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1920.12, Page 4, 31-35	For plans approved or revised under a prior planning regulation, plan amendments initiated during the transition period (until May 9, 2015) (36 CFR 219.17 (b)(2)) may be initiated and completed under the provisions of the prior planning regulations or they may conform to the 2012 Planning Rule provisions. Any plan amendments initiated <u>after May 9, 2015</u> must conform to the <u>applicable provisions of the</u> 2012 Planning Rule provisions.	Any plan amendments initiated after May 9, 2015, must conform to the applicable provisions of the 2012 Planning Rule.	Concur
1921.02- objectives, Page 8 12-25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustain the multiple uses of the National Forest System land’s renewable resources in perpetuity while maintaining the long-term health and productivity of the land <u>and contributing to the social, cultural and economic vitality of affected communities for current and future generations</u>, consistent with the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (36 CFR 219.1(b)). 2. Promote the ecological integrity of national forests and grasslands through the collaborative, science-informed development, revision, or amendment of land management plans (36 CFR 219.1(c)). 3. <u>Broaden and deepen engagement of the American people in national forest planning.</u> 4. <u>Improve the resilience of national forests to climate change and other stressors.</u> 5. <u>Improve the efficiency, relevance, and effectiveness of forest planning.</u> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustain the multiple uses of the NFS land’s renewable resources in perpetuity while maintaining the long-term health and productivity of the land and contribute to the social, cultural and economic vitality of affected communities for current and future generations, consistent with the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (36 CFR 219.1(b)). 2. Promote the ecological integrity of National Forests and Grasslands through the collaborative, science-informed development, revision, or amendment of land management plans (36 CFR 219.1(c)). 3. Broaden and deepen engagement of the American people in National Forest planning. 4. Improve the resilience of National Forests to climate change and other stressors. 5. Improve the efficiency, relevance, and effectiveness of forest planning. 	Concur
1921.03-policy, Page 9 Line 17-18	4. <u>It is the goal of the Forest Service to complete plan revisions in two to four years from initiation of assessment to plan approval.</u> Plan revision, from initiation of the assessment to final plan approval, should be completed if funding is available within two to four years.	4. The Forest Service’s goal is to complete plan revisions within 4 years from initiation of assessment to plan approval.	Concur with minor revisions
1921.04d - Forest, Grassland,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The supervisor of the national forest, grassland, or prairie or other comparable administrative unit is responsible for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adapting, periodically, the plan to changing situations through 	f. Guiding the planning process with a goal of completion of plan revisions within 4 years.	Concur with minor revisions

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Prairie, or Other Comparable Administrative Unit Supervisor Page 11 10-34	<p>amendments, administrative changes, and corrections.</p> <p>b. Ensuring required assessments, monitoring reports...</p> <p>c. Coordinating with research stations...</p> <p>d. Using the best available scientific information...</p> <p>e. Providing meaningful public participation opportunities early and throughout the planning process</p> <p>f. Guiding the process to complete plan revisions within two to four years as funds allow.</p> <p>g. Conducting all aspects of land management planning (assessment; development, amendment, or revision; monitoring) in a timely and efficient manner and within the fiscal capability of the unit.</p> <p><u>h. Ensuring the integration of assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring into an adaptive management framework that facilitates continued management and planning improvements and changes as suggested by monitoring results.</u></p>	<p>.</p> <p>.</p> <p>h. Ensuring the integration of assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring into an adaptive management framework that facilitates continued management and planning improvements and changes as suggested by monitoring results.</p>	
1909.12, 05- Adaption, definitions Page 5 Line 22-27	<p><u>Adaptation: an initiative to reduce the vulnerability of natural or human systems to expected climate change effects. Adaptation strategies include the following:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Building resistance to climate-related stressors.</u> 2. <u>Increasing ecosystem resilience by minimizing the severity of climate change impacts, reducing the vulnerability and/or increasing the adaptive capacity of ecosystem elements.</u> 3. <u>Facilitating ecological transitions in response to changing environmental conditions.</u> 	<p><i>Three definitions—Adaption, Adaptive capacity, and climate change adaption – have been added to the definitions. Much of the recommended addition is included in “Climate Change Adaptation.”.</i></p> <p>Adaptation. Adjustment in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment. Adaptation includes, but is not limited to, maintaining primary productivity and basic ecological functions such as energy flow; nutrient cycling and retention; soil development and retention; predation and herbivory; and natural disturbances. Adaptation occurs primarily by organisms altering their interactions with the physical environment and other organisms.</p> <p>Adaptive capacity. The ability of ecosystems to respond, cope or adapt to disturbances and stressors, including environmental</p>	Concur with minor revisions

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		<p>change, to maintain options for future generations. As applied to ecological systems, adaptive capacity is determined by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Genetic diversity within species in ecosystems, allowing for selection of individuals with traits adapted to changing environmental conditions. 2. Biodiversity within the ecosystem, both in terms of species richness and relative abundance, which contributes to functional redundancies. 3. The heterogeneity and integrity of ecosystems occurring as mosaics within broader-scaled landscapes or biomes, making it more likely that some areas will escape disturbance and serve as source areas for re-colonization. <p>Climate change adaptation. Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. This adaptation includes initiatives and measures to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems against actual or expected climate change effects. Adaptation strategies include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building resistance to climate-related stressors. 2. Increasing ecosystem resilience by minimizing the severity of climate change impacts, reducing the vulnerability and/or increasing the adaptive capacity of ecosystem elements. 3. Facilitating ecological transitions in response to changing environmental conditions. 	
1909.12, 05-definitions Page 5 Line 29-33	<p><u>Adaptive management: Adaptive management is a structured, iterative process for decision making to reduce uncertainty through structured hypothesis testing and monitoring of outcomes. This approach supports decision making that meets management objectives while simultaneously accruing information to improve future management by altering the plan or plan implementation. Adaptive management encompasses the three phases of planning: assessment, planning, and monitoring.</u></p>	<p>Adaptive Management. Adaptive management is the general framework encompassing the three phases of planning: assessment, plan development, and monitoring (36 CFR 219.5). This framework supports decision-making that meets management objectives while simultaneously accruing information to improve future management by adjusting the plan or plan implementation. Adaptive management is a structured, cyclical process for planning and decision-making in the face of</p>	<p>Concur with minor revisions.</p>

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1909.12, 05- definitions Page 6 Line 7-18	<p><u>Broader Landscape. The broader landscape always includes lands beyond the plan area. The spatial scale of the broader landscape to be considered will vary depending upon the elements of social, economic and ecological sustainability in question. Spatial scales to be considered should be sufficiently large to adequately address the interrelationships between conditions in the plan area and the broader landscape, but not so large that these interrelationships lose relevance in guiding land management planning. Spatial scales should consider the extent that social, economic and ecological attributes of the broader landscape support, or are supported by conditions in the plan area. Examples of factors that may affect the determination of appropriate spatial scales include: public interest in one or more specific resources or uses (demand), access to these resources or uses, available commercial markets, plant and/or animal species/community distribution and abundance, watersheds, landform patterns, connectivity (physical and social), fire and other forms/patterns of disturbance.</u></p>	<p>uncertainty and changing conditions with feedback from monitoring, which includes using the planning process to actively test assumptions, track relevant conditions over time, and measure management effectiveness</p> <hr/> <p>FSH 1909.12, section 05 Broader Landscape. The broader landscape for land management planning always includes lands beyond the plan area. The spatial scale of the broader landscape varies depending upon the elements of social, economic, and ecological sustainability in question.</p> <p>FSH 1909.12, section 11.1 – Spatial Scales for the Assessment Spatial scales for the assessment may vary by topic for several reasons.</p> <p>1. Spatial scales to be considered by topic should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Be sufficiently large to adequately address the interrelationships between conditions in the plan area and the broader landscape, but not so large that these interrelationships lose relevance in guiding land management planning; and b. Consider the extent to which social, economic, and ecological attributes of the broader landscape support, or are supported by, conditions in the plan area. <p>2. Factors that may affect the determination of appropriate spatial scales include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Characteristics of public access to plan area resources or uses that are of public interest, b. Characteristics (composition, structure, function, and connectivity) and geographic scale of the relevant ecosystems, c. Economic value of plan area resources and available commercial markets for them, d. Fire and other forms or patterns of disturbance, e. Landform patterns or landtype associations, f. Plant, animal, species, or community distribution and abundance, 	<p>Concur with minor revisions.</p> <p>The final directives provide guidance on spatial scales for social and economic elements, in addition to ecological elements. The section on spatial scales was moved from section 12.13, “Spatial Scales for Assessing Ecosystem Integrity” to section 11.1 and broadened in scope.</p>

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- g. Public interest in one or more specific resources or uses,
- h. Social connectivity to National Forest System lands, and
- i. Watersheds.

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definitions
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Line 7-18

Coordination. Processes mandated by the National Forest Management Act (16 USC 1604(a)) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 USC 1712(b)) that require the Forest Service to work closely with state and local governments and Indian tribes on national forest planning and to give major consideration to potential impacts of national forest plans on state and local plans and land use planning and management programs of and for Indian tribes.

Coordination is addressed in Chapter 40, sections 44.1, "Reviewing Relevant Planning and Land Use Policies of Other Public Agencies," and 44.2 "Interaction with Other Governmental Entities."

Concur with an alternative approach.

44.1 - Reviewing Relevant Planning and Land Use Policies of Other Public Agencies

The Responsible Official shall ensure that the Interdisciplinary Team reviews the relevant planning and land use policies of other public agencies to understand and give consideration to those agencies' objectives. The Responsible Official is not required to ensure that a Forest Service land management plans is in accord with state, local or Tribal resource and land management plans. In the course of considering those agencies' objectives, however, the Responsible Official shall consider ways the Forest Service land management plan could contribute to common objectives, address impacts, resolve or reduce conflicts and contribute to compatibility between Forest Service and other agencies' plans.

Instead of treating "coordination" as a defined term, the directives, in Chapter 40, provide context and more specificity regarding responsibilities for coordination with other public entities and approaches to coordination.

Some Tribal or local governments or other public agencies do not have formal land management plans or may have plans that are not current. Where current plan policies are not available, the Responsible Official may consider other sources of information to ensure a clear understanding of the objectives of other agencies

44.2 - Interaction with Other Governmental Entities

Describing the participation of other governments in the public participation strategy provides an opportunity for the Responsible Official to clarify roles and ensure open lines of communication throughout the planning process. The public participation strategy should reflect the preferences of other agencies for

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participation in the planning process so the Responsible Official can respond to resource or schedule constraints. The public participation strategy should also reflect that it is a goal of the planning process is to identify common objectives with Tribal, State, and local governments and find opportunities to resolve or reduce conflicts and address impacts related to national forest management.

It is critical that the public participation strategy clearly state the approaches that will be used for interaction with other governmental entities to provide clear expectations for all parties. Interaction with other governmental entities occurs in several ways, including the following:

1. Collaboration. Special emphasis should be given to encouraging participation by State, local, and Tribal governments, including identifying opportunities for public collaborative processes and opportunities for participation in such processes.
2. Cooperation. The planning process should build upon existing cooperative relationships with State, local and Tribal governments and other Federal agencies. The Responsible Official should consider designating a single Agency primary point of contact for intergovernmental cooperation during the planning process.
3. Coordination. Coordination is mandated by the Planning Rule (219.4(b)) and:
 - a. From NFMA, “the Secretary of Agriculture shall develop, maintain and, as appropriate, revise land and resource management plans for units of the National Forest System, coordinated with the land and resource management planning processes of

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State and local governments and other Federal agencies," (16 U.S.C. 1604(a)).

b. From FLPMA, "[i]n the development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary of Agriculture shall coordinate land use plans for lands in the National Forests with the land use planning and management programs of and for Indian Tribes by, among other things, considering the policies of approved Tribal land resource management programs" (43 U.S.C. 1712(b)).

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1909.12, 05- Desired Conditions, definitions Page 7 Line 23-33	<p><u>Desired conditions. A desired condition is a description of specific social, economic, and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, toward which management of the land and resources should be directed. Desired conditions must be described in terms that are specific enough to allow progress toward their achievement to be determined, but do not include completion dates. (36 CFR 219.7(e)(1)(i)). Desired conditions are key plan components and fundamental to determining assessment and monitoring strategies and requirements. Desired conditions and other plan components should be developed as part of the public outreach and collaborative process of planning. Desired conditions should define the geographic and temporal scale of measurement. Desired conditions should identify how they may differ from existing conditions. Desired conditions are achievable goals, and may reflect social, economic or ecological attributes, including ecosystem processes and functions.</u></p> <p>Plan components. * * *</p>	<p>Desired conditions. For the purposes of the land management planning regulation at 36 CFR part 219, and this Handbook, a description of specific social, economic, and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, toward which management of the land and resources should be directed. Desired conditions must be described in terms that are specific enough to allow progress toward their achievement to be determined, but do not include completion dates (36 CFR 219.7(e)(1)(i)). Desired conditions are achievable, and may reflect social, economic, or ecological attributes, including ecosystem processes and functions.</p> <p>22.11 – Desired Conditions Desired conditions describe the aspirations or visions of what the plan area (or portions thereof) should look like in the future and drive the development of the other plan components. * * *</p>	<p>Concur with Alternative Approach</p> <p><i>Modified the definition in zero code.</i></p> <p><i>In addition in Chapter 20, section 22.11. The direction for “Desired Conditions” was clarified to include the concepts in the FACA-recommended definition as well as the addition of “cultural.”</i></p>
1909.12, 05, definitions Page 14 Line 6	<p>1. <u>Desired conditions.</u> A description of specific social, economic, <u>cultural</u> and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, toward which management of the land and resources should be directed. Desired conditions must be described in terms that are specific enough to allow progress toward their achievement to be determined, but do not include completion dates.</p>	<p>Desired conditions, as key plan components, are fundamental to determining monitoring strategies and requirements. Desired conditions should define the geographic scale, where applicable, used to measure change associated with them. Responsible Officials should include sufficiently detailed descriptions of desired conditions so they are useful to determine the purpose and need for many projects such as restoration projects and activities. Other plan content may identify, if applicable, how desired conditions may differ from existing conditions.</p> <p>When designing desired conditions, the Responsible Official should take into account the condition of the land adjacent to the plan area and the larger surrounding landscape. Consider the desires by adjacent agencies, landowners, interested and affected individuals, or communities for the plan area. Because desired conditions affect current and future generations, they should be developed as part of the public outreach and collaborative process of planning.</p>	

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1909.12, 05-, definitions Page 7 Line 23-33	<u>Mitigate: to cause to become less harsh or hostile</u>	Mitigate. To avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate the adverse environmental impacts associated with an action.	Concur with minor revision
1909.12, 05- NRV, definitions Page 12 Line 25-33	<p><u>Natural Range of Variation.</u> Spatial and temporal variation in ecosystem characteristics under historic disturbance regimes during the reference period. The reference period considered should be sufficiently long to include the full range of variation produced by dominant natural disturbance regimes, often several centuries, for such disturbances as fire and flooding and should also include short-term variation and cycles in climate.</p> <p>Natural range of variation (NRV) is a term synonymously with historic range of variation or range of natural variation. NRV is a tool for assessing the ecological integrity, and does not necessarily constitute a management target or desired condition. The NRV can help identify key structural, functional, compositional and connectivity characteristics, for which plan components may be important for either maintenance or restoration of such ecological conditions.</p>	<p>Natural range of variation (NRV). The variation of ecological characteristics and processes over scales of time and space that are appropriate for a given management application. In contrast to the generality of historical ecology, the NRV concept focuses on a distilled subset of past ecological knowledge developed for use by resource managers; it represents an explicit effort to incorporate a past perspective into management and conservation decisions (adapted from Weins, J.A. et al., 2012). The pre-European influenced reference period considered should be sufficiently long, often several centuries, to include the full range of variation produced by dominant natural disturbance regimes such as fire and flooding and should also include short-term variation and cycles in climate. The NRV is a tool for assessing the ecological integrity and does not necessarily constitute a management target or desired condition. The NRV can help identify key structural, functional, compositional, and connectivity characteristics, for which plan components may be important for either maintenance or restoration of such ecological conditions.</p>	Concur with expanded explanation
1909.12, 10-, Page 6, line 4 (page 12 of doc)	<p>Recommendation:</p> <p><u>Chapter 40 should be moved and should become the new Chapter 10</u></p>	<p>Moved guidance for science and adaptive management to the zero code, clarifying applicability of those provisions to all chapters. Chapter 40 addresses solely public participation, in both substance and procedure.</p>	Concur with need for reorganization; used alternative approach
1909.12, 11	The term “available” means that the information is currently available in a form useful for	11.21 – Public Participation for the Assessment	Concur with minor

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assessments Page 7 Line 31-36	the planning process without further data collection, modification, or validation. <u>In keeping with section 219.4 of the Planning Rule (the section governing assessments) the Forest Service should seek out available information related to social, economic and cultural needs and values.</u> The assessment report should identify information gaps, which the responsible official could fill in through inventories, plan monitoring, or research.	Public notice that the assessment is beginning is required in the Federal Register, newspaper of record, and online (see FSH 1909.12, ch. 40, sec. 42 for additional detail on notice requirements). The Planning Rule requires the Responsible Official to provide opportunities for other Agency staff, governmental entities, Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations, and the public to provide existing information for the assessment. Public participation during the assessment also presents an opportunity for people to develop a common understanding of the complex topics across landscapes that are relevant to planning on the unit. Relationships established during the assessment process may contribute to the readiness of both the Agency and the public to focus on priority topics during the planning process. Refer to 36 CFR 219.4 and FSH 1909.12, chapter 40, section 42.11 for additional direction and guidance on public participation and assessments. In addition, the Responsible Official should engage the public and governmental entities by: 1. Using traditional and non-traditional sources of information including user-generated content (such as blogging, social media, and wikis). 2. Reaching out to a variety of communities, including low-income and underserved communities, communities with a social, economic, or cultural connection to the plan area, and communities of interest (such as mountain bikers) to obtain their perspective on: a. Social, economic, and cultural needs and values; and b. Ecological sustainability and plant and animal communities.	revisions.
1909.12, 11.11- content of the assessment Page 10 Line 28-31	The assessment report should provide a clear base of information related to management concerns and potential plan components. The report should make important information about the plan area accessible to the public and the responsible official to inform the planning phase. <u>To complete the assessment, the Forest Service staff should collect existing information from a variety of communities including low-income and underserved communities and other communities with a social, economic or cultural connection to the plan area.</u>		
1909.12, 11.11-	<u>e. Identify key assumptions, risks, areas of uncertainty, and how the assessment can</u>	11.3 – Assessment Report for Plan Development and Plan	Concur with revisions

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content of the assessment Page 12 Line 10-12	<u>inform the development of the monitoring program, for example by suggesting hypotheses for testing, as discussed in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 40, Section 41.</u>	Revision * * * 8. identifies key assumptions, risks, areas of uncertainty, and how the assessment can inform the development of the monitoring program (for example by suggesting assumptions for testing, as discussed in FSH 1909.12, zero code, section 07;	
1909.12, 11.12 - Public Participation for the Assessment Page 12 Line 19-20	The responsible official shall provide opportunities to the public and governmental entities for participating in the assessment process (36 CFR 219.4(a)). It must be clear to the public when these opportunities will occur and how information or feedback is to be provided. <u>Publish a notice in the Federal Register and conduct other appropriate public notice at the beginning of the assessment process to inform the public that an assessment for plan revision has started.</u>	11.31 – Public Participation for the Assessment Public notice that the assessment is beginning is required in the Federal Register, newspaper of record, and online (see FSH 1909.12, ch. 40, sec. 42 for additional detail on notice requirements).	Concur with minor edits
1909.12, 12.14, Identifying and Assessing Key Ecosystem Characteristics of Terrestrial, Aquatic, and Riparian Ecosystems Page 21 Line 25	<u>7. The characteristic is useful for future monitoring including focal species.</u>	12.13 Identifying and Selecting Key Ecosystem Characteristics * * * 4(d). The characteristic is useful for monitoring trends, including monitoring of the status of focal species (FSH 1909.12, ch. 30, sec. 32.13c).	Concur with minor edits
1909.12, 12.15a	<u>The NRV is one of two elements of the ecological integrity.</u> NRV does not constitute a	12.14a Describing the Natural Range of Variation	Concur with minor

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- Describing the Natural Range of Variation (NRV) Page 22 Line 3-37	<p>management target or desired condition. <u>NRV can be compared to current conditions, allowing the responsible official to identify important compositional, structural, and functional elements to inform the development of plan components.</u> The NRV is an analysis tool for assessing the ecological integrity of selected key ecosystem characteristics (FSH 1909.12, zero code, sec. 05 defines NRV). The NRV represents the distribution of conditions under which ecosystems developed. In this Handbook, the NRV approach is a tool for assessing ecological integrity and does not constitute a management target or desired condition. The NRV approach gives context for evaluating the integrity of current conditions, and identifying important compositional, structural, and functional elements that may warrant restoration. The responsible official may, however, use alternatives to the NRV approach for assessing ecological integrity as described in section 12.15b</p> <p><u>The responsible official should describe the NRV through review and synthesis of available information relevant to the plan area and selected key ecosystem characteristics of terrestrial, aquatic, and riparian ecosystems. Information may include scientific journal articles, historical records and photographs, early surveys, pollen and sediment records, tree ring analyses, or descriptions of reference areas. The responsible official may adapt the NRV analysis from another NFS unit and make adjustments to fit the local conditions. Refer to Wiens et al. 2012 for further discussion and examples. The responsible official may, however, use alternatives to the NRV approach for assessing ecological integrity as described in section 12.15b.</u></p> <p>When used, the NRV should be described as a range of conditions over the time period selected for analysis. Some conditions may have occurred frequently, and others may have occurred rarely. When describing the NRV, the responsible official may consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the reference period. A reference period is the time period used to estimate the NRV under the relevant disturbance regimes within the plan assessment area. The time period may vary for different characteristics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The temporal scale considered should be sufficiently long to include the full range of variation produced by dominant natural disturbance regimes. This often encompasses several centuries for such disturbances as fire and flooding; b. The reference period should generally be a period to include the time before <u>prior to the extensive depopulation of Native Americans resulting</u> 	<p>When assessing whether an ecosystem has integrity, the Interdisciplinary Team should use the natural range of variation as the ecological reference model, unless the past information regarding the selected key ecosystem characteristic is lacking, or the system is no longer capable of sustaining key ecosystem characteristics identified as common in the past based upon likely future environmental conditions.</p> <p>The natural range of variation (NRV) is part of the definition of ecological integrity (FSH 1909.12, zero code, sec. 05). A description of the natural range of variation provides insight into the temporal dynamics and key characteristics of an ecological system and provides a context for assessing whether an ecosystem has integrity. For instance, the natural range of variation can be compared to existing conditions and recent disturbance processes, allowing the Interdisciplinary Team to identify important compositional, structural, and functional ecosystem elements for developing plan components (FSH 1909.12, ch. 20, sec. 23.11a).</p> <p>The natural range of variation does not represent a management target or desired condition. A description of the natural range of variation alone is not sufficient to determine whether there is ecological integrity.</p> <p>The Interdisciplinary Team may use alternatives to the natural range of variation approach for assessing integrity as described in section 12.14b, when past information for key ecosystem characteristics is missing or the system is no longer capable of sustaining key ecosystem characteristics identified as common in the past.</p> <p>The Interdisciplinary Team should describe the natural range of variation based on review and synthesis of available information for selected key ecosystem characteristics of terrestrial, aquatic,</p>	<p>revisions and expanded approach</p>

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	<p>from the introduction of European diseases and the subsequent widespread European or European-American settlement; and c. Human influences during the reference period should be described.</p>	<p>and riparian ecosystems. Information used to determine the natural range of variation may be drawn from many sources including scientific journal articles, historical records and photographs, early surveys, pollen and sediment records, tree ring analyses, or descriptions of reference areas. The Interdisciplinary Team may adapt the natural range of variation analysis from another National Forest System unit for specific ecosystems that are shared and make adjustments to fit the local conditions. Refer to Wiens et al. 2012 for further discussion and examples. The natural range of variation should be described as a range of conditions and dominant processes occurring over the period selected for analysis. Some conditions may have occurred frequently, and others may have occurred rarely.</p>	
<p>1909.12, 12.23 – Assessing Water Resources Page 28 Line 23-25</p>	<p>7. Any <u>Essential spawning, rearing and other fish habitat for native fish assemblages designated by NOAA Fisheries or similar designations by US Fish and Wildlife Service or state or tribal fish and wildlife agencies;</u></p>	<p>12.23 – Assessing Watersheds and Water Resources * * *</p> <p>5. Essential fish habitat of managed fisheries identified by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS);</p> <p>6. Spawning, rearing, and other necessary habitat for native fish assemblages identified by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State, or Tribal fish and wildlife agencies;</p>	<p>Concur with minor edits</p>
<p>1909.12, 12.32 – Consideration of Stressors Page 31 Line 16-19</p>	<p><u>The responsible official should use existing climate change tools such as vulnerability assessments, scenario planning and the National Roadmap for Responding to Climate Change during the consideration of stressors and should identify information gaps and uncertainties when assessing current and future stressors.</u></p>	<p>2. The Interdisciplinary Team should use existing climate change information such as vulnerability assessments and scenario planning during the evaluation of stressors and should identify information gaps and uncertainties when evaluating existing and future stressors. Note that climate change is both a system driver and a stressor. In addition, the Responsible Official may consider the following resources:</p> <p>a. Forest Service guidance on climate change available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/climatechange/</p> <p>b. Forest Service climate change resource center website at http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc/</p> <p>c. USDA, Forest Service, 2012, Future of America’s Forest and</p>	<p>Concur with alternative approach</p> <p>Replaced the reference to national roadmap with an expanded list of sources.</p> <p>Section 12.32, “Consideration of Stressors,” was</p>

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		<p>Rangelands: Forest Service 2010 Resources Planning Act Assessment, Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-87. Washington, DC. 198 p. Available online at http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/41976/</p> <p>d. US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) Assessment at http://scenarios.globalchange.gov/scenarios/climate</p> <p>e. National Climate Assessment – Forest Sector Technical Report—Vose, James M.; Peterson, David L.; Patel-Weynand, Toral, eds. 2012. Effects of climatic variability and change on forest ecosystems: a comprehensive science synthesis for the U.S. forest sector. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-870. Portland, OR:U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 265 p. Available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/research/climate-change/assessment/</p> <p>f. Daniels, A.E. et al 2012, Climate Projections FAQ, Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-277WWW. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 32 p. Available online at http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/40614</p>	<p>further developed and now includes a subsection addressing climate change information. The recommended language was largely incorporated into 12.32(2).</p>
<p>1909.12, 12.52a - Identifying Potential Species of Conservation Concern Page 34</p>	<p>12.52 - Identifying Potential Species of Conservation Concern</p> <p>The regional forester is responsible for identifying the species of conservation concern (SCC) for the plan area and determining that the identification of each SCC for a plan area is based upon the best available scientific information (36 CFR 219.9(c)). <u>Determination of species of conservation concern is the responsibility of the regional forester.</u></p> <p><u>The role of the responsible official is to provide the regional forester with information about species occurrence and their capability of persisting in the plan area, and to identify potential SCC for the plan area based on best available scientific information (36 CFR 219.9(c)). The regional forester should determine SCCs early enough so that their integration, including identification of key ecological conditions, expedites the planning process.</u></p> <p><u>Public Engagement</u></p> <p><u>To increase efficiency and efficacy, the Regional Forester and responsible official are</u></p>	<p>12.52 – Identifying Species of Conservation Concern</p> <p>The rule requires the Responsible Official to identify potential species of conservation concern and assess existing information for them in the assessment (36 CFR 219.6 (b)(5)). Direction about potential species of conservation concern and species of conservation concern is found in two chapters of this Handbook as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responsibilities of Responsible Official for potential species of conservation concern during the assessment are found in section 12.52a of this Handbook. 2. Requirements for developing the list of potential species of conservation concern are found in section 12.52b of this Handbook. 3. Criteria for identifying a species of conservation concern are found in section 12.52c of this Handbook. 	<p>Concur with alternative approach.</p> <p>Included recommended intent in a revised structure</p>

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	<p><u>encouraged to leverage expertise in local, state and Tribal natural resource agencies in the identification of potential species of conservation concern. The regional forester and responsible official shall engage the public in developing the list of potential SCCs and invite public input on the identified potential SCCs upon release of the assessment. The Regional Forester should consider this input when determining SCCs.</u></p> <p>All potential SCCs must meet the following mandatory requirements for their identification as an SCC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The species must be a native species in the plan area, with a plan area occurrence record for the species within the last 10 to 15 years; and 2. The best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long term in the plan area. This information may be derived from the scientific literature, species studies, habitat studies, analyses of information obtained from a local area, and/or the result of expert opinion or panel consensus. <p>***</p> <p><u>The responsible official shall identify and evaluate information relevant to: 1) knowledge of occurrence in the plan area and 2) substantial concern about a species' capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area based on best available scientific information as filters during the assessment process, to aid in the efficiency and efficacy of the process used to identify potential SCCs</u></p>	<p>4. Species to consider when identifying potential species of conservation concern are found in section 12.52d of this Handbook.</p> <p>5. Guidance regarding the Regional Forester's identification of the species of conservation concern is found in FSH 1909.13, chapter 20, section 21.22a.</p> <p>6. Guidance on evaluating new information on species of conservation concern is found in FSH 1909.12, section 21.22b.</p> <p>12.52a – Responsibilities for Species of Conservation Concern During the Assessment</p> <p>The Responsible Official has the authority and responsibility to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify potential species of conservation concern (36 CFR 219.9(c)). 2. Identify and assess information relevant to species that occur in the plan area and when the best available scientific information raises a substantial concern about a species' capability to persist over the long term in the plan area. This information serves as a filter during the assessment process to aid in the efficiency and efficacy of the process used to identify potential species of conservation concern. 3. Leverage expertise of the public, including local, State, Tribal, and other Federal natural resource agencies, for identifying species of conservation concern. 4. Engage the public and consider public input on the assessment including the identified potential species of conservation concern (See FSH 1909.12, ch. 40, sec. 42 for guidance on public participation). <p>FSH 1909.12, chapter 20, section 21.22a describes the responsibilities of the Regional Forester for species of conservation concern.</p>	
1909.12, 12.52b	<u>Regional forester SCC determinations, including additions or subtractions to the list of</u>	21.22a – Identifying Species of Conservation Concern	Concur with

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- Identifying Potential Species of Conservation Concern Page 34	<u>SCCs based on new information during plan implementation, shall involve public participation, and the regional forester shall make the list of determined SCCs available to the public. The responsible official shall similarly involve the public in determining whether plan components need to be added, removed or changed based on new SCC determinations.</u>	<p>The Regional Forester is the Responsible Official for identifying any species of conservation concern in a plan area. Identifying the SCCs usually occurs during the planning phase, but may occur at any time.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Regional Forester has the authority and responsibility to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review the rationale and documentation for potential species of conservation concern provided by the Responsible Official (FSH 1909.12, ch. 10, sec. 12.52), and determining whether the best available scientific information indicates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That the species is native and known to occur in the plan area, and (2) There is a substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long term in the plan area based on the guidance of FSH 1909.12, chapter 10, section 12.52c. b. Based on the review of the potential species of conservation concern, identify the species of conservation concern in coordination with the Responsible Official for the plan area. This authority to identify species of conservation concern may not be delegated. c. Identify species of conservation concern early enough to expedite the planning process. d. Leverage expertise of the public and local, State, Tribal, and other Federal natural resource agencies, for identifying species of conservation concern. e. Engage the public and invite public input when identifying species of conservation concern, as part of the public participation strategy (FSH 1909.12, ch. 40, sec. 42). f. Document the rationale for the selection of species of conservation concern. g. Inform the Responsible Official and the public of the identified species of conservation concern. h. Identify any species of conservation concern at times outside the planning process as appropriate. 2. The Responsible Official has the authority to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Leverage expertise of the public and local, State, Tribal, and 	<p>alternative approach</p> <p>Included recommended intent in a revised structure.</p>

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1909.12, 12.52c - Identifying Potential Species of Conservation Concern Page 34	<p>All potential SCCs must meet the following mandatory requirements for their identification as an SCC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The species must be a native species in the plan area, with a plan area occurrence record for the species within the last 10 to 15 years; and 2. The best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long term in the plan area. This information may be derived from the scientific literature, species studies, habitat studies, analyses of information obtained from a local area, and/or the result of expert opinion or panel consensus. <p><u>* * *</u> <u>The responsible official shall identify and evaluate information relevant to: 1) knowledge of occurrence in the plan area and 2) substantial concern about a species' capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area based on best available scientific information as filters during the assessment process, to aid in the efficiency and efficacy of the process used to identify potential SCCs</u></p>	<p>other Federal natural resource agencies in determining whether plan components need to be added, removed, or changed based on any new species of conservation concern being identified by the Regional Forester.</p> <p>b. Recommend additional changes to the list of species of conservation concern to the Regional Forester, if appropriate. See section 21.22b of this Handbook for guidance on new information and species of conservation concern.</p> <hr/> <p>12.52c – Criteria for Identifying a Species of Conservation Concern The criteria for identifying species of conservation concern are also the criteria for identifying potential species of conservation concern.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The species is native to, and known to occur in, the plan area. Any species whose occurrence in the plan area is documented to be “accidental” or “transient,” well outside its current range, must not be identified as a species of conservation concern. If the range of a species is changing so that what is becoming its "normal" range includes the plan area, it should not be considered transient or accidental. 2. The best available scientific information about the species indicates substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long term in the plan area. See FSH 1909.12, zero code, section 07, for guidance on best available scientific information. <p>If there is insufficient scientific information available to conclude there is a substantial concern about a species' capability to persist in the plan area over the long term that species cannot be identified as a species of conservation concern.</p> <p>If the species is secure and its continued long-term persistence in the plan area is not at risk based on knowledge of its abundance, distribution, lack of threats to persistence, trends in habitat, or responses to management that species cannot be identified as a species of conservation concern.</p>	Concur with alternative approach

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1909.12, 13.1 - Assessing Social, Cultural, and Economic Conditions Page 41 Line 11	<p>When there is <u>Using</u> available information, the responsible official should <u>shall</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and evaluate the social, cultural, and economic context of the landscape to which the plan area contributes. 2. Identify and evaluate the important social, cultural, and economic influences on the plan area. 3. Identify and evaluate how the plan area influences key social, economic, and cultural conditions. 	<p>13.2 – Assessing Social, Cultural, and Economic Conditions The Responsible Official shall identify and evaluate available information regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The social, cultural, and economic conditions in the area(s) of influence (sec. 13.21 of this Handbook), 2. The important social, cultural, and economic influences affecting the plan area (sec. 13.22 of this Handbook), and 3. How the plan area influences social, economic, and cultural conditions in the area of influence and in the broader landscape (secs. 13.23 and 13.24 of this Handbook). 	Concur with minor revisions
1909.12, 13.11 - Social, Cultural, and Economic Context Page 41 Line 21-24	<p>The responsible official may identify an area of influence <u>should identify primary and other areas of influence</u> to serve as the primary spatial scale to evaluate social, cultural, and economic conditions. The responsible official must <u>may</u> solicit public input <u>and conduct intergovernmental outreach to determine</u> on the appropriate boundaries of the area of influence. This area of influence should be commensurate with the important influences of the plan area on social, cultural, and economic conditions. Social and economic information as well as some cultural information is often available at the level of counties, so the area of influence may be a set of counties. Readily available social, cultural, and economic information may be used to characterize the social, economic, and cultural conditions in the area of influence. This area of influence can be used later to describe social, cultural, and economic effects of the plan alternatives in the environmental impact statement (EIS) for a plan revision. This may include information such as:</p>	<p>13.21 – Social, Cultural, and Economic Conditions in the Area(s) of Influence The Responsible Official should identify and describe a primary area of influence to serve as the spatial scale to evaluate social, cultural, and economic conditions. The primary area of influence is where the management of the plan area substantially affects social, cultural, and economic conditions.</p> <p>The Responsible Official may choose to identify and evaluate other areas of influence if there are different spatial areas for certain important economic, social, or cultural influences of the plan area. The Responsible Official shall solicit public input and conduct intergovernmental outreach to determine the appropriate boundaries of the area(s) of influence. The area(s) of influence should be commensurate with the important influences of the plan area on social, cultural, and economic conditions. Consider the availability of information when identifying boundaries; for example, demographic and some cultural information are often available at the level of counties, so the primary area of influence may be a set of counties. This area of influence can be used later to describe social, cultural, and economic effects of the plan alternatives in the environmental impact statement (EIS) for a</p>	<p>Concur with minor revision.</p> <p>Identification of primary area of influence is required, as recommended. Identification of other areas of depends upon the presence of other influences and whether a different scale is needed.</p>

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1909.12, 13.12 - Important Social, Cultural, and Economic Influences on the Plan Area Page 42 Line 10-23	<p>Using available information, the responsible official should briefly describe the types of social, economic or cultural influences that are affecting the plan area <u>in all seasons</u>. These may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demand <u>from local, regional, state, tribal, and national interests and the public for specific resources and ecosystem services including but not limited to clean air and water, flood risk management, recreation opportunities (motorized and non-motorized, passive and active), forest products, minerals and food and fiber production</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recreation opportunities – motorized and non motorized, passive and active, etc. b. Ecosystem services such as clean water, flood risk management, etc. 2. Social pressure for... <u>Opportunities for young people and others who have not traditionally been engaged as stakeholders in forest management</u> 3. <u>Interest in specific uses, environments or management – including calls for specific treatments, restoration activities or fire management strategies</u> 4. Cultural influences related traditional <u>and historic</u> uses of the plan area by various communities, Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations 	<p>plan revision.</p> <p>13.22 – Important Social, Cultural, and Economic Influences on the Plan Area</p> <p>The Interdisciplinary Team should briefly describe the types of social, economic, or cultural dynamics that affect the plan area, in all seasons. This information can also be used to help identify how social and economic trends may impact ecological conditions and integrity.</p> <p>These may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demand from local, regional, State, tribal, and national interests, and the public for specific resources and ecosystem services including, but not limited to, clean air and water, flood risk management, recreation opportunities (motorized and nonmotorized, passive and active) forest products, minerals and food, and fiber production. 2. Interest in specific uses, environments, or management, including requests for specific treatments, restoration activities, or fire management strategies. 3. Cultural needs related to traditional and historic uses of the plan area by various communities, Indian Tribes, and Alaska Native Corporations. 4. Economic trends such as fragmentation from land use changes and broader economic conditions that are influencing the plan and the area of influence. 	<p>Concur with revisions in a modified structure.</p> <p>Opportunities for engagement of young people are specifically addressed in 42.2 and 43.3 in Chapter 40, "Public Participation."</p>
1909.12, 13.14 - Sources of Relevant Existing Information for Social, Cultural, and Economic Conditions Page 44	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic Profile System – Human Dimensions Toolkit for general conditions and trend data on employment, income, demography, and so on for counties, regions, or states. Free software, <u>created under a Forest Service contract and owned by the Service</u> is available at http://headwatereconomics.org/tools/eps-hdt. (Forest Service employees may access the software at http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/em/HD/eps_hdt.htm.) 	<p>13.25 – Sources of Existing Information for Social, Cultural, and Economic Conditions</p> <p>A variety of sources related to social, cultural, and economic conditions may provide relevant information for the assessment (secs. 13.2 through 13.9 of this Handbook). References to these sources of information can be found at: http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/TIPS/directives/ch10social.shtml</p>	<p>Alternative approach.</p> <p>Moved information sources to separate webpage (with link).</p>

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1909.12, 13.14 - Sources of Relevant Existing Information for Social, Cultural, and Economic Conditions Page 45 Line 9-11	8. <u>The Forest Service should find ways to gain information from non-traditional sources, including user-generated content and should use social media to expand its search for plan-related information.</u>	11.21 – Public Participation for the Assessment * * * In addition, the Responsible Official should engage the public and governmental entities by: 1. Using traditional and non-traditional sources of information including user-generated content (such as blogging, social media, and wikis). In addition, the responsible official should engage the public and governmental entities by:	Concur with minor revisions
1909.12, 13.32 Range Page 47 Line 8-11	Using available information, the responsible official should identify and evaluate information about range such as: <u>1. The current range condition in the plan area and trends influencing the range conditions</u> <u>2. The current level of grazing activity in the plan area and within the broader landscape.</u> 3. The current range condition in the plan area. <u>The capability of the plan area to support grazing activity.</u> 4. Sustainability of the ecological conditions on which grazing depends. 5. The contribution of plan area grazing to social, economic and ecological sustainability.	13.32 – Range * * * The Interdisciplinary Team should identify and evaluate available information about range such as: 1. The current range condition in the plan area and trends influencing the range conditions. Relevant information can include current diversity and proportion of grazing arrangements within the plan area (for example, collaborative experiments, conventionally grazed lands, non-use areas). 2. The current level of grazing activity in the plan area and within the broader landscape. 3. The capability and productivity of the plan area to support grazing activity. 4. The impacts of grazing on ecological integrity and species diversity. 5. The contribution of grazing in the plan area to social, economic, and ecological sustainability. This may include the contributions of grazing in the plan area to social, cultural and economic conditions of communities outside the plan area.	Concur with minor revisions
1909.12, 13.33 – Timber	Timber harvest and production can play an important role in attaining desired conditions for ecological sustainability and can contribute to social and economic sustainability. The	13.33 – Timber * * *	Concur

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Page 48 Line 14-15	<p>assessment should identify and evaluate how timber harvest and production contributes to social, economic, and ecological sustainability. Using available information, the responsible official should identify and evaluate relevant information such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current condition of forests in the plan area, <u>including standing inventory, age classes, growth and mortality.</u> 	<p>The Interdisciplinary Team should identify and evaluate available information such as: The current condition of forests in the plan area including standing inventory, age classes, growth and mortality.</p>	
1909.12, 13.4a, 13.4 - Assessing Recreation Settings, Opportunities and Access, and Scenic Character Page 52-53 Line 27 (p52)-35 (p53)	<p>Using available information, the responsible official should identify and evaluate information about recreational settings, opportunities, access, and scenic character of the plan area such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The types of recreational settings in the plan area, Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), should be used to describe this and map these settings. 2. The types of recreational opportunities currently available in the plan area including their distribution and seasonal variation, <u>and the natural features and topography that enable the recreational opportunities.</u> 3. The existing and potential scenic character of the plan area, Scenery Management System (SMS), should be used to describe this and map scenic character. 4. The important recreational sites or areas in the plan area and their condition. 5. The compatibility or incompatibility of different recreation activities... <u>The relationship among recreation activities including the degree of compatibility or incompatibility</u> 6. The nature, extent, and condition of trails, roads, and other transportation and other infrastructure to provide recreational access (see also sec. 13.6). 7. The opportunities within the plan area to foster greater connection between people and nature <u>through education, experience, recreation, and stewardship.</u> 8. The conditions and trends that are affecting the quality of recreational settings and scenic character... 9. Information about the sustainability of the set of recreation opportunities and scenic character, including the fiscal capacity for sustaining the opportunities. 10. Issues or dynamics, involved in social, cultural or economic conditions that may 	<p>13.4 – Assessing Recreation Settings, Opportunities and Access, and Scenic Character * * *</p> <p>Based on this information and other information as described below or identified by the public, the Responsible Official should assess the extent to which the plan area meets the demand for recreational opportunities and the ability of the plan area to sustain these recreation settings.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Interdisciplinary Team should identify and evaluate additional available information about recreation and scenic character of the plan area such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The types of recreational opportunities including both motorized and nonmotorized opportunities currently available in the plan area including their distribution and seasonal variation and the natural features and topography that enable the recreational opportunities. b. The important recreational sites or areas in the plan area and their condition, including their safety for recreational activities. c. The relationship among recreation activities, including the degree of compatibility or incompatibility. d. The nature, extent, and condition of trails, roads, facilities, and other transportation and other infrastructure to provide recreational access (see also sec. 13.6 of this Handbook). e. The opportunities within the plan area to foster greater connection between people and nature through education, experience, recreation, and stewardship. f. The conditions and trends that are affecting the quality of 	Concur

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	<p>prevent or preclude, minorities and, other historically disadvantaged groups from seeking, accessing, (meaningful access), or participating in recreational activities typically, demanded by others.</p> <p><u>11. The potential of the plan area to expand or enhance existing, sustainable recreational opportunities and to offer new, sustainable recreational opportunities consistent with present or anticipated future public demand or to otherwise enhance the plan area's contribution to social, cultural and economic conditions.</u></p>	<p>recreational settings and scenic character in the plan area.</p> <p>g. Information about the sustainability of the set of recreation settings, opportunities, access, and scenic character.</p> <p>h. The potential of the plan area to expand or enhance existing, sustainable recreational opportunities and to offer new, sustainable recreational opportunities consistent with present or anticipated future public demand.</p> <p>i. The impacts of recreation on ecological integrity and species diversity.</p> <p>j. The contribution of recreation in the plan area to social, economic and ecological sustainability.</p>	
<p>1909.12, 13.4b, 13.4 - Assessing Recreation Settings, Opportunities and Access, and Scenic Character Page 52-53 Line 27 (p52)-35 (p53)</p>	<p><u>The FS should analyze the socio-economic and cultural tool set – the NRM data base system, ROS, and other social, economic and cultural tools – in light of the new rule and update them if necessary.</u></p>	<p>13.4 – Assessing Recreation Settings, Opportunities and Access, and Scenic Character ***</p> <p>[A link with references to a variety of relevant internal and external sources is provided at the end of the section. Http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/TIPS/directives/ch10recreation.shtml]</p>	<p>Alternative Approach</p> <p>The Ecosystem Management Staff is analyzing the tools available to employees to support land management planning and project planning. Directives guide forests in planning but do not direct the development of new tools.</p>
<p>1909.12, 13.4c, 13.4 – Assessing Recreation Settings,</p>	<p>In addition, the responsible official should evaluate how influences outside the plan area may influence the demand for recreation in the plan area or the ability of the plan area to meet those demands. Using available information, the responsible official should identify and evaluate relevant information such as:</p>	<p>13.4 – Assessing Recreation Settings, Opportunities and Access, and Scenic Character * * *</p> <p>2. In addition, the Interdisciplinary Team should consider how influences outside the plan area may influence the demand for</p>	<p>Concur with minor revisions</p> <p>Recommended</p>

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Opportunities and Access, Scenic Character Page 53 Line 34-35	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The preferences of the public and demand for specific recreation opportunities or settings. 2. The availability of recreation opportunities on other lands within the broader landscape. 3. The stated goals in approved plans or other published reports of Tribes, States, or local governments, for recreational opportunities in the plan area. 4. Social, cultural, and economic conditions or trends such as changing population demographics, traditional uses, or income levels that influence the demand for various types of recreation activities. 5. Emerging new or unique recreational trends or interests that may affect future demand for recreation in the plan area. 6. <u>Assessment of whether recreational settings and opportunities have regional, national or international significance to the public or to recreational users.</u> 	<p>recreation in the plan area or the ability of the plan area to meet those demands. The Interdisciplinary Team should consider information such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The preferences of the public and demand for specific recreation opportunities or settings. b. The availability of recreation opportunities on other lands within the broader landscape. c. The stated goals in approved plans or other published reports of Tribes, States, or local governments for recreational opportunities in the plan area. d. The social, cultural, and economic conditions or trends such as changing population demographics, traditional uses, or income levels that influence the demand for various types of recreation activities. e. The emerging new or unique recreational trends or interests that may affect future demand for recreation in the plan area. f. The issues or dynamics involved in social, cultural, or economic conditions that may prevent or preclude minorities and, other underrepresented groups from seeking, accessing, or participating in recreational activities typically demanded by others. g. The regional, national, or international significance of the recreation settings and opportunities in the plan area when viewed within a larger landscape. 	language is included in new paragraph (g).
1909.12, 13.4d – Assessing Recreation Settings, Opportunities and Access, Scenic Character Page 54 Line 20-34	<p>Based on the information above, the responsible official should evaluate the extent to which plan area meets the demand for recreational opportunities and the ability of the plan area to sustain these recreation settings, opportunities, access, and scenic character. The responsible official should evaluate how recreation contributes to social, economic, and ecological sustainability. Internal sources of information include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NRM. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. National visitor use monitoring. b. Wilderness and wild and scenic rivers. c. Infra (for information on trails, cultural properties, and recreation 	<p>13.4 – Assessing Recreation Settings, Opportunities and Access, and Scenic Character [A link with references to a variety of relevant internal and external sources is provided at the end of the section. Http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/TIPS/directives/ch10recreation.shtml]</p>	<p>Alternative approach Moved information sources to web page, with link, for ease of maintenance</p>

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sites).

d. Heritage.

2. ROS.
3. SMS.
4. Motor vehicle use map and travel management plan.
5. Recreation facility analysis.
6. Travel and tourism reports.
7. Local research station reports or analyses.
8. US Forest Service National Survey on Recreation and the Environment

External information sources include:

1. State comprehensive outdoor recreation plans.
2. State or county land management planning and strategy documents.
3. National, state and regional surveys on recreation such as the Outdoor Industry Association Participation Survey
4. Volunteered data from special use permittees.
5. ~~Relevant~~ Analysis or information offered for consideration by the public about recreation or scenic character.
6. The USFWS National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation
7. Public, online resources maintained by local, regional or national recreation organizations or recreation communities
8. Recreation directors at the national and regional levels and other internal recreation specialists (employees or contractors)

1909.12, 13.4e – Assessing Recreation Settings,	Using available information, the responsible official should identify and evaluate relevant information such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Current type, extent, and general location of energy and mineral activity and energy facilities in the plan area.	13.52 – Nonrenewable Energy and Mineral Resources * * * 3. The Interdisciplinary Team should identify and evaluate available information about nonrenewable energy resources and	Concur See new paragraph (i)
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Opportunities and Access, Scenic Character Page 55 Line 22	<p>2. Potential of the plan area for energy and mineral activity.</p> <p>3. Trends that affect energy and mineral activity in the plan area.</p> <p>4. Known abandoned mines or mining related hazards in need of reclamation or restoration.</p> <p>5. Existing energy transmission corridors and the potential need for new transmission corridors.</p> <p>6. The contribution of energy and mineral activity in the plan area to social, economic and ecological sustainability, <u>including an analysis of taxes, royalties and fees.</u></p>	<p>mineral resources in the plan area such as:</p> <p>a. Potential for occurrence of nonrenewable energy and mineral resources.</p> <p>b. Current type, extent, and general location of nonrenewable energy and mineral activity and energy facilities in the plan area.</p> <p>c. Information on previous decisions related to the Federal mineral estate including oil and gas availability decisions and coal suitability evaluations.</p> <p>d. Projections of potential of nonrenewable energy and mineral activity or reasonably foreseeable development in the case of oil and gas.</p> <p>e. Trends in nonrenewable energy and mineral activity in the plan area.</p> <p>f. Known abandoned mines or mining related hazards in need of reclamation or restoration.</p> <p>g. Noncommercial mineral collecting activities.</p> <p>h. The impacts of nonrenewable energy and mineral developments on ecological integrity and species diversity.</p> <p>i. The contribution of nonrenewable energy and mineral activity in the plan area to social and economic sustainability, including taxes, royalties, and fees.</p>	
1909.12, 13.9f – Assessing Land Status and Ownership, Use, and Access Patterns Page 60 Line 30	<p>Internal sources of information include:</p> <p>1. Infra lands database of NRM;</p> <p>2. Transportation atlas, records, and analysis;</p> <p>3. Travel management plans;</p> <p>4. Motor vehicle use maps;</p> <p>5. The Economic Profile System-Human Dimensions Toolkit government and land use reports, <u>created under a Forest Service contract and owned by the Service</u> (http://headwaterseconomics.org/tools/eps-hdt);</p>	<p>References to a variety of internal and external sources related to land ownership, status, use and access that may provide relevant information for the assessment can be found at http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/TIPS/directives/ch10land.shtml.</p>	<p>Alternative approach</p> <p>Moved information sources to web page, with link, for ease of maintenance</p>
1909.12, 14 - ASSESSING DESIGNATED AREAS	<p>The responsible official shall identify and evaluate available information relevant to the plan area for existing designated areas located in the plan area including wilderness and wild and scenic rivers and potential need and opportunity for additional designated area. (36 CFR 219.6(b))</p>	<p>The assessment should identify designated areas established within the plan area.</p> <p>The Interdisciplinary Team should identify and evaluate available information about designated areas including:</p>	<p>Concur in revised structure</p> <p>Also clarified that</p>

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Page 61 Line 18-29	<p>Designated areas direct specific kinds of management on areas within the plan area. The assessment also identifies designated areas and evaluates the potential need and opportunity for additional designated areas. The assessment <u>may include but</u> does not require an inventory and evaluation of individual land areas within the plan area for potential designation. Before the responsible official invites comments on the proposed plan, an inventory and evaluation is required for <u>wilderness lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</u> (see FSH 1909.12, ch. 70), and an inventory of the eligibility of rivers for inclusion in the Wild, and Scenic Rivers System is required (see FSH 1909.12, ch. 80) ; but these inventories are not required during the assessment (36 CFR 219.7(c)(v) and (vi)). The <u>inventories may begin during or after the assessment using existing information to the extent possible, and must provide opportunities for public and intergovernmental participation. The inventories may only become final and evaluation of the inventories may only begin after the assessment is complete.</u></p>	<p>1. Types, purposes, and locations of established designated areas within the plan area. The Responsible Official should use a map to identify these locations, unless the location of the designated area must remain confidential for resource protection. * * *</p> <p>4. Potential need and opportunity for additional designated areas. The Interdisciplinary Team should identify and evaluate available information to answer questions such as:</p> <p>a. Are there published documents or proposals that identify an important need or potential for a designated area? For example, a research report may indicate a need for an experimental forest within the plan area.</p> <p>b. Are there other proposals for designated areas before Congress, in proposals from collaborative efforts or from previous plans? * * *</p> <p>5. How do designated areas contribute to social, economic, and ecological sustainability? Assessing designated areas under items 4 and 5 in the preceding list does not require an identification and evaluation of every potential designated area that could apply in the plan area. It is a review of existing information to evaluate what opportunities have been identified in the area and what needs could be met with designated areas.</p> <p>Before the Responsible Official invites comments on the proposed plan, an inventory and evaluation is required for lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (see FSH 1909.12, ch. 70), and an inventory of the eligibility of rivers for inclusion in the Wild, and Scenic Rivers System is required (see FSH 1909.12, ch. 80). <u>These inventories may begin during or after the assessment using existing information to the extent possible, and must provide opportunities for public and intergovernmental participation. The inventories may only become final and evaluation of the inventories may only begin after the assessment is complete. The</u></p>	<p>inventories and evaluations are not complete until FEIS is published.</p>

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		inventories and evaluation are not completed until the final environmental impact statement is published.	
1909.12, 21 – Developing, Revising, Amending, Or Administratively Changing A Plan Page 5 Line 26-27	1. <u>Plan revision, from initiation of the assessment to final plan approval should be completed within two to four years.</u>	21.11 – General Steps for Developing or Revising Plans The Responsible Official should complete the plan development or plan revision, from the public notice of the assessment to final plan approval, within 4 years.	Concur with minor revision
1909.12, 22 – Requirements For Plan Content Page 18 Line 10-11	<u>§ 219.17 (b)(2) ... After the 3-year transition period, all plan amendments must be initiated, completed, and approved under the requirements of this part.</u>	21.3 – Amending a Plan Plan amendments started after May 9, 2015, must conform to the 2012 Planning Rule requirements. Before that date, plan amendments may be made following the 1982 Rule process or following the 2012 Planning Rule. (36 CFR 219.17(b)(2)).	Concur with alternative approach Reference to the 3-year transition included in 21.3 on amendments.
1909.12, 22 – Requirements For Plan Content Page 18 Line 13-15	<u>Plan amendments initiated after May 9, 2015 must conform to the applicable requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule. For example, as discussed in Section 21.3, the requirements for riparian areas (36 CFR 219.8(a)(3)) apply only if amending plan guidance for riparian areas.</u>	21.3 – Amending a Plan * * * Amendment of a plan developed and approved using the 1982 Rule process requires application of the 2012 Planning Rule requirements only to those changes to the plan made by the amendment. For example, the 2012 Rule’s requirements to establish a riparian management zone (36 CFR 219.8(a)(3)) would apply only if the plan amendment focuses on riparian area guidance.	Concur, alternative approach
1909.12, 22.1 - Plan Components Page 19 Line 11-23	Plan components must be structured to allow for monitoring to test effectiveness and verify assumptions of objectives, desired conditions, standards, and guidelines. Plan components must meet the following: 1. Are written so that they are in accord with Agency authorities, and the inherent capability of the plan area.	1. Objectives, desired conditions, standards, and guidelines must be written clearly and concisely in a way that allows for monitoring to test their effectiveness and verify assumptions on which they are based. 2. Plan components: a. Must be written so that they are in accord with Agency	Concur with minor revisions

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. May apply to the entire plan area, to a specific management or geographic area, or to land of specific character. 3. Are not commitments or final decisions approving projects and activities. 4. Guide the development of future projects and activities and the plan-monitoring program. 5. Are informed-by the assessment, monitoring, public and governmental participation, and the BASI. (For more information on BASI see FSH 1909.12, ch. 40). 6. Guide and constrain Forest Service personnel; not the public. 7. Meet the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219, subpart A). 8. Give direction for integrated resource management for multiple uses (36 CFR 219.10(a)). 	<p>authorities, and the inherent capability of the plan area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. Are written clearly and with clarity of purpose and without ambiguity so that a project's consistency with applicable plan components can be easily determined. (For definition of consistency, see 36 CFR 219.15). c. Must have clear geographic applicability (that is, the entire plan area, a specific management or geographic area, or land of specific character; see sec. 22.2 of this Handbook). d. Guide the development of future projects and activities, and are not commitments to act or final decisions approving projects and activities. e. Must be informed by the assessment, monitoring, public and governmental participation, and the best available scientific information. (For more information on best available science, see FSH 1909.12, zero code, sec. 07). f. May be used to carry out laws, regulations, or policies, but should not merely repeat existing direction from laws, regulations, or directives. (References to other sources are preferred.) g. Guide and constrain Forest Service personnel; not the public. h. May not interfere with statutory or valid existing rights. i. Should not simply repeat Agency policies applicable to all National Forest System units. j. Can be stated to apply only at certain seasons or only at specific ecological conditions. See exhibit 01 for simple examples of desired conditions, objectives, standards, and guidelines. 	
<p>1909.12, 22.11 - Desired Conditions Page 21 Line 31-32</p>	<p>When designing desired conditions, the responsible officials should take into account the uses on land adjacent to the plan area and the larger surrounding landscape. The desired conditions developed or expressed by adjacent agencies, landowners, interested and affected individuals, or communities should be considered when designing desired conditions for the plan area. <u>The statement of desired conditions should integrate the ecological, economic, social, and cultural desired conditions.</u></p>	<p>22.11 – Desired Conditions * * * When designing desired conditions, the Responsible Official should take into account the condition of the land adjacent to the plan area and the larger surrounding landscape. Consider the desires by adjacent agencies, landowners, interested and affected individuals, or communities for the plan area. Because desired</p>	<p>Concur with minor revisions</p>

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		<p>conditions affect current and future generations, they should be developed as part of the public outreach and collaborative process of planning.</p> <p>Desired conditions have essential characteristics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desired conditions have cultural, ecological, economic, and social characteristics. The set of desired conditions are sustainable and: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Describe what is desired for ecosystem integrity; air, soil, and water quality; riparian areas; social and economic sustainability; ecosystem diversity; additional species-specific plan components if needed; and multiple uses (required topics are listed in section 23, exhibit 01 of this Handbook); b. Are attainable through integrated resource management for multiple uses (§ 219.10(a)); and c. Contribute to social and economic sustainability (§ 219.8(b)); including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Social relationships, traditions, culture, and activities that connect people to the plan area where they recreate, hunt, visit, or work for their livelihood. (2) The capability of society to produce and consume goods and services, including jobs, market benefits, and nonmarket benefits derived from the plan area. 	
1909.12, 22.12 - Land Management Plan Objectives Page 22 Line 28-32	1. Should be based on likely reasonably foreseeable budgets and other assumptions that are for the plan period, but may include a realistic option that anticipates enhanced resources or policy efficiencies that would facilitate positive trends in making progress towards attaining desired conditions; expectations for the selected period of time;	5. Must be attainable within the fiscal capability of the unit, determined through a trend analysis of the recent past budget obligations for the unit (3 to 5 years); (Other plan content (such as potential management approaches, sec. 22.4 of this Handbook) may identify how the Responsible Official would respond to enhanced resources or other efficiencies that would facilitate attaining desired conditions (36 CFR 219.1(g)).	Concur with minor revisions
1909.12, 22.15 – Suitability of Lands Page 26	NFS lands are generally suitable for a variety of uses such as outdoor recreation, viewing scenery, livestock grazing, timber production, providing habitat for fisheries and wildlife, cultural resource interpretation, and protecting watersheds. The identification of the suitability of lands in a plan area for various uses involves social, economic, and ecological	22.15 - Suitability of Lands National Forest System lands are generally suitable for a variety of uses consistent with the purposes for which they are administered (outdoor recreation, grazing, timber, watershed and	Concur with minor revisions

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Line 8-10	<p>considerations. <u>When establishing a baseline for suitability analysis, forest planners should refer to adopted plans including but not limited to, fire management plans, travel management plans, watershed plans and other activity-level plans.</u></p>	<p>wildlife and fisheries). As discussed in the beginning of section 22 of this Handbook, the set of plan components including the suitability of lands in the plan area should integrate social, economic, cultural, and ecological considerations. The identification of suitability of lands is not required for every resource or activity. If suitability of lands is identified for a resource or activity, such identification does not need to be made for every acre of the plan area. For some resources, identifying the suitability of use or activity in a particular area may be more appropriately made at the project or activity level with site-specific analysis, stakeholder participation, and proposed design criteria.</p> <p>Identifying suitability helps determine if future projects and activities are consistent with desired conditions. The identification of suitability or nonsuitability of lands is based on the desired condition for those lands and the inherent capability of the land to support the use.</p> <p>Identifying which uses to focus on when identifying lands as “suitable “ or not for the uses may arise from issues raised in public participation. <u>When beginning to identify specific lands as suitable for various uses, the Interdisciplinary Team should consider what they learned from existing uses, monitoring, project planning, and resource plans including fire management plans, travel management plans, watershed plans, and other resource plans.</u></p>	
1909.12, 22.15 – Suitability of Lands Page 26 Line 19-22	<p>As part of the land management plan, the identification of suitability of lands helps achieve the desired social, cultural, economic, and ecological conditions—which reflect public and governmental participation and the distinctive role and contributions of the plan area. The identification of suitability helps the responsible official determine if projects and activities are consistent with the desired conditions. The identification of land that may be suitable for particular uses involves interpretation of social, economic,</p>	<p>22.15 – Suitability of Lands National Forest System lands are generally suitable for a variety of uses consistent with the purposes for which they are administered (outdoor recreation, grazing, timber, watershed and wildlife and fisheries). <u>As discussed in the beginning of section 22 of this Handbook, the set of plan components including the</u></p>	<p>Concur with minor revisions</p>

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	<p>and resource tradeoffs—not just an inventory. The identification of suitability, or non-suitability, of lands is based upon the desired condition for those lands and the inherent capability of the land to support the use. <u>The responsible official should make available to the public the rationale for suitability determinations and the information sources, tools, standards, technical guidance documents and data bases used in suitability determinations. The identification of the suitability of lands in a plan area should stress integration of social, economic cultural and ecological considerations.</u></p> <p>Responsible officials should not make suitability of lands identifications for the use of any resource, such as minerals if an entity other than the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has authority over the disposal or leasing of minerals. Congress has given the Secretary of the Interior authority over the disposal of locatable minerals (gold, silver, lead, and so forth) and leasable minerals (oil, gas, coal, geothermal, among others). The Secretary of Agriculture has authority over saleable minerals (sand, gravel, pumice, among others). The Forest Service regulation for minerals is detailed at Title 36 CFR 228, “Minerals.” For example, analysis of the availability of lands for oil and gas leasing is at 36 CFR 228.102 and is a project decision that may be made at the same time as a plan revision.</p> <p>The identification of the suitability of lands in a plan area should involve social, economic and ecological considerations. In designating suitability of lands to achieve desired ecological conditions, the Forest Service shall give preference to suitability determinations that also benefit social, economic and cultural values.</p>	<p><u>suitability of lands in the plan area should integrate social, economic, cultural, and ecological considerations.</u> The identification of suitability of lands is not required for every resource or activity. If suitability of lands is identified for a resource or activity, such identification does not need to be made for every acre of the plan area. For some resources, identifying the suitability of use or activity in a particular area may be more appropriately made at the project or activity level with site-specific analysis, stakeholder participation, and proposed design criteria.</p> <p>Identifying suitability helps determine if future projects and activities are consistent with desired conditions. The identification of suitability or nonsuitability of lands is based on the desired condition for those lands and the inherent capability of the land to support the use.</p> <p>Identifying which uses to focus on when identifying lands as “suitable “ or not for the uses may arise from issues raised in public participation. When beginning to identify specific lands as suitable for various uses, the Interdisciplinary Team should consider what they learned from existing uses, monitoring, project planning, and resource plans including fire management plans, travel management plans, watershed plans, and other resource plans.</p> <p><u>The Responsible Official should document and make available to the public the rationale for identifying the suitability of lands and the information sources, tools, standards, technical guidance documents, and databases used in the identification.</u></p>	
1909.12, 22.21 – Identification of Management Areas and	<u>To the extent practicable, implementation of the forest planning rule should serve as an umbrella for other planning activities and rulemaking efforts, such as a travel management planning. If that is not possible, forest plans should identify inconsistencies created by the forest plan (the plan changes a suitability designation, for example), prioritize these and</u>	21.41 – Decision Document Plans serve as an umbrella for projects, activities, and resource plans. If ongoing projects, activities, and resource plans would not be consistent with the plan, plan revision, or the plan as	Concur with minor revisions

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Geographic Areas Page 29 Line 24-28	<u>set a schedule for project-level planning that creates consistency with the plan.</u>	amended, they must be made consistent with the plan, unless the decision document allows them to proceed unchanged (36 CFR 219.15(a)). The decision document should identify projects, activities, and resource plans that must be changed to be consistent with the plan and set forth a schedule for modifying the ongoing projects to be consistent with the plan (subject to prior existing rights).	
1909.12, 22.32 – Describe Distinctive Roles and Contributions of the Plan Area Page 35 Line 11-25	<p>Once described, the plan area’s roles and contributions within the broader landscape can serve as a focused foundation or context that should be a unifying... <u>used to guide plan development. A plan area may have multiple roles and contributions within the broader landscape. These roles and contributions will not necessarily lead to a single compelling direction for the plan area.</u> This description is important because it is a source of motivation or reasons behind some desired conditions.</p> <p>The development of the description of the distinctive roles and contribution of the plan area within the broader landscape should occur in the new plan development or plan revision phase. The responsible official should consider the information collected during the assessment phase on multiple uses and ecosystem services as a starting point for developing the distinctive roles and contributions.</p> <p>The description of the plan area’s distinctive roles and contribution within the broader landscape must not be a list <u>should be inclusive, reflecting of</u> all the roles of the plan area. Rather it should reflect those things that are truly unique and distinctive. Consider the following when describing the plan area’s distinctive roles and contributions within the broader landscape:</p>	<p>The plan area's distinctive roles and contributions within the broader landscape can provide focus or context and can aid in developing plan components. Well-described distinctive roles and contributions can also help provide an all-lands perspective and a framework for potential collaborative restoration efforts. A plan area may have multiple roles and contributions within the broader landscape. In describing the plan area’s distinctive roles and contributions within the broader landscape, the Responsible Official should consider the many potential roles of the plan area. Some roles may not be distinctive but could still be important. For example, all forested land in an area may be part of the upstream supply of water to a downstream community, making a unit’s contribution to the quality and availability of that water important but not distinctive. The Responsible Official should note those roles and contributions that are most relevant to the unit’s land and resource management. This description is important because it provides a foundation for desired conditions and objectives. Desired conditions and objectives should address all-important roles.</p> <p>The Interdisciplinary Team should describe the distinctive roles and contribution of the plan area within the broader landscape early in the planning phase. The team should consider information evaluated during the assessment phase as a starting point for describing the distinctive roles and contributions. The Interdisciplinary Team should develop an understanding of the ecological, social, and economic context that surrounds the plan</p>	Concur with minor revisions

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		<p>area. For example, does the plan area represent a large or a small percentage of the land ownership in a county or other jurisdiction; what is the level of diversity of the local economy; and what habitat conditions can be provided on surrounding or intermingled private or State land? The roles and contributions of the plan area should then be placed within this context, to provide a gauge of the relative importance of each potential role.</p>	
<p>1909.12, 23.00- Resource requirements for integrated plan components Page 47 Line 28-31</p>	<p><u>Social and economic sustainability.</u> The directives require plan components to guide the plan area’s contribution to social and economic sustainability (employment, income, community wellbeing, culture, and so on). In developing these plan components, the responsible official is to take into account, through the collaborative planning process and the results of the assessment—the social, cultural, and economic conditions relevant to the area influenced by the plan, the distinctive roles and contributions of the unit within the broader landscape; sustainable recreational opportunities and uses; multiple uses, including ecosystem services, that contribute to local, regional, and national economies in a sustainable manner; and cultural and historic resources and uses. <u>In selecting plan components to achieve desired ecological conditions, the Forest Service shall give preference to components that also benefit social, economic and cultural values should stress the integration of social, economic, cultural and ecological values.</u></p>	<p>23.2 – Social and Economic Sustainability and Multiple Use In the definition of sustainability, the Planning Rule defines social and economic sustainability as follows: . . . “social sustainability” refers to the capability of society to support the network of relationships, traditions, culture, and activities that connect people to the land and to one another and support vibrant communities. . . . “economic sustainability” refers to the capability of society to produce and consume or otherwise benefit from goods and services including contributions to jobs and market and nonmarket benefits. . . (36 CFR 219.19). Plans are required to have plan components to guide the plan area’s contribution to social and economic sustainability (36 CFR 219.8(b)) and for integrated resource management to provide for ecosystem services and multiple uses in the plan area (36 CFR 219.10(a)). Plan components must be integrated to meet these requirements as well as requirements for ecological sustainability and species diversity as described in sections 22 and 23 of this Handbook. Under the Planning Rule, ecological, social, and economic systems are recognized as interdependent, without one being a priority over the other. These plan components apply to the plan area and are within the authority of the Forest Service, the inherent capability of the land, and the fiscal capability of the planning unit.</p>	<p>Alternative Approach</p> <p>Several sections of chapter 20 discuss integration.</p> <p>The beginning of section 22 and 23 and section 22.11 (Desired Conditions) provide guidance about integration of plan components.</p>
<p>1909.12, 23.1 – Ecological</p>	<p>When developing integrated plan components for ecological sustainability and diversity of plant and animal communities, based on the need to change (sec. 21.1), the responsible</p>	<p>When developing integrated plan components the Interdisciplinary Team should consider the following:</p>	<p>Concur with minor revisions</p>

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Sustainability and Diversity of Plant and Animal Communities Page 48 Line 29-31	<p>official should consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan components related to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Major vegetation types and their successional stages, patch sizes, spatial arrangement, and connectivity; b. Dominant ecological processes and disturbance regimes for the plan area; c. Ecosystems and unique habitat types including those that are rare or at risk; d. <u>Stressors, including invasive species, loss of connectivity, or disruption of a natural disturbance regime by catastrophic fire, changed climate, or changes in human dimensions within the plan area;</u> e. Soil resources and soil productivity; f. Air resources; and g. Water quality and quantity, stream and other natural water flows, stream and lake morphology, wetlands, riparian areas, floodplains, and other groundwater-dependent ecosystems. h. <u>Management strategies that mitigate the effects of stressors or increase resiliency and adaptation,</u> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Major vegetation types and their successional stages, patch sizes, spatial arrangement, and connectivity; 2. Dominant ecological processes and disturbance regimes for the plan area; 3. Ecosystems and unique habitat types including those that are rare or at risk; 4. Stressors, such as changes in human impacts within the plan area, disruptors of a key ecosystem characteristic by catastrophic fire, effects of a changing climate, invasive species, or water obstructions; 5. Soil resources and soil productivity; 6. Geologic resources and hazards; 7. Air resources; 8. Water quality and quantity, stream and other natural water flows, stream and lake morphology, wetlands, riparian areas, floodplains, and other groundwater-dependent ecosystems; 9. Management strategies that mitigate the effects of stressors, restores ecological integrity, or adaptation strategies to reduce vulnerability; and 10. Access, recreational settings, and scenic character. 	
1909.12, 23.1 – Ecological Sustainability and Diversity of Plant and Animal Communities Page 49 Line 22-26	<p>6. The potential influences of threats of stressors on key ecosystem characteristics, <u>including those that are beyond control of the agency, including those that are beyond the control of the agency that are likely to affect ecological conditions on the plan area during the life of the proposed plan (15 years) (FSH 1909.12, ch. 10, sec. 12.32). The term stressor is defined at FSH 1909.12, zero code, section 05.</u></p>	<p>When developing integrated plan components the Interdisciplinary Team should consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Variation in physical and biological conditions exhibited by ecosystems because of system drivers, stressors, climatic fluctuations, and disturbance regimes, including those that are beyond the control of the Agency (FSH 1909.12, ch. 10, sec. 12.3). 	Concur with minor revisions
1909.12, 23.11a	the responsible official shall consider the role of the natural range of variation as follows:	When developing plan components, the Interdisciplinary Team	Concur with minor

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– Natural Range of Variation Page 50 Line 6-39	<p>1. The responsible official should design plan components to facilitate maintenance or restoration of specific key ecosystem characteristics needed to maintain or restore ecosystem integrity. The intent is to restore ecosystem integrity in the plan area not necessarily to return key characteristics to some past condition. By moving... alteration</p> <p>2. For specific areas within an ecosystem, the responsible official may determine that certain key ecosystem characteristics are outside the NRV and that it is not appropriate, practical, or possible, or desirable to contribute to the restoration of NRV conditions. NRV includes a wide range of characteristics, some more common than others. <u>In order to achieve social, economic, cultural or ecological objectives it may be desirable to manage for uncommon conditions. In order for an ecosystem to withstand or recover from perturbations from novel circumstances imposed by natural dynamics or human influence, it may be necessary to manage for characteristics outside NRV. Examples of situations when restoring within NRV for specific areas within an ecosystem is not appropriate, practical, or possible, or desirable include when:</u></p> <p>1. NRV should be used to design plan components if appropriate. If appropriate, the responsible official should design plan components to facilitate maintenance or restoration of specific key ecosystem characteristics needed to restore ecosystem integrity by moving conditions towards those created under ecological processes and landscape disturbance regimes that occurred before extensive human alteration.</p> <p>2. Exceptions In some situations, the responsible official may determine that certain key ecosystem characteristics are outside the NRV and that it is not appropriate, practical, or possible, or desirable to contribute to the restoration of NRV conditions. Examples of situations when restoring conditions to NRV is not appropriate, practical, or possible, or desirable include when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The system is so degraded that restoration is not possible. Restoration is needs are either socially unacceptable undesirable or are not economically feasible. or NRV conflicts with desired conditions The system is no longer capable of sustaining key ecosystem characteristics relative to NRV based upon likely future environments. The ability to restore the desired ecological condition or key ecosystem characteristic is beyond the authority of the Agency or the inherent capability of the plan area. <u>Conditions outside NRV, for a specific area, will better contribute to long-</u> 	<p>shall consider the role of the natural range of variation as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In general, where appropriate, the Interdisciplinary Team should design plan components aimed at maintaining or restoring the natural range of variation of specific key ecosystem characteristics needed to promote ecosystem integrity in the plan area. For specific areas within an ecosystem, the Responsible Official may determine that it is not appropriate, practical, possible, or desirable to contribute to restoring conditions to the natural range of variation. Natural range of variation includes a wide range of characteristics, some more common than other characteristics. To achieve social, economic, cultural, or ecological objectives it may be desirable to manage for uncommon conditions in specific areas in the plan area. For an ecosystem to withstand or recover from disturbance events caused under unique circumstances, it may be necessary to manage for characteristics that were rare or never occurred in the past. The following are examples of situations where it is NOT appropriate, practical, possible, or desirable to design plan components to restore past conditions for specific areas within an ecosystem: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The system is so degraded that restoration is not possible. The ability to restore the desired ecological conditions or key ecosystem characteristics is beyond the authority of the Forest Service, the fiscal capability of the unit, or the inherent capability of the plan area. The system is no longer capable of sustaining key ecosystem characteristics identified as common in the past based upon likely future environmental conditions. Conditions that rarely or never occurred in the past, but that can be managed for in the future, will better contribute to long-term ecosystem sustainability and adaption to the effects of a changing climate. Conditions that rarely or never occurred in the past, but that can be managed for in the future, will better address public 	revisions

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	<p><u>term ecosystem sustainability and resiliency.</u></p> <p>f. <u>Management for specific areas to address public health and safety concerns.</u></p> <p>g. <u>For specific areas, NRV is antithetical to an integrated desired conditions (a desired condition that represents a balance of social, economic, cultural and ecological needs.)</u></p> <p>3. If NRV is not appropriate, <u>practical, possible, or desirable</u>, use Best Available Scientific Information (BASI) <u>and public input</u> to inform design of plan components.</p>	<p>health and safety concerns.</p> <p>f. Conditions common in the past are directly opposed to integrated desired conditions (desired conditions that represents a balance of social, economic, cultural and ecological needs).</p> <p>3. If past conditions relative to the natural range of variation are not appropriate, practical, possible, or desirable approaches:</p> <p>a. The Interdisciplinary Team should design plan components based on a general scientific and ecological understanding of the conditions that would sustain key ecosystem characteristics and sustain at-risk species using factors such as: representativeness, redundancy, habitat associations of particular species, disturbance dynamics, or observed conditions in reference areas. (FSH 1909.12, ch. 10, sec. 12.14b); and</p> <p>b. The Responsible Official should briefly explain in the plan decision document the rationale for NOT basing the design of the plan components on those conditions that were common in the past relative to the natural range of variation. .</p>	
<p>1909.12, 23.12c1– Water Quality and Water Resources Page 63 Line 14-18</p>	<p>The responsible official should develop desired conditions for water quality in the plan area and consider plan components to:</p> <p>1. Maintain or restore the water quality, quantity, timing, and distribution necessary to sustain ecosystems <u>and downstream ecosystem services</u> into the future by:</p> <p>a. Including guidance to prevent or mitigate detrimental changes in quantity, quality, and availability, including temperature changes and inputs of sediment and other pollutants.</p> <p>b. Carrying out the national best management practices program (FSM 2532) (USDA Forest Service, 2012) (see sec. 20.4) <u>[note: this was returned to the original language]</u></p>	<p>23.12c – Water Quality and Water Resources * * *</p> <p>The Interdisciplinary Team should develop desired conditions for water quality and quantity in the plan area and consider developing plan components to:</p> <p>1. Maintain or restore the water quality, quantity, timing, and distribution necessary to sustain ecosystems and downstream ecosystem services into the future by: * * *</p> <p>a. Including guidance designed to prevent or mitigate detrimental changes in quantity, quality, and availability, including temperature changes and inputs of sediment and other pollutants.</p> <p>b. Ensuring implementation of the national best management practices (BMPs) program for water quality (FSM 2532; USDA Forest Service 2012).</p>	<p>Concur</p>
<p>1909.12,</p>	<p>The responsible official should develop desired conditions for water quality in the plan</p>	<p>23.12c – Water Quality and Water Resources</p>	<p>Concur with minor</p>

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23.12c2 – Water Quality and Water Resources Page 63 Line 25-27	<p>area and consider plan components to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain or restore the water quality, quantity, timing, and distribution necessary to sustain ecosystems <u>and downstream ecosystem services</u> into the future by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> d. <u>Coordinating with state, local and tribal water managers and with water users and others to ensure appropriate resource protection, consistent with applicable law..</u> 	<p>* **</p> <p>The Interdisciplinary Team should consider surface and subsurface water quality and public water supplies associated with the plan area watersheds. The team should also coordinate with State, local and tribal water managers, water users, and others about appropriate resource protection, consistent with applicable law.</p> <p>The Interdisciplinary Team should develop desired conditions for water quality and quantity in the plan area and consider developing plan components to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain or restore the water quality, quantity, timing, and distribution necessary to sustain ecosystems <u>and downstream ecosystem services</u> into the future by: * * * 	revisions
1909.12, 23.12c3 – Water Quality and Water Resources Page 63 Line 33-36	<p>The responsible official should develop desired conditions for water quality in the plan area and consider plan components to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <u>Maintain or restore lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater in the plan area. Identify plan components that will maintain ecological integrity and help support the demand for water resources both within and beyond the plan area</u> 	<p>The Interdisciplinary Team should develop desired conditions for water quality and quantity in the plan area and consider developing plan components to:</p> <p>* * *</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <u>Maintain or restore the integrity of lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater in the plan area.</u> 5. Address the concerns identified for priority watersheds (sec. 22.31 of this Handbook). 	<p>Partial concurrence</p> <p>Providing for the health of the watershed makes it possible to meet demand for water.</p> <p>Distinct plan components that reflect strategies for meeting all water demands are not included. This issue is too complex to have a general requirement in the directives that would apply to all of the</p>

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			NFS.
1909.12, 23.2 - Social and Economic Sustainability and Multiple Use Page 73 Line 31-32	Plans are required to have plan components for social and economic sustainability and multiple use integrated with the plan components for ecological sustainability and species diversity described in section 23.1. The outcomes of ecological sustainability create a foundation to support contributions for social and economic sustainability. <u>The integration shall should be achieved in a manner that enhances social, economic and cultural sustainability while assuring ecological integrity.</u>	23.2 – Social and Economic Sustainability and Multiple Use In the definition of sustainability, the Planning Rule defines social and economic sustainability as follows: . . . “social sustainability” refers to the capability of society to support the network of relationships, traditions, culture, and activities that connect people to the land and to one another and support vibrant communities. . . . “economic sustainability” refers to the capability of society to produce and consume or otherwise benefit from goods and services including contributions to jobs and market and nonmarket benefits. . . (36 CFR 219.19). Plans are required to have plan components to guide the plan area’s contribution to social and economic sustainability (36 CFR 219.8(b)) and for integrated resource management to provide for ecosystem services and multiple uses in the plan area (36 CFR 219.10(a)). Plan components must be integrated to meet these requirements as well as requirements for ecological sustainability and species diversity as described in sections 22 and 23 of this Handbook. Under the Planning Rule, ecological, social, and economic systems are recognized as interdependent, without one being a priority over the other. These plan components apply to the plan area and are within the authority of the Forest Service, the inherent capability of the land, and the fiscal capability of the planning unit.	Alternative approach
1909.12, 23.21 – Social, Cultural and Economic Conditions Page 74 Line 6-8	Plans must include plan components that guide the plan area’s contribution to social and economic sustainability to provide people and communities with a range of social and economic benefits for present and future generations. <u>The desired conditions should include a description of the plan area’s contribution to social, economic and cultural sustainability, while enhancing multiple use.</u> Economic, and social and cultural sustainability require that the needs of the present generation are met without	23.21 –Contributions of the Plan Area to Social and Economic Sustainability Plans must include plan components that guide the plan area’s contribution to social and economic sustainability to provide people and communities with a range of social, cultural, and economic benefits for present and future generations. Desired	Concur with minor revisions

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	compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The ability to contribute to social and economic sustainability is built on the foundation provided by ecological sustainability.	conditions should include a description of the plan area's contribution to social, economic, and cultural conditions. The general Planning Rule requirements for social and economic sustainability are as follows:	
1909.12, 23.22j, 23 – Resource Requirements For Integrated Plan Components, 23.22 j- Wilderness, Page 92, Line 8	<p>In developing plan components for designated wilderness or recommended wilderness areas, the responsible official should consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measures to protect and enhance the wilderness characteristics of the areas; 2. Management on adjoining lands in other Federal, <u>tribal</u> or state ownership especially when adjoining other congressionally designated wilderness areas. If the adjoining lands are part of the same designated wilderness area, the responsible officials should coordinate with the responsible officials of the adjacent administrative units to ensure compatible management of the wilderness area in both plan areas. 3. Content of FSM 2320, which provides guidance for management of wilderness areas. 	<p>24.41 – Wilderness</p> <p>* * * Plans that include designated wilderness areas must have plan components that provide for wilderness management in accordance with the requirements of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131–1136, 78 Stat 890), and the law that established the particular wilderness area and any other applicable laws.</p> <p>When a plan area includes an area or areas for which the Responsible Official makes a preliminary administrative recommendation for wilderness designation, the plan must include plan components that protect the ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for the suitability of the area for wilderness designation until Congress acts on the recommendation. FSH 1909.12, chapter 70 gives guidance for inventory and evaluation of lands that may be suitable for wilderness and, from those lands, to identify areas, if any, for which the Responsible Official recommends that the land be designated wilderness.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Interdisciplinary Team should review the assessment for information about existing wilderness areas and wilderness study areas in the plan area, a general evaluation of the potential need and opportunity for additional wilderness areas, and the contribution of wilderness to social, economic, and ecological sustainability (FSH 1909.12, ch.10, sec. 14). 2. When developing plan components for designated wilderness areas within the plan area, the Responsible Official should consider: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Measures to protect and enhance the wilderness characteristics of the area. b. Management on adjoining lands that are within the NFS or in 	Concur

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		<p>other Federal, Tribal or State ownership, especially when the adjoining lands are also designated wilderness areas. If the adjoining lands are part of the same designated wilderness area, the Responsible Officials should coordinate with the Responsible Official(s) of the adjacent administrative unit(s) to ensure compatible management of the wilderness area in both plan areas.</p> <p>c. Guidance in FSM 2320 regarding management of wilderness areas.</p>	
<p>1909.12, 23.23j – Resource Requirements For Integrated Plan Components 23.22 j- Wilderness Page 92 Line 17-33</p>	<p>In developing plan components for recommended wilderness areas, the responsible official <u>has discretion to implement a range of management options. All management prescriptions must protect the social and ecological characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness designation. The responsible official may propose the following management prescriptions in RWAs:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Enhance the ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness designation;</u> 2. <u>Continue existing uses, provided that such uses do not prevent the protection and maintenance of the social and ecological characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness designation;</u> 3. <u>Alter existing uses, subject to valid existing rights;</u> 4. <u>Eliminate those existing uses that are incompatible with ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness designation, except those uses subject to valid existing rights; or</u> 5. <u>Select any combination thereof.</u> <p><u>The responsible official should strive to maintain consistency with the provisions of 16 U.S.C. § 1133(d), and the content of FSM 1923.03(3) in developing plan components for the management of recommended wilderness areas.</u></p>	<p>24.41 – Wilderness * * *</p> <p>“3. When developing plan components for recommended wilderness areas, the Responsible Official shall follow the guidance for developing plan components for recommended wilderness areas as contained in FSH 1909.12, chapter 70, section 74.1. This guidance is repeated here as follows:</p> <p>When developing plan components for recommended wilderness areas, the Responsible Official has discretion to implement a range of management options. All plan components applicable to a recommended area must protect and maintain the social and ecological characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness recommendation. In addition, the plan may include one or more plan components for a recommended wilderness area that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness designations; 2. Continue existing uses, only if such uses do not prevent the protection and maintenance of the social and ecological characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness designation; 3. Alter existing uses, subject to valid existing rights; or 4. Eliminate existing uses, except those uses subject to 	<p>Concur with minor revisions</p>

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valid existing rights.
The Responsible Official should strive to maintain consistency with the provisions of 16 U.S.C. 1133(d) and the content of FSM 1923.03(3) in developing plan components for the management of recommended wilderness areas.

1909.12, 32 - Plan Monitoring Program Page 5 Line 29-38	<p>1. The plan monitoring program must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use the BASI to inform the plan monitoring program and subsequent decisions based on monitoring information. b. Provide opportunities for public participation, collaboration, and multi-party monitoring in the development and implementation of monitoring for the plan area. c. Make data sets and results transparent, consistent, and available to the public where possible (<u>i.e. except for sensitive data</u>). Must design relevant questions and associated indicators to measure management effectiveness and assess progress towards the desired conditions or objectives. d. Test relevant assumptions, track relevant conditions over time, and measure management effectiveness to inform management of resources on the plan area. e. Must be designed to be implemented <u>in light of strategic monitoring priorities, to evaluate risks and reduce key uncertainties, and</u> within the financial and technical capabilities of the Agency. f. <u>Require the collection and public reporting to the public of plan monitoring data on a regular basis except for sensitive data.</u> 	<p>1. The Responsible Official must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify monitoring questions and associated indicators that meet the monitoring requirements of the Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.12) to support adaptive management. b. Use the best available science to inform the plan monitoring program. c. Provide opportunities for public participation, collaboration, and multi-party monitoring in the development and implementation of monitoring for the plan area. d. Make data sets and results transparent, and available to the public, unless it is not appropriate to do so because of requirements to protect certain information, such as the location of some archaeological resources or sacred sites. e. Design relevant questions and associated indicators to measure management effectiveness and assess progress towards the desired conditions or objectives. f. Design relevant questions to test relevant assumptions, track relevant conditions over time, and measure management effectiveness. g. Design relevant questions in light of National and Regional Agency monitoring priorities. h. Provide for the collection and public reporting (except for sensitive data) of plan monitoring data on a regular basis. 	<p>Concur with minor revisions</p> <p>In addition, section on monitoring questions (32.11) and section on adaptive management (0.6) both address identification of uncertainty through the monitoring program.</p>
1909.12, 32 - Plan Monitoring Program Page 6	<p>2. The plan monitoring program should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Build from existing internal and external monitoring efforts to design and carry out monitoring for the plan. b. Integrate complementary monitoring information with partners to gain 	<p>2. The Responsible Official should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Build from existing National and Regional monitoring efforts and external monitoring efforts to design and carry out monitoring for the plan. 	<p>Concur with minor revisions</p>

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Line 7-9	<p>efficiencies for adaptive management across the landscape including data collection methodologies that facilitate data aggregation across units or with partners.</p> <p>c. <u>Provide for coordination monitoring with other agencies and partners that have relevant information and with monitoring programs that overlap with NFS units that may help meet the needs for land management plans.</u></p>	<p>b. Coordinate complementary or overlapping monitoring efforts with other agencies and partners to gain efficiencies for monitoring across the landscape</p> <p>c. Coordinate with Forest Service Research and Development when reviewing scientific information, identifying and using information from relevant scientific studies, evaluating monitoring methods and protocols, identifying potential monitoring benefits from research natural areas, experimental forests and research programs, and designing and carrying out monitoring.</p> <p>d. Include relevant information and knowledge gained through project and activity monitoring.</p> <p>e. Provide information that can be used to develop projects or activities.</p> <p>f. Facilitate learning and support adaptive management.</p>	

1909.12, 32.1 - Developing the Plan Monitoring Program Page 7 Line 7-10	<p>The responsible official should use available public and governmental information in developing the plan monitoring program where it is relevant and appropriate. Such information would include traditional ecological knowledge, land ethics, cultural issues, and sacred and culturally significant sites. <u>Where appropriate, the responsible official is encouraged to utilize existing monitoring plans, such as those developed under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act, to inform the monitoring program.</u> The responsible official shall protect the confidentiality of sensitive monitoring information when required by law.</p>	<p>The Responsible Official should take a strategic approach and focus monitoring on priority management questions. The Responsible Official should consider a variety of information sources. Information may include traditional ecological knowledge, land ethics, cultural issues, and sacred and culturally significant sites. The Responsible Official shall protect the confidentiality of sensitive information when required by law.</p> <p>Information may come from project and activity monitoring. In addition, when it is appropriate to do so, the Responsible Official may use existing monitoring plans, such as those developed under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, to inform the development of monitoring questions and indicators.</p>	<p>Concur with minor revisions</p>
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1909.12, 32.1- Exhibit 01— Continued Page 9 Table	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="336 1258 513 1386"><u>Selected Plan Components</u></th> <th data-bbox="521 1258 637 1386"><u>Monitor ing Questio ns</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="645 1391 1091 1424" style="text-align: center;">Conservation of Biological Diversity</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Selected Plan Components</u>	<u>Monitor ing Questio ns</u>	Conservation of Biological Diversity		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Indicators</u></p>	<p>32.13f - Identifying Questions and Indicators to Monitor Progress toward Meeting Desired Conditions and Objectives * * *</p>	<p>Alternative Approach</p> <p>Information sources have been moved to a linked webpage for</p>
<u>Selected Plan Components</u>	<u>Monitor ing Questio ns</u>							
Conservation of Biological Diversity								

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	<p>Desired Condition: Alpine ecosystems sustain their diversity and maintain the attributes and processes that allow them to provide watershed values, habitat for native biota, panoramic vistas, and solitude. They display a diverse composition of desirable native plant species and vegetation communities . Invasive plant species are absent or rare.</p>	<p>Are plant communities of alpine ecosystems being protected, maintained, and restored?</p>	<p>Areal extent of plant community of alpine ecosystems. Presence of fragmentation characteristics such as patch size, edge, and proportion of habitat interior. Status of disturbance processes that shape the community. <u>Incorporate results from new and revised tools pursuant to section sec. 13.4</u></p>	<p>External data may be best available information for monitoring of social and economic sustainability. Such external data is available using the Economic Profile system and other systems available on the TIPS website at http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/TIPS/index.shtml</p>	<p>ease of maintenance. TIPS website can incorporate information from new or revised tools that may become available.</p>

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1909.12, 32.1- Exhibit 01— Continued Page 9 Table	Maintenance and Enhancement of Social, Economic and Cultural Benefits			Selected Plan Component	Monitoring Questions	Indicators	Concur with minor revisions
	Selected Plan Components	Monitoring Questions	Indicators	Desired Condition:			
	<p><u>Desired Condition:</u> Positive contribution to the economic, social and cultural vitality of communities within the area of influence while providing opportunities for people of all income, ethnic and age groups.</p>	<p>1. <u>Are the communities and their economies in the area of influence of the plan experiencing positive changes that can be associated with the implementation of the plan while moving toward desired conditions?</u></p> <p>2. <u>To what extent are young people, people of low income and members of minority groups engaged in a meaningful way in plan monitoring and implementation?</u></p>	<p><u>Levels of production of resources including timber, grazing and minerals</u></p> <p><u>Assessments of effectiveness of outreach activities to specific groups</u></p> <p><u>Economic impacts from recreational uses</u></p>	<p>Positive contribution of multiple uses, ecosystem services, infrastructure, and NFS operations to the economic, social, and cultural vitality of communities within the broader landscape while providing these values for people of all income, ethnic and age groups.</p>	<p>1. Are the communities and their economies in the plan’s area(s) of influence experiencing changes that can be associated with the management of the plan area?</p> <p>2. To what extent are young people, people of low income and members of minority groups engaged in a meaningful way in plan monitoring and implementation?</p>	<p>Levels of production of multiple uses including timber, grazing and recreational visits. Assessments of effectiveness of outreach activities to specific groups (for example, estimates of visits by targeted audiences)</p> <p>Economic effects on the surrounding communities from recreational uses.</p>	

1909.12, 32.13d-visitor use, visitor satisfaction, and	<p><u>9. Do the demographic characteristics of visitors demonstrate ensure that the plan is meeting the desired condition of increased visits from young people, those with low incomes and members of minority groups?</u></p>	<p>i. Do the demographic characteristics of visitors demonstrate the plan is meeting the desired condition of increased visits from young people, those with low incomes, and members of minority groups?</p>	Concur with minor revisions
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recreation objectives Page 20 Line	National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) survey results may be used for visitor-related monitoring. Infrastructure (Infra) recreation site module may be used to monitor opportunities of recreation sites, facilities, and interpretive services. <u>(See section 13.4)</u>	The recreation opportunity spectrum (FSM 2310) and the scenery management system may be used for monitoring recreational settings, sustainable recreation opportunities, and scenic character to the extent that they are applied in plan components (sections 23.22b and 23.22g). National visitor use monitoring survey results may be used for visitor-related monitoring. Infrastructure (Infra) recreation site module may be used to monitor opportunities of recreation sites, facilities, and interpretive services. (See also section 13.4 for relevant assessment content which may inform the monitoring program.)	
1909.12, 32.13g1 (new) – Social, Cultural and Economic Monitoring Page 22 Line 13-24	<p><u>The social, cultural and economic plan monitoring, conducted in partnership with other agencies, tribal, state and local governments and partners with relevant expertise, should contain questions and associated indicators addressing the plan components’ ability to achieve social, economic and cultural desired conditions. The purpose for monitoring social, economic and cultural indicators is to:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Understand the changes in the economic circumstances in the area of influence of the plan</u> 2. <u>Monitor progress toward desired social, economic and cultural conditions</u> 3. <u>Ensure that the expected contributions to social, economic and cultural sustainability are realized</u> 4. <u>Ensure management consistency with other plan components</u> <p><u>The responsible official shall identify one or more monitoring questions, such as those contained in 32.13 g – Exhibit 01</u></p>	<p>32.13f - Identifying Questions and Indicators to Monitor Progress toward Meeting Desired Conditions and Objectives</p> <p>The intent of the Rule requirement to monitor progress toward meeting desired conditions, objectives, or other plan components, including those for providing multiple-use management opportunities is to cover matters not specifically listed in 36 CFR 219.12(a)(5).</p> <p>To carry out this intent, the plan monitoring program must contain one or more questions and associated indicators addressing the plan contributions to communities, social and economic sustainability of communities, multiple use management in the plan area, or progress toward meeting the desired conditions and objectives related to social and economic sustainability.</p> <p>Management of the plan area contributes to the area(s) of influence outside the plan area by providing multiple uses, ecosystem services, and infrastructure, and by direct management operations of the administrative unit. The area of influence is defined in FSH 1909.12, zero code, section 05. See FSH 1909.12, chapter 10, section 13.1 for a discussion of how the plan area contributes to the area of influence.</p>	<p>Concur, alternative approach</p> <p>The section on monitoring progress toward desired conditions is inherently integrative and was expanded to ensure that all aspects of adaptive management, including social, cultural and economic conditions, are addressed in the monitoring program.</p>

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The purpose for monitoring social, cultural, and economic indicators is to:

1. Inform managers and the public of changes in social, cultural, and economic conditions that are influenced by the plan.
2. Monitor contributions of the management of the plan area toward meeting social, cultural, and economic attributes of desired conditions.
3. Provide feedback for adaptive management toward expected and potential contributions to social and economic sustainability.

The Interdisciplinary Team may design social, economic, and cultural monitoring in partnership with other agencies, tribal, State and local governments and partners, where appropriate and should consider plan component-based monitoring questions, similar to those contained in exhibit 01.

1909.12, 32.13g2 (new) – Social, Cultural and Economic Monitoring Page 22 New table (exhibit 01)	<p><u>32.13g – Exhibit 01: Sample Social, Economic and Cultural Monitoring Questions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Are the communities and their economies in the area of influence of the plan experiencing positive changes that can be associated with the implementation of the plan while moving toward desired conditions?</u> 2. <u>Are the realistic expectations of state, local and tribal governments in the area of influence of the plan being met?</u> 3. <u>To what extent are young people, people of low income and members of minority groups engaged in a meaningful way in plan monitoring and implementation?</u> 4. <u>Does the plan meet the needs of low-income people, members of minority groups and young people, including providing employment and training opportunities?</u> 5. <u>Are predictable levels of resources including timber, grazing, minerals and recreation being made available and being produced in a timely manner?</u> 6. <u>Is the area of influence of the plan experiencing positive changes in employment attributable to plan implementation?</u> 7. <u>What is the trend in local business capacity within the area of influence to perform a broad range of land management services to support the plan components?</u> 8. <u>To what extent are businesses and workers in the plan area of influence benefiting from the full suite of activities in the plan?</u> 9. <u>What is the trend in the breadth of and depth of collaborative engagement and</u> 	<p>32.13g – Exhibit 01 Sample Social, Economic and Cultural Monitoring Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are projects and activities achieving the desired contribution to social, cultural, and economic conditions in the area(s) of influence? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is the identified contribution to social and economic sustainability in the desired conditions being achieved? b. Are the related plan objectives being met? c. Are the levels of resource outputs (such as recreation visits, grazing animal unit months, timber harvest) being achieved? 2. What changes are occurring in the social, cultural, and economic conditions in the plan area(s) of influence that could affect the plan-related contributions? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the changes occurring in population demographics (for example, minority populations, age demographics, lifestyles, or attitudes)? b. What are the changes occurring to local economies (for example, composition and distribution of employment, wages, Federal payments to local governments, poverty levels)? 	<p>Concur with minor revisions</p> <p>Effort was made to condense and simplify questions</p>
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	<p><u>partnership across the plan components?</u></p> <p>10. <u>To what extent has the plan led to agency investments in areas of lower social vulnerability as compared to areas of higher social vulnerability?</u></p> <p>11. <u>To what extent have plan components and their implementation strengthened local capacity to respond to and recover from ecological, social, and economic disturbance and change?</u></p> <p>12. <u>To what extent are social institutions embedded in the local culture engaged in the planning process?</u></p> <p>13. <u>Does the plan respect and when possible contribute to the values, traditions, and culture of the community?</u></p> <p>14. <u>How does the plan help to build capacity of traditional communities to engage in the planning process?</u></p> <p>15. <u>How will traditional communities and their institutions benefit from activities in the plan?</u></p> <p>16. <u>Will the activities in the plan result in a sustainable development future that is beneficial to traditional communities and future generations?</u></p>	<p>c. What cultural changes are occurring (for example, cultural events associated with specific communities, changing patterns of tourism and recreation, health and safety, subsistence use of resources)?</p> <p>d. Are these changes related to the management of the plan area or the land management plan?</p>	
<p>1909.12, 32.13hg - Productivity of the Land Page 22 Line 13-16</p>	<p>Many scientific studies have been published on effects of silvicultural practices on soil productivity. If research has shown the effect of current practices, there is no need for intensive soil monitoring. A possible monitoring question is whether the silvicultural practices on the plan area are considered appropriate based on existing scientific information?</p>	<p>deleted</p>	<p>Concur</p>
<p>1909.12, 32.3 – Transitioning To The Plan Monitoring Program Page 24 Line 16-38</p>	<p>1. In transitioning to the plan monitoring program requirements in 36 CFR 219.12(a), the responsible official should:</p> <p>a. Use an administrative change to establish the plan monitoring program after notice to the public of the intended monitoring program and consideration of public comment. <u>Incorporate the monitoring questions in 219.12(a)(5) into the forest plan monitoring program through an administrative change that includes public notice of the intended changes to the monitoring program and consideration of public comment. Changes to the underlying forest plan, for example to identify focal species or species of conservation concern, are not required.</u></p>	<p>1. When transitioning to the plan monitoring program requirements in 36 CFR 219.12(a), the Responsible Official:</p> <p>a. Must modify the existing monitoring program by adding, deleting, modifying, and replacing questions and indicators as necessary to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 219.12(a)(5) through administrative changes after public notice of the intended changes to the monitoring program and consideration of public comments (see 36 CFR 219.7(f) and 219.13(c)).</p> <p>b. Should notify the public of the expected date of the first biennial monitoring evaluation report (to be published no later than 2 years from the date of the new monitoring program).</p>	<p>Concur with minor revisions</p> <p>The use of all monitoring results is addressed in Chapter 10 on assessments. Subsection (d) is, therefore, not listed here.</p>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Notify the public of the establishment of the plan monitoring program in any way the responsible official deems appropriate and at the same time notify the public of the expected date of the first biennial monitoring evaluation report (to be published no later than 2 years from date of the new monitoring program). c. Before initiating modification of the monitoring program, ensure that funding and manpower are sufficient the monitoring plan transition does not without adversely affecting ongoing management programs. Balance funding needs for monitoring with other program needs. d. <u>Use results of the modified monitoring plan to inform the assessment for forest plan revisions.</u> e. <u>Coordinate the transition of the plan monitoring program with the development of the regional broad-scale monitoring program, to the degree possible.</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Should coordinate the transition of the plan monitoring program with the development of broader-scale monitoring strategies to the extent possible (see sec. 33 of this Handbook). 2. When transitioning to the plan monitoring program requirements in 36 CFR 219.12(a), the Responsible Official should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Coordinate across the Agency and with partners so that questions and indicators can be consistent or complementary with other monitoring approaches. b. Assess the extent to which the current monitoring program already includes questions and associated indicators related to the items listed in 36 CFR 219.12(a)(5) for the plan monitoring program, identifying gaps in the existing monitoring program, and identifying items that are no longer needed because they do not answer questions relevant to the plan. c. Use broader-scale monitoring information where available, such as national visitor use monitoring and forest inventory analysis data, to help develop efficient questions that can be answered with ongoing data collection efforts to the extent that available data is collected and synthesized in a format or methodology appropriate for the scale of the monitoring question. |
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1909.12, 33.1 - Exhibit 01— Continued Page 28	<u>Possible Approaches for Developing Broader-scale Monitoring</u>	<u>Examples of Broader-scale Monitoring Elements</u>	Possible Approaches for Developing Monitoring Elements or Substrategies	Examples of Broader-scale Monitoring Elements or Substrategies	Did not add the recommended text. The Directives team believes the final summary is accurate.
	<u>Broader-scale monitoring developed with partners and the public.</u> Regional foresters jointly develop a large landscape monitoring program with partners and the public to monitor keys issues across multiple plan areas.	The Pacific Northwest Region developed a broad-scale monitoring program to address several issues that are found across coastal and Cascade Range National Forests. These issues include trends in old forest habitat, trends in spotted owls and marbled murrelets, watershed health, <u>producing a predictable level of timber sales, special</u>			

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		<p><u>forest products, livestock grazing, minerals, and recreation opportunities, maintaining the stability of local and regional economies on a predictable, long-term basis, and assisting with long-term economic development and diversification to minimize adverse impacts associated with the loss of timber jobs.</u> and information and the distribution of a number of other lesser known plant and animal species. The monitoring program was collaboratively developed with substantial science input to develop rigorous protocols and methods for each major element of the program. Multiple Federal agencies including Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service have been involved in the development, execution, and evaluation of the monitoring program.</p>	<p>Other broader-scale monitoring substrategies developed with partners and the public. Regional Foresters jointly develop a broader scale monitoring strategy with partners and the public to monitor key issues across multiple plan areas that may also address plan monitoring questions.</p>	<p>In the past, the Pacific Northwest Region developed a broad-scale monitoring strategy to address several issues that are found across coastal and Cascade Range National Forests. These issues concern declining trends in old forest habitat, declining trends in spotted owls and marbled murrelets, watershed health, and information and the distribution of a number of other lesser known plant and animal species. The monitoring strategy was collaboratively developed with substantial science input to develop rigorous protocols and methods for each major topic of the program. A number of Federal agencies, including Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and NMFS have been involved in the development, execution, and evaluation of the monitoring strategy.</p>	
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<p>1909.12, 33.2 - Documenting the Broader-scale Monitoring Strategy Page 28 Line 6-16</p>	<p>The regional forester should <u>must</u> document the broader-scale monitoring strategy for the region <u>and make it publicly available</u>. Documentation for a broader-scale monitoring strategy may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifying the appropriate monitoring questions and associated indicators for broader-scale monitoring for planning and the appropriate scale and units where these would apply; 	<p>The Regional Forester must document the broader-scale monitoring strategy for the region and make it publicly available. Documentation for a broader-scale monitoring strategy may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifying the appropriate monitoring questions and associated indicators for broader-scale monitoring for planning, and the appropriate scale and units where these would apply. 	<p>Concur</p>
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	<p>2. Identifying the monitoring methods, protocols, and sample designs that are to be used across multiple plan areas (including corporate applications that are used to store data and conduct analysis);</p> <p>3. Describing how the broader-scale monitoring is to be carried out;</p> <p>4. Including a feedback mechanism to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the broader-scale monitoring strategy, looking at the best available scientific information and opportunities to collaborate with partners and the public.</p> <p>The regional forester may provide a broader scale monitoring evaluation report to summarize the findings from the broader scale monitoring for the NFS units in the region to reference in the biennial monitoring evaluation report. A broader scale monitoring evaluation report is not required. Documented results from the broader-scale monitoring strategy must be made publicly available on at least a 5 year cycle.</p> <p>An evaluation of broader-scale monitoring information applicable to the plan area should <u>must</u> be included in the biennial monitoring evaluation report for each NFS unit where relevant <u>and available</u>. See section 34 below.</p>	<p>2. Identifying information available, including methods, protocols, and sample designs to be used across multiple plan areas (including corporate applications used to store data and conduct analysis).</p> <p>3. Describing how the broader-scale monitoring is to be carried out.</p> <p>4. Describing how the broader-scale monitoring results will be provided to the Forest Supervisors for the plan monitoring program requiring the information.</p> <p>5. Including a feedback mechanism to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the broader-scale monitoring strategy, looking at the best available scientific information and opportunities to collaborate with partners and the public.</p> <p>2. The results of the broader-scale monitoring strategy are given to the public as follows:</p> <p>a. The Forest Supervisor must include in the unit biennial monitoring evaluation report an evaluation of relevant broader-scale monitoring information.</p> <p>b. The Forest Supervisor should include in the unit biennial monitoring evaluation report a discussion of any changes to the broader-scale monitoring program that is relevant to the unit (see sec. 34 of this Handbook).</p> <p>c. The Regional Forester shall make the documented results from the broader-scale monitoring strategy developed under the requirement of 36 CFR 219.12(b) publicly available on at least a 5-year cycle. Results may be documented in a variety of forms, including data, summaries, reports, and papers.</p>	
1909.12, 43.1 – Guidance for Public Participation Page 18 Line 9-10	Public participation activities described in this Handbook fulfill public engagement requirements of both the planning rule (36 CFR part 219) and the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) <u>and are consistent with public participation requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.) and implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508, 36 CFR part 220).</u>	42 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGY The public participation strategy should cover the plan development activities required by not only the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.), and the Planning Rule (36 CFR 219) but also the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.), and its implementing regulations and procedures (40 CFR 1500-1508, 36 CFR part 220;	Concur with minor revisions

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	Added exhibit on planning process.	<p>FSH 1909.15). Note that the requirements to provide opportunities for public participation are the same for amendments as for plan development or revision, except that the Responsible Official has discretion to determine whether an assessment, and the associated public involvement, is needed for a plan amendment.</p> <p>Note exhibit modified and placed at FSH 1909.12, chapter 20, section 21.14.</p>	
<p>1909.12, 43.12 - Developing a Public Participation Strategy Page 21 Line 24</p>	<p>2. When developing a plan proposal <u>and conducting NEPA scoping.</u></p>	<p>FSH 1909.12, chapter 20 21.13 - Opportunities for Coordinating Planning and NEPA Activities</p> <p>The NEPA and Forest planning processes must be integrated. The Responsible Official should provide direction to the Interdisciplinary team in a project initiation letter to ensure that the Interdisciplinary Team develops a strategic approach for coordinating planning and NEPA procedures. The Forest Service NEPA directives are found in FSM 1950 – Environmental Policy and Procedures and in FSH 1909.15 – National Environmental Policy Act Handbook. See http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nepa/nepa_procedures/index.htm. Careful coordination of planning and NEPA procedures, particularly public participation, allows the Interdisciplinary Team to be more efficient by aligning planning tasks with the requirements of NEPA. Important opportunities to integrate planning and NEPA requirements include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using the results of the assessment to describe the affected environment in the environmental impact statement. If information gaps were identified during or subsequent to the assessment, additional information might be needed to effectively describe the affected environment, consistent with NEPA requirements. 	<p>Concur and further develop</p>

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2. Using the need to change the plan identified during the planning process to write the purpose and need statement for the environmental impact statement. Early in the planning phase, a preliminary need to change the plan is identified and public comment is sought to help develop the need to change the plan, which in turn helps focus plan development or revision.

3. Including both planning and NEPA requirements in the public participation strategy (FSH 1909.12, ch. 40, sec. 42).

4. Integrating NEPA scoping, where appropriate, into public engagement activities used to support development of plan components and other plan content. Scoping includes refining the proposed action, determining cooperating agencies, identifying preliminary issues, and identifying interested and affected persons (FSH 1909.15, ch. 10, sec. 11.) Early public engagement during the planning process can help to identify goals and concerns for the plan area. This phase provides the opportunity for the Interdisciplinary Team to meet NEPA scoping requirements and, therefore, gain an understanding of the following elements that will be important during the NEPA analysis:

- a. Significant issues that will frame alternatives for considerations,
- b. Potential alternatives for analysis, and
- c. Potential effects of alternatives.

21.14 - Coordination of Public Outreach and Scoping Activities for Plan Revision

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1909.12, 43.12, line 13-15, Developing a Public Participation Strategy Page 23 Line 13-15	<p>b. <u>During the assessment process. Publication of notice in the Federal Register is required at the beginning of an assessment. Consider providing opportunities</u></p> <p><u>***</u></p> <p><u>Consider providing opportunities ***</u></p> <p><u>(3) To comment on the entire assessment, such as by providing a public comment period on the draft assessment. Make it clear that assessment information will continue to be available for public review and comment throughout the planning process.</u></p>	<p>42.11 - Public Participation during Assessments</p> <p>Public notice that an assessment is being initiated must be given in the Federal Register, newspaper of record, and online (see sec. 42.2 of this Handbook for additional detail on notice requirements).</p> <p>***</p> <p>Chapter 10, "Assessment," provides direction on the content of the assessment. The following direction applies whether an assessment is done for a plan, plan revision, or plan amendment:</p> <p>1. The Interdisciplinary Team shall provide the following opportunities for public participation in the assessment:</p> <p>a. At the start of the assessment, inform the public about the scope and scale of the assessment and encourage participants to share their knowledge of existing forest conditions.</p> <p>b. During the development of the assessment, receive public input on specific elements of the assessment.</p> <p>c. Make the draft assessment report available for public review and feedback during a specified time period. Notification that the draft assessment report is available for review should state that the assessment report will continue to be available for public review throughout the planning process. In addition, the notice should state that the public will have further opportunities throughout the plan development or revision phase and NEPA scoping to provide comment on information in the assessment or provide new information as it relates to the proposed action and other possible alternatives (see sec. 42.2 of this Handbook).</p>	Concur with minor revisions
1909.12, 43.12, line 17-26, Developing a Public Participation Strategy	<p>a. <u>When developing a plan proposal. For new plans, plan revisions, and plan amendments that may create significant effects, publish in the Federal Register a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and conduct scoping to identify significant issues as soon as a proposed action can be identified (40 CFR 1501.2, 40 CFR 1501.7, 36 CFR 220.5(b), 36 CFR 219.13(b)(3)). The proposed action can vary in the level of detail as appropriate to facilitate an early and open process for</u></p>	<p>21.14 - Coordination of Public Outreach and Scoping Activities for Plan Revision</p> <p>There are considerations when coordinating public outreach and scoping activities. Here are two examples:</p> <p>1. Engage the public to develop the proposal and later begin</p>	Concur, alternative approach

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Page 23 Line 17-26	<p><u>determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action (40 CFR 1501.7). The public must have meaningful input into the development of a proposed action and alternatives to it. The notice of intent to prepare an EIS can be combined with the notice to initiate development of a new plan revision or where appropriate a plan amendment. (36 CFR 219.5 (a)(2)</u></p>	<p>NEPA scoping. Once the Responsible Official starts the planning process with notice to start development of a new plan revision (36 CFR 219.5(a)(1)), the Interdisciplinary Team would conduct public engagement activities needed to ensure strong public input into developing a proposal. The proposal might consist of a detailed need to change the plan, proposed management areas, plan components, or a combination of these items. At a reasonable time in advance of preparation of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS), the Responsible Official has the option to start NEPA scoping by publishing a notice of intent (NOI) in the Federal Register. Under this consideration, the Agency gives the public a more specific proposal, developed with public input, in the NOI to bring about specific comments that are useful to identify specific issues related to the proposal. Responsible Officials must set the expectation that they will consider and use all public comments arising through the NEPA process to refine or alter the proposal.</p> <p>2. Engage the public to develop the proposal and at the same time begin NEPA scoping. NEPA scoping may begin simultaneously with the planning process. The notice of intent to prepare an EIS can be combined with the notice to start development of a new plan revision (36 CFR 219.5(a)(1). In this approach, the proposal in the NOI would be less specific than paragraph 1. In this approach, public engagement efforts intended to identify issues and potential alternatives, and to design plan components are done together. Under this consideration, additional public engagement may be needed once a proposal is refined to identify specific issues related to the proposal. If there are major changes to the NOI proposal, a corrected notice of intent should be published in the Federal Register.</p>	<p>As recommended, this section provides for variation in the level of specificity of the need for change document. This section is further clarified to ensure that public engagement is provided for in the development of the plan, regardless of what overall approach is selected.</p>
1909.12, 43.14 -	<p><u>Consider choosing spokespeople and partners that low-income and minority audiences will</u></p>	43.3 - Engaging a Wide Range of Members of the Public	Concur with minor

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Engaging a Diverse Set of Stakeholders Page 25 Line 8-37	<p><u>relate to and trust, including appropriate media celebrities, grass-roots community leaders, and popular culture personalities. Be prepared to answer the question ‘why should I care about forest planning’ by connecting national forests to the basic necessities of life:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Clean drinking water and fresh air,</u> • <u>Nutrition-rich food (from hunting, fishing, gathering and grazing),</u> • <u>Job and career opportunities (e.g. in forest and stream restoration, fire-fighting, Forest Service leadership, recreation management, timber harvesting, etc.),</u> • <u>Wood products,</u> • <u>Cultural and religious practices, and</u> • <u>Healthful lifestyles, outdoor recreation, and exercise.</u> <p><u>Address people’s fears of venturing out of their communities where they may not feel safe or welcome. Look for partnership opportunities with organizations such as Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS). Build the connection with national forests by making them accessible and affordable, such as through group outings and public transportation. Make it easy, enjoyable, and rewarding to participate in forest planning by focusing on people’s visions for the future and making a better world for their children and grandchildren.</u></p> <p><u>Engage younger audiences in the planning process and beyond, by appealing to their curiosity about the natural world through visual experiences and physical contact with the outdoors and forest environment. Work with teachers, parents, and curriculum developers to educate youth about forest and wildlife ecology and connections to their own lives (e.g. honey from bees, water from forests and mountains, career opportunities). Design activities that are fun and produce take-home reminders of what they have learned. Involve young adults in managing, monitoring, and responsibly using the national forests by partnering with organizations like the Student Conservation Association and state conservation corps.</u></p> <p><u>Monitor the success of reaching low-income and minority communities, and young people in the planning process (see section 32.13 g)</u></p>	<p>Consider choosing appropriate spokespeople, including community leaders and partners, to engage audiences such as youth, low-income, or minorities.. Be prepared to answer the question “Why should I care about forest planning?” by connecting national forests to the basic necessities of life, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean drinking water and fresh air, 2. Nutrition-rich food (from hunting, fishing, gathering, and grazing), 3. Job and career opportunities (for example in forest and stream restoration, firefighting, Forest Service leadership, recreation management, timber harvesting, or other areas), 4. Wood products, 5. Cultural and religious practices, and 6. Healthful lifestyles, outdoor recreation, and exercise. <p>Ensure public participation opportunities present inclusive environments for people who have not traditionally participated in land management planning. Look for partnership opportunities with organizations such as Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. Build the connection with national forests by making public participation accessible and affordable, such as organizing group outings and providing transportation. Make it easy, enjoyable, and rewarding to participate in forest planning by focusing on people’s visions for the future and making a better world for their children and grandchildren.</p> <p>Engage younger audiences in the planning process and beyond, by appealing to their curiosity about the natural world through visual experiences and physical contact with the outdoors and forest environment. Work with teachers, parents, and curriculum developers to educate youth about forest and wildlife ecology and connections to their own lives (for example, honey from bees, water from forests and mountains, career opportunities). Design activities that are fun and produce take-home reminders of what they have learned. Involve young adults in managing,</p>	revisions

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monitoring, and responsibly using the national forests by partnering with organizations like the members of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps.
 In the planning record, provide a brief summary of the success of outreach to low-income, minority communities, and young people.

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1909.12, 43.16a1 – Participation during Phases of Planning Page 27 Line 17-40	<p><u>43.16a - Participation during Phases of Planning</u></p> <p><u>The collaborative role of state, local and tribal governments in the planning process is unique. The opportunity for their involvement throughout the planning process is both required by law and essential to the successful development and implementation of forest plans.</u></p>	<p>44 - PARTICIPATION AND COORDINATION WITH FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES, ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS, OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES, AND STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS</p> <p>The role of State, local, Tribal governments and other Federal agencies in the planning process is unique. The opportunity for their involvement throughout the planning process is essential to the successful development and implementation of forest plans. Their participation should be actively sought throughout the planning process and continue through monitoring and adaptive management under the plan. The Responsible Official should ensure that the public participation strategy includes a description of how the Interdisciplinary Team will interact with other public agencies. * * *</p> <p>44.2 - Interaction with Other Governmental Entities</p> <p>Describing the participation of other governments in the public participation strategy provides an opportunity for the Responsible Official to clarify roles and ensure open lines of communication throughout the planning process. The public participation strategy should reflect the preferences of other agencies for participation in the planning process so the Responsible Official can respond to resource or schedule constraints. The public participation strategy should also reflect that it is a goal of the planning process is to identify common objectives with Tribal, State, and local governments and find opportunities to resolve or reduce conflicts and address impacts related to national forest management.</p>	<p>Concur with minor revision</p> <p>Section 44 was expanded to provide greater clarity in direction regarding the participation of tribal governments and other state and local governments and governmental authorities.</p> <p>The recommended new section was included in the revised section 44.</p> <p>The word “collaborative” was deleted since the role of other governments, broadly, not just in collaborative activities, is unique and further addressed in section 44.</p>

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1909.12, 43.16a2 – Participation during Phases of Planning Page 27 Line 17-40	<p><u>43.16a - Participation during Phases of Planning</u></p> <p><u>Their participation should be actively sought prior to initiation of the planning process and continue through monitoring and adaptive management under the plan. State, local and tribal involvement can occur in several ways:</u></p> <p><u>1) Collaboration—Special emphasis should be given to encouraging participation by state, local and tribal governments in defining opportunities for public collaborative processes and in participating in such processes.</u></p> <p><u>2) Cooperation—The planning process should build upon existing cooperative relationships with state, local and tribal governments. Consider designation of a single primary point of contact within the agency for purposes of the planning process.</u></p> <p><u>3) Coordination—Coordination with state, local and tribal governments is mandated by the NFMA and FLPMA. From NFMA, “the Secretary of Agriculture shall develop, maintain and, as appropriate, revise land and resource management plans for units of the National Forest System, coordinated with the land and resource management planning processes of State and local governments and other Federal agencies,” [emphasis added] [16 USC 1604(a)]. From FLPMA, “[i]n the development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary of Agriculture shall coordinate land use plans for lands in the National Forests with the land use planning and management programs of and for Indian tribes by, among other things, considering the policies of approved tribal land resource management programs” [43 USC 1712(b)]. See the definition of “Coordination” in the Zero Code. Recognize that, while the Forest Service cannot delegate its ultimate decision making authority, a goal of the planning process should be to achieve mutually agreeable outcomes with tribal, state and local governments.</u></p>	<p>44.2 - Interaction with Other Governmental Entities * * *</p> <p>It is critical that the public participation strategy clearly state the approaches that will be used for interaction with other governmental entities to provide clear expectations for all parties. Interaction with other governmental entities occurs in several ways, including the following:</p> <p>1. Collaboration. Special emphasis should be given to encouraging participation by State, local, and Tribal governments, including identifying opportunities for public collaborative processes and opportunities for participation in such processes.</p> <p>2. Cooperation. The planning process should build upon existing cooperative relationships with State, local and Tribal governments and other Federal agencies. The Responsible Official should consider designating a single Agency primary point of contact for intergovernmental cooperation during the planning process.</p> <p>3. Coordination. Coordination is mandated by the Planning Rule (219.4(b)) and:</p> <p>a. From NFMA, “the Secretary of Agriculture shall develop, maintain and, as appropriate, revise land and resource management plans for units of the National Forest System, coordinated with the land and resource management planning processes of State and local governments and other Federal agencies,” (16 U.S.C. 1604(a)).</p> <p>b. From FLPMA, “[i]n the development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary of Agriculture shall coordinate land use plans for lands in the National Forests with the land use planning and management programs of and for Indian Tribes by, among other things, considering the policies of approved Tribal land resource management programs” (43 U.S.C. 1712(b)).</p>	<p>Concur with minor revisions</p> <p>The recommended new section is included in the revised section 44 on all governmental participation.</p>

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1909.12, 43.16a3 – Participation during Phases of Planning Page 28 Line 1-25	<p>4) <u>Cooperating Agency Status—Cooperating Agency status is made available to state, local and tribal governments under NEPA. (40CFR 1508.5) Thus it applies only to that portion of the planning process that occurs concurrently with NEPA, i.e. scoping through ROD. It must be requested by the governmental entity and should, under most circumstances, be granted by FS when the cooperator has “special expertise” or “jurisdiction by law” and can be expected to meet the cooperating agency requirements in 40 CFR 1501.6(b). While not required, the Forest Service and the cooperating agency are encouraged to develop a formal MOU outlining the terms of the cooperation. Cooperating agency status should include an opportunity for involvement on interdisciplinary planning teams and access to pre-decisional NEPA documents.</u></p> <p>5) <u>Tribal Consultation—Executive Order 13175 and Department of Agriculture and Forest Service policies require agency officials to pursue regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications and to strengthen the United States’ government-to-government relationships with Indian tribes. Memoranda of Understanding or Agreement should be used as tools to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the Forest Service and tribal governments early in the process and to ensure that consultation occurs throughout plan development, implementation and adaptive management. See Section 44 for additional guidance on tribal consultation.</u></p>	<p>44.2 - Interaction with Other Governmental Entities * * *</p> <p>4. Cooperating Agency Status. Cooperating agency status is made available to State, local, and Tribal governments under the CEQ NEPA regulation (40 CFR 1508.5). Thus it applies only to that portion of the planning process that occurs subsequent to the issuance of the notice of intent to develop an environmental impact statement. The Responsible Official shall encourage governmental entities to request cooperating agency status where appropriate. This request should, under most circumstances, be granted by the Forest Service when the cooperator has “special expertise” or “jurisdiction by law” and can be expected to meet the cooperating agency requirements in 40 CFR 1501.6(b). The Forest Service and the cooperating agency are encouraged to develop a formal memorandum of understanding outlining the terms of the cooperation. A cooperating agency should be allowed on interdisciplinary planning teams and have access to predecisional NEPA documents.</p> <p>5. Tribal Consultation (sec. 44.3 of this Handbook).</p> <p>44.3 - Tribal Consultation and Opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives to Participate in the Planning Process * * * Consultation during the planning process should be in accord with FSH 1509.13, American Indian and Alaska Native Relations Handbook, chapter 10, Consultation with Tribes. Executive Order 13175 and Department of Agriculture (DR 1350-002) and Forest Service policies (FSM 1560 and FSH 1509.13, ch 10) require agency officials to pursue regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications and to strengthen the United States’ government-to-government relationships with Indian Tribes* * *</p>	Alternative approach

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1909.12, 43.17b - Participation during Development, Revision, or Amendment of Plan Components Page 28 Line 4-15	<p>The intent of public participation during plan development, revision, or amendment is to <u>identify significant issues regarding the proposed action, identify potential alternatives for NEPA analysis, develop and identify zones of agreement relevant to plan components, where possible, acquire assistance in designing effective plan components, and obtain other feedback as needed. Topics that may be included in public participation include potential desired conditions, objectives, other plan components, and other plan content.</u></p> <p><u>The NEPA process must be well integrated into the opportunities for public participation in plan development, revision, or amendment. NEPA scoping can begin as soon as the assessment is complete and prior to or early in the development of plan components and other plan content. NEPA scoping should encourage comments on the completed assessment as it relates to the proposed action and other possible alternatives.</u></p>	<p>42.12 - Public Participation during Development, Revision, or Amendment of Plan Components</p> <p>Public participation opportunities are provided during plan development, revision, or amendment to identify public interests and concerns regarding the plan area, develop zones of agreement relevant to plan components, include the public in designing effective plan components, and ensure other participation as needed (see sec. 42.2 of this Handbook for additional detail on notice requirements). ***</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While the plan development process is unique to each planning unit, there are certain steps that are fundamental to an plan development process and for which public participation is important: *** (d). Providing an opportunity to comment on a proposed plan and accompanying NEPA analysis documents.*** <p>21.14 - Coordination of Public Outreach and Scoping Activities for Plan Revision</p> <p>There are considerations when coordinating public outreach and scoping activities. Here are two examples: * * *</p> <p>(see response to section 43.12) * * *</p> <p>Exhibit 01 displays a model on how planning, NEPA, and opportunities to participate are related over time in the plan revision process. There is a row for each topic. The beginning of the assessment is on the left. The end of the planning process is on the right. It should take 3 to 4 years to cross the page. The activities that occur about the same time are arranged on top of one another. The duration of any given activity will vary depending on specific circumstances.</p>	<p>Concur, alternative approach</p> <p>Section 42.12 has been expanded and a section on coordinating NEPA and Planning procedures added at 21.14.</p>

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1909.12, 51.63 - Notice of Objections Filed Page 23 Line 2-37	<p>Within 10 days after close of the objection filing period, the responsible official shall <u>provide the notice of the beginning of the 10-day period to file a request to participate in an objection resolution process directly, through postal mail or email, to those who have requested the environmental documents or are eligible to file a request as an interested person.</u></p> <p><u>In addition, within 10 days after close of the objection filing period, the responsible official shall publish a notice of all objections in the applicable newspaper of record and post the notice online</u> (36 CFR 219.56(f)). The notices must include, at a minimum, the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name of the plan, plan revision, or plan amendment and the name and title of the responsible official and reviewing officer(s). 2. The name of the objector and affiliation, if any, for each objection filed. 3. Instructions on how to obtain a copy of any of the objections. 4. An explanation that those recognized by the reviewing officer as interested persons have an opportunity to participate in any objection resolution meetings. 5. Information regarding the deadline for requests to be recognized as an interested person (10 days after publication of the notice of objections filed in the newspaper of record). 6. Instructions on how to request recognition as an interested person, including the name, title, and contact information for the reviewing officer. Requests must include the name and affiliation, if any, of the individual; mailing address; phone number; email address for the requester; the name(s) of the objector(s) whose objections they have an interest in; and a brief explanation of their interest; <u>and a statement that demonstrates the individual's prior participation in the planning process.</u> Include a description of how a request stating an interest in an objection or part of an objection pertaining to the identification of species of conservation concern will be forwarded to that the reviewing officer for the identification of species of conservation concern. <p><u>The responsible official shall ensure that tribal governments are aware of objections filed, and the objections process. The responsible official shall provide the opportunity for the tribe to participate in the objections process as designated interested persons. The responsible official shall continue to consult with tribal government on the objections</u></p>	<p>51.61 – Notice of Objections Filed * * *</p> <p><u>Within 10 days after close of the objection filing period, the Responsible Official shall</u> publish in the applicable newspaper of record and post on line a notice of all objections not set aside from consideration. ***</p> <p>2. The notice of objections filed shall also provide notice of the beginning of a 10-day period during which individuals or organizations with a particular interest in resolution of the objection(s) may request to participate in any meetings between the objector(s) and the Forest Service, as an interested person (sec. 51.64 of this Handbook) and must include the following: * * *</p> <p>(f) <u>a statement that identifies the interested person's prior substantive formal written comments, demonstrating participation in the planning process</u> * * *</p> <p><u>The notice must be provided through mail or email to those who have requested the environmental documents or are eligible to file a request, including cooperating agencies and Tribal governments, as an interested person (see 51.65 of this Handbook for more about interested persons).</u></p> <p><u>51.65 Interested Persons</u> ***</p> <p><u>The Reviewing Officer shall permit cooperating agencies to participate as interested persons in any objection without formal request when documentation of cooperating agency status, such as a Memorandum of Understanding, specifies that it serves as expression of interest and demonstration of substantive participation in the planning process. The Reviewing Officer shall also permit governments of Federally-recognized Indian Tribes to participate as interested persons in any objection without formal request. While eligible cooperating agencies and Tribal governments are not required to request interested person status, within 10 days of publication of the notice of objections,</u></p>	Concur with minor revisions

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process and objections resolution.

The responsible official shall ensure that cooperating agencies are aware of objections filed, and the objections process and resolution. The responsible official shall provide the opportunity for cooperating agencies to participate in the objections process as designated interested persons.

The responsible official shall ensure that state and local governments that are not cooperating agencies and that have participated in the planning process are aware of objections filed, and the objections process and resolution. Such state and local governments that are not cooperating agencies may file for interested person status.

they must notify the Reviewing Officer of their interest in specific objections and intent to participate so that the Reviewing Officer is able to provide notification of relevant meetings or calls.

Governmental entities that have participated in the planning process but have not established cooperating agency status, as specified in sec 51.64(1), may file to participate as an interested party (see sec. 51.61(2)).

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Interested Persons Page 26 Line 22-36	<p>unresolved concerns, the objection process for planning includes the requirement to allow others who are interested in how objections are resolved to participate in meetings to resolve objections. These are termed “interested persons”. <u>Interested persons are individuals or entities who have submitted substantive formal comments during the planning process and/or who have generally participated in the planning process and have demonstrated valid interest.</u> The Responsible Official may, in his or her discretion, make exceptions to this provision in extenuating circumstances.</p> <p>The reviewing officer shall acknowledge and respond promptly to all requests to be given interested person status. Requests should generally be approved. If the request is denied, the response must include the explanation for the denial.</p> <p>Once an individual or entity is recognized as an interested person, they shall receive notification of all meetings, including conference calls, concerning resolution of the objection(s) for which they indicated an interest, and shall be permitted to participate in those meetings or calls <u>as determined by the reviewing officer. The reviewing officer is encouraged to contact interested parties in advance of the objection resolution meeting to understand the interested parties’ concerns. The reviewing officer should explain that the purpose of the objection resolution meeting is to resolve the objection with the objector, and not to resolve the concerns of the interested party.</u></p>	<p>The objection process for planning includes the requirement to allow others who are interested in how objections are resolved to participate in meetings to resolve objections. <u>“Interested persons” may include any party not named in the objection and who submitted substantive formal comments demonstrating their participation during the planning process.</u></p> <p>* * *</p> <p>The Reviewing Officer must notify interested person(s) of all meetings, including conference calls, concerning resolution of the objection(s) for which they indicated an interest, and shall be permitted to participate in those meetings or calls. <u>The Reviewing Officer may contact interested persons in advance of the objection resolution meeting to understand their concerns.</u></p> <p>51.63 - Resolution Meetings ***</p> <p><u>The Reviewing Officer must ensure that, while views of interested persons are considered, the resolution clearly responds to the objection.</u></p>	revisions
1909.12, 64.2 –	To meet this requirement, plans should <u>must</u> have standards to ensure that a project	64.12 – Timber Harvest May Not Occur if It Leads to Irreversible	Concur with

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Timber Harvest Cannot Occur If It Leads to Irreversible Damage Page 16 Line 19-25	<p>decision to harvest timber may only be made when it is determined the project would not cause irreversible damage to soil, slope, or watershed condition, <u>as well as at least one monitoring question designed to ensure that this regulatory requirement is being met through plan implementation (see Sec. 32.1g)</u>. A standard stating that no timber harvest could occur on lands where technology to harvest timber is not currently available without causing irreversible damage (see sec. 61.13) would partially meet this requirement by removing these lands from potential harvest. Plans should <u>must</u> also have standards that the timber harvest practices and technology will only be applied if the harvest would not cause irreversible damage to soil, slope or other watershed conditions. These standards may require a site-specific finding that the timber harvest would not cause irreversible damage.</p>	<p>Damage * * *</p> <p>Plans must have standards to ensure that a project decision to harvest timber may only be made when it is determined the project would not cause irreversible damage to soil, slope, or watershed condition. The standards should require a site-specific finding that the timber harvest would not cause irreversible damage. A standard stating no timber harvest could occur on lands where technology to harvest timber is not currently available without causing irreversible damage (see sec. 61.12 of this Handbook) would remove lands with a risk of irreversible damage from potential harvest. For all other lands, Responsible Officials would have to consider additional, site-specific factors associated with any potential harvest to ensure meeting this limitation.</p> <p>32.13h - Identifying Monitoring Questions and Indicators Related to Productivity of the Land * * *</p> <p>When developing monitoring questions and establishing indicators with respect to the productivity of the land, the Interdisciplinary Team may consider the following: .***</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Coordinating with Forest Service Research and Development to obtain results from the long-term soil productivity study and other applicable studies for the Region around the plan area (to the extent that results are available) and to solicit input to the monitoring design and information related to loss of organic matter and carbon and soil compaction. 3. Plan components developed for timber management practices to protect soil (36 CFR 219.11(d)(3) and to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 219.11(d)(2), that timber can only be harvested where soil, slope, or other watershed conditions would not be irreversibly damaged. 	Alternative Approach

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1909.12, 70.6a – Process Page 4 Line 17 -39)	<p><u>The responsible official must provide the opportunities for public participation and collaboration, intergovernmental coordination with state and local governments and tribal consultation required as part of the broader planning process (36 CFR 219.4 and FSH 1909.12, ch. 40) to engage the public and other governments early and throughout the process identified in this Chapter to provide feedback and input on the inventory, evaluation, and analysis of areas for wilderness recommendation. The responsible official may provide additional participation opportunities specifically on this topic as necessary.</u></p> <p><u>The responsible official shall use the following process for identifying and evaluating lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the NWPS and determine whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation. All plan revisions or new plans must complete this process (36 CFR 219.7 (c)(2)(v)).</u></p> <p><u>The Forest Service is making the process of determining whether to recommend lands for wilderness designation pursuant to the Wilderness Act or Eastern Wilderness Act more transparent and consistent across forests. Each forest, however, is unique and responsible officials should set the scope for this effort to meet the unique needs of their forests; no prescribed scope is intended.</u></p> <p>This process has a sequence of steps, <u>all of which include intergovernmental coordination and tribal consultation, as well as opportunities for public participation and collaboration:</u> identification and inventory, evaluation, analysis, and decision.</p> <p><u>Inventory (sec. 71):</u> The responsible official shall identify and create an inventory of all lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the NWPS. The inventory must be broad and inclusive. To develop the inventory, the responsible official shall identify lands based on</p>	<p>70.61 – Participation in the Wilderness Recommendation Process</p> <p>Early and during each step of the process identified in this chapter, the Responsible Official:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must provide opportunities for public participation and collaboration, intergovernmental coordination with State and local governments, and Tribal consultation, as required by the broader planning process (36 CFR 219.4 and FSH 1909.12, ch. 40). Through such opportunities, engage the public and other governments early and throughout the process to provide feedback and input on the inventory, evaluation, analysis and recommendation steps identified in this chapter. 2. May provide additional participation opportunities specifically on this topic as necessary. <p>Maps, analysis, and other documentation developed through each step of the process must be made available timely to the public to increase transparency and enable feedback and input.</p> <p>70.62 – Wilderness Recommendation Process</p> <p>The Responsible Official shall use the following process to identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and to determine whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation, following the direction in FSM 1923.11.</p> <p>The wilderness recommendation process has a sequence of steps: inventory, evaluation, analysis, and recommendation.</p> <p>a. Inventory (sec. 71): The Responsible Official shall identify and create an inventory of all lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. To develop the inventory, the Responsible Official shall ensure the Interdisciplinary Team identifies lands based on information obtained during the assessment or from public and governmental participation opportunities, and using the inventory criteria set out in Section 71. Inclusion in the inventory is not a designation</p>	Concur

Section -page number -line number	FACA Recommended Text Change	FS Revised Text	FS response and explanation
1909.12, 70.6b – Process Page 4 line 40, page-5Line-1-28 (p 5)	<p>To develop the inventory, the responsible official shall identify lands based on <u>information obtained during the assessment and using a set of inventory criteria</u>. In addition, the responsible official shall review information provided during the assessment (FSH 1909.12, ch. 10). Inclusion in the inventory is not a designation that conveys or requires a particular kind of management. Lands included in the inventory must be documented and identified on a map. This map will be available for public participation opportunities during the plan revision or development process.</p> <p>2. <u>Evaluation (sec. 72)</u>: The responsible official shall evaluate the wilderness characteristics of each area in the inventory using a set of criteria based on the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975 and document each of the evaluations completed. The responsible official shall include the documentation of the inventory and evaluation of these areas in the planning record. This documentation will be available for public participation opportunities during the plan revision or development process.</p> <p>3. <u>Analysis (sec. 73)</u>: The responsible official shall consider the areas evaluated and determine, based upon the evaluations and input from the public, which the specific areas to carry forward in the applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for further analysis and public participation opportunities. These areas must be identified within the applicable NEPA document as part of one or more alternatives. Not all lands included in the inventory and subsequent evaluations are required to be <u>analyzed</u> carried forward for further analysis.</p> <p>4. <u>Decision (sec. 74)</u>: The responsible official shall decide, based upon the analysis disclosed in the applicable NEPA document and input <u>from tribes, state and local governments and</u> the public, which areas, if any, to recommend for inclusion in the NWPS, and shall identify any such lands in the final decision document for the plan</p>	<p>that conveys or requires a particular kind of management. Lands included in the inventory must be documented and identified on a map.</p> <p>b. Evaluation (sec. 72): The Responsible Official shall evaluate the wilderness characteristics of lands in the inventory. <u>To conduct the evaluation, the Responsible Official shall ensure the Interdisciplinary Team applies the criteria set out in section 72, based on the Wilderness Act of 1964 and informed by the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975.</u> The Responsible Official may vary the scope of the evaluation of specific areas or portions of areas as described in section 72 of this Handbook. The evaluation must be documented and included in the planning record.</p> <p>c. Analysis (sec. 73): The Responsible Official shall consider the areas evaluated and determine which areas to further analyze for recommendation as part of one or more alternatives in the applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document if this process is done as part of an amendment, unless recommendations regarding wilderness are prohibited by law for amendments. Not all lands included in the inventory and subsequent evaluations are required to be analyzed for recommendation.</p> <p>d. Recommendation (sec. 74): The Responsible Official shall decide, based upon the analysis and <u>input from Tribal, State and local governments</u> and the public, which areas, if any, to recommend for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Responsible Official shall identify any such lands in the final decision document for the plan.</p>	Concur
	<p>The responsible official should use the public participation opportunities provided as part of the broader planning process (FSH 1909.12, ch. 40) to engage the public and other governments to provide feedback and input on the inventory, evaluation, and analysis of areas for wilderness recommendation, and may provide additional participation</p>		

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~~opportunities specifically on this topic as necessary.~~

1909.12, 71 -
Identification
And Inventory
Of Areas That
May Be Suitable
For Inclusion In
The National
Wilderness
Preservation
System
Page 5-6
Line 33(p5) –
10(p6)

The primary function of the identification and inventory step is to ~~comprehensively~~ efficiently and effectively identify all lands that may have wilderness characteristics as defined in the Wilderness Act within the plan area, using a transparent process. Lands included in the inventory will be carried forward for further evaluation. Inclusion in the inventory is not a designation that conveys or requires a particular kind of management.

The inventory is intended to be reasonably broad and inclusive, based on a set of inventory criteria and additional information provided to the responsible official during the assessment (FSH 1909.12, ch. 10). The responsible official will document the inventory and make a map of the lands included in the inventory and make both available to the public during the public participation process and as part of the applicable NEPA documents. The responsible official will also coordinate with State and local governments and consult with Tribes and ANCs during the inventory

71.1 - Inventory

Start the inventory by considering ~~all lands within the planning area. For these lands,~~ existing, relevant information assembled during the assessment, including information about designated areas (e.g. inventoried roadless areas) and transportation infrastructure (e.g. road maintenance levels). With this information, identify and create an inventory of all lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the NWPS using the criteria and steps outlined in section 71.2.

The primary function of the inventory step is to efficiently, effectively, and transparently identify all lands in the plan area that may have wilderness characteristics as defined in the Wilderness Act.

The inventory is intended to be reasonably broad and inclusive, based on the inventory criteria set out in this section and additional information provided to the Responsible Official through the required opportunities for public and government participation (sec. 70.61 of this Handbook). The intent is to identify lands that may be suitable, so that they can be evaluated and to allow for public input and feedback (sec. 70.61 of this Handbook). Lands included in the inventory will be carried forward for evaluation. Inclusion in the inventory is not a designation that conveys or requires a particular kind of management.

The Responsible Official shall ensure the Interdisciplinary Team documents the inventory in a report and creates a map of the lands included in the inventory. Both the inventory report and map must be available to the public and included in the applicable NEPA document.

71.1 – Inventory Process

The Interdisciplinary Team should start the inventory process by considering existing, relevant information identified during the assessment phase (FSH 1909.12, ch. 10), including information about designated areas (such as inventoried roadless areas), transportation infrastructure (such as road maintenance levels), and past or pending wilderness recommendation proposals. Building on this information and any additional public input (sec. 70.61 of this Handbook), the Interdisciplinary Team should apply the criteria and steps identified in section 71.2 of this Handbook to create the inventory.

Concur

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1909.12, 71.21, line 13-14, 71.21 - Size Criteria Page 6, Line 13-14	<p>71.21 - Size Criteria <u>According to the Wilderness Act, a wilderness area “[h]as at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.”</u></p> <p>Include areas meeting Areas to be included must meet one of the following criteria: 1. The area contains 5,000 acres or more....2. The area contains less than 5,000 acres but is of sufficient size... 3. Areas contiguous to existing wilderness...</p>	<p>71.21 – Size Criteria According to the Wilderness Act, a wilderness area “[h]as at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition” (16 U.S.C. 1131c). <u>Areas to be included in the inventory must be federal lands and must meet one of the following size criteria:</u> 1. The area contains 5,000 acres or more. 2. The area contains less than 5,000 acres but is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, including but not limited to areas contiguous to an existing wilderness, primitive areas, administratively recommended wilderness, or wilderness inventory of other Federal ownership.</p>	Concur
1909.12, 71.22 - Improvements Criteria Page 6 Line 21-27	<p>Pursuant to the Wilderness Act, include in the inventory areas <u>“where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean ... as an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;”</u></p>	<p>Pursuant to the Wilderness Act, include in the inventory areas “where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean . . . as an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; . . .”(16 U.S.C. 1131c ,)</p>	Concur
1909.12, 71.22a1, 71.22a - Roads Improvements Page 6-7, Line 31 (p6) -37 (p7)	<p>71.22a - Roads Improvements When considering road-related criteria, the responsible official shall use existing information about roads and routes within the plan area <u>that are contained in the Assessment.</u></p> <p>1. Include in the inventory, areas that <u>Areas to be included in the inventory may</u> contain the following improvements: a. Areas that contain forest roads maintained to level 1; b. Areas with any routes that are <u>decommissioned</u>, unauthorized or temporary, or</p>	<p>71.22a – Road Improvements When considering road-related criteria, the Responsible Official shall ensure the Interdisciplinary Team <u>uses existing information contained in the assessment</u> about roads and routes within the plan area and information gathered from public and governmental participation opportunities (sec. 70.61 of this Handbook) as follows: 1. Include in the inventory areas that contain the following road</p>	Concur

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	<p>forest roads that are identified for decommissioning <u>in a previous decision document, or as identified in a Travel Management Plan (36 CFR 212.51) or a Travel Analysis (36 CFR 212.5(b));</u></p> <p>c. Areas with forest roads that are anticipated during other planning processes for disinvesting future road maintenance activities to a level 1; <u>1 will be reclassified to level 1 through a previous decision document, or as identified in a Travel Management Plan (36 CFR 212.51) or a Travel Analysis (36 CFR 212.5(b));</u></p> <p>d. Areas with historical wagon routes, historical mining routes, or other settlement era transportation features considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area. <u>Areas in the eastern national forests with forest roads maintained to level 2 that are identified as closed to motor vehicle yearlong in a previous decision document, or as identified in a Travel Management Plan (36 CFR 212.51) or a Travel Analysis (36 CFR 212.5(b));</u></p> <p>e. <u>Forest roads in areas that have been proposed for consideration as recommended wilderness through public involvement during the assessment or previous forest planning processes.</u></p> <p>f. Areas with historical wagon routes, historical mining routes, or other settlement era transportation features considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area.</p> <p><u>g. Areas of maintenance level 2 roads that do not meet any of the criteria in subsection 2 below.</u></p>	<p>improvement attributes if the areas also meet the other inventory criteria (sections 71.21 and 71.22b of this Handbook):</p> <p>a. Areas that contain forest roads maintained to level 1;</p> <p>b. Areas with any routes that are decommissioned, unauthorized or temporary, or forest roads that are identified for decommissioning in a previous decision document, or identified as likely unneeded in a travel management plan (36 CFR 212.51) or a travel analysis (36 CFR 212.5(b));</p> <p>c. Areas with forest roads that will be reclassified to level 1 through a previous decision document, or as identified in a travel management plan (36 CFR 212.51) or a travel analysis (36 CFR 212.5(b));</p> <p>d. Areas in Forests, Grasslands, Prairies and other Administrative Units east of the 100th meridian with forest roads maintained to level 2 that are identified as closed to motor vehicles yearlong in a previous decision document, or as identified in a travel management plan (36 CFR 212.51) or a travel analysis (36 CFR 212.5(b));</p> <p>e. Areas with forest roads that have been proposed by the Forest Service for consideration as recommended wilderness as a result of a previous forest planning process; or areas with forest roads that the Responsible Official merits for inclusion in the inventory that were proposed for consideration through public involvement during the assessment or other public or intergovernmental participation opportunity (sec. 70.61).</p> <p>f. Areas with historical wagon routes, historical mining routes, or other settlement era transportation features considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area.</p> <p>g. Areas with maintenance level 2 roads that do not meet the criteria for exclusion in subsection 2(c) below.</p>	

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1909.12, 71.22a2, 71.22a - Roads Improvements Page 6-7, Line 31 (p6) -37 (p7)	<p>71.22a - Roads Improvements * * *</p> <p>2. Except as provided in (1)(b) or (c) or (d) above, exclude from the inventory areas that contain:</p> <p>a. Permanently authorized roads validated by a Federal court or the Department of the Interior for which a valid easement or interest has been properly recorded, or</p> <p>b. Forest roads maintained to levels 3, 4, or 5,</p> <p><u>c. Level 2 roads that meet one or more of the following criteria and are not in proposed areas as provided in (1)(e) above: (1) have been improved and are maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continued use, (2) have cumulatively degraded wilderness character or precluded future preservation of the area as wilderness, (3) have been identified for continued public access and use in a project level or travel planning decision supported by NEPA, or (4) otherwise preclude evaluation and consideration of the area during the public participation and intergovernmental outreach processes as potentially suitable for wilderness, based on Assessment information or on-the-ground knowledge.</u></p> <p>3. Evaluate areas that contain forest roads maintained to level 2, or levels 3, 4 or 5 where those roads are anticipated to be disinvested to a level 2. Include such areas in the inventory unless they are clearly unsuitable for inclusion in the NWPS, based on one or more of the following factors:</p> <p>a. The road has been improved and is maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use.</p> <p>b. Road density is so high that either wilderness character is clearly not present, or future preservation of the area as wilderness would not be possible.</p> <p>c. A project level decision supported by NEPA analysis has been made in favor of continuous public access to and use of the road.</p> <p>d. Other on-the-ground knowledge of the level 2 road that would preclude evaluation and consideration of the area during the public participation process as potentially suitable for wilderness recommendation.</p>	<p>2. Except as provided in (1)(b), (c), (d) or (e) above, exclude from the inventory areas that contain:</p> <p>a. Permanently authorized roads validated by a Federal court or the Department of the Interior for which a valid easement or interest has been properly recorded.</p> <p>b. Forest roads maintained to levels 3, 4, or 5.</p> <p>c. Level 2 roads, or level 3, 4, or 5 roads that will be reclassified to level 2 through a previous decision document, or as identified in a travel management plan (36 CFR 212.51) or a travel analysis (36 CFR 212.5(b)) that meet one or more of the following criteria and are not in proposed areas as provided in (1)(e) above:</p> <p>(1) Have been improved and are maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continued use,</p> <p>(2) Have cumulatively degraded wilderness character or precluded future preservation of the area as wilderness,</p> <p>(3) Have been identified for continued public access and use in a project level or travel planning decision supported by NEPA analysis, or</p> <p>(4) Otherwise preclude evaluation and consideration of the area during the public participation and intergovernmental outreach processes as potentially suitable for wilderness, based on assessment information or on-the-ground knowledge.</p>	<p>Concur</p>
1909.12, 71.22b,	71.22b - Other Improvements	71.22b – Other Improvements	Concur

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71.22b - Other Improvements, Page 7-8, Line 10 (p7)- 28(p8)	<p>Include in the inventory areas with other improvements as follows: <u>Recognize the need to provide for passive or active restoration of wilderness character in previously modified areas consistent with the Eastern Wilderness Act.</u></p> <p><u>Areas to be included in the inventory may include the following improvements:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Airstrips and heliports. 2. Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable,or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions. This can include plantations or plantings where the use of mechanical equipment or evidence of vegetative manipulation (cultivation, terrain contouring, and vegetative type conversions) is present from past management practices. 3. Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable,or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions. 4. Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, and the like, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal. 5. Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions. 6. Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable,or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions. 7. Range improvement areas (FSM 2240.5), involving minor structural improvements (for example, fences or water troughs) and nonstructural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable,or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions. 8. Recreation improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitter camps. As a general rule, do not include developed sites. Areas with minor, easily removable recreation developments may be included. * * * 	<p>After identifying lands within the plan area that meet the size criteria (sec. 71.21 of this Handbook) and the road improvement criteria (sec. 71.22a of this Handbook), determine whether those lands contain other improvements. Include such lands in the inventory where the other improvements or evidence of past human activities are not substantially noticeable in the area as whole, including when the area contains the following, also recognizing the potential need to provide for passive or active restoration of wilderness character in previously modified areas, consistent with the intent of the Eastern Wilderness Act:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Airstrips and heliports. 2. Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable. 3. Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable. 4. Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations that support television, radio, telephone or cellular communications, provided their impacts, as well as their maintenance and access needs, are minimal. 6. Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable. 7. Range improvement areas (FSM 2240.5), involving minor structural improvements (for example, fences or water troughs) and nonstructural improvements (such as chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable. 8. Recreation improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting or outfitter camps. As a general rule, developed sites should not be included. Areas with minor, easily removable recreation developments may be included. * * * 	
1909.12, 71.3, 71.3 – Inventory Review, page 8-	<p>Review the information provided as part of the planning assessment done pursuant to FSH 1909.12, chapter 10 to determine whether any areas in addition to those identified in 71.2 should be included in the inventory for the purpose of carrying them forward to the</p>	<p>71.3 – Inventory Documentation The Responsible Official shall ensure the Interdisciplinary Team documents the process used to identify and inventory areas. The</p>	Concur

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9, line 32 (p8)-2 (p9)	evaluation stage.	purpose is to present a transparent description of how the inventory process was conducted and the results of the inventory. * * *	
1909.12, 72.1a, 72.1 Wilderness Evaluation, Page 10, Line 8-10	<p>72.1 - Evaluation of Wilderness Characteristics</p> <p>For each area identified and inventoried as outlined and documented in section 71, evaluate its potential suitability for inclusion in the NWPS using criteria included in the Wilderness Act of 1964, section 2 (c), as follows:</p> <p>1. Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable (naturalness). Consider such factors as:</p> <p>a. The composition of plant and animal communities. <u>The purpose of this factor is to determine if plant and animal communities have been substantially impacted by man; for example, past management has resulted in single-species forests.</u></p> <p>a.</p>	<p>72.1 – Evaluation of Wilderness Characteristics</p> <p>The Interdisciplinary Team shall evaluate areas, which must include all lands identified in the inventory (sec. 71 of this Handbook), to determine potential suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System using criteria included in the Wilderness Act of 1964, section 2(c), as follows:</p> <p>1. Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable (apparent naturalness). Consider such factors as:</p> <p>a. The composition of plant and animal communities. The purpose of this factor is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural (for example, past management activities have created a plantation style forest with trees of a uniform species, age, and planted in rows);</p> <p>b. The extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention; and</p> <p>c. The extent to which improvements included in the area (sec. 71.22 of this Handbook) represent a departure from apparent naturalness.</p>	Concur
1909.12, 72.1b, 72.1 Wilderness Evaluation, Page 11, Line 4-5	<p>72.1 - Evaluation of Wilderness Characteristics</p> <p>For each area identified and inventoried as outlined and documented in section 71, evaluate its potential suitability for inclusion in the NWPS using criteria included in the Wilderness Act of 1964, section 2 (c), as follows:</p> <p>* * *</p> <p>4. Evaluate the degree to which the area may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These values are not required to be present in an area for the area to be recommended for inclusion in the NWPS, but</p>	<p>72.1 – Evaluation of Wilderness Characteristics</p> <p>The Interdisciplinary Team shall evaluate areas, which must include all lands identified in the inventory (sec. 71 of this Handbook), to determine potential suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System using criteria included in the Wilderness Act of 1964, section 2(c), as follows: * * *</p> <p>4. Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or</p>	Concur

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	<p>their presence should be identified and evaluated where they exist. Such features or values may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems. Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations. Outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, water bodies, or geologic features. Historic and cultural resource sites. Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resources sites must be respected. Potential or existing Research natural areas. High quality water resources or important watershed features. 	<p>historical value. These values are not required to be present in an area for the area to be recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, but their presence should be identified and evaluated where they exist. Such features or values may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems. Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations. Outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features. Historic and cultural resource sites. (Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056)). Research natural areas. High quality water resources or important watershed features. 	
<p>1909.12, 72.1c, 72.1 Wilderness Evaluation, Page 11, Line 15-17,</p>	<p>72.1 - Evaluation of Wilderness Characteristics</p> <p>For each area identified and inventoried as outlined and documented in section 71, evaluate its potential suitability for inclusion in the NWPS using criteria included in the Wilderness Act of 1964, section 2 (c), as follows:</p> <p>* * *</p> <p>5. Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics. Consider such factors as:</p> <p>Shape and configuration of the area; Legally established rights or uses within the area; Specific Federal or state laws that may be relevant to availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics; The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area. ; and Special circumstances affecting Management of adjacent lands, including the presence, and amount, and management designation of non-Federal land or Indian reservations in the vicinity</p>	<p>72.1 – Evaluation of Wilderness Characteristics</p> <p>The Interdisciplinary Team shall evaluate areas, which must include all lands identified in the inventory (sec. 71 of this Handbook), to determine potential suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System using criteria included in the Wilderness Act of 1964, section 2(c), as follows: * * *</p> <p>5. Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics. Consider such factors as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Shape and configuration of the area; Legally established rights or uses within the area; Specific Federal or State laws that may be relevant to availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics; The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area; and Management of adjacent lands. 	<p>Concur</p>
<p>1909.12, 74, 74. Wilderness, Page 13, 15-36</p>	<p>74 – DECISION</p> <p>* * *</p> <p>The decision must include a summary of the information required in steps 1-6 in section 73</p>	<p>74 – RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>* * * The decision must include a summary of the information required in steps 1 through 7 in section 73 of this Handbook for</p>	<p>Concur</p>

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	<p>for each area recommended for inclusion in the NWPS. Furthermore, the plan must include plan components to provide for the management of areas recommended for wilderness designation to protect and maintain the ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for their suitability for wilderness designation 36 CFR 219.10 (b) (iv) and FSH 1909.12, chapter 20). Management prescriptions for RWA's could be employed which could allow for the enhancement of wilderness values or could allow for existing uses provided that such management will protect and maintain the social and ecological characteristics that provide their suitability for wilderness designation. <u>In developing plan components for recommended wilderness areas, the responsible official has discretion to implement a range of management options. All management prescriptions must protect the social and ecological characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness designation. The responsible official may propose the following management prescriptions in RWAs:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Enhance the ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness designations;</u> 2. <u>Continue existing uses, provided that such uses do not prevent the protection and maintenance of the social and ecological characteristic that provide the basis for wilderness designations;</u> 3. <u>Alter existing uses, subject to valid existing rights;</u> 4. <u>Eliminate those existing uses that are incompatible with ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness designation, except those uses subject to valid existing rights or</u> 5. <u>Select any combination thereof.</u> <p><u>The responsible official should strive to maintain consistency with the provisions of 16 USC 1133(d) and the content of FSM 1923.03(3) in developing plan components for the management of recommended wilderness areas.</u></p>	<p>each area recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System or as a Wilderness Study Area. Furthermore, the decision document must affirm that the plan includes plan components that provide for managing areas recommended for wilderness designation to protect and maintain the ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for each area's suitability for wilderness recommendation (36 CFR 219.10 (b) (iv) and chapter 20 of this Handbook).</p> <p>* * *</p> <p>74.1 – Management of Recommended Areas</p> <p>When developing plan components for recommended wilderness areas, the Responsible Official has discretion to implement a range of management options. All plan components applicable to a recommended area must protect and maintain the social and ecological characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness recommendation. In addition, the plan may include one or more plan components for a recommended wilderness area that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness designations; 2. Continue existing uses, only if such uses do not prevent the protection and maintenance of the social and ecological characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness designation; 3. Alter existing uses, subject to valid existing rights; or 4. Eliminate existing uses, except those uses subject to valid existing rights. <p>The Responsible Official should strive to maintain consistency with the provisions of 16 USC 1133(d) and the content of FSM 1923.03(3) when developing plan components for the management of recommended wilderness areas.</p>	