

Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board  
Timber Sustainability Working Group Tasking

15 April 2020

The Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board (Board) working group on Timber Sustainability is tasked to provide advice to the Forest Supervisor through the Board on the following two issues based upon the stated assumptions and constraints. Present your recommendations to the full Board by the June meeting for consideration and recommendation to the Forest Supervisor.

1. For the Black Hills NF commercial timber program develop and recommend a *no more than five-year pathway to meet sustainability* requirements based on the following constraints and assumptions. A five-year pathway will allow time for the forest to plan for longer term solutions, for example Forest Plan revision.
  - a. Constraints
    - i. Forest Service Law, policy, and regulation
      1. National Forest Management Act requirement to manage the forest in a sustainable manner.
    - ii. Existing structural stage objectives found in the Forest Plan as amended in 2005.
    - iii. Estimates of current distribution of structural stage conditions within the suitable base.
  - b. Assumptions
    - i. The Forest Inventory and Analysis data set released in January 2020 represents sound, statistically supportable science with which to make informed forest management decisions about our commercial timber program.
    - ii. The conclusions represented in the DRAFT General Technical Report (Graham, Battaglia, and Jain) are valid based on the FIA data, stated variable values for growth, mortality (removals), and standing volume. Additional scenarios can be run upon request.
    - iii. White spruce, unsuitable base ground pine, and off-forest timber represent viable alternate sources of commercial wood fiber.
2. Present a recommendation to the Forest Supervisor on:
  - a. The need to enter Forest Plan revision (or amendment).
  - b. If recommended, the timing on revision/amendment.