

Monongahela National Forest

Administrative Correction 7

November 12, 2008

Changes to Monitoring Matrix Tables IV-3a in Chapter IV

Administrative corrections are defined at 36 CFR 219.7(b) and may be made at any time and are not plan amendments or revisions. Administrative corrections include the following:

- 1) Corrections and updates of data and maps;
- 2) Corrections of typographical errors or other non-substantive changes;
- 3) Changes in the monitoring program and monitoring information;
- 4) Changes in timber management projections or other projections of uses and activities;
- 5) Other changes in the plan document or set of documents that are not substantive changes in the plan components.

Forest Plan Chapter IV, pages IV-6 and IV-7

The Monongahela Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) was revised and released in September 2006. Thus, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 was the first year that Forest resources and activities were monitored under the Monitoring Plan found in Chapter IV of the 2006 Forest Plan. During preparation of the FY 2007 Annual Monitoring Report, the Forest Planner and Forest Specialists came across a number of changes they felt were needed in the Chapter IV Monitoring Matrix tables in order to better capture what was actually being monitored on the Forest and what was driving the need to monitor. Those changes are captured below.

Forest Plan Chapter IV, page IV-6, Monitoring Matrix Table IV-3a, Item #1, Outputs and Services: How close are projected outputs and services to actual, including revenues returned to the U.S. Treasury, payments in lieu of taxes and monetary returns to State and local governments?

Change to: How close are outputs and services projected for Forest Plan implementation to actual outputs and services?

Rationale for Change: There are no projected outputs or services in the Forest Plan for Treasury revenues, PILT, or other monetary returns to State or local governments. The rates and applicability of these returns are determined by Congress, not the Forest Plan. Therefore, we changed this monitoring item to focus more on outputs and services that are a result of Forest Plan implementation designed to meet measurable Plan objectives and target accomplishments. However, we may continue to monitor PILT and revenue returns to the State/Counties if: 1) they continue to exist, and 2) there is an identified public or agency interest.

Forest Plan Chapter IV, page IV-6, Monitoring Matrix Table IV-3a, Item #7, Timber: Are harvested lands adequately restocked after five years?

Change to: Are regeneration harvest units adequately restocked after five years?

Rationale for Change: We are clarifying that this item only applies to regeneration harvest units, as per the 1976 National Forest Management Act (NFMA). Restocking success should be measured against silvicultural prescription objectives for each stand.

Forest Plan Chapter IV, page IV-7, Monitoring Matrix Table IV-3a, Item #8, Timber: To what extent is timber management occurring on lands suitable for such production?

Change to: To what extent is commercial harvest occurring on lands suited or not suited for timber production? Is there any need to adjust the suitable timberlands on the Forest?

Rationale for Change: We are clarifying this item so that it meets the original intent under the NFMA, which is to track commercial harvest that is occurring on lands not suited for timber production to see if there was a need to change the suitability status of those lands. Because suitability works both ways, we are also tracking whether timber activities can be implemented on lands considered suited for timber production.

Forest Plan Chapter IV, page IV-7, Monitoring Matrix Table IV-3a, Item #9, Timber: How much even-aged management (especially clear cutting) should be used, and in what forest types should it be used?

Change to: Are even-aged harvest units, particularly clearcuts, exceeding the 40-acre size limit established under the NFMA? If they are, is there a need to adjust the size limit to better accommodate Forest Plan management objectives and practices?

Rationale for Change: We needed to clarify this monitoring item to meet its original intent under the NFMA. The original intent of this item was to ensure that Forests were keeping within prescribed maximum harvest size limit for even-aged timber management, particularly clearcuts. Conversely, if the size limit is being repeatedly exceeded, we need to identify if there are reasons that would lead us to adjust the size limit so that the Forest Plan can be effectively implemented.

Forest Plan Chapter IV, page IV-7, Monitoring Matrix Table IV-3a, Item #10, Wildlife Management Indicator Species:

Change to: Remove “Wildlife” in the first column, so that this item simply addresses “Management Indicator Species” or MIS.

Rationale for Change: The Forest has an aquatic MIS (eastern brook trout) as well. There is no legal or other reason to limit this item to just “Wildlife”.

The above corrections are changes in the Forest Plan that are not substantive changes in the Plan components (36CFR 219.7(b)(5)). The changes are not substantive because they represent refinements or clarifications of the original language to better address what we are monitoring on the ground and the reasons for that monitoring. The actual monitoring being done, the protection and information it provides, and effects on Forest Plan implementation remain the same.

Corrected pages IV-6 and IV-7 are attached.

Table IV-3 is in two parts. The first part, IV-3a, displays monitoring items that are required through the NFMA.

Table IV-3a. Monitoring Matrix - Required Monitoring Items

Resource, Activity, Practice, Effect To Monitor	Monitoring Question	Driver - NFMA	Precision and Reliability	Measuring Frequency	Evaluation and Reporting Frequency
1. Outputs and Services	How close are outputs and services projected for Forest Plan implementation to actual outputs and services?	A quantitative estimate of performance comparing outputs and services with those projected by the forest plan.	A	Annual	Annual
2. Costs	How close are projected costs to actual costs?	Documentation of costs associated with carrying out planned management prescriptions as compared with costs estimated for forest plan implementation.	A	Annual	Annual
3. Insects and Disease	Are insect and disease populations compatible with objectives for restoring or maintaining healthy forest conditions?	Destructive insects and disease organisms do not increase to potentially damaging levels following management activities.	A/B	Annual	Annual
4. Insects, Diseases, and Disturbance Processes	To what extent is the Forest managing undesirable occurrences of fire, insect and disease outbreaks through prevention, suppression, and integrated pest management?	Wildfires, destructive insects and disease organisms do not increase to potentially damaging levels following management activities.	A/B	1-5 years	1-5 years
5. Recreation Motor Vehicles	To what extent is the Forest providing RMV opportunities; what are the effects of RMVs on the physical and social environment; and how effective are forest management practices in managing RMV use?	Off-road vehicle use shall be planned and implemented to protect land and other resources, promote public safety, and minimize conflicts with other uses of the NFS lands. Forest planning shall evaluate the potential effects of vehicle use off roads and classify areas and trails of NFS lands as to whether or not off-road vehicle use may be permitted.	A/B	1-5 years	1-5 years
6. Forest Productivity	Are the effects of Forest management,	Documentation of the measured prescriptions	A/B	1-5 years	1-5 years

Resource, Activity, Practice, Effect To Monitor	Monitoring Question	Driver - NFMA	Precision and Reliability	Measuring Frequency	Evaluation and Reporting Frequency
	including prescriptions, resulting in significant changes to productivity of the land?	and effects, including significant changes in productivity of the land.			
7. Timber	Are regeneration harvest units adequately restocked after five years?	Lands are adequately restocked as specified in silvicultural prescriptions.	A	Annual	Annual
8. Timber	To what extent is commercial harvest occurring on lands suited or not suited for timber production? Is there any need to adjust the suitable timberlands on the Forest?	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.	A	10 years	10 years
9. Timber	Are even-aged harvest units, particularly clearcuts, exceeding the 40-acre size limit established under the NFMA? If they are, is there a need to adjust the size limit to better accommodate Forest Plan management objectives and practices?	Maximum size limits for even-aged harvest areas are evaluated to determine whether such size limits should be continued.	B	Years 5 and 10	Years 5 and 10
10. Management Indicator Species (MIS)	To what extent is Forest management moving toward desired habitat conditions for MIS and species associated with MIS habitats?	Monitor management indicator species and their relationships to habitat affected by management. This monitoring will be done in cooperation with state fish and wildlife agencies, to the extent practicable.	A/B	Annual	1-5 years

The second part of the table displays monitoring items that are tied to achieving Forest-wide direction and management practices found in Chapters II and III of the 2006 Forest Plan. There are undoubtedly items in this table that potentially overlap each other or items found in Table IV-3a, and we may adjust these in time as the monitoring plan is implemented and evaluated. This matrix and the Monitoring Implementation Guide are, to a certain degree, intended to be dynamic and flexible, as one of the important keys to an effective monitoring and evaluation plan is the ability to determine a need for change and to adapt to that need over time.