

Appendix D: MONITORING QUESTIONS

Air Quality

Is air quality meeting State and Federal ambient air quality standards?

Biodiversity

Are contiguous blocks of old growth habitat being maintained in a forest-wide system of old growth reserves to support viable and well distributed populations of old growth associated species and subspecies?

Are the effects on biodiversity consistent with those estimated in the Forest Plan (1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan)?

Are management practices consistent with current knowledge regarding sensitive species conservation (federally listed threatened or endangered species, Alaska Region sensitive species, and State species of special concern)?

Are destructive insect and disease organisms increasing to potentially damaging levels following management activities?

Costs and Outputs

What outputs were produced in the previous year?

Are the costs associated with carrying out the planned management prescriptions (including those of producing outputs) consistent with those costs estimated in Plan?

Fish Habitat

Are population trends for Management Indicator Species (MIS) and their relationship to habitat changes consistent with expectations?

Are Fish and Riparian Standards and Guidelines being implemented?

Are Fish and Riparian Standards and Guidelines effective in maintaining or improving fish habitat?

Heritage Resources

Are Heritage Resources Standards and Guidelines being implemented?

Are Heritage Resources Standards and Guidelines effective in protecting heritage/cultural resources as expected in the Forest Plan?

Karst and Caves

Are Karst and Cave Standards and Guidelines being implemented?

Are Karst and Cave Standards and Guidelines effective in protecting the integrity of significant caves and the karst landscape?

Land Management Planning

Is the management of National Forest System lands consistent with management objectives of adjacent lands and their management plans?

Local and Regional Economies

Are the effects on employment and income similar to those estimated in the Forest Plan?

Has the Forest Service worked with local communities to identify and pursue Rural Community Assistance opportunities?

Minerals and Geology

Are the effects of mining activities on surface resources consistent with Forest Plan expectations, as allowed in approved Plans of Operations?

Recreation and Tourism

Are areas of the Forest being managed in accordance with the prescribed Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class in the Recreation and Tourism Standards and Guidelines?

Is Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use causing, or will it cause, considerable adverse effects on soil, water, vegetation, fish and wildlife, visitors or cultural and historic resources of the Forest?

Research

Have identified high-priority information needs been fulfilled?

Scenery

Are the Scenery Standards and Guidelines effective in attaining the adopted Visual Quality Objectives established in the Forest Plan?

Soil and Water

Are the Soil and Water Standards and Guidelines for soil disturbance being implemented?

Are the Soil and Water Standards and Guidelines effective in meeting Alaska Regional Soil Quality Standards?

Are Best Management Practices being implemented?

Are Best Management Practices effective in meeting water quality standards?

Subsistence

Are the effects of management activities on subsistence users in rural Southeast Alaska communities consistent with those estimated in the Forest Plan?

Timber

Are timber harvest activities adhering to applicable Timber Management Standards and Guidelines?

Are harvested Forest lands restocked within five years following harvest?

Is the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) consistent with resource information and programmed harvest?

Are the Non-Interchangeable Components (NIC) of the allowable sale quantity consistent with actual harvest?

Is the proportional mix of volume in NIC I and NIC II as estimated in the Forest Plan accurate?

Should maximum size limits for harvested areas be continued?

Transportation

Are the Transportation and Utilities Standards and Guidelines used for forest development roads and log transfer facilities effective in limiting the environmental effects to anticipated levels?

Wetlands

Are Wetlands Standards and Guidelines being implemented?

Are Wetlands Standards and Guidelines effective in minimizing the impacts to wetlands and their associated functions and values?

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Are Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Standards and Guidelines being implemented?

Are Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Standards effective in maintaining or enhancing the free flowing conditions and outstandingly remarkable values at the classification level for which the river was found suitable for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System?

Wilderness Areas

Are Standards and Guidelines for the management of wilderness being implemented?

Are Standards and Guidelines for the management of wilderness effective in maintaining the wilderness resource?

Wildlife

Are population trends for Management Indicator Species (MIS) and their relationship to habitat changes consistent with expectations?

Are the population levels and associated distribution of mammalian endemic species on islands and portions of the mainland consistent with the estimates in the Forest Plan?