

Timber Volume and Area Offered and Sold Item 11

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

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

FREQUENCY: Annually.

REPORTING PERIOD: 1988 to 2015

VARIABILITY: +/- 20 percent difference from Forest Plan annually or +/- 10 percent over a five-year period.

EVALUATION:

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

Since 1988 annual harvest levels have been well below the ASQ predicted in the Plan. In 2014-2015, the Forest offered and sold 23% of the planned annual ASQ and 28% of the planned annual harvest acres. Since 1988 the Forest has sold roughly 27% of the timber volume and 51% of the planned harvest acres predicted to be offered in the twenty-eight year period since the Forest Plan was approved. More acres were sold in Management area 3a than anticipated in the Forest Plan. This is not unexpected since treating stands in the urban interface is a priority and many of these acres are in MA 3a. Harvest increased in MA 3c in the last 6 years as the Forest aggressively managed developed recreation sites to maintain the health of the trees, salvage bark beetle mortality trees and remove hazard trees.

As shown in Figure 1 below, actual volume harvested has been less than what was offered and sold during the last 28 years.

In the past 28 years approximately 86% of the total volume offered was sold. All sales advertised in 2014-2015 were awarded.

The annual, 5-year, and 28-year harvest levels are outside the desired variability, as specified in the Forest Plan. In 28 years, 2002 was the only year the Forest met or exceeded the annual ASQ. The predictions of timber outputs will be updated during the Forest Plan revision process to reflect the current social and regulatory environment.

MONITORING RESULTS:

Table 1 – Timber Acres and Volume Sold By Management Area, Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 Compared to Forest Plan Predicted Annual Program

Forest Plan, p. III-80			Sold FY2014	
MA	Acres	Volume (MMBF)	Acres	Volume (MMBF)
1	1,528	14.57	620	5.6
2	1,439	12.01	331	1.4
3a	283	3.05	11	0.04
3b	385	3.62	0	0.00
3c	12	0.12	20.4	0.04
Total	3,647	33.37	982.4	7.08

Forest Plan, p. III-80			Sold FY2015	
MA	Acres	Volume (MMBF)	Acres	Volume (MMBF)
1	1,528	14.57	38.7	.2
2	1,439	12.01	653.4	3.9
3a	283	3.05	254	1.5
3b	385	3.62	0	0
3c	12	0.12	126.1	.8
Total	3,647	33.37	1072.2	6.4

Table 2 - Timber Acres and Volume Sold by Management Area, Fiscal Years 1988 to 2015 (28 years) Compared to Forest Plan Predicted Program

Forest Plan, p. III-80			Sold 1988 – 2015			
MA	Acres	Volume (MMBF)	Acres	Volume (MMBF)	% of Forest Plan	
					Acres/Volume	
1	42,784	408	18,816.7	91.43	44%	22%
2	40,292	336.3	15,942.4	83.02	40%	25%
3a	7,924	85.4	12,513	66.89	158%	78%
3b	10,780	101.4	326.4	3.55	3.0%	4%
3c	336	3.4	891.5	3.49	265%	103%
Total	94,822	934.5	48,490	248.38	51%	27%

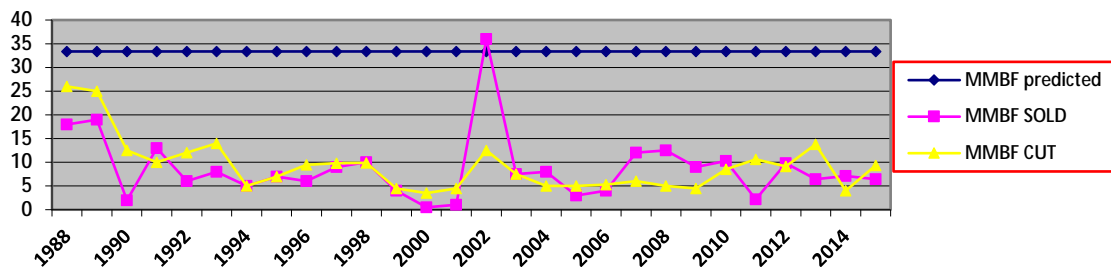


Figure 1 – Timber Volume Sold and Harvested, Fiscal Years 1988 to 2015 (28 years). Compared to Forest Plan Predicted Program ^{1/}