

PLAN MAINTENANCE
FISCAL YEAR 2001

1. Refinement of implementation monitoring question regarding Survey and Manage management action/direction.

As a result of the modifications to the Survey and Manage management action/direction (standards and guidelines) through the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines in January 2001, it is necessary to refine the implementation monitoring questions associated with this standard and guideline. Implementation monitoring question number one for All Land Use Allocations has been modified to read: “Is the management action for the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines being implemented as required?”

2. Refinement of implementation monitoring questions regarding Special Status Species. The implementation monitoring question regarding Special Status Species were found to contain redundancies with the Survey and Manage monitoring questions. The redundancies have been eliminated by removing Survey and Manage questions from Special Status Species. Survey and Manage monitoring is fully accomplished through the implementation question under All Land Use Allocations. In addition, implementation monitoring question number one for Special Status Species was basically redundant with question number two and therefore question number one was eliminated. The title for this monitoring section has been modified to delete reference to SEIS Special Attention Species (Survey and Manage).
3. Refinement and clarification of objectives, management action/direction and implementation monitoring question regarding soils resource.

The management action/direction for the Soils Resource is different than that for any other resource in that it combines ROD/RMP objectives with management action/direction. Experience in ROD/RMP monitoring has disclosed difficulty in effectively measuring the accomplishment of Soils Resource management action/direction. The District Soil Scientist and Geotechnical Engineer have examined this issue from a technical perspective in the field and recently published literature has been reviewed. The technical review and recent literature indicates that operational monitoring which would produce meaningful and reliable results of the current soils management action/direction as currently written is not practical.

The ROD/RMP is clarified and refined in the following manner:

The ROD/RMP objective to “improve and/or maintain soil productivity” (ROD/RMP pg. 35) is retained.

The *objective* of “insignificant growth loss effect” (ROD/RMP pg. 37) and “insignificant (less than one percent) growth loss effect” (ROD/RMP pg 62) is removed from management action/direction. The intention and purpose of this *objective* which was combined with management action/direction is preserved in the existing language of the ROD/RMP objectives for the soil resource.

The entire management action/direction contained in the fourth paragraph page 37 (beginning “In forest management activities. . .”) and the second paragraph page 62 (beginning “Plan timber sales. . .”) is replaced by:

“For forest management activities involving ground based systems, improve or maintain soil productivity by:

- a.) the cumulative (created or used since the adoption of the ROD/RMP) main skid trails, landings and large pile areas will affect less than approximately 10 percent, of the ground based harvest unit
- b.) a main skid trail is defined as a trail in which the duff is displaced such that approximately 50 percent or more of the surface area of the trail is exposed to mineral soil
- c.) skid trails which were created prior to the adoption of the ROD/RMP should be re-used to the extent practical, such skid trails that are re-used will be included in the 10 percent limit of affected area within the ground based harvest unit
- d.) limit skid trails to slopes generally less than approximately 35 percent. Examples of exceptions to the 35 percent slope limit would include situations such as small inclusions of steeper slopes, connecting trails to isolated ground based harvest areas, or the use of existing trails that can be used without causing undue effects to soils
- e.) in partial cut areas, locate main skid trails so that they may be used for final harvest
- f.) conduct ground based operations only when soil moisture conditions limit effects to soil productivity (these conditions generally can be expected to be found between May 15 and the onset of regular fall rains or may be determined by on-site examination)
- g.) on intermediate harvest entries, ameliorate main skid trails and areas of non-main skid trails warranting amelioration, or document a plan (e.g. such as adding a map to watershed analysis) so that amelioration may be accomplished at the time of final harvest
- h.) potential harvest units will be examined during the project planning process to determine if skid trails created prior to the adoption of the ROD/RMP have resulted in extensive enough compaction to warrant amelioration
- i.) upon final harvest ameliorate all main skid trails, those portions of non-main skid trails warranting amelioration, skid trails documented and carried over from intermediate harvests, and skid trails created prior to the adoption of the ROD/RMP which were identified in the planning process as warranting amelioration
- j.) amelioration of skid trails will generally consist of tilling with equipment designed to reduce the effects to soil productivity from compaction and changes in soil structure.

For mechanical site preparation, management action/direction is refined as follows:

The fourth condition under which track-type equipment must operate (ROD/RMP pg 63, beginning: “4. Operate at soil moistures that. . .”) is replaced with:

4. Conduct mechanical site preparation when soil moisture conditions limit effects to soil productivity (these conditions generally can be expected to be found between May 15 and the onset of regular fall rains or may be determined by on-site examination). Total exposed mineral soil resulting from main skid trails and mechanical site preparation activities will be less than 10 percent of the ground based harvest unit area. Total exposed mineral soil as a result of mechanical site preparation in cable or helicopter harvest units will be less than approximately 5 percent of harvest unit area. Units will be examined after site preparation has been completed to determine if amelioration (generally tilling) is warranted to reduce the effects to soil productivity from compaction and changes in soil structure.”

Implementation monitoring question number six for Water and Soils is changed to: “Have forest management activities implemented the management direction for ground based systems and mechanical site preparation as listed in the fiscal year 2001 plan maintenance?”

5. Refinement of Resource Management Plan evaluation interval.

The ROD/RMP (pages 78 and 79), in the Use of the Completed Plan section, established a three year interval for conducting plan evaluations. The purpose of a plan evaluation is to determine if there is significant new information and/or changed circumstance to warrant amendment or revision of the plan. The ecosystem approach of the ROD/RMP is based on long term management actions to achieve multiple resource objectives including; habitat development, species protection, and commodity outputs. The relatively short three year cycle has been found to be inappropriate for determining if long term goals and objectives will be met. A five year interval is more appropriate given the resource management actions and decisions identified in the ROD/RMP. The Annual Program Summaries and Monitoring Reports continue to provide the cumulative ROD/RMP accomplishments. Changes to the ROD/RMP continue through appropriate amendments and plan maintenance actions. A five year interval for conducting evaluations is consistent with the BLM planning guidance as revised in November 2000.

The State Director decision to change the evaluation interval from three years to five years was made on March 8, 2002. It was directed that this plan maintenance be published in the 2001 Annual Program Summary. The next evaluation of the Roseburg District Resource Management Plan will address implementation through September 2003.

2001 AMENDMENT TO THE NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN

The Survey and Manage mitigation in the Northwest Forest Plan was amended in January 2001 through the signing of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines. The intent of the amendment was to incorporate up-to-date science into management of Survey and Manage species and to utilize the agencies’ limited resources more efficiently. The ROD provides approximately the same level of protection intended in the Northwest Forest Plan but eliminates inconsistent and redundant direction and establishes a process for adding or removing species when new information becomes available.

The ROD reduced the number of species requiring the Survey and Manage mitigation, dropping 72 species in all or part of their range. The remaining species were then placed into 6 different management categories, based on their relative rarity, whether surveys can be easily conducted, and whether there is uncertainty as to their need to be included in this mitigation. The following table shows a breakdown of the placement of these 346 species, and a brief description of management actions required for each.

The ROD identifies species management direction for each of the above categories. Uncommon species categories C and D require the management of “high priority” sites only, while category F requires no known site management. The new Standards and Guidelines also establish an in-depth process for reviewing and evaluating the placement of species into the different management categories. This process allows for adding, removing, or moving species around into various categories, based on the new information acquired through our surveys.

Approval of the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standard and Guidelines amended the Standards and Guidelines contained in the Northwest Forest Plan Record of Decision related to Survey and Manage, Protection Buffers, Protect Sites from Grazing, Manage Recreation Areas to Minimize Disturbance to Species, and Provide Additional Protection for Caves, Mines, and Abandoned Wooden Bridges and Building That are Used as Roost Sites for Bats. These standards and guidelines were removed and replaced by the contents of the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standard and Guidelines.

Plan Maintenance actions to delete all references to Management Action/Direction for Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer species in the Roseburg District Resource Management Plan and Appendices and adopt the Standards and Guidelines contained in the *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures* are required in response to the Record of Decision.

Copies of the ROD and Final SEIS may be obtained by writing the Regional Ecosystem Office at PO Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208, or they can be accessed at <http://www.or.blm.gov/nwfpnepa>.