



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2006-049

Expires: 9/30/2007

To: District Managers: Prineville, Spokane, and Vale

From: State Director, Oregon/Washington

Subject: PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 DD: 12/01/2006

Program Area: 1150 Threatened and Endangered Species, 1120 Fisheries, 1020 Range

Purpose: Direction for implementing FY 2006 PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinions (PIBO) Implementation Monitoring.

Policy/Action: This directive explains the Regional Deputy Team's Monitoring Program requirements under PIBO for FY 2006. Grazing is the only element of the module that is required to be reported in FY 2006.

Background: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has made major commitments through the PACFISH and INFISH Management Strategies to improve aquatic resources found in the Interior Columbia River Basin. Since the BLM began implementing these strategies, and in some cases even before, there has been marked improvement in management for aquatic resources. This effort is recognized and is commended. It is expected that BLM line officers will continue to work with grazing permittees to ensure that this cooperative effort continues.

The application of the Implementation Monitoring Module will meet the interagency grazing implementation monitoring requirements of the salmon, steelhead, and bull trout PACFISH and INFISH Biological Opinions issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service on June 19, 1998, and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on August 14, 1998.

Information Bulletin No. OR-2005-159 provides direction and clarification on several issues surrounding grazing monitoring in riparian areas. It describes riparian assessment and monitoring protocols, and provides guidance for their use to meet desired conditions described in the PACFISH/INFISH decision documents.

1. LINK TO EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING: PIBO monitoring consists of broadscale effectiveness monitoring conducted by a centralized team based in Logan, Utah, and local implementation monitoring conducted by the field units. The PIBO Implementation Monitoring Program that the field

units execute provides critical input into the broadscale PIBO Effectiveness Monitoring project; therefore, high priority is placed upon using the PIBO implementation module at the Designated Monitoring Areas (DMAs) used by the Effectiveness Monitoring Team. It is critical that the DMAs selected for implementation monitoring by the field units conform exactly to the DMA locations used by the Effectiveness Monitoring Team. Therefore, field staffs need to work closely with the Effectiveness Monitoring Team and coordinate exact locations of DMA sample sites.

Effectiveness of livestock management actions in meeting PACFISH/INFISH riparian objectives cannot be evaluated without knowing what level of livestock use occurred next to the stream. At the DMA sites, field unit implementation monitoring evaluates whether the grazing management described in the actual use reports, based on grazing permits or leases, meets short-term goals for riparian vegetation use and bank disturbance (annual monitoring indicators). Long-term riparian monitoring describes whether riparian trends are meeting PIBO riparian management objectives. The range manager can then use these results to validate or adjust management within a pasture. Obviously that determination of livestock use must be made at the exact same location for the comparison to be valid. At larger scales, the Implementation Monitoring and Effectiveness Monitoring Programs were designed to aggregate information across groups of pastures to describe relationships between management strategies and trends in the resource condition.

The protocol for selecting and monitoring DMAs is contained in Attachment 1. This year's Deputy Team Field Reviews will include an audit to assess compliance with this protocol.

2. SAMPLING AND REPORTING FOR 2006: The sample scheme for 2006 is as follows.

Field units will conduct the Interagency Implementation Team (IIT) Implementation Monitoring for all authorized grazing activities that have already been started on the ground or that have been completed during the current year and fall within at least the following sample set. A 20 percent sample of Category I pastures identified in 3)a. below may include samples collected for any of the following items: 1), 2), and 3)b. below.

- 1) All grazing activities at DMAs within the 6th field Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs) selected for monitoring by the Effectiveness Monitoring Team. The Team's 6th field HUCs can be found at the Rocky Mountain Research Station website:

http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/teams/techtran/projects/pac_infishhome.htm

- 2) All prior year PACFISH/INFISH noncompliance activities in the Grazing Program.
- 3) Other grazing activities:
 - a. At least 20 percent of Module Category I pasture use areas per year, based on field unit priorities with input from the Level 1 Team.
 - i. Field unit decides where to focus although every Module Category I pasture use area should be sampled at least once within the life of the ten-year grazing permit.
 - b. Any local implementation monitoring requirements for livestock grazing about which local Endangered Species Act consultation requires reporting through the PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring Database.

Detailed instructions for the IIT Implementation Monitoring Program are contained in the Implementation Monitoring Manual available online at the URL listed above. These instructions include criteria for DMA selection. The PIBO Implementation Monitoring Protocol for establishing DMAs is also given in Attachment 1.

Field units are encouraged to use the PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring Database to record and report stream/riparian-related implementation monitoring requirements for activities other than

grazing or outside of the requirements of PACFISH, INFISH, and the Biological Opinions. It has been designed to accommodate requirements other than PACFISH or INFISH standards.

3. DATABASE: The PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring Database has been modified this year, and the new version is available online at the PACFISH/INFISH website listed above. Detailed instructions for the PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring Program are contained in the Implementation Monitoring Manual; also available online at the URL listed above.

4. COMPLIANCE/NONCOMPLIANCE FEEDBACK: The Monitoring Program was developed to provide field unit line officers with a mechanism for implementing the monitoring requirements of PACFISH, INFISH, and the 1998 Biological Opinions for salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Line officers are accountable to ensure that the actions they take are consistent with these requirements. Line officers need to receive and act upon the results of project-level implementation monitoring. The monitoring module contains a “noncompliance” questionnaire and report, which can be used to evaluate the need to modify or refine management actions for a particular activity. In addition, the module contains a “local” questionnaire with comment fields that can be used to track and report monitoring results based upon local monitoring requirements of land use plans and/or projects under National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) decisions, and in compliance with local Endangered Species Act consultations.

5. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: Findings of the University of Idaho’s Stubble Height Study Team are being implemented in Regions 1 and 4 of the Forest Service and Idaho BLM. Oregon/Washington BLM has taken a different approach to the application of these findings. Region 6 of the Forest Service and Oregon/Washington BLM developed a document, dated July 27, 2005 titled, “**R6/BLM, PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion – Clarification of Riparian Monitoring and Assessment Protocols and Implementation**” (Information Bulletin No. OR-2005-159). The intent of this guidance is to provide clarification and focus to a process for prioritizing and concentrating monitoring efforts in view of anticipated workforce and budget reductions.

This directive includes excerpts from the Idaho stubble height report and how this and other annual monitoring indicators should not be used as decision tools for administrative actions on grazing permits. The directive also contains a “Decision Tree” process for adaptive management actions that may be necessary. That directive also included the new multiple indicator monitoring method (MIM), which can be used as an efficient monitoring technique covering the PIBO implementation monitoring requirements of this Instruction Memorandum. This directive is available online at:
http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/teams/techtran/projects/pac_infishhome.htm

6. COORDINATION: As in previous years, the Implementation Monitoring Program will rely on coordination between the Implementation Monitoring Task Team members and Field Unit Coordinators. Field Unit Coordinators are the local point of contact for those aspects of the Monitoring Program, including training that is not activity specific. The Regional or State counterparts, members of the Implementation Monitoring Task Team, and Field Unit Coordinators are listed in Attachment 2.

Timeframe: Data should be entered into the PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring Database by December 1, 2006, with submission of the files to the central location by December 15, 2006.

Budget Impact: None.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: No manual/handbook sections are affected.

Coordination: This Instruction Memorandum has been coordinated with members of the PACFISH/INFISH Monitoring Task Team. Advanced notification of this data request was sent to Prineville, Spokane, and Vale District Offices on May 15, 2006.

Contact: If you have questions about the Module and its implementation in 2006, or if your Field Unit Coordinator or his/her phone number has changed, please contact Al Doelker at (503) 808-6067.

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Instruction Memorandum and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by
James G. Kenna
Associate State Director

Authenticated by
BeLinda Davis
Staff Assistant

2 Attachments

- 1 - [PIBO Implementation Monitoring Protocol for Establishing Designated Monitoring Areas](#) (4pp)
- 2 - [Implementation Monitoring Contacts](#) (1p)

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