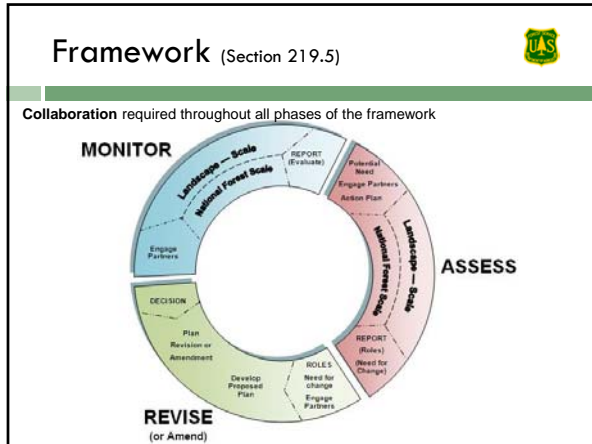


Objective of this Rule


In keeping with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, create a collaborative and science-based planning process that will guide management of NFS lands so they are ecologically sustainable and contribute to social and economic sustainability.

- ### Major Themes in this Rule
- Focused and efficient planning process
 - Collaboration
 - Best Available Science
 - Ecological sustainability and Species Diversity
 - Emphasis of outcomes versus outputs
 - Social and Economic sustainability
 - Ecosystem services and Multiple uses
 - Recognition of limits of Agency authority, fiscal capability, and inherent capability of the land



- ### Collaboration and Public Involvement (Section 219.4)
- § 219.4 requires:
 - Engaging the public early and throughout the planning process
 - Consultation with Tribes and ANCs
 - Recognition of and coordination with other government planning
 - Requesting information about native knowledge, land ethics, cultural issues, and sacred and culturally significant sites

- ### Science (Section 219.3)
- Responsible official must use best available scientific information (BASI) to inform planning process.
 - Responsible official shall determine what information is the most accurate, reliable, and relevant to the issues of the planning unit.
 - Must document use of BASI for the:
 - Assessment
 - Plan decision
 - Monitoring Program


Assessments (Section 219.6) 

Assessment before revision and when responsible official determines if needed for amendments.


Focuses on rapid identification and evaluation of existing information on 15 topics and plan areas contribution to sustainability.

Responsible official has discretion to determine the scope, scale and timing of assessment within the rule requirements.

Document the assessment in a report available to the public.

Formal Planning begins (Section 219.7) 

- The plan revision team reviews the assessment to identify a preliminary need to change the existing plan (§219.5(a)(2)(i).
- Focus of the revision is on the need to change the plan rather than zero based planning.
- Notice is issued to the public to begin the revision process.

Required in Revising Plans (Section 219.7) 

- Identify and evaluate lands for wilderness recommendation
- Identify the eligibility of rivers for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system
- Identify other designated areas and determine whether to recommend more areas for designation
- Prepare Environmental Impact Statement

Plan Content Requirements



(Section 219.7)

- Plan components are the essential elements of the plan which guide day to day management of the unit, as outlined in Section 219.7:
 - Desired Conditions
 - Objectives
 - Standards
 - Guidelines
 - Suitability of areas
- Plan must indicate where components apply, whether throughout the plan area or specific management areas or geographic areas.
- All projects must be consistent with the plan components.
- Must provide plan components for sustainability, species diversity, multiple use, and NFMA timber requirements

Ecological Sustainability



(Section 219.8)

Rule requires plan components to

Maintain or restore the ecological integrity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and watersheds in the plan area in terms of structure, function, composition, and connectivity of these ecosystems.

Maintain or restore air quality, soils and soil productivity, water quality, and water resources.

Maintain or restore the ecological integrity of riparian areas with established widths for riparian management zones.

Insure implementation of National Best Management Practices for water quality

Species Diversity



(Section 219.9)

Rule requires plan components to

Maintain or restore ecological integrity and diversity(coarse-filter).

The coarse-filter should provide conditions for the vast majority of species.

When coarse-filter isn't enough, there will be additional plan direction for T&E, proposed, candidate and species of conservation concern.

Rule drops concept of management indicator species.

Species Diversity *(continued)* (Section 219.9)



If coarse-filter plan components are insufficient to provide the ecological conditions necessary to:

- Contribute to the recovery of federally listed T&E species,
- Conserve proposed and candidate species
- Or maintain a viable population of each species of conservation concern (SCCs) within the plan area. [If this is beyond the FS authority or capability of the plan area, unit will provide ecological conditions to contribute to viable populations of species of conservation concern within their range.]

Then,

Additional species specific plan components must be developed to provide such ecological conditions.

Species of Conservation Concern (Section 219.9)



Regional Forester identifies species of conservation concern (SCC).

To be selected:

- SCC must be known to occur in the plan area;
- There must be substantial evidence the species is at risk in the plan area
- Not T& E candidate or proposed

Potential SCCs to be identified in assessment

Social & Economic Sustainability


(Section 219.8)




Plan components must guide the plan area's contribution to social and economic sustainability, taking into account:

- Social, cultural and economic conditions
- Sustainable recreation settings, opportunities, access and scenic character
- Multiple Uses
- Ecosystem Services
- Cultural and Historic resources
- Opportunities to connect people with nature

Plan content must address unit roles and contributions.

Ecosystem Services (Section 219.10) 


- Identify and evaluate existing information relevant to the plan area for benefits people obtain from the NFS plan area
- The plan must include plan components including standards or guidelines for integrated resource management to provide for ecosystem services (and multiple use) in the plan area

Multiple Use (Section 219.10) 


Multiple uses and ecosystem services must be considered during plan revision process and plan components be appropriately provided for them (Long list 219.10(a))

Plan components must provide for

- Sustainable recreation
- Protection of cultural and historic resources
- Management of areas of tribal importance
- Protection of existing and recommended designate areas (Wilderness, W&S Rivers, National Trails, etc.)

Other Plan Content (Section 219.7) 

- does not govern project consistency
- change does not require amendment
- Required
 - Role and contribution of the unit
 - Identify priority watersheds
 - Monitoring program
 - Proposed and probable actions, timber sale program, harvest methods
- Optional
 - Management approaches, partnerships, etc.

Monitoring (Section 219.12) 


Two levels: Plan area and broader scale monitoring required.

- Plan at NFS unit scale
- Broad scale at regional scale


Monitoring requirements apply to plan, not projects.

Requires monitoring of certain ecological and social/economic conditions (eight items).


Monitoring is encouraged to be collaborative working with other partners such as Tribes, States, local governments and other organizations.

Amendments (Section 219.13) 

- Responsible official has the discretion to determine whether and how to amend the plan.
- An amendment is required to add, modify, or remove one or more plan components, or to change how or where one or more plan components apply
- Administrative change to correct errors and change plan content that is not a plan component


Project Consistency (Section 219.15) 

- Every project must be consistent with the plan. Consistency is evaluated for all applicable plan components as described in § 219.15(d)
- Projects must be brought into conformance unless the decision approving the plan expressly allows the activity to continue § 219.15(a)
- Resource plans (e.g. travel management plans) must be consistent with the plan components. Plans that precede the revised plan must be evaluated and amended if necessary. § 219.15(e)

Transition (Section 219.17) 

Amendments and revisions must use new Rule except

- Amendments
 - May be initiated using old rule till 5/9/2015, but must use objection process
- Revisions
 - If initiated before 5/9/2012 may use old rule

Next Steps 

- FACA Committee
- Directives
- Early Adopters ready to implement

Questions? 