

Instructions for Timber Harvest Effects Monitoring

Objective:

The objective of this monitoring is to determine if past harvest projects that could have qualified for a CE under category 4 (FSH 1909.15, section 31.2, category number 4) did or did not have significant effects on the human environment.

What is being monitored?

Monitoring can be performed on any randomly selected **completed** timber harvest project that was:

- Documented with a Decision Memo (DM) under category 4, or
- Documented with a Decision Notice (DN) but otherwise could have fit the requirements of category 4

The acronym DM* will be used throughout these instructions and on the web monitoring form to indicate either a timber harvest project that was documented with a DM, or with a DN but otherwise could have fit the requirements of category 4.

General Monitoring Procedures

Each forest must monitor two randomly selected DM*s and report the results of that monitoring using the form provided on the web at <http://fsweb.rsac.fs.fed.us/timber/>. If a forest has past monitoring data, then that information may be forwarded in lieu of collecting new monitoring data, however, the results must be transferred and forwarded using the web monitoring form.

Monitoring must be performed by journey-level specialists who are qualified to examine and draw conclusions on the occurrence of effects that meet or do not meet project standards (i.e. Forest Plan Standards or Guidelines, state water quality standards, the conditions of a Biological Opinion, etc.) for soil, water, air, vegetation, wildlife, fish, cultural and historic resources or other pertinent issue related resources. (Refer to 40 CFR 1508 for further context for the terms “categorical exclusion”, “significantly”, “effects”, “human environment” and “cumulative impacts”.) The specialists must visit the site of the DM* to assess the effects of the project on all of the above resources. Participation by the line officer is strongly encouraged. In addition, the use and review of any existing documentation is appropriate, for example previous sale administrator reports.

Based on the specialists’ findings the responsible line officer must give a conclusion in the web-based form about whether the project individually or cumulatively did or did not have a significant effect on the human environment (40 CFR 1508.4). The line officer must consider the context and intensity factors described in the CEQ NEPA implementing regulations, 40 CFR 1508.27, when describing the rationale for their finding.

Forests must submit one form per DM* monitored. If past monitoring examined several DM*s in one monitoring effort then the results must be reported using a separate form for every DM* examined. All monitoring must be completed and the results submitted via the web by November 1, 2001.

All Forest should forward copies of the NEPA documents (EA, DN, DM) for the projects monitored to their Regional Offices. For Forests that are submitting past monitoring results, the Forests should also forward a copy of the original monitoring report to the Regional Office as well as reporting the information on the web form. Regions must submit these records (EAs, DNs, DMs and past monitoring reports) on CD to the WO by November 1, 2001. Please categorize these records by forest and monitoring number (i.e. Bitterroot 1) to coincide with the monitoring input. Please send CDs to the following address:

USDA Forest Service
Attn: Darci Birmingham, 3NW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090

Reporting results using the Web Based Form

Results of the monitoring must be submitted by filling out the Timber Harvest Monitoring Effects Form located on the Forest Service intranet at <http://fswb.rsac.fs.fed.us/timber/>.

The form will work best if you use Microsoft Internet Explorer as your browser. The form will also work using Netscape, however, some functions will not be as user-friendly on Netscape as they are on Microsoft Internet Explorer that is the internet browser supported by the Forest Service.

When you access the page, a blank form will automatically show on your screen. Enter the appropriate information directly online. All fields must be completed for the form to be submitted. Once completed, click the submit button and the results will automatically be submitted. You should receive a message verifying that your form has been submitted as well as the web page address where you can view your submission. If you do not receive the verification message please contact Julia Riber via email (jriber@fs.fed.us).

Filling out this form will take about fifteen minutes. Many items are selected from a drop down menu on the form. Please be aware that information cannot be saved on a partially completed form.

Field-by-Field Form Instructions

Region	Use the drop down menu to select the region where monitoring occurred.
Forest/Project Number	Use the drop down menu to select the forest where

	monitoring occurred. Also give the project a number. The purpose of this number is to differentiate between separate projects reported by a forest. The first monitoring results you report would be 1, the second would be 2, etc.
DM* Name	DM* refers to a timber harvest project documented with a DM under category 4, or documented with a DN but otherwise could have fit the requirements of category 4. Use whatever name you used locally, either the sale name or the title of the DM* project.
Monitoring Date	Report the date the monitoring occurred, not the date the form is completed.
Participants/Professions	List all the people who performed the monitoring and their profession, i.e. Jane Doe/Wildlife Biologist, or Dmitri Smith/District Ranger.
Volume	Report volume in CCF.
Salvage/Green Sale	Report if the timber sale is predominately a salvage sale or a green sale. You can report one or the other but not both. A salvage sale may include incidental amounts of non-salvage timber. The definition of a salvage sale is found in FSM 2435.05.
Miles of Permanent Road Constructed	Report the miles of permanent road constructed specifically for the DM* monitored to two decimal places. If no permanent road was constructed, report 0.
Miles of Permanent Road Reconstructed	Report the miles of permanent road reconstructed specifically for the DM* monitored to two decimal places. If no roads were reconstructed, report 0.
Miles of Temporary Road Constructed	Report the miles of temporary road constructed specifically for the DM* monitored to two decimal places. If no temporary road was constructed, report 0.
Harvest Type, Acres Treated, Purpose of Harvest, and Timber Sale Activity Code.	The form allows you to submit up to 2 different harvest types, for example if your DM* resulted in 3 acres of group selection for wildlife habitat improvement and 27 acres of sanitation salvage for ecosystem health purposes then you could report the 3 acres of group selection as harvest type 1 and the 27 acres of sanitation/salvage as harvest type 2 with appropriate acreages and purposes. If you had more than two harvest types then pick the two predominant types and report only those two.
Harvest Type	Use the drop down menu to select the harvest method that was used in the DM* monitored. The harvest methods and codes listed in the drop down menu are the TRACS-SILVA harvest activity codes.
Purpose of Harvest	Use the drop down menu to select the primary purpose for the harvest; timber commodity, forest stewardship or personal use as defined by FSH 2409.18 section 26.1.

Timber Sale Activity Code	Use the drop down menu to select the primary activity code that coincides with the selected purpose code reported in the previous field. The codes are defined in FSH 2409.18 section 26.2.
Predominate Logging System	Use the drop down menu to select the predominate logging system to harvest the DM* monitored.
Monitoring Techniques and Results	In this section of the form you will be reporting the results of your monitoring. For example, for soils you will report whether you found that the soil quality met State and Forest standards in the project monitored. If you are reporting new monitoring then you must report on the effects for every resource. If you are reporting monitoring that was performed previous to this monitoring request dated August 3, 2001, then only report on the resource areas that were monitored.
Project Effects	For each resource listed, report whether you found that the project does or does not meet standards by using the drop down menu. You can only report that it met the standards or that it did not meet standards, you can't report both for a resource.
Monitoring Technique	Use the drop down menu to select the type of monitoring technique used. For example if you measured the impacts to the soil resource by measuring compaction then you would select "measurement". If you determined the effects on listed and sensitive wildlife through observing the area, examining species occurrence lists and reviewing past documentation, then you would record "observation".
Comment on Standards Not Met	Fill in this field only if you did not meet standards. Do not use this field for any other purpose. Describe the standards that were not met and the environmental effects. Use the scroll bar to scroll up and down to review what you have typed.
Other Issue-Related Resources	This is where you can report on monitoring you performed on resources other than those listed on the form. For example, visual quality might be an issue in your project area, therefore you would monitor the visual impact of the DM* and report it here. You would fill in the Resource Name field with "Visual", record whether you found that the project does or does not meet standards, and identify the monitoring technique.
Describe how the DM* was randomly selected	This is where you identify what technique you used to randomly select the DM*s monitored.
Summary Observations	You may record here any other observations you wished to capture but did not have the opportunity elsewhere on the form. This field is not required for submitting the form.

Line Officer's Statements	In this section, the line officer indicates if there was or was not a significant effect on the human environment based on the field monitoring. Also indicate whether the line officer feels the project should or could have been categorically excluded and describe why.
Submit	When you have completed the form, click on the submit button. You will receive a verification of your submission as well as a link to a page where you can view your submission. If you have not filled out the form properly, it will not let you complete the submission. Prompts will inform you what has not been completed.
Reset Form	Clicking this button will DELETE all the entries you have made on the form and will result in a blank form.

Appendix A: Contents of Drop Down Menus on the Web Form

Harvest Type (TRACS-SILVA codes)

S1020:

- 110 clearcutting
- 111 patch
- 112 strip
- 113 stand
- 114 STD CC-salvage/mortality
- 120 preparation cut
- 121 shelterwood prep cut
- 122 seed tree prep cut
- 130 seed cut
- 131 shelterwood seed cut
- 132 seed tree seed cut
- 140 removal cut
- 141 shelterwood removal
- 142 seed tree removal

Harvest Type continued:

- 143 overstory removal
- 144 partial removal
- 150 selection cut
- 151 tree selection cut
- 152 group selection cut
- 153 combined selection cut
- 160 partial removal
- 200 intermediate harvest methods
- 210 improvement cut
- 220 commercial thin
- 230 sanitation (salvage)
- 231 mortality
- 232 sanitation
- 233 cull
- 240 special harvest
- 241 Red-cockaded woodpecker area

Purpose of Harvest (FSH 2409.18 section 26.1)

- TC Timber Commodity Purpose
- FS Forest Stewardship Purpose
- PP Personal Use

Timber Sale Activity Codes (FSH 2409.18 section 26.2)

- 01 timber resource
- 10 ecosystem health
- 20 recreation/visual/cultural resource enhancement
- 30 wildlife habitat management
- 40 fisheries habitat management & watershed improvement
- 50 threatened & endangered species habitat management
- 60 range resource enhancements
- 70 non-timber products
- 90 other
- 80 personal use products

Conditions

If TC is selected then the only appropriate activity code is 01

If FS is selected then the only appropriate activity codes are 10-70 and 90

If PP is selected then the only appropriate activity code is 80.

Logging Systems

S1005:

- 401 MANUAL LOGGING
- 410 ANIMAL
- 420 TRACTOR
- 421 RUBBER TIERED SKIDDER
- 422 HARD TRACK (TRACK DRIVEN FROM REAR)
- 423 SOFT TRACK (TRACK DRIVEN FROM FRONT)
- 430 SINGLE SPAN SKYLINE
- 431 SINGLE SPAN GRAVITY OUTHAUL LT 1300 FT.
- 432 SINGLE SPAN HAULBACK OUTHAUL LT 1300 FT.
- 433 SINGLE SPAN GRAVITY OUTHAUL LT 1800 FT
- 434 SINGLE SPAN HAULBACK OUTHAUL LT 1800 FT.
- 435 SINGLE SPAN SKYLINE GT 1800 FT.
- 440 MULTISPAN
- 441 MULTISPAN--UPHILL
- 442 MULTISPAN--DOWNHILL
- 450 HIGHLEAD
- 451 GRABINSKI
- 452 TRACK LOADER/JAMMER
- 454 OTHER
- 460 COLDDECK AND SWING
- 461 HIGHLEAD COLDDECK/SKYLINE SWING
- 462 HIGHLEAD COLDDECK/HIGHLEAD SWING
- 464 OTHER
- 470 BALLOON
- 480 HELICOPTER
- 481 HELICOPTER--SMALL
- 482 HELICOPTER--MEDIUM
- 483 HELICOPTER--LARGE
- 490 UTILIZER-CHIP
- 491 MECHANIZED FELLING/BUCKING SYSTEMS

Monitoring Technique

- 1 Observation
- 2 Photopoint
- 3 Measurement
- 4 Other