

Flathead National Forest Plan

Social and Economic Environment Monitoring Guide and Evaluation of Results (MON-S&E)

Point of Contact:

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Introduction

This document provides the instructions and information needed to address the forest plan monitoring items associated with the social and economic environment, such as providing goods and services to people. Recognizing that multiple people may be involved in the forest plan monitoring task, monitoring items have been grouped into separate documents based on the main resource area and primary contact person. The monitoring items included in this document are listed below:

Monitoring Item and Question (Chapter 5 of Flathead Forest Plan)
MON-S&E-01. To what extent is the Forest providing goods and services for local communities?
MON-S&E-02. To what extent is the Forest contributing to desired conditions for a stable and functioning local economy?
MON-S&E-04: Is the cost of implementing the forest plan consistent with projections?

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.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MONITORING (MON-S&E)

MON-S&E-01. To what extent is the Forest providing goods and services for local communities?

MON-S&E-02. To what extent is the Forest contributing to desired conditions for a stable and functioning local economy?

MON-S&E-04. Is the cost of implementing the forest plan consistent with projections?

Introduction

As the largest land jurisdiction in Flathead County, the FNF serves as the backdrop for residents and plays a key role in supporting the social and economic sustainability of local communities, the state of Montana, and the broader region. Desired condition being monitored is the following:

FW-DC-S&E-02: “Sustainable and predictable levels of goods and services (such as wilderness hunting and fishing opportunities, timber, downhill skiing, and huckleberries) are provided for local communities and contribute to the local economy through the generation of jobs and income while creating products for use both nationally and locally.”

The forest plan provides a framework and management direction that guides resource management. The forest plan does not authorize projects or activities, nor does it commit the Forest Service to actions. Objectives were developed in the plan to identify the focus of management in the plan area within the plan period. Objectives were developed considering historic and expected budget allocations as well as professional experience with implementing various resource programs and activities. Annual budget levels were assumed to be constant over time in developing the objectives in the Forest Plan. It is possible that objectives could either exceed or not meet a target based upon a number of factors, including budget and staffing increases or decreases, increased or decreased planning efficiencies, and unanticipated resource constraints.

Table 1. MON-S&E-01, 02 and 04: 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-S&E-02	<p>IND-S&E-</p> <p>01: Levels of production of multiple uses, including timber products, grazing, recreational visits, wilderness, hunting and fishing opportunities, and downhill skiing (as measured through day visits, night visits, local and non-local visits, animal unit months, thousand cubic feet of harvest and sales)</p> <p>02. Number of jobs and thousands of dollars in labor income generated from Flathead National Forest management activities, and multiple uses.</p> <p>03. Land payment revenues (e.g., Secure Rural Schools Act, payment in lieu of</p>	<p>Regional BSMS Economic reports on social and economic conditions. There are multiple sources of data for the various economic indicators, which are referenced in the BSMS report itself.</p>	<p>Annually or Periodically, as needed for forest plan monitoring.</p>	<p>Regional economist</p>

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Plan Component(s)	Indicator	Data Source / Partner	Data collection interval	Point of Contact
	taxes, etc.) to state and counties from NFS lands IND-S&E-06: Forest annual budget, supplemented by partnerships and other outside funding			

Methods

Reports produced periodically by the Regional Office under the Broad Scale Monitoring Strategy (BSMS) are the source of data for most of the Forest Plan economic monitoring indicators. The regional economic report consists of a spreadsheet with multiple tabs displaying social and economic data summaries for each national forest. The specific section of this spreadsheet to use for each Flathead Forest plan indicator is described below.

IND-S&E-01: The data to address this indicator is found as follows:

- Use the data on **Total Visits for the FNF**, found under the “Recreation” tab in the regional economic report. You do not need to report out details of visitor activities, but instead refer to the Recreation monitoring section of the FNF monitoring report, under **MON-REC-01**, where these details are provided.
- Use the data for **Total AUMs**, found under the “Range” tab in the regional economic report.
- For consistency in the report of timber volumes, do not use the volume figures in the regional economic report. Instead, pull the timber volume estimates from the results table under the **TIMBER VOLUME monitoring question (MON-TIMB-01)**

IND-S&E-02, 03 and 06: The data to address these indicators are under the following tabs in the regional economic report:

- Use **Table A and Table B** under the “Jobs and Income” tab.
- Use the data under the “FS Salary and Non-Salary” and “Payment to States and Counties” tabs

At each forest plan monitoring period, economists, or other staff assigned, should review trends in economic input data over time (adjusted for inflation). Notable changes of goods and services provided by the Forest; jobs and income in any multiple-use sector; or in the annual budget should be separately noted and discussed.

Results

The following tables display the results for the monitoring period (year 2019 only – year 2020 unavailable) for the indicators associated with MON-S&E-01, 02 and 04.

Table 2. IND-S&E-01: Level of production for quantifiable goods and services

Goods and Services	Monitoring report 2021			
Flathead NF	Year 2019			
Recreation (total visitor use days)*	1.1 million			

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Timber (total million cubic feet sold) **	9.9			
Range (total AUMs)	1287			

* See Recreation section, Monitoring item MON-REC-01 for detailed information

** See monitoring indicator IND-TIMB-01 in the Timber section of the guide, monitoring item MON-TIMB-01

Table 3. IND-S&E-02: Jobs and income generated from management activities and multiple uses (Tables in regional economic Report)

Table A. Employment by Program				
Flathead NF	Monitoring report 2021			
Resource	Year 2019			
Recreation	382			
Grazing	2			
Timber	215			
Minerals	0			
Payments to States/Counties	69			
FS Expenditures	367			
Total Forest Management	1,035			

Table B. Labor Income by Program				
Flathead NF	Monitoring report 2021			
Resource	Year 2019			
Recreation	\$11,373,937			
Grazing	\$53,353			
Timber	\$9,661,372			
Minerals	\$321			
Payments to States/Counties	\$3,352,099			
FS Expenditures	\$17,586,148			
Total Forest Management	\$42,027,231			

Table 4. IND-S&E-03: Land payment revenues to state and counties from NFS lands (Tables in regional economic Report)

Payments to States and Counties - 2019			
Flathead National Forest	Secure Rural Schools Act	25% Fund	Mineral Royalties
Total Payments (\$)	\$1,773,978	\$30,446	\$0.00
Percent - Roads (%)	57%		
Percent - Schools (%)	28%		
Percent - General Government (%)	1%	100%	
Percent - Title II Projects (%)	14%	na	na
Total (%):	100%	100%	0%
Payments in Lieu of Taxes - PILT (\$)			
Total Payments (\$)	\$3,280,587		

Table 5. IND-S&E-06: Forest annual budget (Tables in regional economic Report)

Annual Budget Expenditures				
Flathead NF	Monitoring report 2021			
	Year 2019			
FS Budget Expenditures, Salary (\$):	\$10,780,457			
FS Budget Expenditures, Non-Salary (\$):	\$7,632,033			
Total	\$18,412,490			
FS Employment, Permanent (count of FTEs)	177			
FS Employment, other than Permanent (count of FTEs)	17			
Total	194			

Discussion of Results

The Flathead Forest plan was adopted in December of 2018. For this monitoring period, results indicate that the Flathead NF continues to provide a flow of tangible goods and services, local jobs and income, and payments to state and county. No trends from previous years can be determined at this time: The data produced in this first Flathead Forest Plan Monitoring Report will serve as a baseline for comparing trends in these economic metrics over time.

For the development of Forest Plan objectives, budget levels over the life of the plan were assumed to be constant (inflation adjusted). The budget level reported for this monitoring period will serve as a baseline to compare trends over time in Forest annual budgets (adjusting for inflation).

Evaluation of Results for Adaptive Management Finding

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

Table 6. Summary of Findings for Monitoring Item MON-S&E-01, 02, and 04

<p>1. Plan Monitoring Results: Does the monitoring question and indicator(s) provide the information necessary to understand the status of the associated plan component listed above?</p>
<p>YES</p>
<p>Recommendations –</p>
<p>2. Plan Implementation Status ¹: Do monitoring results demonstrate progress of the associated plan components for with this monitoring item?</p>
<p>YES (E) - as metrics indicate that the forest continues to provide a flow of tangible goods and services, local jobs and income, and payments to state and county.</p>
<p>Recommendation – MON-S&E-01, for indicator IND-S&E-01, a change in wording is recommended to be consistent with the data source and the indicator should read as follows (changed wording indicated in italics): “Levels of production of <i>tangible</i> multiple uses, including timber products, grazing, recreational visits, and downhill skiing.”</p>
<p>3. Type of change under consideration ²: If corrective action/change was indicated under either #1 or #2, <u>where</u> might that change might be needed?</p>

NA

¹ **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

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