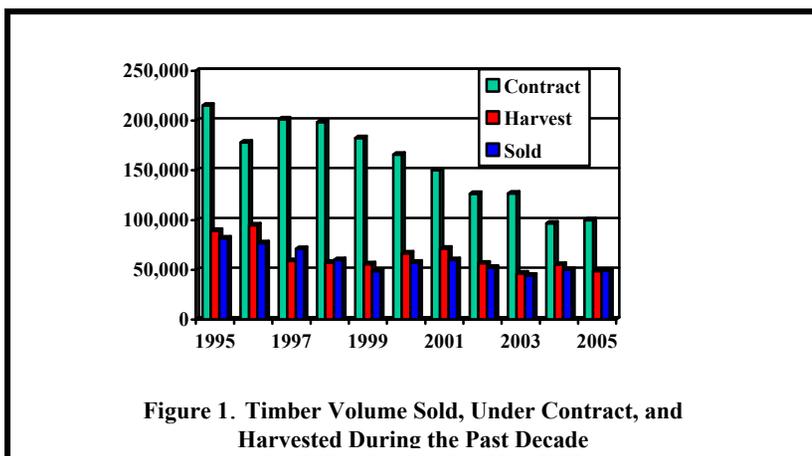


(1) Overview

Current Situation

Between October 1, 2004 and September 30, 2005 the SNF awarded 49,333 MMBF within eighteen timber sales to meet vegetative objectives on 5,443 acres (Table 1). In addition during this reporting period six NEPA decisions that propose to harvest 138 mmbf on 24,343 acres were approved (Table 2). Implementation of these decisions began in 2006 and will continue into 2007 and beyond.

Superior NF Timber Program Statistics



Revised FP Expected Outcome (Annual)		Sold		Harvested	
MBF	Acres	MBF	Acres	MBF	Harvested
102,000	13,200	49,333	5443	48,590	4,230

Est Avg Annual Vol	Estimated Volume	Estimated Treatment Acres	# of NEPA Documents
102,000	138,000 MBF	24,343	6

Treatment Type	Acres
Reforestation 1/	5,596
Timber Stand Improvement 2/	4,121
Wildlife Seeding & Planting	46
Wildlife Prescribed Burning	41
Inland Fish Tree Planting	6
Animal Control	1,000
Total	10,810

1/ Planting, seeding, site preparation for natural regeneration
2/ Precommercial thinning, release, pruning

Vegetative Response to Past Timber Treatments

To ensure vegetative objectives are achieved through timber treatments, it's important to understand how landscapes have responded to previous harvest activities. Subsequently, in early October 2005 vegetation surveys within previously treated timber sales were conducted across the Forest. The intent of this documentation is to provide managers and resource specialists insight on how today's landscapes can be expected to respond to similar future management actions. Such knowledge should strengthen NEPA decisions, particularly discussions on predicted environmental effects resulting from proposed actions.

Objectives of these visits were to (1) Assess how vegetation has responded to managed treatments over the years including stand regeneration and (2) Classify the stands according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) native plant community classification (NPCC). Timber stands were selected for analysis based on forest type, age, and how well stands represented the forest at large. Forest types of most interest were black spruce because of its slow regeneration following treatments and pine because of Forest Plan emphasis to increase pine forest types. Attributes documented included regeneration success (planted and natural regeneration) and vegetation frequency and cover. The age of stands visited ranged from 3 to 11 years old. Following is an example of one of the sites visited and documented. More complete documentation is found in appendix I.

SITE 1

ID: District: 06 **Compartment:** 14 **Stand:** 30: **Stand ID:** 09090600014030. **Size:** 36.11 acres. **Year of Origin:** 1999
Past Treatment: Clear cut **Forest Type:** 12, Lowland Conifer.
DNR Native Plant Community Classification: FPn62a



Site 1-Stocking Survey Transect 2



Site 1-Stocking Survey Transect 1

Vegetation Classification

In the CDS database this stand is typed as mixed swamp conifer. Based on our use of the DNR *Native Plant Community Classification*, this stand was classified as **FPn62a: System**, Forested Rich Peatland System; **Class**, Northern Rich Spruce Swamp; **Type**, Rich Black Spruce Swamp (basin). Based on cover, this site was dominated by Black Spruce, Tamarack, Alder, Leatherleaf, Lady Fern, and Bluejoint). See appendix D for more complete species lists.

Stand Regeneration

At the time of this survey, site one was in its sixth year of regeneration after timber harvest. The original stocking survey was conducted in 2003 and the stand was found to be <16% stocked with black spruce. In 2005, our surveys found the stand to be 32% stocked with black spruce. The stand was also 29% stocked with *Larix laricina* and included minimal *Pinus strobus* and *Abies balsamea* on an upward slope near the edge of the stand. Minimal deciduous trees were observed with 30% total stocking for *Populus tremuloides*, *Betula papyrifera*, and *Acer rubrum*.

Summary

Of the stands visited, black spruce regeneration within black spruce forest type was of specific interest, in particular, its capability to naturally regenerate itself within a harvest area. Site 1 - lowland conifer type proved to be most successful at self-regeneration among the stands at the time of our post harvest visits. The greater spruce abundance in this year's survey compared to the 2003 survey (16% vs 32%) is most likely a reflection of the seedlings being more visible because of greater height. Spruce regeneration surveys should be conducted at year 7 rather than year 5. Based on the DNR Native Plant Community Field Guide, it appears few forest types, when subjected to catastrophic disturbance (fire, wind throw, timber harvest) will *naturally* revert back to the pre-disturbance composition quickly. Black spruce is one of these forest types: when cut, there appears to be a rapid tamarack response, followed by a slower response of black spruce. Obviously a seeding and/or planting program accelerates this transition period.

Stewardship Contracting

There were no stewardship contracts awarded during 2004 or 2005. However, the SNF will be awarding two stewardship contracts during FY 2006. A Stewardship contract is where we contract with private persons or public or private entities to perform services to achieve land management goals, such as road and trail maintenance or obliteration to restore or maintain water quality. With a stewardship contract, not only are bids made on the timber stumpage but also on the "other" work needed to be done, which could be many other non-timber related items. The Nira and Peeler will be Stewardship sales.

(2) Monitoring Activities

Monitoring Question

To what extent is timber management occurring on lands suitable for such production?

Monitoring Driver(s): (36 CFR 219.12(k)[5][ii]. Lands identified as not suited for timber production are examined at least every 10 years to determine if they have become suited; and that, if determined suited, such lands are returned to timber production;

Applicable Monitoring Activity, Practice, Or Effect Measured	Methods	When Monitored	Location or Project Area
What changes to suitability status were determined as a result of project level analysis? Record acres of suitability changes	Record the acres of unsuitable lands inventoried. Use Common Stand Exam (CSE), FS Veg, or remote sensing technology. Use FACTS to determine acres of timber management on suitable lands, and to identify any unsuited lands that were treated or planned for treatment in NEPA decisions.	October	(1) Tomahawk EA (2) Inga South Project area. (3) Dunka EA (4) Virginia EIS (5) Eastside Thinning EA (6) Comp. 63/64 Salvage CE (7) Kadunce EA

Monitoring Question

Are harvested lands adequately restocked within 5 years after clear cutting or final removals in seed tree or shelterwood harvest?

Monitoring Driver(s): (36 CFR 219.12(k)[5][i] and 36 CFR 219.27(c)(3). Lands are adequately restocked as specified in the forest plan.

Applicable Monitoring Activity, Practice, Or Effect Measured	Methods	When Monitored	Location or Project Area
Lands adequately restocked within 5 years after clearcutting, 5 years after final overstory removal in shelterwood cutting, 5 years after the seed tree removal cut in seed tree cutting, or 5 years after selection cutting. (Based on Total Area Harvested) . Adequate stocking is defined in Table S-TM-4 of the Forest Plan.	Stocking Surveys (1st and 3rd or 3rd and 5th) The R9 FSH 2409.26b is currently being restored & updated. This document will provide the protocol for stocking surveys. FACTS database will store results of stocking surveys.	(1) Field data collection throughout year. (2) Evaluated-Reported at end of FY 05.	Activities to be monitored each year will be associated with many different NEPA decisions.

Monitoring Question

How much even-aged management (especially clearcutting) should be used, and in what forest types should it be used?

Monitoring Driver(s): Forest Plan TABLE APP-D3 p.D-3 and EIS Table 2-9 p2-31.

Allowable Clearcutting Proportion in actual and Proposed Harvest Treatments.

Applicable Monitoring Activity, Practice, Or Effect Measured	Methods	When Monitored	Location or Project Area
Percent of treated acres clearcut Adherence to clear cutting treatments to forest types as listed in Table G TM-7 (Forest Plan)	Timber sale reviews will provide the harvest areas (in acres) on a site-by-site basis. Data bases such as FACTS, Forest MIH AMLS's etc Measures will be quantitative. The Forest Wildlife Biologist, Ecologist and Silviculturist will perform evaluation of the appropriateness of the size limits.	October	Clearcut units are expected to occur on a large number of sites across the Forest every year.

Monitoring Driver(s): (36 CFR 219.12(k)[5][iii]: " Maximum size limits for harvest areas are evaluated to determine whether such size limits should be continued" **and Standard S-TM-2.** Harvest using even-age regeneration methods (clearcutting, seed tree, shelterwood) may create a temporary forest opening no larger than 1,000 acres in size.

Applicable Monitoring Activity, Practice, Or Effect Measured	Methods	When Monitored	Location or Project Area
Large patch temporary openings greater than 1000 acres.	Timber sale reviews will provide the harvest areas (in acres) on a site-by-site basis. . Data bases such as FACTS, Forest MIH AMLS's etc Measures will be quantitative. The Forest Wildlife Biologist, Ecologist and Silviculturist will perform evaluation of the appropriateness of the size limits.	October	Large Clearcut units are expected to occur on sites across the Forest every year.

Monitoring Driver(s) Objective O-VG-20. Create large patch temporary openings up to 1000 acres through management activities. (For monitoring temporary openings a *large patch is defined as a patch greater than 300 acres*). AND **O-VG-21** Increase average size of temporary forest openings. Reduce amount of forest edge created through vegetation management activities, while still retaining a range of small patches and edge habitat.

Applicable Monitoring Activity, Practice, Or Effect Measured	Methods	When Monitored	Location or Project Area
Large patch temporary forest openings (harvest units) up to 1000 acres. (1) Area in acres. (2) # of patches 300 ac or larger (3) Avg Patch Size.	Timber sale reviews will provide the harvest areas (in acres) on a site-by-site basis. Data bases such as FACTS, Forest MIH AMLS's etc will provide this information. Measures will be quantitative. The Forest Wildlife Biologist, Ecologist and Silviculturist will perform evaluation of the appropriateness of the size limits.	October	Large Clearcut units are expected to occur on sites across the Forest every year.

Monitoring Question

To what extent do output levels and location of timber harvest and mix of saw timber and pulpwood compare to those levels projected ?

Monitoring Driver(s): Objective. O-TM-1. Provides commercial wood for mills in Northern Minnesota. Material is harvested from the NF to supply sawmills, veneer mills, paper mills, & mills constructing engineered wood products. The Forest also provides posts, poles, & logs for log home construction.

Applicable Monitoring Activity, Practice, Or Effect Measured	Methods	When Monitored	Location or Project Area
Annual Maximum Sell Volumes in MMBF	STARS stores this data. (TIM & TSA Beginning in FY 06)	October	(1) Virginia EIS (2) Tomahawk EA (3) Kadunce EA (4) East side Thinning EA (5) Compartment 63/64 Salvage CE (6) Dunka EA

(3) Evaluation and Conclusions.

Desired Conditions/Objectives

Monitoring Driver(s): (36 CFR 219.12(k)[5][ii]. Lands identified as not suited for timber production are examined at least every 10 years to determine if they have become suited; and that, if determined suited, such lands are returned to timber production.

2005 Accomplishment An update of the timber suitability analysis was completed with the 2004 Superior NF Plan Revision.

2005 Accomplishment Contribution Towards Desired Conditions & Objectives

A. FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION				
Record of Decision (7/04)	(DECADE 1)		2005 Accomplishments and/or Condition	
Existing Condition	FP Desired Condition, Objective, or S&G's	FEIS Projected or Proposed Condition	Actual Accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
960,573 Tentative Suitable Acres. From FP Table APP-A2. pA-9.	944,900 Suitable Acres*		No changes in timber Suitability in 2005.	Same
* Change in acres is due to improved mapping and change in economic criteria.				

B. ACHIEVEMENT OF FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION			
% Achievement of Decade 1 Direction/Condition		Trend	
Actual accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions	Actual accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
No change	Same	No change	Same

Monitoring Driver(s): (36 CFR 219.12(k)[5][i]. Lands are adequately restocked as specified in the forest plan.

2005 Accomplishment. 4184 acres were certified as adequately stocked in 2005.

2005 Accomplishment Contribution Towards Desired Conditions & Objectives

A. FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION				
Record of Decision (7/04)	(DECADE 1)	2005 Accomplishments and/or Condition		
Existing Condition	FP Desired Condition, Objective, or S&G's	Actual Accomplishments Implemented – Certified as Adequately restocked *	Additional restocking needs generated **	Balance of acres needing certification as of
3,198 acres certified as of 7/04	Lands are adequately restocked	4,184 acres certified as of 09/30/05	3,672 acres harvested but not certified as of 09/30/05	2,686 acres harvested but not certified as of 09/30/05 (3198ac-4185ac+3672ac)
*Treated acres certified as meeting stocking standards per Forest Plan. ** Additions due to final harvests, etc 07/04 thru 09/05				

B. ACHIEVEMENT OF FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION			
% Achievement of Decade 1 Direction/Condition		Trend	
Actual accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions	Actual accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
TBD. 5 th year stocking surveys under Revised Forest Plan treatments to begin in 2009.	TBD. 5 th year stocking surveys under Revised Forest Plan treatments to begin in 2009.	Forest is meeting the NFMA obligation to adequately restock within 5 years after final harvest.	TBD. 5 th year stocking surveys under Revised Forest Plan treatments to begin in 2009.

Monitoring Driver(s): Monitoring Driver(s): Forest Plan TABLE APP-D3 p.D-3 and EIS Table 2-9 p2-31.

Allowable Clearcutting Proportion in actual and Proposed Harvest Treatments

2005 Accomplishment. Approximately 86% of the harvest treatments within 3 sales identified in NEPA decisions under the Forest Plan were clearcut. However, when awarded sales from recent NEPA decisions are factored in, the percent of clearcut harvest drops to 66.8%.

2005 Accomplishment Contribution Towards Desired Conditions & Objectives

A. FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION				
Record of Decision (7/04)	(DECADE 1)		2005 Accomplishments and/or Condition	
Existing Condition	FP Desired Condition, Objective, or S&G's	FEIS Projected or Proposed Condition	Actual Accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
98% of total acres treated would be clearcut (1992 to 2002).		Approx 63 % of total acres treated would be clearcut	88% of stands clearcut	68.3% of stands clearcut

B. ACHIEVEMENT OF FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION			
% Achievement of Decade 1 Direction/Condition		Trend	
Actual accomplishments implemented (accumulative)	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions (accumulative)	Actual accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
28%*	85%*	UP	UP
*a. Difference between ROD EC & Decade 1 is 35% (98%-63%) b. Difference between ROD EC & '05 accomplish is 10% (98%-88%) c. 10%/35%=28%.	*a. Difference between ROD EC & Decade 1 is 35% (98%-63%) b. Difference between ROD EC & '05 accomplish & NEPA is 30% (98%-68%) c. 30%/35%=85%.		

Monitoring Driver(s): (36 CFR 219.12(k)[5][iii]. Maximum size limits for harvest areas are evaluated to determine whether such size limits should be continued **and Standard S-TM-2.** Harvest using even-age regeneration methods (clearcutting, seed tree, shelterwood) may create a temporary forest opening no larger than 1,000 acres in size.

2005 Accomplishment. None of the sales completed in 2004 or 2005 approached 1000 acres in size.

2005 Accomplishment Contribution Towards Desired Conditions & Objectives

A. FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION				
Record of Decision (7/04)	(DECADE 1)		2005 Accomplishments and/or Condition	
Existing Condition	FP Desired Condition, Objective, or S&G's	FEIS Projected or Proposed Condition	Actual Accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
Patches >1000 acres=0		NTE 1000 acres	No patches > than 1000 acres	No patches > than 1000 acres.

B. ACHIEVEMENT OF FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION			
% Achievement of Decade 1 Direction/Condition		Trend	
Actual accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions	Actual accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
100%	100%	Acceptable	Acceptable

Monitoring Driver(s) Objective O-VG-20. Create large patch temporary openings up to 1000 acres through management activities. (For monitoring temporary openings a *large patch* is defined here as a patch greater than 300 acres).

2005 Accomplishment. During 2005 parts of three sales intended to implement the Forest Plan were actually harvested and none of the temporary opening were larger than 300 acres. However, within proposed treatments identified in recent NEPA decisions at least eight treatments would result in large temporary openings. Within the Virginia EIS four treatments would approach 300 acres when considering adjacent existing young forest (0-9 yrs old). Within the Tomahawk project area four proposed treatments greater than 300 acres each and would result in 3018 acres or an average patch size of 755 acres. A portion of the Tomahawk treatments would occur next to existing young stands.

2005 Accomplishment Contribution Towards Desired Conditions & Objectives

A/B. FOREST PLAN DIRECTION and ACHIEVEMENT OF /FEIS CONDITION					
Management Direction/FEIS Conditions		2005 Accomplishments and Conditions			
FP Objective	FEIS Projected Condition at end of Decade 1	Actual Accomplishments implemented	% Achievement of Decade 1 Projected Condition	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions	% Achievement of Decade 1 Projected Condition
Create large patch temporary openings (harvest units) up to 1000 acres.	(1) # of patches 300 ac or larger; 17 (2) Area; 6,900 acres	Harvested (1) # of patches: 300 ac or larger; 0 (2) Area; 0 acres.	Harvested (1) # patches 300 ac or larger: 0% (2) Area; 0%.	Harvested, Sold, or Planned (1) # of patches: 300 ac or larger; 8 (2) Area; 4218 acres.	Harvested, Sold, or Planned (1) # patches 300 ac or larger: 61%.% (2) Area; 47%

Monitoring Driver(s) Objective O-VG-21 Increase average size of temporary forest openings. Reduce amount of forest edge created through vegetation management activities, while still retaining a range of small patches and edge habitat.

A. FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION				
Record of Decision(7/04)	(DECADE 1)		2005 Accomplishments and/or Condition	
Existing Condition	FP DC, Objective, or S&G's	FEIS Projected or Proposed Condition	Actual Accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
Temporary Forest Opening Size. Average Size= 30 Acres		Temporary Forest Opening Size. To increase	Temporary Forest Opening Size. Harvested Average Size= 42	Temporary Forest Opening Size. Planned Average Size= Approx 33 acres.

B. ACHIEVEMENT OF FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION			
% Achievement of Decade 1 Direction/Condition		Trend	
Actual accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions	Actual accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
Harvested Average Size= 100%	Harvested/Sold/Planned Average Size= 100%	Upward	Upward

Monitoring Driver(s): Objective. O-TM-1. Provides commercial wood for mills in Northern Minnesota. Material is harvested from the NF to supply sawmills, veneer mills, paper mills, & mills constructing engineered wood products. The Forest also provides posts, poles, & logs for log home construction.

2005 Accomplishment. Between October 1, 2004 and November 3, 2005 eighteen timber sales were awarded to treat 5443 acres representing about 55 MMBF. Of the awarded sales, three sales had harvesting that totaled 274 acres or 3.2 MMBF during this time frame. Moreover when the six NEPA decisions signed during the reporting period are fully implemented, the total area treated should be 24,343 acres which would result in 138 MMBF being offered for sale. It must be recognized however that actual acres treated and volume sold may not equal planned acres or volume. Number and percentages shown in the tables below will be adjusted annually to reflect actual treatment acres and volume.

2005 Accomplishment Contribution Towards Desired Conditions & Objectives

A. FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION				
Record of Decision(7/04)	(DECADE 1)		2005 Accomplishments and/or Condition	
Existing Condition	FP DC, Objective, or S&G's	FEIS Projected or Proposed Condition	Actual Accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
Avg Annual Sell Volumes ('92 -'02) 75 MMBF Area Harvested ('92-'02) 78,000 Acres =7800 ac per yr average From Table 2-9. p 2-31.		Volume 1020 MMBF =102 MMBF per yr avg Area Harvested 131,900 Acres =13,200 ac per yr avg From Table 2-9. p 2-31	Volume 48.5 MMBF Area Harvested 4230 Acres	Volume Harvested/Sold 48.5 MMBF Area Harvested 4,320 Acres Volume Planned 138 MMBF Area Planned 24,343 Acres

% Achievement of Decade 1 Direction/Condition				Trend	
Actual accomplishments implemented		Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions		Actual accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
Avg Annual	Decade 1	Avg Annual	Decade 1		
Volume Harvested		Volume Harvested		Static	Upward
48%	5%	48%	5%		
Area Harvested		Area Harvested			
32%	3%	32%	3%		
		Volume Harvested & Planned			
		TBD	18%		
		Area Harvested & Planned			
		TBD	22%		

Standards and Guides

Standard & Guide Descriptor	Standard & Guide Description	Compliance	Remarks
S-TM-1	Plan, schedule, and harvest timber to meet O TM-1 only on land identified as suitable for timber management: Land Suitability Classes 500, 510, and 520.	Yes	
G-TM-1	On land identified as not suitable for timber management, allow timber harvest if necessary for salvage or to enhance or achieve desired conditions or multiple-use objectives other than O-TM-1.	Yes	Monitor
G-TM-2	Clearcutting may be used to regenerate the following forest types: jack pine, red pine, spruce-fir, oak, aspen, aspen spruce/ fir, paper birch, and lowland conifers.	Yes	
S-TM-4	Five years after clearcutting or final removals in seed tree or shelterwood harvest, stands must be adequately restocked. The minimum trees per acre necessary to adequately restock forests after even-aged tree harvest are shown in Table S-TM-4 by forest type group.	Yes	
G-TM-5	In stands 20 acres or larger that were regenerated with clearcuts, retain a minimum of 5% of the stand in legacy patches of live trees where no harvest occurs. Wherever possible these should be at least two acres in size. These legacy patches will protect soil organic matter and associated organisms and remaining vegetation will aid in the re-colonization of the adjacent managed area.	Yes	Monitor to ensure extent & placement of legacy patches are meeting objectives.

(4) Necessary Follow-up and Management Recommendations

Monitoring Driver	Follow-up Actions
(36 CFR 219.12(k)[5][ii].	Unsuitable lands (such as inoperable, steep slopes, ELT 18's, etc) must be addressed as part of the analysis and implementation. If unsuitable lands are identified, ensure any changes in suitability are documented in NEPA decisions & appropriate databases.
Forest Plan TABLE APP-D3 p.D-3 and EIS Table 2-9 p2-31.	Current NEPA analyses (initiated since 7/2004) – insure integration and implementation of proper mix of treatments by management area; monitor during implementation for adaptive management opportunities. Continue to track cumulative treatments on a Forest-wide basis
(36 CFR 219.12(k)[5][ii].	Accomplish required 10-year review of <u>all</u> non-suitable lands to confirm appropriate classification. Change classifications based on new information/data (such as improved soils classification, changes due to legislative actions, etc). <u>Track changes in suitability in both directions i.e., non-suitable lands that are now suitable and previous suitable lands that are now non-suitable.</u> Next scheduled 10-year review in 2014. Insure appropriate land suitability classification review during project/mid-level analyses; make needed changes as the opportunity allows and document/track in FACTS/FSVeg databases.
(36 CFR 219.12(k)[5][i]	Monitor progress towards adequate restocking through 1 st and 3 rd year survival/stocking surveys. Identify and re-treat lands which are on a trajectory away from meeting minimum standards and re-evaluate/re-treat to insure compliance by 5

Monitoring Driver	Follow-up Actions
	years after final harvest. Document in FSVeg/FACTS databases.
(36 CFR 219.12(k)[5][iii].	Evaluate, both during project analysis and during implementation, whether maximum size limits for harvest areas are effective in meeting Forest Plan/ecological objectives. Document through the Forest IDT. Adaptive management.
Objective O-VG-20 & 21	Current NEPA analyses (initiated since 7/2004)-insure implementation, where conditions allow, of large patch openings (300-1000 ac); proactively manage temporary forest openings to provide for increased average size while reducing amount of "edge" and retaining a range of sizes/edge habitat. Monitor during implementation for adaptive management opportunities. Continue to track cumulative treatments on Forest-wide basis.
Objective O-VG-20 & 21	Analyze and track by individual NEPA analysis and FACTS database; monitor progress and effectiveness during the year to facilitate needed changes in course/direction so as to meet Forest Plan objectives.

Monitoring Driver	Recommended Management Actions
OTM-1	Insufficient data collection and data management has resulted in an overestimation of acres available for treatment in vegetation project planning. <u>Supporting rationale.</u> Insufficient data collection & field reconnaissance during the NEPA analysis has resulted in actual treatment acreage 20-25% less than planned. (ie inaccurate crown closures, mistyped stands).
OTM-1	Improve the incorporation of design features and mitigation in vegetation project planning. <u>Supporting rationale.</u> Better incorporating design features and mitigation measures during project NEPA analysis will reduce overestimation of treatment acres.
(36 CFR 219.12(k)[5][i].	Within lowland black spruce treatments re-evaluate regeneration success 7 or 8 years following treatment. <u>Supporting rationale.</u> Monitoring has shown that spruce regeneration within lowland black spruce stands apparent 7 to 8 years following treatment. This regeneration may not be readily apparent during 5th year surveys.

(5) Collaborative Opportunities To Improve Efficiency And Quality Of Program

Collaborator/Partner	Monitoring Activity	Accomplishment
Interested publics and/or likely appellants	Adherence to FP S&G'S & Other NEPA requirements.	Interested publics and/or likely appellants
Local Communities	Stewardships	