Appendix C - Norwood Project Monitoring

The Forest Plan identified specific items to be monitored, and the Monitoring Implementation Guide (USDA Forest Service, 2005) describes monitoring protocols that have been established for numerous resources, as directed by the Forest Plan. The Monitoring Implementation Guide identified frequency and methods of data collection, unit of measure, sampling design, expected precision and reliability, reporting frequency, data storage location, and costs for each monitoring item identified by the Forest Plan. This guide is subject to periodic adjustments. For additional information, refer to the Forest Plan (Chapter 4), and the Monitoring Implementation Guide.

The ID Team compiled additional monitoring objectives/items summarized below to provide emphasis and specifics regarding particular resource monitoring needs in the project area. All monitoring objectives/items will be prioritized by the responsible line officer if funding is not available to implement all objectives/items listed or referenced in the Monitoring Plan.

Hydrology and Soils

BMP monitoring will occur during and after management activities. BMP (Best Management Practices) implementation monitoring will occur during management activities primarily through contract administration. BMP effectiveness monitoring will occur 1-5 years after management activities have ceased and units will be picked randomly from available sample pool. Monitoring will focus on the roads associated with the units, as past BMP monitoring of logging activities revealed that there is generally no problems with the units and roads are usually where the concerns are. District personnel will conduct the monitoring.

Forest level monitoring for soil compaction has occurred since 1998, and the Forest currently plans to continue that level of monitoring, as funds are available. This project may not be specifically monitored as sites are selected across the forest and only a few projects are monitored.

Monitoring for detrimentally impacted soils will also be completed. Units will be picked randomly from a sample pool 1-5 years after management activities have ceased. One hundred pace transects will be completed in selected units. Units within the project area will be monitored only if these units are randomly selected.

- All fuels treatments would be recorded in the FACTS database.
- Fuel inventory surveys would be conducted following harvest activities to ensure objectives are being met.

Sensitive Plants

Monitor the effect of riparian habitat improvement project and noxious weed treatment on sensitive species habitat, monitor effect of noxious weed treatment on known sensitive species occurrence. Five days for 5 years. District personnel will conduct the monitoring.

Noxious Weeds

The potential spread and the effectiveness of noxious weed treatments will be monitored. Timely treatment is crucial in addressing noxious weed infestation.

Fuels

Monitor smoke conditions during burning operations to meet with the provisions of the Clean Air Act. District personnel will utilize the SASEM (Smoke Model), or an equivalent program would be used to assure provisions are being met. The impacts of burning on metropolitan areas such as Rapid City would be assessed at the time of burning.