

National Retardant NEPA USFWS Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) Tracking Sheet

RPA Sub-Element Text	RPA Due Date	Assigned Lead	Accomplishments/Progress
<p>1. Coordinate with local Fish and Wildlife Service offices each year to the onset of the fire season to ensure that 1) the most up-to-date detailed maps or descriptions of areas on National Forest System lands that are designated critical habitat or occupied by species found in Table 1, 2) this information is incorporated in local planning and distributed to appropriate resources by the local Fire Management Officer, 3) maps and information are made available to incident commanders and fire teams for the purpose of avoiding application of retardants to areas designated critical habitat or occupied by species found Table 1, whenever possible, including the use of best available technologies to avoid areas designated critical habitat or occupied by species found in Table 1, 4) any other appropriate conservation measures are included to avoid the likelihood of jeopardizing species or adversely modifying or destroying critical habitat, such measures may include enhancement of populations or other appropriate contingency measures.</p>	<p>Varies by region due to their start of fire season</p>	<p>Marc Bosch</p>	<p>Each impacted region updated maps and was able to provide the information with Incident Management Teams when a team was assigned. Forest Supervisors assigned Resource Advisors to fires to ensure resource protection requirements were known and followed, which did include using water only at times. Where necessary, resource protection requirements would be incorporated into the Delegation of Authority given to the Incident Commander.</p> <p>Initial information of the RPAs was given to the Regional Foresters, Fire Directors, Threatened and Endangered Species Directors and Forest Supervisors. This direction included the requirement for Forest Supervisors to contact their local FWS and NMFS (if applicable) offices prior to the beginning of fire season. The memo containing this direction was delivered on March 27, 2008.</p>

<p>2. Wherever practical, the Forest Service will prioritize fuels reduction projects for lands in the National Forest System that are in close vicinity to areas designated critical habitat or occupied by species listed in Table 1, so as to reduce the need to use aerially applied fire retardants.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Forest Supervisors</p>	<p>The Decision Notice and RPAs were shared with the Regional Foresters through the March 27, 2008 letter. The Forest Supervisor has the responsibility to review the planned fuel treatments for prioritization based on the RPA as well as future treatments.</p>
<p>3. Whenever practical, the Forest Service will use water or other less toxic fire retardants than those described in the proposed action within areas designated critical habitat or occupied by species in Table 1.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Forest Supervisors</p>	<p>A Forest will determine through planning any restrictions to using wildland fire chemicals. This information is shared with the Incident Commander and can be documented in the Delegation of Authority.</p>
<p>4. If areas designated critical habitat or occupied by species found in Table 1 are exposed to fire retardant, then the Forest Service will initiate Emergency Consultation pursuant to regulations at 50 CFR 402.05 implementing section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. As part of the Emergency Consultation, the following measures may apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conduct monitoring in coordination with the local Fish and Wildlife Service office of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the fire retardant application on listed species. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved monitoring protocols and reporting frequency will be developed. Monitoring for aquatic species may include water quality. b. If appropriate, and in consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, include measures to prevent or compensate for population declines due to application of fire retardant. c. During monitoring, all non-native plant species will be removed from areas of concern as appropriate for the area 	<p>As required</p>	<p>Forest Supervisors</p>	<p>Direction to the field with a form for reporting retardant in waterways, 300 foot buffer, or T&E species habitat was sent on June 2. The letter and reporting form were posted to the Wildland Fire Chemical Systems web site. Any reports generated due to accidents, spills, and exceptions to the Aerial Delivery of Retardant were submitted to our Wildland Fire Chemicals System program for consolidation and summarization.</p> <p>The Forest Supervisor would initiate the monitoring</p>

<p>and listed species affected, as determined in consultation with the appropriate Fish and Wildlife Service office. Appropriate weed control methods will be developed in coordination with the local Fish and Wildlife Service office.</p>			<p>requirements where applicable. Initial reports submitted included if Section 7 consultation was initiated or not required, as well as monitoring.</p>
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