

Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board  
Timber Sustainability Working Group

**3. Regarding the FS law, policy, and regulation constraint. We need help understanding these constraints. Please provide summary briefs or documents in lay terms that can guide us with these. I know there are volumes of law, policy, and regulations. Providing these in full text would not be helpful because none of us have time to read or interpret them.**

- The Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act (MUSYA) of 1960 authorizes and directs national forests to be managed under principles of multiple use and to produce a sustained yield of products and services.
- The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 limits the sale of timber from each national forest lands to a quantity equal to or less than a quantity which can be removed in perpetuity on a sustained-yield basis.
- The Code of Federal Regulations directs the Forest Service to implement NFMA by:
  - Calculating the Long Term Sustained Yield Capacity (LTSYC) which is the sustainable amount that can be produced on suitable lands per site productivity and desired resource goals and objectives.
  - Calculating the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) which considers commercial material per utilization specifications (sawtimber and POL) from the suitable base. This material is included in the LTSYC but is less than LTSYC.
    - ASQ includes limitations and constraints such as budget levels and market conditions.
    - ASQ is applied on a decadal basis.
  - Calculating a Timber Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ) that includes ASC volume plus any additional volume not included in ASQ such as fuelwood or biomass.
- The LTSYC may not be exceeded during the period covered by the Forest Plan (this applies to chargeable volume which is volume used in yield calculations).
- In order to meet multiple use objectives ASQ may be exceeded for any decade covered by the forest plan.
- Plans to deviate from ASC must go through a public partition process as outlined in NFMA.
- Significant changes or prolonged changes to the ASQ should trigger a forest plan amendment or revision.
- Salvage and sanitation of damaged material may or may not be included in LTSYC or ASQ calculations and volume may be substituted for or sold in addition to ASQ. Salvage and sanitation volume that was included in the LTSYC and ASQ calculations (chargeable) counts towards ASQ.
- The 2012 Planning rule changed the terminology for sustained yield calculations. Calculation of ASC is no longer required. New terms are:
  - Sustained Yield Limit (SYL): The volume that may be produced in perpetuity on lands that may be suitable for timber production. Calculation of SYL is not limited to the suitable timber base or by land management desired conditions, goals, and objectives. The SYL is not a target but is a limitation on harvest, except when the plan allows for departure.
  - Projected Timber Sale Quantity (PTSQ): The estimated amount of timber meeting utilization standards for the period covered by the forest plan. This amount must be consistent with desired conditions, goals, and objectives but is not limited to the suitable timber base. PTSQ is not a target nor a limitation on timber harvest.
  - Projected Wood Sale Quantity (PWSQ): Includes products in the PTSQ and all other wood products. PWSQ is not a target nor a limitation on timber harvest.