

APPENDIX D
HFQLG MONITORING PLAN EXCERPTS

Excerpts from HFQLG Monitoring Plan:

Monitoring Strategy

This monitoring plan is intended to:

1. Provide information useful to managers applying the principles of adaptive management.
2. Assist the public in gauging the success of implementing the resource management activities as designed.
3. Assess the effectiveness of the resource management activities in achieving resource objectives.

Direction for monitoring is derived from the HFQLG FEIS, Chapter 6 and the Record of decision (ROD). This monitoring plan is comprised of three parts. Part I is the process developed to track viability concerns expressed in the ROD on page 8. Part II (Implementation Monitoring) has three levels of assessment, Ranger District project evaluations, topic specific questions, and interagency project reviews. The degree to which actions were implemented according to standards and guidelines contained in the FEIS, in the existing Land and resource Management Plans, or in site-specific direction is the focus of these assessments. Part III (Effectiveness Monitoring) assesses the degree to which implemented resource management activities meet resource objectives. Monitoring questions are structured around three significant issues in the FEIS.

Part I (Habitat concerns):

- Habitat connectivity, including hydrologic connectivity, would be maintained to allow movement of old forest or aquatic/riparian- dependent species between areas of suitable habitat.
- Over the course of the pilot project, suitable habitat for old forest- dependent species and aquatic/riparian-dependent species (including amphibians) shall not be reduced by more than 10 percent below 1999 levels.

Part II (Implementation monitoring):

Project evaluations

One project per Ranger District will have an annual project evaluation. An interdisciplinary team will conduct and document the assessment.

Structured interagency reviews

Evaluations will be conducted at the project-scale by Forest Service representatives involved in planning and implementation of the pilot project, and representatives of appropriate resource management and regulatory agencies. One evaluation will be conducted on each Ranger District annually throughout the course of the pilot program. The reviews will evaluate planning, implementation, and monitoring activities, along with the degree to which applicable standards and guidelines and mitigation measures were implemented.

Topic specific questions were developed concerning:

- Treated Stand Structure
- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Soil Quality Standards
- Sensitive Plants
- Noxious Weeds,
- Air Quality (Prescribed Fire)

Part III (Effectiveness monitoring):

- Issue 1) Old Forest Values and Old Forest-Dependent Species
 - California Spotted Owls
 - Terrestrial Species
 - Forest Vegetation
- Issue 2) Watershed Effects and Aquatic and Riparian Protection
 - Watershed Disturbance
 - Stream Channel and Riparian Attributes and Macroinvertebrate Assemblages
 - Special Habitats
 - Best Management Practices
 - Amphibians Presence at Currently Occupied Sites
- Issue 3) Economic Well-Being
 - Social and Economic Indicators
- Issue 4) Wildfire Protection and Fuels Reduction.
 - Fire Frequency
 - Fire Severity
 - Fire Behavior
 - Treated Stand Structure
 - Air Quality (Prescribed Fire)
- Other Concerns
 - Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plant Species
 - Noxious Weeds

PART IV – ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INDICATORS

What is the trend in selected indicators of economic activity in local communities in the eight core counties over the period of the pilot project?

Objective: Collect information useful in assessing the economic impacts of actions prescribed in the selected alternative.

Data collection will focus at the community level in general areas: community well-being (described as “social”) and economic activity (described as “economic”). Data will be collected to assess changes in both economic activity and community well-being. A time lag between the implementation of activities and economic and social responses is likely and may make evaluation difficult.

A contract for the term of the HFQLG pilot project will be utilized to collect and analyze the data appropriate for answering this question. This contract will be pursued early in 2001.