



FSM 1900 - PLANNING

CHAPTER 1920 – LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Amendment No.: The Directive Manager completes this field.

Effective Date: The Directive Manager completes this field.

Duration: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

Approved: NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL **Date Approved:** mm/dd/yyyy
Title of Approving Official

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New Document	1920	39 Pages
Superseded Document(s) by Issuance Number and Effective Date	1920 (Amendment 1900-2006-2, 01/31/2001)	68 Pages

Digest:

1920 – Revises chapter in its entirety.

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This chapter provides a process for developing, revising, amending, and making administrative changes to land management plans (plans) for the National Forest System. This chapter should be used in conjunction with Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, which provides additional policy direction for the process of developing, revising, amending, and making administrative changes to plans.

1920.1 – Authority

1920.11 – Statutory Authorities

See FSM 1901 for a summary of the relevant acts and FSH 1909.12, chapter 90, for text of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act, the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Eastern Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the regulations for National Forest System Land Management Planning. Other applicable authorities are discussed at FSM 1011.

1920.12 – Regulations

Under the authority of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219—Planning, Subpart A—National Forest System Land Management Planning, published April 9, 2012 (77 FR 21162) plans may be developed, revised, amended, or administratively changed under the 2012 Planning Rule (April 9, 2012 (77 FR 21162)). Plan development and plan revisions initiated after May 9, 2012, must conform to the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule.

Under the 2012 Planning Rule, plan amendments or plan revisions initiated prior to May 9, 2012, may use provisions of the prior planning rule, which was the 2000 planning rule, including transition provisions that permit use of the planning procedures of the 1982 planning rule. The provisions of the prior planning regulation can be used under the following conditions: (see 36 CFR 219.17):

1. Plan development, plan amendments, or plan revisions initiated before May 9, 2012, may be completed using the provisions of the prior planning regulation or conform to the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule. The responsible official shall give public notice (see 36 CFR 219.16(a)(5)) if the ongoing planning process is changed to the 2012 planning process.
2. 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 3 years after the transition period must conform to the 2012 Planning Rule provisions.
3. For units with plans developed, revised, or amended using the provisions of a prior planning regulation, no obligations remain from any prior planning regulations, except those that are specifically included in the plan.

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1920.2 – Objectives

General objectives of land management planning are to:

1. Develop a fully integrated plan for management of the land and resources of the plan area.
2. Display short and long-term management intent to the public, Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, and other users.

1920.3 – Policy

See FSM 1903 for general policy for planning activities.

1. Prepare and maintain a work plan to guide and manage the planning process.
2. Organize the planning record and make it available for public review when the responsible official files the draft environmental impact statement.
3. Write using plain language so documents are clear, concise, and well organized.
4. Plan amendments should be conducted in a timely manner to keep plans current and adaptive throughout the 15-year plan period.
5. Responsible officials should use the current land management plan as a starting point and make improvements based on a need for change.
6. All service-wide direction necessary for planning assessments, plan development, plan revision, plan amendment, and plan monitoring is contained or referenced in this chapter, and supplements or handbooks thereto.
7. Responsible officials shall encourage participation by Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, as well as the public and consider their public input in the planning process.
8. Responsible officials shall establish clear expectations with participants of the timeline and the need for a timely and efficient planning process to be completed within the fiscal capability of the unit.
9. Changes in service-wide planning direction should be carried out as follows:
 - a. Responsible officials should make changes in preparation and documentation requirements upon issuance of a final directive when a land management plan is developed, amended, or revised. If a plan amendment or a revision has been initiated

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prior to issuance of the final directive, the responsible official should assess implementation of the final directive given on-going planning schedules and activities. If this assessment determines that a significant disruption to these schedules or activities would occur, the responsible official may choose implementation of on-going planning processes consistent with the 2012 Planning Rule rather than those prescribed in the final directive. However, the responsible official should continue to incorporate the final directive, to extent practicable, through the remainder of the planning process.

b. Changes in all other planning direction. Make changes in direction governing land management plan implementation and monitoring implementation, upon issuance of a new directive amendment.

10. For plan development, amendment, or revision that may affect listed species or critical habitat, the responsible official shall consult with NOAA fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with Endangered Species Act section 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2). Additional guidance on procedures for conducting such a review can be found in FSM 2670.

11. For plan development, amendment, or revision that may jeopardize the continued existence of proposed species or adversely modify proposed critical habitat, the responsible official shall conference with NOAA fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with Endangered Species Act section 7 (FSM 2670).

1920.31 – Compliance with Legal Requirements for Civil Rights and Environmental Justice

The responsible official shall ensure that civil rights impacts are considered during the land management planning process in accordance with Departmental Regulation (DM) 4300-4 and FSM 1730.4. Consider any civil rights impacts and any disproportionate negative impacts of plan approval to minority or low-income populations early in the planning process and, if warranted, throughout the process and the land management plan itself. Further direction on civil rights impact analyses is found at FSH 1709.11, chapter 30.

Environmental justice issues associated with plan approval should be examined as directed by Departmental Regulation 5600-2 and Council on Environmental Quality publication titled “Environmental Justice - Guidance under the National Environmental Policy Act,” located at <http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ej/justice.pdf>.

1920.32 – Compliance with Legal Requirements for Tribal Consultation

The responsible official shall provide to federally recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations the opportunity to undertake consultation consistent with Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000, and 25 U.S.C. 450 note (36 CFR 219.4(a)). Consultation for plans should be in accord with FSH 1509.13 - American

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Indian and Alaska Native Relations Handbook, Chapter 10 - Consultation with Tribes.

1920.4 – Responsibility

General responsibilities for planning are found in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, sections 219.1-2 (36 CFR 219.1-2) and FSM 1904. Additional, specific responsibilities for unit-level land management planning are found in FSM 1921.04 and FSM 1926.04. Additional, specific responsibilities for wilderness recommendations and wild and scenic river system additions are found in FSM 1923.04 and 1924.04 respectively.

1920.41 – Chief

1. The Chief is responsible for national planning, such as the preparation of the Forest Service Strategic Plan required under the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 306; 31 U.S.C. 1115-1125; 31 U.S.C. 9703-9704).
2. The Chief reserves the authority to approve the schedule for revising individual land management plans.
3. The Chief administers a national performance oversight process for National Forest System land management planning (FSM 1921.9).

1920.42 – Washington Office, Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff

The Washington Office, Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination staff, assists the Chief, through the Deputy Chief for the National Forest System (NFS), in all land management planning matters. Additional responsibilities include:

1. Coordinating NFS input into the national strategic plan.
2. Strengthening the relationship between land management plans and strategic plan goals, objectives, strategies, and related performance measures that apply to management of the NFS.
3. Providing planning and coordination assistance to the regions about land management plans, monitoring plans and strategies, and the National Environmental Policy Act.
4. Coordinating national performance oversight and accountability for consistency of National Forest System land management planning.

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1920.5 – Definitions

See 36 CFR 219, FSM 1905, and FSH 1909.12 Zero Code for definitions that apply to land management planning.

1921 – LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING UNDER THE 2012 PLANNING RULE

The following sections of FSM 1921 sets forth Forest Service management objectives, policy, and responsibilities for meeting the requirements of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219—National Forest System Land Management Planning, as published April 9, 2012 (77 FR 21162).

FSM 1921 must be used in conjunction with FSH 1909.12, which sets forth additional Forest Service management objectives, policy, and responsibilities for meeting the requirements of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219—National Forest System Land Management Planning, as published April 9, 2012 (77 FR 21162). 36 CFR 219, FSM 1921 and FSH 1909.12 together present an integrated set of guidance and direction for land management planning. Line officers and relevant staff shall meet the requirements in 36 CFR 219, FSM 1921, and FSH 1909.12 when developing, revising, or amending plans.

See FSM 1926 for guidance for any plan amendments or plan revisions that will continue to use the provisions of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000, under 36 CFR part 219, published at 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2010. See FSH 1909.12, chapter 90, for text of the regulations for National Forest System Land Management Planning.

1921.02 – Objectives

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 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)).

1921.03 – Policy

See FSM 1903 and FSM 1920.03 for general policy for planning activities.

1. Line and primary staff officers shall follow policy direction stated in FSH 1909.12 for land management planning, including assessments, plan development, plan revisions, plan amendments, and monitoring.

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2. When plans are developed or revised, responsible officials shall ensure that plans provide for ecological sustainability and contribute to social and economic sustainability, and must:
 - a. Use information where available pertaining to ecosystem composition, structure, function, and connectivity when developing plan components to contribute to ecological sustainability (36 CFR 219.8 (a), FSM 1921.5 and FSH 1909.12, ch.10 and 20).
 - b. Use information where available pertaining to social and economic systems when developing plan components to contribute to social and economic sustainability (36 CFR 219.8 (b), FSM 1921.5 and FSH 1909.12, ch. 10 and 20).
3. Responsible officials shall conduct all aspects of land management planning (assessment; development, amendment or revision; monitoring) in a timely and efficient manner.
4. Plan revision, from initiation of the assessment to final plan approval, should be completed if funding is available within two to four years.
5. Responsible officials shall use a continual assessment, planning and monitoring process that provides a feedback loop that allows the Forest Service to adapt to changing conditions and to improve plans based on new information and monitoring (36 CFR 219.5(a)).
6. For plan development, amendment, or revision that may affect listed species or critical habitat, the responsible official shall consult with NOAA fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional guidance on procedures for conducting such a review can be found in FSM 2670. For plan development, amendment, or revision that may affect proposed species or proposed critical habitat, the responsible official shall confer with NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (FSM 2670)

1921.04 – Responsibility

1921.04a – Regional Forester

The regional forester may decide to act as the responsible official for a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision (36 CFR 219.2(b)(3)) and any attendant NEPA analysis. Upon completion of the planning action, the national forest, grassland, prairie or other comparable administrative unit supervisor is assumed to be the responsible official for plan implementation and future amendment or revision unless indicated otherwise by the regional forester.

In addition to the responsibilities specified in FSM 1904, it is the responsibility of the regional forester to:

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1. Coordinate planning efforts among adjoining units and regions.
2. Coordinate monitoring among multiple units to address broader geographic scale questions and to maintain a broader-scale monitoring strategy that supports these needs.
3. Maintain quality control throughout the planning process.
4. Identify, in coordination with the responsible official, the species of conservation concern (36 CFR 219.7(c)(3)) to be used by responsible officials for meeting the requirements of diversity of plant and animal communities (36 CFR 219.9(c)).
5. Coordinate between the responsible official and the Chief on planning-related matters, when appropriate.
6. Coordinate on broader-scale monitoring strategies with other regional foresters, research station directors, and Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Director, as appropriate.
7. Serve as the reviewing officer for an objection (36 CFR part 219, subpart B) when the responsible official is a line officer at the first administrative level below a regional forester.
8. Follow policy direction stated in FSH 1909.12 for land management planning.
9. Direct State and Private Forestry and other staffs to assist responsible officials with assessment information and data, plan monitoring programs, and broader-scale monitoring strategies, and provide planning support as appropriate.

1921.04b – Research Station Director

Research station directors are responsible to provide:

1. Assistance to responsible officials for science reviews.
2. Assistance with assessment information and data where appropriate.
3. Assistance with plan monitoring programs and broader-scale monitoring strategies.
4. Review and concurrence with respect to the plan components applicable to experimental areas.

1921.04c – Director, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

Director, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry is responsible to provide for their part of the country:

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1. Assistance with plan monitoring programs and broader-scale monitoring strategies where appropriate.
2. Assistance with assessment information and data, and support during planning, where appropriate.

1921.04d – Forest, Grassland, Prairie, or Other Comparable Administrative Unit Supervisor

1. The supervisor of the national forest, grassland, prairie, or other comparable administrative unit is the responsible official for preparing assessments; developing, and approving a plan or plan revision, plan amendments, and developing and implementing a plan monitoring program for lands under the responsibility of the supervisor, unless the regional forester, the Chief, the Under Secretary, or the Secretary chooses to act as the responsible official (36 CFR 219.2(b)(3)).
2. The authority for approving project-specific plan amendments cannot be delegated to district rangers.
3. The supervisor of the national forest, grassland, or prairie or other comparable administrative unit is responsible for:
 - a. Adapting, periodically, the plan to changing situations through amendments, administrative changes, and corrections.
 - b. Ensuring required assessments, monitoring reports, plan, plan amendments, and plan revisions are prepared by an interdisciplinary team (36 CFR 219.5(b)).
 - c. Coordinating with research station directors when experimental or research natural areas are located on the unit.
 - d. Using the best available scientific information to inform the planning process, determining what information is the most accurate, reliable, and relevant information to the issues being considered.
 - e. Providing meaningful public participation opportunities early and throughout the planning process.
 - f. Guiding the planning process to complete plan revisions within two to four years as funds allow.
 - 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.

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4. The supervisor of the national forest, grassland, or prairie or other comparable administrative unit is responsible for following policy direction stated in FSH 1909.12 for land management planning.

1921.1 – Oversight of Land Management Planning

See 36 CFR 219.2(b)(5)(ii) for additional direction.

This section describes general requirements for oversight of land management planning.

1921.11 – Regional Oversight

The regional office staff works with the supervisor's staff by assisting in the process and providing oversight throughout the planning process of 36 CFR part 219 and FSM 1920 and FSH 1909.12 to support consistency and accountability among planning efforts. FSM 1921.12 lists the criteria for land management plans.

1921.12 – Criteria for Land Management Plans

Regional foresters and forest supervisors shall ensure that:

1. Each land management plan or amendment complies with laws, regulations, and policy; including 36 CFR part 219 and FSM 1920 and FSH 1909.12, and including requirements for threatened and endangered species.
2. Each land management plan is aligned with the goals and objectives of the Forest Service Strategic Plan.
3. The analysis and comparative evaluation, in the applicable NEPA document for each plan, is adequate to permit an informed selection of a preferred alternative.
4. Each final land management plan or amendment and applicable NEPA document has received an appropriate interdisciplinary review.
5. Oversight supports the identification and use of best practices, and facilitates consistent approaches and outcomes among comparable planning efforts.

1921.13 – Oversight Process

The regional office staff and the supervisor's staff work together to develop an action plan to share resources, coordinate with the Washington Office, and prepare the assessment, plan, and plan monitoring program.

The regional office staff provides oversight throughout the planning process and should agree on the plan development processes and environmental document methodologies and analysis before

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the forest supervisor formally invites comments on proposed plan or plan revision (36 CFR 219.16(a)(2)).

After the comment period closes, the regional office staff continues to provide oversight and should agree on the processes, methodologies, and analysis used to develop a summary of the public comments received on the proposed plan, the responses to the public comment, and the plan and applicable NEPA documents before the forest supervisor begins the objection period for a plan or plan revision (36 CFR 219.52).

For a plan or plan revision, the regional staff forwards appropriate briefing papers about the plan prepared by the supervisor's staff to the Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination. Based on the briefing papers, the Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination staff confirms that the criteria (FSM 1921.92) have been met. The Director of Ecosystem Management coordinates appropriate briefings in the Washington Office.

Upon briefing of the Washington office and review of the final land management plan by the regional staff, the forest supervisor may print and release the final documents, except as provided in 1921.94.

The regional office staff is also responsible before, during, and after the planning process, for coordinating among supervisors across the region and with other regions and deputy areas to: ensure compliance with requirements, support consistency among efforts, identify and share lessons-learned and best practices, and facilitate sharing data and information across forests, regions and deputy areas.

1921.14 – National Reviews for Planning

1. The Chief may require Washington Office review of a draft proposed plan or revision before responsible officials formally invite comments on it (36 CFR 219.16(a)(2)) and before the responsible official begins the objection period for a plan or plan revision (36 CFR 219.52), for example, if:
 - a. The plan makes recommendations that may lead to congressional action. Examples of congressional action include additions to or deletions from the National Wilderness Preservation System, national trails, national recreation areas, studies, or changes to the National Wild and Scenic River System, and adjustments in NFS boundaries.
 - b. The region has specifically requested Washington Office review.
 - c. The plan is the first plan prepared within the region under the 2012 Planning Rule, the degree or intensity of controversy, the extent of changes in the preferred or any other alternative, or if other circumstances warrant.
2. The Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC) shall conduct reviews of the regional oversight for NFS land management planning including for consistency

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and compliance within and across regions with 36 CFR 219, FSM 1920 and FSH 1909. The Director of EMC should conduct at least one regional review annually. The purpose of a review is to evaluate internal and administrative controls and to identify successful management, management weaknesses, and needed corrective actions. Direction for conducting reviews is found in FSM 1410.

1922 – TRANSITION OF PRIOR RULE PLANS TO 2012 RULE COMPLIANCE

See 36 CFR 219.12(c)(1), 36 CFR 219.17 for additional direction.

New plans and plan revisions must conform to the new planning requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule. Plan amendments initiated after May 9, 2015 must conform to the 2012 rule.

All National Forest System units, including forests, grasslands, prairie, or other administrative units, will change its plan monitoring program to comply with the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule by May 9, 2016, or as soon as practicable based on the scope of needed changes, timing of planned revisions, and availability of funding.

1923 – WILDERNESS EVALUATION

Consideration of areas for wilderness designation is a required process inherent in land management planning. Although the President and the Secretary may recommend that certain areas be designated as wilderness, Congress reserves the authority to actually designate areas as wilderness. In addition, the Congress may direct the study of specific areas and provide other guidance on wilderness evaluations through specific wilderness legislation.

1923.01 – Authority

Specific authority for the study and designation of wilderness is contained in the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131, Pub. L. 88-577) and the Eastern Wilderness Act of January 3, 1975 (16 U.S.C. 1132, Pub. L. 93-622). The land management planning rule specifically requires identification and evaluation of lands for wilderness and a determination of whether to recommend lands for designation (36 CFR 219.7(c)(5)). The planning rule also requires that management of areas recommended for wilderness designation protect and maintain ecological and social characteristics (36 CFR 219.10(b)(iv)). For wilderness study, see FSH 1909.15 to determine the applicable NEPA documentation.

1923.03 – Policy

1. Unless otherwise provided by law, all areas that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System must be inventoried and evaluated for recommendation as designated wilderness areas during plan development or revision. Line and primary staff officers shall follow policy direction stated in, FSH 1909.12, chapter 70 for this inventory and evaluation process.

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2. The results of the inventory and evaluation of areas recommended for designated wilderness conducted during plan revision or plan development must be included in the planning record.
3. Any area recommended for wilderness or wilderness study designation is not available for any use or activity that may reduce the wilderness potential of an area.

1923.04 – Responsibility

1923.04a – Chief

Exhibit 01 displays responsibilities that the Chief reserves when an area is recommended for wilderness or Congress authorizes a wilderness study.

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1923.04a – Exhibit 01

Chief’s Responsibilities

Forest Service Recommended Wilderness Using 2012 Planning Rule¹	Forest Service Recommended Wilderness Using 1982 Planning Rule²	Legislatively Mandated Study
<p>1. May review before printing the final EIS for a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision if the draft plan decision would make preliminary administrative recommendations ((FSH 1909.12, sec. 25.4).).</p> <p>2. Prepare and submit to Congress, a notification letter documenting the preliminary administrative recommendation for wilderness designation</p> <p>3. Provide the final study report or legislative environmental impact statement or both from the FEIS and record of decision to Congress for further consideration.</p> <p>4. Provide support, review, and coordination of the legislative proposal with the Secretary and Office of Management and Budget.</p>	<p>1. May review before printing the final EIS for a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision if record of decision would make preliminary administrative recommendations (FSM 1926.31b).</p> <p>2. Transmit the final study report or legislative environmental impact statement or both that are extracted from FEIS and record of decision to Secretary of Agriculture for further consideration.</p> <p>3. Provide support, review, and coordination of the legislative proposal with the Secretary and Office of Management and Budget.</p>	<p>1. Review before printing the preliminary and final study report and/or applicable NEPA document.</p> <p>2. Transmit final study report and/or applicable NEPA document to Secretary of Agriculture for approval.</p> <p>3. Provide support, review, and coordination of the legislative proposal with the Secretary and Office of Management and Budget.</p>

¹ 2012 Planning Rule – Under the authority of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 219—Planning, subpart A--National Forest System Land Management Planning, published April 9, 2012 (77 FR 68).

² 1982 Planning Rule -- Some plan amendments or plan revisions may use provisions of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (See 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).

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1923.04b – Regional Forester

Exhibit 01 displays Regional Forester responsibilities for an area recommended for wilderness or Congress authorizes a wilderness study.

1923.04b – Exhibit 01

Regional Forester Responsibilities

Forest Service Recommended Wilderness Using 2012 Planning Rule¹	Forest Service Recommended Wilderness Using 1982 Planning Rule²	Legislatively Mandated Study
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forwarding the tentative preliminary administrative recommendations to the Chief. 2. Upon request of the Chief, review and forward the study report or applicable NEPA document or both that support the preliminary administrative recommendations of the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision. 3. Upon request of the Chief, prepare a legislative proposal (FSH 1909.12, chapter. 70). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forwarding the tentative preliminary administrative recommendations to the Chief. 2. Making preliminary administrative recommendations in record of decision. 3. Approving management direction for recommended wilderness or recommended wilderness study areas. 4. Upon request of the Chief, preparing a legislative proposal (FSH 1909.12, chapter 70). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewing and forwarding the preliminary and final wilderness study report and/or applicable NEPA document to the Chief for approval to print. 2. Preparing summary material for submission to the Secretary. 3. Preparing a draft transmittal letter (FSH 1909.12, sec. 73.2).

¹ 2012 Planning Rule – Under the authority of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 219—Planning, subpart A--National Forest System Land Management Planning, published April 9, 2012 (77 FR 68).

² 1982 Planning Rule -- Some plan amendments or plan revisions may use provisions of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (See 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).

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1923.04c – Forest, Grassland, Prairie, or Other Comparable Administrative Unit Supervisor

Exhibit 01 displays responsibilities of the Forest, Grassland, Prairie, or other comparable administrative unit supervisor for the preparation of wilderness recommendations.

1923.04c – Exhibit 01

Forest, Grassland, Prairie, or Other Comparable Administrative Unit Supervisor Responsibilities

Forest Service Recommended Wilderness Using 2012 Planning Rule¹	Forest Service Recommended Wilderness Using 1982 Planning Rule²	Legislatively Mandated Study
1. Conduct the wilderness inventory and evaluations during plan development, plan amendment, or plan revision (see FSH 1909.12 ch. 10 and 70). 2. Maintain documentation for the areas inventoried and evaluated for wilderness in the planning record. 3. Make preliminary administrative recommendations in plan decision document. 4. Approve plan components for recommended wilderness or recommended wilderness study areas (see 36 CFR 219.10 and FSH 1909.12 ch. 20).	1. Conduct necessary wilderness evaluations during plan development, plan amendment, or plan revision. 2. Document the process of inventory and evaluation in an appendix of an EIS. 3. Develop management direction for recommended wilderness or recommended wilderness study areas.	1. Prepare study report and/or applicable NEPA document (FSH 1909.15). 2. Print and distribute the approved study report or applicable NEPA document or both for comment (FSH 1909.12, sec. 73.2). 3. Print and distribute the approved study report and/or applicable NEPA document to the public (FSH 1909.12, sec. 73.2)

¹ 2012 Planning Rule – Under the authority of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 219—Planning, subpart A--National Forest System Land Management Planning, published April 9, 2012 (77 FR 21162).

² 1982 Planning Rule -- Some plan amendments or plan revisions may use provisions of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (See 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).

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1923.1 – Review and Approval

1923.11 – Proposals Resulting from Wilderness Recommendations Incorporated in Land Management Plans, Including Legislatively Mandated Studies

1. Forest Service Recommended Wilderness Using 2012 Planning Rule. Before publishing the public notice commencing the 60-day objection period (36 CFR 219.16(a)(3)) for a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision, the responsible official, through the regional forester, shall notify the Chief of tentative preliminary administrative recommendations for wilderness designation of areas evaluated during the land management planning process. The land management plan decision document that makes preliminary administrative recommendations for wilderness must contain the following statement:

This recommendation is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation.

The Chief may request from the regional forester's applicable plan NEPA documents to accompany preliminary administrative wilderness recommendations to Congress.

2. Forest Service Recommended Wilderness Using 1982 Planning Rule. Before printing the applicable NEPA document for a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision, the regional forester shall notify the Chief by letter of the tentative preliminary administrative recommendations for wilderness designation of areas evaluated during land management planning process. The land management plan decision document that makes preliminary administrative recommendations for wilderness must contain the following statement:

This recommendation is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation.

When the Chief decides to forward preliminary administrative wilderness recommendations to the Secretary, the study report and information from applicable NEPA document and plan approval document must accompany these recommendations.

3. Legislatively Mandated Study. The Chief shall coordinate an intergovernmental review, prepare any legislation proposal, and coordinate review with the Secretary and

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Office of Management and Budget before release of the final study report and/or applicable NEPA document.

1923.12 – Proposals Resulting from Wilderness Recommendations Not Incorporated in Land Management Plans, Including Legislatively Mandated Studies

For wilderness recommendations or studies conducted separately from the land management planning process, follow agency policy and procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (FSH 1909.15) to determine the applicable NEPA documentation. To meet the requirements of NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1506.4), FSM 1950), and FSH 1909.15, the study document may be combined with any applicable NEPA document. The forest, grassland, prairie, or other comparable administrative unit supervisor shall transmit the study documents for legislatively mandated studies to the Chief, through the regional forester. Wilderness recommendations or studies conducted outside of the land management planning process require the same level of detail as for recommendations made as part of the land management planning process (FSH 1909.12, sec. 74).

1924 – WILD AND SCENIC RIVER EVALUATION

Consideration of potential wild and scenic rivers is an inherent part of the land management planning process. A river study assesses the eligibility of a river for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System) and evaluates the potential physical, biological, economic, and social effects of adding the river to the National System. River segments in the National Wild and Scenic River System may be classified as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational. See FSH 1909.12, chapter 80 for the river study process. The study forms the basis for recommendations to the Secretary and Congress and for legislative action.

1924.01 – Authority

The authority for study and designation of wild and scenic rivers is the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of October 2, 1968 (act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1271 *et seq.*). The act has two provisions for identification of rivers for study: (1) by act of Congress under Section 5(a) or (2) through Federal agency planning processes under Section 5(d)(1). The U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of the Interior Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas dated September 7, 1982 (USDA-USDI Guidelines), supplement the act and provide direction that is more specific. The land management planning rule specifically requires that during plan development or revision, the eligibility of rivers must be identified unless an inventory has been completed and no changed circumstances warrant further review (219.7(vi)). The planning rule also requires that management of eligible and suitable rivers protect the values that provide the basis for their inclusion in the system of Wild and Scenic rivers (36 CFR 219.10(b)(v)). The act and USDA-USDI Guidelines are included in FSH 1909.12, chapter 80. For river study, see FSH 1909.15 to determine the applicable NEPA documentation.

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1924.03 – Policy

1. Complete legislatively mandated study or studies within the specified study period.
2. If a systematic inventory of Forest Service identified eligible rivers or a comprehensive forest, grassland, prairie, or other comparable administrative unit suitability study has been previously completed and documented, conduct additional assessment and study at the time of a proposed plan, plan amendment, or plan revision only if changed circumstances warrants additional review of eligibility or if the responsible official considers the river suitability study an issue. Document the process in an appendix to the Environmental Impact Statement for the plan.
3. Conduct studies in close cooperation with affected Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribal governments, landowners, and national and local publics. Include a determination of possible State participation in the preservation and administration of the river if it is added to the National System.
4. For rivers identified eligible for study, manage until suitability is determined to protect the values for which they might be added to the National System (free-flow, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values) by statute for legislatively mandated study, or by existing Forest Service authorities for Forest Service identified study. Refer to FSH 1909.12, sections 82.5 and 82.51 for specific management guidance for each of the river classifications.
5. A river determined through a suitability study to not be suitable will no longer be considered eligible and interim protection measures are no longer need to be applied to those rivers. Consideration of potential wild and scenic rivers is an inherent part of the ongoing land management planning process. A river study assesses the eligibility of a river for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System) and evaluates the potential physical, biological, economic, and social effects of adding the river to the National System. See FSH 1909.12, chapter 80 for the river study process. The study forms the basis for recommendations to the Secretary and Congress and for legislative action.

1924.04 – Responsibility

The Secretary of Agriculture has designated the Forest Service as the lead coordinating agency for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the studies of rivers that involve National Forest System lands.

1924.04a – Chief

Exhibit 01 displays responsibilities the Chief reserves when a river is recommended as a Wild and Scenic River or Congress authorizes a river for study.

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1924.04a – Exhibit 01

Chief’s Responsibilities for River Studies on National Forest System Lands

Forest Service Identified Study Using 2012 Planning Rule¹	Forest Service Identified Study Using 1982 Planning Rule²	Legislatively Mandated Study
<p>1. May review before printing the final EIS for a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision if the draft plan decision would make preliminary administrative recommendations (FSH 1909.12, sec 84).</p> <p>2. Prepare a notification letter documenting the preliminary administrative recommendation for river designation</p> <p>3. Transmit the final study report or legislative environmental impact statement or both that are extracted from EIS and record of decision to Secretary of Agriculture for further consideration</p> <p>4. Provide support, review, and coordination of the legislative proposal with the Secretary and Office of Management and Budget.</p>	<p>1. May review before printing the final EIS for a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision if record of decision would make preliminary administrative recommendations (FSM 1926.31b).</p> <p>2. Transmit the final study report or legislative environmental impact statement or both that are extracted from EIS and record of decision to Secretary of Agriculture for further consideration.</p> <p>3. Provide support and review of legislative proposal and coordinate review of the legislative proposal with the Secretary and Office of Management and Budget.</p>	<p>1. Review before printing the preliminary and final study report and/or applicable NEPA document.</p> <p>2. Transmit the preliminary study report/applicable NEPA document for intergovernmental review as required by Section 4(b) of the act. Provide comments to the region.</p> <p>3. Transmit the final study report/applicable NEPA document to Secretary of Agriculture for approval.</p> <p>4. Provide support and review of legislative proposal and coordinate review of the legislative proposal with the Secretary and Office of Management and Budget.</p>

¹ 2012 Planning Rule – Under the authority of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 219—Planning, subpart A--National Forest System Land Management Planning, published April 9, 2012 (77 FR 21162).

² 1982 Planning Rule -- Some plan amendments or plan revisions may use provisions of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (see 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).

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1924.04b – Washington Office, Deputy Chief, National Forest System,

The Washington Office, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, is responsible for:

1. Designating the lead region when a legislatively mandated study river involves more than one region.
2. Coordinating the Departmental review of other agency and State Wild and Scenic River designation proposals submitted pursuant to sections 5(a) and 2(a)(ii) of the act.

1924.04c – Regional Forester

The regional forester is responsible for:

1. Designating the lead unit when a legislatively mandated or Forest Service identified study river involves more than one forest, grassland, prairie, or other comparable administrative unit or more than one region.
2. Inviting the concerned State(s) to participate jointly in a legislatively mandated study where the U.S. Department of Agriculture is the lead agency (section 5(c) of act) and also where a Forest Service identified study river touch only a small part of National Forest System lands (refer to FSH 1909.12, sec. 83.3).

Exhibit 01 displays additional responsibilities of the regional forester when a river is recommended as a wild and scenic river or Congress authorizes a river for study.

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1924.04c – Exhibit 01

Regional Forester’s Responsibilities for River Studies on National Forest System Lands

Forest Service Identified Study Using 2012 Planning Rule¹	Forest Service Identified Study Using 1982 Planning Rule²	Legislatively Mandated Study
<p>1. Forward the tentative preliminary administrative recommendations to the Chief.</p> <p>2. Upon request of the Chief, review and forward the study report or applicable NEPA document or both that support preliminary administrative recommendations of the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision.</p> <p>3. Upon request of the Chief, prepare a legislative proposal (FSH 1909.12, ch. 80).</p>	<p>1. Decide whether to evaluate suitability for one or more eligible rivers in the planning process.</p> <p>2. Forward the tentative preliminary administrative recommendations to the Chief.</p> <p>3. Make preliminary administrative recommendations in record of decision.</p> <p>4. Approve management direction for eligible or suitable rivers.</p> <p>5. Upon request of the Chief, prepare a legislative proposal (FSH 1909.12, ch. 80).</p>	<p>1. Provide two copies of the preliminary and final study report and/or applicable NEPA document to Chief for approval to print. Submit 10 copies of approved and printed preliminary to Chief for intergovernmental review.</p> <p>2. Prepare summary information document and draft transmittal letter from the President to the Congress (FSH 1909.12, ch. 80).</p>

¹ 2012 Planning Rule – Under the authority of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 219—Planning, subpart A--National Forest System Land Management Planning, published April 9, 2012 (77 FR 21162), plans may be developed, amended, or revised under the 2012 Planning Rule (April 9, 2012 (77 FR 21162)).

² 1982 Planning Rule -- Some plan amendments or plan revisions may use provisions of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (see 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).

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1924.04d – Forest, Grassland, Prairie, or Other Comparable Administrative Unit Supervisor

Exhibit 01 displays responsibility of the forest, grassland, prairie, or other comparable administrative unit Supervisor related to wild and scenic river studies.

1924.04d – Exhibit 01

**Forest, Grassland, Prairie, or Other Comparable Administrative Unit Supervisor
 Responsibilities for River Studies on National Forest System Lands**

Forest Service-Identified Study Using 2012 Planning Rule¹	Forest Service-Identified Study Using 1982 Planning Rule²	Legislatively Mandated Study
1. Identify eligible rivers within the plan area (36 CFR 219.7(c)(2)(vi) following guidance in FSH 1909.12 ch.80. 2. Decide whether to evaluate suitability for one or more eligible rivers in the planning process. 3. Conduct any wild and scenic studies during plan development, plan amendment, or plan revision. 4. Make preliminary administrative recommendations in plan decision document. 4. Develop and approve plan components for eligible or suitable rivers (36 CFR 219.10).	1. Identify eligible rivers within the plan area 2. Conduct any wild and scenic studies during plan development, plan amendment, or plan revision. 3. Develop management direction for eligible or suitable rivers.	1. Prepare the study report and applicable NEPA document or both (FSH 1909.15). 2. Print and distribute the approved study report or applicable NEPA document or both for comment (FSH 1909.12, sec. 84.2). 3. Respond to intergovernmental and public comments in the final study report and/or applicable NEPA document. 4. Print and distribute the approved final study report or applicable NEPA document or both to the public (FSH 1909.12, sec. 84.2).

¹ 2012 Planning Rule – Under the authority of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 219—Planning, subpart A--National Forest System Land Management Planning, published April 9, 2012 (77 FR 21162), plans may be developed, amended, or revised under the 2012 Planning Rule (April 9, 2012 (77 FR 21162)).

² 1982 Planning Rule -- Some plan amendments or plan revisions may use provisions of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (see 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).

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1924.1 – Review and Approval

Internal review and approval of a Forest Service identified wild and scenic river recommendations shall meet the same requirements as those for land management plans (FSH 1909.12, sec. 11.15 and 1926.3).

1924.11 – Proposals Resulting from River Studies Incorporated in Land Management Plans, Including Legislatively Mandated Studies

1. Forest Service Identified Study Using 2012 Planning Rule. Before publishing the public notice commencing the 60-day objection period (36 CFR 219.16(a)(3)) for a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision, the responsible official, through the regional forester, shall notify the Chief by letter of tentative preliminary administrative recommendations on rivers evaluated during land management planning process. The land management plan decision document that makes preliminary administrative recommendations for rivers must contain the following statement:

This recommendation is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on designation of rivers as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Chief may request from the regional forester applicable plan NEPA documents to accompany a preliminary administrative river recommendation to Congress.

2. Forest Service Identified Study Using 1982 Planning Rule. Before printing the applicable NEPA document for a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision, the regional forester shall notify the Chief by letter of the tentative preliminary administrative recommendations on rivers evaluated during land management planning process. The land management plan decision document that makes preliminary administrative recommendations for rivers must contain the following statement:

This recommendation is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on designation of rivers as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

When the Chief decides to forward preliminary administrative river recommendations to the Secretary, the study report and information from the applicable NEPA document and plan approval document will accompany these recommendations.

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3. Legislatively Mandated Study. The Chief shall coordinate intergovernmental review, prepare any legislation proposal, and coordinate review with the Secretary and Office of Management and Budget before release of the final study report/applicable NEPA document (FSH 1909.12, sec. 84.2).

1924.12 – Proposals Resulting from River Studies Not Incorporated in Land Management Plans, Including Legislatively Mandated Studies

1. Forest Service Identified Study. For river studies conducted separately from the land management planning process, follow the Agency policy and procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (FSH 1909.15) to determine the applicable NEPA document. To meet the requirements of NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1506.4), FSM 1950, and FSH 1909.15, the study document may be combined with any applicable NEPA document and meet the standard found in FSH 1909.12, section 83.2.

Before printing the final combined study report and/or applicable NEPA document, the regional forester shall notify the Chief by letter of the tentative preliminary administrative recommendations. The applicable NEPA document should include the following statement:

This recommendation is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on designation of rivers as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Chief may request from the regional forester applicable plan NEPA documents to accompany a preliminary administrative river recommendation to Congress.

2. Legislatively Mandated Study. The forest, grassland, prairie, or other comparable administrative unit Supervisor shall transmit through the regional forester the combined study report and applicable NEPA documents to the Chief. The Chief shall coordinate intergovernmental review, prepare any legislation proposal, and coordinate review with the Secretary and Office of Management and Budget before release of the final study report and/or applicable NEPA document (FSH 1909.12, sec. 84.2).

1925 – MANAGEMENT OF INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS [RESERVED]

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1926 – LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING USING PLANNING REGULATIONS IN EFFECT BEFORE NOVEMBER 9, 2000

This section provides guidance to carry out plan development, plan amendment, or plan revision using the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000. See FSH 1909.15 to determine the applicable NEPA documentation.

In two situations, under 36 CFR 219.17, responsible officials may continue to use the provisions of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).

1. Plan development, plan amendments, or plan revisions initiated before May 9, 2012.
2. Plan amendments initiated before May 9, 2015.

1926.03 – Policy

In addition to complying with the general policies and principles set forth in FSM 1920.3, the land management planning process must:

1. Integrate all resource programs and supporting activities.
2. Base resource inventories on sound sampling designs using common definitions and standards.
3. Estimate the goods and services, activities, and investments to be implemented or produced by decade and display these outputs for the identified Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 *et seq.*) time periods.
4. Prepare a monitoring program that is responsive to identified issues and sufficient to meet legal requirements for monitoring soil, water, air, wildlife and fish, vegetation, and other resources.

1926.04 – Responsibility

When responsible officials continue to use the provisions of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000, the following responsibilities are applicable.

1926.04a – Regional Forester

In addition to the responsibilities specified in FSM 1904, it is the responsibility of the regional forester to:

1. Coordinate planning efforts between forests, grasslands, prairie, or other comparable administrative unit within and between adjacent units and regions.

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2. Maintain quality control of land management plans by ensuring that required standards of FSM 1926.21 are met
3. Ensure land management plan monitoring requirements are consistent among adjoining units.
4. Review, and approve as appropriate, any amendment that results in a significant change to a land management plan.

1926.04b – Forest, Grassland, Prairie, or Other Administrative Unit Supervisor

In addition to the responsibilities specified in FSM 1904, it is the responsibility of the administrative unit supervisor to:

1. Prepare the draft and final land management plan and applicable environmental analysis to meet the standards in FSM 1926.21 and 1926.31a.
2. Ensure that the interdisciplinary team integrates knowledge of the physical, biological, economic, and social sciences, and environmental design in the planning process.
3. Conduct planning activities in a manner fully consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations, the Forest Service's environmental policies and procedures described in FSM 1950 and FSH 1909.15.
4. Develop and approve amendments that result in a non-significant change to the land management plan.
5. Prepare amendments that result in a significant change to the land management plan and recommend them to the regional forester for approval.

1926.1 – Land Management Planning Process

1926.11 – Land Management Planning Results

Minimum results required of land management planning are:

1. Identification of major public issues, management concerns, and management opportunities.
2. Development of a set of criteria to guide the formulation and evaluation of alternatives.
3. Analysis of the management situation that determines both the need for and the opportunity to establish or change management direction.

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4. Formulation of a set of alternatives that responds to the significant issues.
5. Evaluation of alternatives and identification of a preferred alternative to the extent required by NEPA, CEQ regulations, and Forest Service environmental policies and procedures (FSM 1950 and FSH 1909.15).
6. A land management plan that achieves the 14 principles described in section 219.1 of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).
7. A monitoring program to evaluate progress toward achieving the goals, objectives, and desired future conditions of the plan.

1926.12 – Benchmark Analysis

The development of benchmarks is not limited by Forest Service policy or budget, discretionary constraints, or program and staffing requirements. Benchmark analysis will be conducted in accordance with section 219.12(e)(1) of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (see 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).

1926.13 – Formulation of Alternatives

Formulate alternatives to meet the requirements of sections 219.12(f) and 219.16 of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (See 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).

1926.14 – Estimated Effects of Alternatives

The analysis and comparison must be sufficient to permit an informed selection of the preferred alternative as described above.

1926.15 – Resource Integration Requirements When Using Planning Regulations In Effect Before November 9, 2000

Requirements for integrating individual resources including designated wilderness and other special areas into the land management planning process are found in sections 219.14 through 219.27 of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (see 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000). The land management planning process must:

1. Provide land management plan direction for designated wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national recreation areas, national trails, national monuments, national scenic areas, research natural areas, national management emphasis areas, and other identified special interest areas.

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2. Use the recreation opportunity spectrum system to determine management of recreation settings, opportunities, and to provide a broad spectrum of experiences in response to user preference.
3. Estimate the silvicultural systems and practices to be applied to lands suitable for timber production.
4. Provide for management of land suitable for timber production for saw timber-size crop trees unless exceptions, such as pulpwood crop trees, are provided for in the land management plan. Also, provide for management of suitable forest land to provide multiple products including, but not limited to, saw logs, pulpwood, poles, posts, and fuel wood through appropriate silvicultural practices to utilize site productivity.
5. Estimate output levels for fuel wood and other nonindustrial wood products that do not require secondary processing where sustained demand is anticipated.
6. Permit a departure sale schedule to temporarily drop below the base timber sale schedule at or beyond the end of the first decade.
7. Meet the intent of the culmination of mean annual increment (CMAI) requirement by ensuring the total yield from stands at harvest age is equal to or greater than 95 percent of the volume production corresponding to CMAI. Base CMAI on cubic measure and on the yield from regeneration harvests and any additional yields resulting from intermediate harvests.
8. Estimate the annual net growth on lands suitable for timber production for the fifth decade of the land management plan for at least the preferred alternative.
9. Use cubic foot volume and harvest acres, by harvest method, as a dual control in regulating the amount of timber to be offered and sold as specified by the allowable timber sale quantity. Base the control for treatment practices such as site preparation, reforestation, and pre-commercial thinning on acreage measurements.
10. Ensure that the set of management indicator species meets the requirements of 36 CFR 219.14(f) and the applicable provisions of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (see 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).
11. Ensure that management prescriptions will provide for habitat capability to meet demand for management indicator species and provide access for recreational and commercial uses with minimal disturbance to species use of suitable habitats.
12. Ensure that, consistent with other resource management needs, management prescriptions will provide for pest prevention activities to lessen host susceptibility to pest damage, increase host vigor, or otherwise minimize pest impact before an outbreak occurs.

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13. Ensure the plan provides for the kinds, amounts, and distribution of habitat needed for recovery of threatened or endangered species and needed to maintain viable, well-distributed populations of all existing native and desired nonnative species.
14. Provide plan direction for wildfire protection and prescribed fire use appropriate to efficient attainment of land management goals and objectives. Except for planning units with low historic large fire occurrence or low potential for significant wildland fires, the responsible official should consider plan guidance for cost containment of fire suppression costs (FSH 1909.12, sec. 13).
15. Identify the desired landownership pattern and develop guidance for landownership adjustments to include purchase, donations, exchange, right-of-way acquisition, transfers, interchanges, sales, and boundary adjustments. Guidance for landownership adjustments should emphasize the following objectives:
 - a. Acquisition to meet identified resource management needs.
 - b. Acquisition contributing to consolidation that reduces administrative problems and costs and further enhances public use.
 - c. Conveyance of land better suited for non-federal ownership.
16. Provide access to energy and mineral resources in the most efficient manner and encourage industry proposals for resource development on National Forest System lands, consistent with the rights that individuals or companies have acquired under the mineral leasing acts and mining laws and consistent with the objective of the alternatives.
17. Identify the specific access guidance and travel management options available to meet the objectives for each management prescription. Describe how access will be provided and how travel will be managed. Include the forest transportation system and air and water access. Integrate considerations of biological, physical, social, and economic factors, and environmental design criteria. Link access and travel requirements and opportunities to the full spectrum of resource objectives for each management area and alternative.
18. Develop guidance for the development and maintenance of other physical support facilities required to carry out management objectives.
19. Provide for consideration of transportation and utility corridor designation and utilization. Energy right-of-way corridors on Federal land must be designated and incorporated into the land management plan in accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58, section 368). Coordinate activities between Regions and with other Federal and State agencies to designate location, alignment, and associated use and occupancy standards for rights-of-way.

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20. Determine watershed condition class and include objectives or prescriptions for improving watershed conditions when necessary.
21. Ensure municipal watershed requirements (36 CFR 251.9) are incorporated in land management plan standards and guidelines.
22. Develop guidance to maintain surface resources associated with groundwater resources.
23. Establish plan guidance that will be used to protect water quality.
24. Provide management direction to protect air quality related values, including visibility, in Class I Federal areas as required by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 and FSM 2120.
25. Plan for pest prevention and protection appropriate to attainment of land management goals and objectives.
26. Provide guidance for geothermal leasing and development for areas with high geothermal resource potential in accordance with Title 30 United States Code, section 4 as amended by Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58, section 222).

1926.2 – Land Management Plan Content

Section 219.11 of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (see 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000) establishes minimum requirements for content of the land management plan.

1926.21 – Standards for Land Management Plans

In addition to the other requirements of this chapter, land management plans must meet the following standards:

1. Resource information and other data are factual and accurate.
2. Guidance is adequate to guide formulation of individual resource programs and schedules needed to implement the plan.
3. Assumptions, analytical approaches, and data are consistently applied within the plan.
4. Interdisciplinary planning and resource coordination are evident.
5. A map delineating management areas and displaying future corridors is included.

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1926.3 – Review and Approval of Land Management Plans

Section 219.10 of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (see 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000) establishes general requirements for review and approval of land management plans.

1926.31 – Internal Review

The regional forester reviews land management plans against the standards in section 1926.21.

1926.31a – Standards for Regional Review

Regional reviews must ensure that:

1. Each land management plan complies with laws, regulations, policy, and Chief's direction.
2. Each land management plan is reviewed against Resources Planning Act targets and related costs for the unit and the region as a whole.
3. The analysis and comparative evaluation, documented in the applicable NEPA document, is adequate to permit an informed selection of the preferred alternative.
4. The completed land management plan and applicable NEPA document have received an interdisciplinary review.

1926.31b – Internal Review Process

1. Following approval by the regional forester, the forest, grassland, prairie, or other comparable administrative unit Supervisor prints the draft plan and accompanying applicable NEPA document and makes them available for public review.
2. The regional forester reviews a summary of the public comment received on the draft, the response to the public comment, and the proposed final plan and applicable NEPA document.
3. The Chief may require Washington Office review before printing of all final plans and their accompanying applicable NEPA documents, if the plan makes recommendations that will ultimately require congressional action. Examples of congressional action include additions to or deletions from the National Wilderness Preservation System, National Trails, National Recreation Areas, studies or changes to the National Wild and Scenic River System, and proposed adjustments in National Forest System boundaries. Otherwise, upon approval of final land management plan by the regional forester, the forest, grassland, prairie, or other comparable administrative unit supervisor may print and release the final documents unless:

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- a. The region has specifically requested Washington Office review.
- b. The Chief has specified Washington Office review because of the degree or intensity of controversy, the extent of changes in the preferred or any other alternative, or if other circumstances warrant.

1926.32 – External Review

External reviews during the land management planning process require public participation and coordination with other public planning efforts. Provide public participation at the earliest stages of the process. Use public participation to identify public issues during the formal scoping process and during review of draft documents. Prepare a public participation plan and make this plan a part of the planning records along with documented results of participation activities. Document results of coordination with other Federal agencies, Tribal, State, and local governments.

1926.4 – Land Management Plan Implementation

1926.41 – Analysis and Evaluation

Conduct analysis and evaluation to establish a rational basis for making decisions on proposed projects or activities. The analysis must provide the responsible official with relevant information necessary to make a decision to select or reject proposed projects or activities. The analysis and evaluation must be sufficient to establish a determination of consistency, comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, document findings, and provide a basis for selecting actions to implement. The following provides specific requirements for analysis and evaluation:

1. Confirm and document that the proposed project or activity is consistent with the management direction in the land management plan. If an action cannot be changed to be consistent, the action must be rejected or the land management plan must be amended as directed in FSM 1926.5. Consistency determinations, including specific required findings, are described in FSH 1909.12, section 29.
2. Normally, economic evaluations of proposed projects or activities that yield or affect priced outputs should be based on cost-efficiency analysis (FSM 1970). Land management plan information may be used if the underlying analysis was sufficiently site specific and if costs and output values have not changed. Select projects or activities that are most efficient in following land management plan direction.
3. Complete environmental analysis before approving projects and activities (FSM 1950 and FSH 1909.15).

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1926.5 – Amendment

The need to amend a land management plan may arise from several sources, including the following:

1. Recommendations of the forest, grassland, prairie, or other comparable administrative unit interdisciplinary team that are based on findings that result from monitoring and evaluating implementation of the land management plan (FSM 1926.7).
2. Findings that existing or proposed permits, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other instruments authorizing occupancy and use are not consistent with the land management plan, but should be approved.
3. Changes necessitated by resolution of administrative appeals.
4. Changes in plan guidance needed to correct planning errors.
5. Changes in plan guidance necessitated by changed physical, social, or economic conditions.
6. Desired implementation of projects or activities outside the scope of the land management plan.

Upon receiving advice from the interdisciplinary team that the plan requires change, the responsible official shall:

1. Determine whether proposed changes to a land management plan are significant or not significant in accordance with the requirements of sections 1926.51 and 1926.52.
2. Document the determination of whether the change is significant or not significant in a decision document.
3. Provide appropriate public notification of the decision before implementing the changes.

Findings of the responsible official regarding the consistency of projects or activities and actions with the land management plan and the determination of the significance of an amendment are an integral part of decisions. As such, they are subject to administrative review under 36 CFR 219.14.

1926.51 – Changes to the Land Management Plan That are Not Significant

Changes to the land management plan that are not significant can result from:

1. Actions that do not significantly alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.

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2. Adjustments of management area boundaries or management prescriptions resulting from further on-site analysis when the adjustments do not cause significant changes in the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.
3. Minor changes in standards and guidelines.
4. Opportunities for additional projects or activities that will contribute to achievement of the management prescription.

The forest, grassland, prairie, or other comparable administrative unit supervisor shall prepare an amendment to the land management plan to accommodate a change determined not to be significant. Appropriate public notification is required before implementation of the amendment.

1926.52 – Changes to the Land Management Plan That are Significant

The following examples indicate circumstances that may cause a significant change to a land management plan:

1. Changes that would significantly alter the long-term relationship between levels of multiple-use goods and services originally projected (see section 219.10(e) of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (see 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000)).
2. Changes that may have an important effect on the entire land management plan or affect land and resources throughout a large portion of the planning area during the planning period.

When a significant change needs to be made to the land management plan, the forest, grassland, prairie, or other comparable administrative unit supervisor shall prepare an amendment. Documentation of a significant change, including the necessary analysis and evaluation should focus on the issues that have triggered the need for the change. In developing and obtaining approval of the amendment for significant change to the land management plan, follow the same procedures as are required for developing and approving the land management plan. (See sections 219.10(f) and 219.12 of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000)).

1926.6 – Revision

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires revision of land management plans at least every 15 years; however, a plan may be revised sooner if physical conditions or demands on the land and resources have changed sufficiently to affect overall goals or uses for the entire unit. To revise a land management plan, plan revisions initiated after May 9, 2012 must conform to 36 CFR 219, after obtaining approval of the Chief to schedule a revision. Plan revisions previously initiated before May 9, 2012, may continue to follow procedures set forth in section

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219.12 of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (See 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).

1926.7 – Monitoring and Evaluation

Conduct monitoring of the land management plan and of the individual projects or activities to determine how well objectives have been met and how closely management standards and guidelines have been applied. Monitoring and evaluation requirements for the land management plan are found at section 219.12(k) of the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000 (see 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2000).

1. Monitoring of the land management plan is conducted at three levels:

- a. Implementation Monitoring. Implementation monitoring is designed to determine if plans, prescriptions, projects, and activities are implemented as designed and in compliance with land management plan objectives, requirements, and standards and guidelines. Evaluation of implementation monitoring may require adjustment of prescriptions and targets or changes in plan or project administration.
- b. Effectiveness Monitoring. Effectiveness monitoring is designed to determine if plans, prescriptions, projects, and activities are effective in meeting management direction, objectives, and the standards and guidelines. Evaluation of the results of effectiveness monitoring is used to adjust land management plan objectives, targets, prescriptions, standards and guidelines, conservation practices, mitigation measures, and other best management practices and could result in change to or amendment of the land management plan.
- c. Validation Monitoring. Validation monitoring is designed to ascertain whether the initial assumptions and coefficients used to develop the land management plan are correct or if there is a better way to meet land management planning regulations, policies, goals, and objectives. Evaluation of this type of monitoring can result in amendment of land management plans and may be used to recommend changes in laws, regulations, and policies that affect both the plan and project implementation.

1926.71 – Monitoring Requirements

1. Focus monitoring on those activities that:
 - a. Affect significant management systems such as total silvicultural systems and other monitoring requirements.
 - b. Are responsive to stated issues, concerns, and management opportunities.
 - c. Affect major components of the environment.
2. Coordinate monitoring efforts with resource inventory needs to reduce duplication.

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3. Monitor to ensure that:
 - a. The land management plan complies with applicable laws and regulations.
 - b. Cumulative effects of project implementation do not exceed standards or thresholds stated in the land management plan.
 - c. Planned mitigation actions are implemented and maintained as designed.