessed for harvesting (other than possible thinning) due to the increased emphasis on assessing and improving RCW habitat. What old growth habitat exists on the Forest is being maintained/enhanced for RCW management purposes, and in concert 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.

STATUS in FY2002: The Forest took advantage of available burn windows. The Regional Supplement for the prescribed fire handbook is scheduled for revision. The revision should give the Forest more flexibility in burning parameters. Fourteen percent of total acres treated were growing season burns in the longleaf community. A dry summer kept the percentage below the desirable level. All burns were coordinated with other resources to treat the higher priority areas.

✓ **Increase acreage of growing season burns on longleaf and shortleaf pine/oak-hickory landscapes.**

STATUS in FY2002: In FY2002, increased emphasis was placed on growing season burns across the Forest. However, only approx. 13,800 were burned during the growing season due to prescribed burn restriction on the Forest as a result of increased national fire danger and wildfires.

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

STATUS in FY2002: The SPBIS and Forest Health Decision Support Systems were installed on all districts as of September 2003.

✓ **Stock fish in Fullerton Lake when construction is completed. Continue restoration and enhancement projects.**

STATUS in FY2002: Repair of the Fullerton Lake Dam was essentially completed in FY2002. Forage and game fish were subsequently stocked in the lake.

✓ **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.**

STATUS in FY2002: A comparison of hunting days across all ownerships was completed in FY2002. The average gun hunting season for deer on the State WMAs was 21 days. Deer hunting seasons on the National Forest were typically 28 or 34 days (excepting Caney/Corney units which are 84 days). Discussions with the LDWF occurred regarding length of seasons, and dog/deer training on the National Forest in the spring/summer. In concert with the Department, no changes in the current season length or dog training was recommended to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commissioners in FY2002.

✓ **Evaluate the feasibility of developing an automated GIS system that would periodically determine the ROS class eligibility of the Forest.**

STATUS in FY2002: The automated GIS system has not yet been developed.

✓ **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.**

STATUS in FY2002: A local comment card was developed, however the Forest was selected to beta test a Region 8 comment card. The test period will begin October 1, 2003.

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

STATUS in FY2002: The Wilderness Meaningful Measures Standards have been completed. The compliance evaluation has not been 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.**

STATUS in FY2002: The Kisatchie National Forest continues to have an active conservation education program with school groups and organizations. Working with the Louisiana Office of Forestry and the Louisiana Forestry Association an interactive CD for teachers was developed. The CD is called "Louisiana's Forest". Working with The Louisiana Office of Forestry we produced the notebook and accompanying video "Louisiana's Forest" featuring Forest History, Economics, Ecology, and Management. This program is provided for teachers. Each teacher that completes the Project Learning Tree training is provided with a copy. This year's trip to the Louisiana School for the Deaf was a big success. This two day program features lessons in forest fire and forest ecology. The kids involved are from five to sixteen years. The Kisatchie made many presentations to numerous civic groups. Work with nonprofit organizations such as Handiwork continues. Handiwork is a sheltered workshop for the mentally and physically challenged.

✓ **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.**

STATUS in FY2002: The implementation of the challenge cost share agreement was continued. Results of an analysis of the suitability of areas on the Evangeline Unit were presented. Criteria that could be used to manage ORV use based on soil moisture conditions were provided. The growth in ORV ownership was projected for Louisiana.

Appendix A: Comparison of FY2002 Budget with Revised Plan Annual Budget

<u>Budget Line Item</u>	<u>Plan EBLI</u>	<u>Plan Budget Estimate</u>	<u>FY2002 EBLI</u>	<u>FY2002 Budget</u>	<u>FY2002 Difference</u>
Ecosystem Planning, Inventory, Monitoring					\$(76,629)
Ecosystem management	NFEM	\$ 674,918	N/A	\$ -	
Inventory and monitoring	***	-	NFIM	419,158	
Land management planning	***	-	NFPN	153,173	
Inventory and monitoring (Title VIII funds)	***	-	NFMP	-	
Recreation Use					(49,696)
Recreation management	NFRM	929,138	N/A	-	
Wilderness management	NFWM	51,744	N/A	-	
Heritage resources	NFHR	224,973	N/A	-	
Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness	***	-	NFRW	826,521	
Cooperative work - other	CWFS	33,746	CWFS	-	
Trails, Capital Improvements & Mtce.	***	-	CMTL	212,706	
Recreation fee collection	***	-	FEFR	-	
Fee Demo - collection	***	-	FDCL	13,000	
Fee Demo - projects	***	-	FDDS	90,000	
New Word Fund backlog maintenance	***	-	NWBM	-	
Rangeland Management					(323,472)
Range management	NFRG	67,492	NFRG	29,352	
Range vegetation management	NFRV	157,481	N/A	-	
Cooperative work - KV	CWKV	224,973	CWKV	79,816	
Wildlife and Fish Management					(1,062,457)
Wildlife habitat operations and improvement	NFWL	246,345	N/A	-	
Wildlife and fisheries management	***	-	NFWF	796,530	
Inland fish operations and improvement	NFIF	101,238	N/A	-	
T&E species operations and improvement	NFTE	595,053	N/A	-	

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<u>Budget Line Item</u>	<u>Plan EBLI</u>	<u>Plan Budget Estimate</u>	<u>FY2002 EBLI</u>	<u>FY2002 Budget</u>	<u>FY2002 Difference</u>
Cooperative work - kv	CWKV	1,998,883	CWKV	994,486	
Cooperative work - other	CWFS	28,122	CWFS	1,951	
Forestland Management					(3,669,877)
Timber management	NFTM	2,699,674	NFTM	1,666,931	
Forest vegetation management	NFFV	479,192	N/A	-	
Vegetation and watershed management	***	-	NFVW	550,141	
Reforestation trust fund	RTRT	123,735	RTRT	70,098	
Cooperative work - kv	CWKV	1,574,810	CWKV	334,432	
Timber roads - purchaser election	PEPE	59,618	PEPE	49	
Timber roads - purchaser construction	PUCR	1,349,837	N/A	-	
Timber salvage sales	SSSS	303,713	SSSS	-	
Forest health protection	***	-	SPS4	25,000	
Timber pipeline - Rec. backlog	***	-	TPCD	20,566	
Timber pipeline - Sale prep.	***	-	TPPS	-	
Soil, Water and Air Management					(287,651)
Soil, water, air operations	NFSO	73,116	N/A	-	
Soil and water improvement	NFSI	102,363	N/A	-	
Cooperative work - kv	CWKV	52,869	CWKV	26,906	
Cooperative work - other	CWFS	224,973	CWFS	121,328	
Hazardous waste management	***	-	HWHW	-	
Minerals and Geology Management					(57,052)
Minerals	NFMG	359,956	NFMG	289,060	
Land Ownership Management					(60,772)
Lands - real estate management	NFLA	208,100	N/A	-	
Landline location	NFLL	157,481	N/A	-	
Landownership management	***	-	NFLM	290,748	

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<u>Budget Line Item</u>	<u>Plan EBLI</u>	<u>Plan Budget Estimate</u>	<u>FY2002 EBLI</u>	<u>FY2002 Budget</u>	<u>FY2002 Difference</u>
Rural Development					15,700
Resource conservation and development	***	-	RCRC	5,000	
Economic recovery program	***	-	SPEA	10,700	
State fire assistance	***	-	SPCH	-	
Coop.lands forest health mgt.	***	-	SPCH	-	
Urban community forestry	***	-	SPUH	-	
Forest stewardship	***	-	SPST	-	
Construction					(123,616)
Recreation construction	CNRF	1,310,467	N/A	-	
Trail construction	CNTR	59,618	N/A	-	
Roads reconstruction and construction	CNRD	1,057,372	N/A	-	
Facilities capital improves & mtce	***	-	CMFC	756,283	
Roads capital improves & mtce	***	-	CMRD	1,454,194	
Facilities capital improves and mtce (Title IV funds)	***	-	CMC2	-	
Land Acquisition					(22,656)
Land acquisition - L&W Cons. Fund	LALW	56,243	LALW	31,424	
Forest Service Fire Protection					645,535
Forest fire pre-suppression	WFPR	984,256	WFPR	876,853	
Forest fuel reduction	WFHF	562,432	WFHF	1,215,882	
Hazardous Fuel Reduction (Title IV funds)	***	-	WFW3	40,000	
Infrastructure Management					(588,880)
Road maintenance and decommissioning	CNRM	912,265	CMII	603,068	
Maintenance of facilities	NFFA	229,472	N/A	-	
Backlog mtce of facilities (Title VIII funds)	***	-	DMDM	-	
Cooperative work - other	CWFS	393,702	CWFS	130,699	
Federal highway program	***	-	HTAE	7,000	

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<u>Budget Line Item</u>	<u>Plan EBLI</u>	<u>Plan Budget Estimate</u>	<u>FY2002 EBLI</u>	<u>FY2002 Budget</u>	<u>FY2002 Difference</u>
Federal Highway Public Roads	***	-	HTRP	-	
Operations & maintenance - FS quarters	***	-	QMQM	20,000	
Reforestation of forest lands	***	-	RIRI	-	
Roads and trails for states (10% Fund)	***	-	TRTR	126,737	
General Administration					1,728,615
General administration	NFGA	1,410,579	N/A	3,003,627	
Cooperative work - kv	CWKV	854,897	CWKV	357,118	
Cooperative work - other	CWFS	111,362	CWFS	61,659	
Timber - salvage sales	SSSS	53,993	SSSS	-	
Operations & maintenance - FS quarters	QMQM	22,497	QMQM	-	
Roads and trails for states (10% Fund)	***	-	TRTR	28,469	
Reforestation trust fund	***	-	RTRT	49,968	
Law enforcement	***	-	NFLE	57,004	
Senior citizens employment program	***	-	NFSD	529,740	
External Agreements					477,300
External agents	***	-	NFEX	477,300	
Total (in FY2002 dollars)		\$ 21,122,696		16,854,677	\$ (3,455,608)

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].

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Upper Coastal Plain</u>	<u>State – Louisiana</u>	<u>Kisatchie National Forest</u>
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	+	= =	= =
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, Minerals, Safety</i>
Calvin 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 & Hydrologist</i>
[Vacant]	<i>Forest Silviculturist</i>
[Vacant]	<i>Forest Botanist</i>
David Byrd	<i>Forest Fisheries Biologist</i>
[Vacant]	<i>Zone Geologist</i>
Don Ranne	<i>Forester/Lands & Special Uses</i>