

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

Monitoring Question

How close are projected outputs and services to actual outputs and services?

Monitoring Conducted

Planned Management Prescriptions Costs

36 CFR 219.12(k) [3]; (CFR 2004) Documentation of costs associated with carrying out the planned management prescriptions as compared with costs estimated in the Forest Plan.

The Forest Plan states that the Superior National Forest (SNF) provides commodity resources in an environmentally sustainable and acceptable manner to contribute to the social and economic sustainability and diversity of local communities. The SNF had total expenditures of about \$25 million dollars in FY-2004 and about \$27.1 million dollars in FY-2006. This budget provides funding for programs supporting the multiple uses of the SNF, including watershed, timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, wilderness, and other values.

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?

Timber Outputs Vs Projected Levels

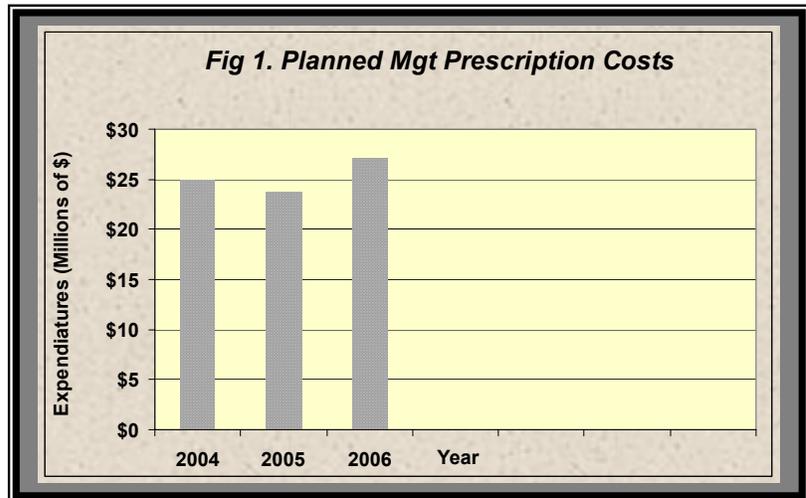
36 CFR 219.19.12(k) [1] (as of July 2004). A quantitative estimate of performance comparing outputs & services with those projected by the Forest Plans. **36CFR 219.7(f) (as of July 2004)**. A program of monitoring and evaluation shall be conducted that includes consideration of the effects of National Forest Management on land, resources, and communities adjacent to or near the National Forest being planned and the effects upon National Forest management from activities on nearby lands managed by other Federal or other government agencies or under the jurisdiction of local governments. (D-TM-1, O-TM-1)

The Forest Plan Revision Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) provides a projection of a 21:79 saw timber to pulpwood ratio resulting from Forest Plan implementation in the first decade of the Forest Plan. It provides a quantitative estimate of performance comparing outputs and services with those projected by the Forest Plan. This ratio is an indication of the level of vegetation management and timber production in terms of the quality of wood products from the SNF, which can be compared by other governmental forest managers to the types of timber products resulting from their management. The sawtimber to pulpwood ratio relates directly to D-TM-1 and O-TM-1 (Forest Plan p. 2-20). In Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 the ratio was about 11:89 and in FY 2006 the ratio was about 15:85.

Evaluation and Conclusions

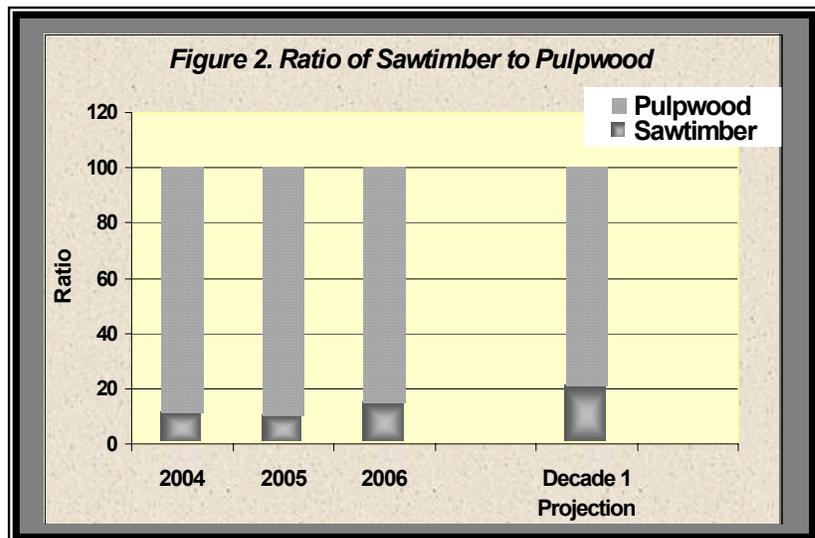
Planned Management Prescriptions Costs

An indicator of how the SNF is moving toward desired conditions is the total expenditures and funding that the Forest is committing to Forest-wide resource management and Forest Plan implementation. Total expenditures (funding) for FY 2006 were about \$27,059,000 which represents a 13% increase from the 2005 budget of \$23,720,000. Much of this increase can be attributed to a \$3,300,000 increase in facilities. When facilities are discounted, the 2006 budget is similar to 2005 which represents about a 5% decrease in expenditures from the FY 2004 level of \$25,000,000 which is part of an ongoing trend in reduced expenditures/funding.



Timber Outputs Vs Projected Levels

The ratio of sawtimber to pulpwood for decade 1 as shown in the Forest Plan Revision FEIS, Table 2-11 provides a quantitative measure for comparing outputs and services. This ratio provides an indication of the value of the timber products produced on the Superior National Forest. During 2006 the ratio of sold sawtimber to pulpwood was 15:85, the FY 2004 ratio was 11:89 and the FY 2005 ratio was 10:90. These ratios are lower than the projected 21:79 ratio for decade 1 in the FEIS but are trending slightly upwards towards the 2014 projected condition.



Standards and Guidelines

The Forest Plan contains no Standards or Guidelines directly tied to Social and Economic Stability.

Necessary Follow-up Actions and Management Recommendations

The Forest Interdisciplinary Team identified two Follow-up Actions:

- * As the Superior National Forest proceeds with Forest Plan implementation, the SNF will be striving to determine appropriate monitoring data needs and methods to indicate trends showing to what extent the SNF provides commodity resources and non-commodity opportunities in an environmentally acceptable manner that contribute to the social and economic sustainability and diversity of local communities.
- * The SNF will also strive to determine appropriate monitoring data needs and methods to indicate trends for how forest management activities are maintaining the desired characteristics of the areas and species of interest (traditionally and culturally) as identified in research and/or by interested communities and individuals. These efforts would be measured and evaluated/reported on about a 5 year frequency.

Collaborative Opportunities To Improve Efficiency And Quality Of Program

None were identified.

Summary Conclusions

- * Total expenditures (funding) for FY 2006 were about \$27,059,000 which represents a 13% increase from the 2005 budget of \$23,720,000.
- * During 2006, the ratio of sold sawtimber to pulpwood was 15:85., It was 11:89 in FY 2004 and 10:90 in FY 2005.