

# Flathead National Forest Plan

## Timber Products Monitoring Guide and Evaluation of Results (MON-TIMB)

### *Point of Contact*

Timber program manager: Michael Reichenberg

### *Introduction*

This document provides the instructions and information needed to address the forest plan monitoring items associated with the production of forest products. The monitoring items included in this document are:

Monitoring Item and Question (Chapter 5 of Flathead Forest Plan)
<b>MON-TIMB-01.</b> How are management actions contributing to a sustainable mix of forest products in response to market demands?
<b>MON-TIMB-02.</b> How are management actions contributing to the recovery of economic value of dead or dying trees on suitable lands?

### *Purpose and Outline of this Document*

Each individual monitoring item in the Forest Plan monitoring program (Chapter 5 of the Plan) has been addressed in a document such as this one, which is intended to serve as the primary location for information needed to conduct the monitoring and to record the results. It is designed to aid in the tracking and preservation of monitoring methods, data and results over the life of the plan. It is anticipated that these documents would be revisited and used as a guide to conduct the monitoring for each biennial reporting; to see past results and record new results; and updated where needed based on recommendations for change in the previous biennial report.

This document is **NOT** the final Biennial Monitoring Evaluation Report (MER), but it should contain most if not all the information needed to prepare that report, and functions as project record material for the biennial MER.

Each monitoring item in this document is organized into five main sections:

- **Introduction:** Key information from the monitoring plan (i.e. indicators, plan component being monitored, data source/collection)
- **Methods:** Detailed information on how the monitoring will be accomplished, the intent of the selected indicators, data sources and confidence levels, etc.
- **Results:** Summary of the monitoring data used and the results for the current biennial monitoring report.
- **Discussion of Results:** A fact-based discussion of results. Potential questions are provided to help guide and frame this discussion.

- **Evaluation of Results for Adaptive Management Finding:** evaluation of what the results mean in terms of management decisions. This information is incorporated into the Biennial Monitoring Evaluation Report.

## TIMBER PRODUCTS MONITORING (MON-TIMB)

### MON-TIMB-01. How are management actions contributing to a sustainable mix of forest products in response to market demands?

#### Introduction

This monitoring question addresses FS-DC-TIMB-02, which states “Production of timber and timber harvest contribute to economic sustainability, providing jobs and income to local economies. A mix of timber products (including both sawtimber and non-sawtimber) is offered under a variety of contract methods in response to market demand.”

Objectives for timber production are as follows:

**FW-OBJ-TIMB-01** - Annually, offer timber for sale at an average projected timber sale quantity of 27.3 million board feet (5.5 million cubic feet)

**FW-OBJ-TIMB-02** - Annually, offer commercial timber and other products for sale at an average annual projected wood sale quantity of 6.3 million cubic feet

These estimates of timber outputs may be larger or smaller on an annual basis, or over the life of the plan, if legal authorities, management efficiencies, or unanticipated constraints change in the future. Modeling of the projected timber sale quantity under an unlimited budget and consistent with all plan components resulted in an average annual volume output in the first decade of 38 million board feet (7.6 million cubic feet).

IND-TIMB-01 is also an important measure for determining goods provided and contribution to jobs and income for Social and Economic monitoring questions MON-S&E-01 and MON-S&E-02.

**Table 1. MON-TIMB-01 plan components, indicators, data source, data collection interval and point of contact**

Plan Component(s)	Indicator	Data Source / Partner	Data collection interval	Point of Contact
<b>FW-DC-TIMB-02</b> <b>FW-OBJ-TIMB-01 and 02</b>	<b>IND-TIMB-01.</b> Million board feet/million cubic feet offered and sold annually	Timber information manager (TIM) system	Annually	Timber program manager

#### Methods

At each monitoring report, timber produced since the last monitoring report (the previous two years) would be reported. Amount of timber offered and the amount sold is tracked on the Forest in the timber information manager (TIM) database. The information is entered as timber sales are developed and sold. A summary report is available at the end of each fiscal year. This report is called the Periodic Timber Sale Accomplishment Report and is available here:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/products/ptsar/index.shtml>. See TIM for data entry standards.

## TIMBER PRODUCTS – Monitoring Plan/Eval of Results

In addition to the data available in TIM, the reason for any sale that is offered and not sold is determined and documented. This determination will include if there is no market available for the product being offered.

### Results

**Table 2: Monitoring results for MON-TIMB-01. Production of Forest Products**

Indicator IND-TIMB-01	Monitoring date and data results 2021 (Years 2019 & 2020)	Monitoring date and data results 20XX (Years)	
<b>Total Volume offered:</b>			
Million Board Feet	2019: 44.1		
	2020: 48.5		
Million Cubic Feet	2019: 8.6		
	2020: 9.9		
<b>Total Volume sold:</b>			
Million Board Feet	2019: 50.6		
	2020: 48.5		
Million Cubic Feet	2019: 9.9		
	2020: 9.9		

### Discussion of Results

*Potential questions to consider:*

- *Are timber sales that are offered actually sold? If sales are offered and not sold, what are the reasons for lack of sale? Does the forest sell a mix of products? Are there any products offered and not sold?*
- *Is the amount sold consistent with that anticipated in the plan objectives for annual amount of timber produced? Is there a trend over time either up or down, and what might be the reasons for observed trends?*

Jobs and income generated from the amount of timber sold is developed and evaluated under social and economic monitoring questions MON-S&E-01 and MON-S&E-02.

The Forest offered and sold a steady amount of volume over the last two years that exceeded quantities in Objectives FW-OBJ-TIMB-01 and 02. The Forest sold all the volume offered over the monitoring period. This indicates strong demand for forest products off the forest. The Forest primarily offers sawlogs and non-sawlog product in its timber sales. Much of the lodgepole pine non-sawlog product is used by the forest products industry to manufacture post and poles. Timber volume offered and sold exceeded the Periodic Timber Sale Quantity (FW-OBJ-TIMB-01) over the last two years but is well within its annual

**TIMBER PRODUCTS – Monitoring Plan/Eval of Results**

---

sustained yield limit of 25.4 MMCF. This is primarily due to Regional Forester direction to increase the pace and scale of restoration.

Timber harvest contributes to economic sustainability, providing jobs and income to local economies. Refer to discussion and evaluation of results for monitoring items under Social and Economic Environment (MON-S&E-01 and MON-S&E-02).

**Evaluation of Results for Adaptive Management Finding**

The following findings and recommendations resulted from the evaluation of monitoring results as documented above.

**Table 3. Summary of Findings for Monitoring Item MON-TIMB-01**

<b>1. Plan Monitoring Results:</b> Does the monitoring question and indicator(s) provide the information necessary to understand the status of the associated plan component listed above?
YES
Recommendations – N/A
<b>2. Plan Implementation Status <sup>1</sup>:</b> Do monitoring results demonstrate progress of the associated plan components for with this monitoring item?
YES - (E). <i>Implementation of plan component is progressing as desired, based on volume offered and sold during the monitoring period.</i>
Recommendation – N/A
<b>3. Type of change under consideration <sup>2</sup>:</b> If corrective action/change was indicated under either #1 or #2, <u>where</u> might that change might be needed?
N/A

<sup>1</sup> **PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STATUS:** (A) **Uncertain** - Availability of data or Interval of data collection beyond this reporting cycle (*indicate date of next time this monitoring item will be evaluated*); (B) **Uncertain** - More time/data are needed to understand status or progress of the plan component(s); (C) **Uncertain** - Methods inadequate to assess the status or progress toward achieving plan component(s) (D) **NO** - Implementation of plan component(s) ARE NOT trending, progressing, and/or conducted as desired; (E) **YES** - Implementation of plan component(s) ARE trending, progressing, and/or conducted as desired

<sup>2</sup> **CHOICES for where change may be needed include:** Monitoring program, plan component, management activity, plan assessment, program strategy or approaches documents, public engagement strategy

**MON-TIMB-02. How are management actions contributing to the recovery of economic value of dead or dying trees on suitable lands?**

*Introduction*

FW-DC-TIMB-05 states the following: “In areas suitable for timber production, sanitation or salvage harvest may occur and contribute to the overall economic benefits of harvest while achieving desired conditions and management direction for other resources (e.g., wildlife habitat, snags) and providing for human safety along open roads and trails.” Salvage harvest contributes to economic sustainability, providing jobs and income to local economies (FW-DC-TIMB-02).

**Table 4. MON-TIMB- 02 -plan components, indicators, data source, data collection interval and point of contact**

Plan Component(s)	Indicator	Data Source / Partner	Data collection interval	Point of Contact
FW-DC-TIMB-05	IND-TIMB-02. Million board feet/million cubic feet offered and sold annually as salvage harvest	Timber information manager (TIM) system	Annually	Timber program manager

*Methods*

The amount of dead and dying timber sold through salvage is tracked on the Forest in the timber information manager database. The information is entered as timber sales are developed and sold. A summary report is available at the end of each fiscal year. This report is called the Periodic Timber Sale Accomplishment Report and is available here:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/products/ptsar/index.shtml>.

**Table 5: Monitoring results for MON-TIMB- 02, Recovery of economic values through salvage harvest**

Indicator	Monitoring date and data results 2021 (Year 2019 & 2020)	Monitoring date and data results 20XX (Years)	
	<b>IND-TIMB-02: Salvage Volume offered</b>		
Million Board Feet	2019: 22.5 2020: 28.5		
Million Cubic Feet	2019: 4.4 2020: 5.8		
<b>IND-TIMB-02: Salvage Volume sold</b>			
Million Board Feet	2019: 24.9 2020: 28.5		
Million Cubic Feet	2019: 4.9 2020: 5.8		

**Discussion of Results**

Potential questions to consider:

- What amount of timber is harvested through salvage sale? What percentage of the total timber sale volume is salvage?
- Is there a trend in the amount of salvage sales sold and percentage of the overall sale program? If so, what is the rationale for an increase or decrease in the amount of salvage sales sold?

Salvage of dead and dying timber accounted for approximately 49 percent of the volume sold in 2019 and approximately 59 percent of the volume sold in 2020. Salvage volume increased in 2020 through the offing of sales with a heavy component of over-mature lodgepole pine. Also, a wind event in March of 2020 created blowdown captured as additional volume in active timber sales.

Salvage harvest contributes to economic sustainability, providing jobs and income to local economies. Refer to discussion and evaluation of results for monitoring items under Social and Economic Environment (MON-S&E-01 and MON-S&E-02).

**Evaluation of Results for Adaptive Management Finding**

The following findings and recommendations resulted from the evaluation of monitoring results.

**Table 5. Summary of Findings for Monitoring Item MON-TIMB-02**

<b>1. Plan Monitoring Results:</b> Does the monitoring question and indicator(s) provide the information necessary to understand the status of the associated plan component listed above?
YES
Recommendations – N/A
<b>2. Plan Implementation Status <sup>1</sup>:</b> Do monitoring results demonstrate progress of the associated plan components for with this monitoring item?
YES - (E). <i>Implementation of plan component is progressing as desired, based on salvage products that contributed to sales offered and sold during the monitoring period.</i>
Recommendation – N/A
<b>3. Type of change under consideration <sup>2</sup>:</b> If corrective action/change was indicated under either #1 or #2, <u>where</u> might that change might be needed?
N/A

<sup>1</sup> **PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STATUS:** (A) **Uncertain** - Availability of data or Interval of data collection beyond this reporting cycle (*indicate date of next time this monitoring item will be evaluated*); (B) **Uncertain** - More time/data are needed to understand status or progress of the plan component(s); (C) **Uncertain** - Methods inadequate to assess the status or progress toward achieving plan component(s) (D) **NO** - Implementation of plan component(s) ARE NOT trending, progressing, and/or conducted as desired; (E) **YES** - Implementation of plan component(s) ARE trending, progressing, and/or conducted as desired

<sup>2</sup> **CHOICES for where change may be needed include:** Monitoring program, plan component, management activity, plan assessment, program strategy or approaches documents, public engagement strategy