

## **Appendix F. Summary of Field Reviews and Other Actions**

### **Timber and Log Accountability Audit, Angelina National Forest - June 19 thru June 21, 2006**

This audit was unannounced to the Forest and Ranger District. The audit team consisted of RO Forest Management and National Forests in Texas Forest Management.

The objective of this audit was to verify that the government's interests are being protected in that the timber sold is being cut, removed and paid for under the terms of the timber sale contract and that the prescribed procedures are being adhered to for preparing and administering the timber sales, for financial management and for coordination with law enforcement. An additional objective was to verify that scale sale procedures were appropriate and adequate.

The Audit Team reviewed contract records, harvesting operations and financial records of scale timber sales resulting from Hurricane Rita on the Angelina National Forest.

#### **Some of the Commendations**

- The timber sale administrator and harvest inspectors are closely monitoring each sale's logging activities.
- Site visits during the audit revealed proper utilization of timber, good protection of the residual stands and good soil protection and erosion control measures.
- Excellent coordination between timber personnel and law enforcement.
- Unannounced scale inspections and truck haul monitoring consistently being accomplished with thorough documentation.
- Lost and voided load removal receipts are tracked and documented.

#### **Summary of Findings**

- The Forest Accountability Plan needs to be more specific in addressing minimum or expected standards for inspections.
- Contract folders not arranged in compliance with R8 Supplement to FSH 2409.15.
- Sale Area Maps should follow direction found in FSH 2409.18.
- Ensure timber sale folders contain required supplemental contract documents.

The complete report is on file in the Supervisor's Office in Lufkin, Texas.

### **General Management Review, National Forests and Grasslands in Texas - September, 2006**

General Management Reviews are conducted on each National Forest every four to five years. They are conducted by the Regional Office from Atlanta, Georgia. The goal of this review was to provide managers with the information they need to make strategic responses to current and emerging situations.

**The objectives of this review were:**

- To monitor progress on meeting the Agency's Mission, Goals, Threats and Regional Strategic Priorities.
- To provide an integrated and strategic opportunity for the Regional Forester, Deputy Regional Foresters and Staff Directors to evaluate program accomplishment as a team in the field.
- To evaluate the quality of our performance in managing the natural resources, human resources and financial resources of the region.
- To provide an opportunity for forest employees to provide feedback to the Regional Forester and Staff Directors.
- To look at trends, patterns and general management issues region-wide by looking at several forests.
- To look at how effective we are in moving toward a diverse organization.

**The following are some of the commendations that the review team made to the NFGT.**

- There is an obvious commitment to safety on the forest.
- The establishment of the Rodney Peters award for Civil Rights and Humanitarian efforts by the Forest, Larry Bonner and the MAC (Multicultural Advisory Committee) is an excellent form of recognition.
- The integration of vegetation management projects at the district level using GIS is impressive.
- The forests use of the Seabees is a cost effective and efficient use of partners in facility construction.
- The forests have accomplished great things in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita demonstrating the efficient use of the employees in a safe manner.
- There is good forest-wide focus on ecosystem restoration.
- Great partnership and working relationship with the Texas Forest Service at the Texas Interagency Coordination Center.

**The following are some of the observations for the Forest Supervisor to consider.**

- Consider further refinement and/or efforts to integrate vegetation management forest-wide.
- Consider developing a Land Adjustment Plan.
- Consider informal after-action reviews to address issues identified during the implementation phase of projects.
- Consider tripartite exchange as a primary opportunity/alternative in the Land Adjustment Program.
- Consider the use of stewardship agreements on the grasslands.

The complete report is on file in the Supervisor's Office in Lufkin, Texas.