

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS
AND
COMANCHE AND CIMARRON NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

AMENDMENT NUMBER 30

(August 8, 2005)

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Chapter III-28 & 29	1	1
Chapter III-137	1	1
Chapter III-145	1	1
Chapter IV-6	1	1

Reason For This Amendment:

A decision has been made to establish an updated list of Management Indicator Species (MIS) to ensure better alignment with the 1982 planning regulations, to adequately serve the monitoring of management activities' potential effects, and to adequately ensure that the appropriate monitoring is feasible, useful and not redundant.

A MIS review was conducted in 2005 and through this review it was found that several species on the list established with the development of the 1984 Land and Resource Management Plan (1984 Plan) did not serve valid roles as indicators of major management activities' effects or of ecosystem change. For some species the effects of management activities are difficult to determine because of the infeasibility and ineffectiveness of collecting monitoring data at appropriate scales. The 2005 MIS review also considered other ongoing Plan monitoring, which was not a consideration during the development of the 1984 Plan.

Recent interpretations of MIS monitoring requirements that are specifically tied to population data pointed to the need to review the feasibility of monitoring populations of existing MIS which vary by scale, methodology, cost, and objectives. Although the 1984 Plan indicated that population data collected by State wildlife agencies could be used to determine species trend, the original intent of the 1984 Plan's MIS monitoring program was to assess the effects of management activities and species trend by focusing primarily on habitat capability.

From the 2005 MIS review and analysis, the decision made included the following action items:

1. Eight (8) of the original 40 species listed in Chapter III pages III-28 to III-29 of the 1984 Plan will retain MIS status.

2. Eight (8) of the 32 species removed as MIS do have Forest Service sensitive species status and will continue to be managed based on the direction and guidelines that apply to sensitive species management.
3. All 32 species removed from the MIS list continue to be protected by the general viability requirements of NFMA and the 1984 Plan Standards and Guidelines.
4. The 1984 Plan Monitoring and Evaluation requirements (Chapter IV-6) are modified to pertain to only the eight (8) species that are retained as MIS.

Amendment Number 30:

This amendment of the 1984 Plan changes:

1. The existing wording in Chapter III, pages III-28 and III-29, to show the modified list of MIS and modified language in General Direction specific to habitat needs of MIS species on the National Forest.
2. The existing wording in Chapter III, page III-137, specific to certain guidelines and other direction for Management Area 4B.
3. The existing wording in Chapter III, page-145, specific to certain guidelines and other direction for Management Area 4D.
4. The existing wording in Chapter IV, page IV-6, specific to the monitoring and evaluation direction for MIS.

The details of these changes are found in Appendix C of the Environmental Assessment and are included as an attachment to this amendment notice.

The affects of these changes to the 1984 Plan have been appropriately analyzed in an Environmental Assesment, which is on file at the PSICC. As such, I have determined that, according to 36 CFR Part 219.10(f), this is not a significant amendment to the Forest Plan.

/s/ Brian Ferebee for
Robert J. Leaverton
Forest Supervisor

August 8, 2005
Date

Attachment: Changes effective August 15, 2005

CHANGES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 15, 2005

**FINAL DECISION NOTICE TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
MANAGEMENT INDICATOR SPECIES
FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT 30**

**PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS, CIMARRON AND
COMANCHE NATIONAL GRASSLANDS**

The following table displays the 1984 MIS list and associated direction and the changes made in 2005 to the MIS list and applicable direction.

Table 1. 2005 Modifications to Chapter III of the Plan – General Direction

Section of the Plan	1984 Wording	2005 Wording
Chapter III pages III-28 & III-29 General Direction	The following species are management indicator species (MIS) for the respective administrative units:	The following species are management indicator species (MIS) for the respective administrative units:
	Pike & San Isabel National Forests Beaver Bighorn sheep Mule deer Elk Pine marten Abert's squirrel Mountain bluebird Peregrine falcon Mallard Water pipit Yellow-bellied sapsucker Green-tailed towhee Turkey Lewis' woodpecker Northern three-toed woodpecker Black-throated gray warbler Virginia's warbler Wilson's warbler Brook trout Greenback cutthroat trout	Pike & San Isabel National Forests Rocky Mountain elk Abert's squirrel Greenback cutthroat trout Brook trout

Section of the Plan	1984 Wording	2005 Wording
	<p>Comanche National Grassland Antelope Bobcat Mule deer Black-tailed prairie dog Black-tailed jackrabbit Long-billed curlew Ferruginous hawk Northern oriole Burrowing owl Great horned owl Lesser prairie chicken Scaled quail Cassin's sparrow Turkey Lewis' woodpecker Bewick's wren Cliff swallow</p>	<p>Comanche National Grassland Black-tailed prairie dog Lesser prairie chicken Long-billed curlew Bullock's (Northern) oriole</p>
	<p>Cimarron National Grassland Mule deer White-tailed deer Black-tailed prairie dog Bobwhite Mourning dove Mississippi kite McCown's longspur Northern oriole Burrowing owl Lesser prairie chicken Scaled quail Cassin's sparrow Turkey Red-headed woodpecker</p>	<p>Cimarron National Grassland Black-tailed prairie dog Lesser prairie chicken Bullock's (Northern) oriole</p>
<p>Chapter III pages III-28 & III-29 General Direction</p>	<p>PROVIDE FOR THE HABITAT NEEDS OF MIS SPECIES ON THE NATIONAL FOREST.</p>	
	<p>a. Bighorn sheep – protect lambing concentration areas from disturbance April 1 – June 15, annually. Protect lambing areas from habitat modification.</p>	<p>Removed</p>
	<p>b. Elk and mule deer – protect calving and fawning concentration areas from habitat modification and disturbance from May 15 – June 30.</p>	<p>Elk– protect calving and fawning concentration areas from habitat modification and disturbance from May 15 – June 30.</p>
	<p>c. Abert's squirrel – protect or provide for one Abert's squirrel nest tree clump (0.1 acres of 9" to 22" DBH ponderosa pine with a basal area of 180 to 220 and an interlocking canopy) per six acres on ponderosa pine sale areas</p>	<p>Abert's squirrel – protect or provide for one Abert's squirrel nest tree clump (0.1 acres of 9" to 22" DBH ponderosa pine with a basal area of 180 to 220 and an interlocking canopy) per six acres on ponderosa pine sale areas</p>

Section of the Plan	1984 Wording	2005 Wording
	d. Turkey – protect two turkey roost tree clumps/section in ponderosa pine sale areas, if available. Minimum size of a clump is one-tenth acre.	Removed
	PROVIDE FOR THE HABITAT NEEDS OF MIS SPECIES ON THE NATIONAL GRASSLANDS.	
	a. Ferruginous hawk, great horned owl, Mississippi kite – protect all large cottonwood and other trees which have had raptor nests. Provide and maintain mature deciduous trees where clumps exist or potentially exist.	Removed
	b. Long-billed curlew – provide habitat of open-buffalo grama Shortgrass adjacent to fields of mid-grasses and forbs. Protect established nesting areas.	Long-billed curlew - provide heterogeneous mosaic of open buffalo-grama shortgrass prairie interspersed with areas covered with mid-height grasses and forbs.
	c. Lewis’ woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, turkey, mule deer, white-tailed deer – maintain understory vegetation in riparian and adjacent areas. Maintain roost tree groups for turkey. Maintain and provide for the recruitment of mature deciduous trees.	Bullock’s (Northern) oriole - maintain understory vegetation in riparian and adjacent areas. Maintain a diverse age and size structure in riparian cottonwood populations, and provide for the recruitment of mature deciduous trees.
	d. Scaled quail – provide small soap weed, and sagebrush and mid-grass habitats.	Removed
	e. Black-tailed prairie dog – maintain the size and location of prairie dog towns in accordance with the prairie dog management plan.	Black-tailed prairie dog – maintain the size and location of black-tailed prairie dog towns in accordance with the black tailed-prairie dog management objective.
	f. Antelope – construct and reconstruct fences so they are not a barrier to antelope movement.	Removed
	g. Bobwhite quail – provide adequate food and cover habitat in riparian and adjacent areas.	Removed
	<u>Guideline a.</u> In antelope habitat, construct fences so that the top strand is not over 40 inches high and the bottom strand is not less than 18 inches high.	Removed
	<u>Guideline b.</u> Conduct black-footed ferret surveys in all prairie dog control areas.	<u>Guideline.</u> Conduct black-footed ferret surveys in all prairie dog control areas.
Chapter III-137 Management Area 4B	Manage for habitat needs of management indicator species.	Manage for habitat needs of management indicator species.
	a. Maintain habitat capability at a level at least 80% of potential capability.	a. Maintain habitat capability at a level at least 80% of potential capability.

Section of the Plan	1984 Wording	2005 Wording
	b. Protect all lesser prairie chicken leks from surface disturbance at all time. Protect nesting habitat from surface disturbance from April 15 – June 30.	b. Protect all lesser prairie chicken leks from surface disturbance at all time. Protect nesting habitat from surface disturbance from April 15 – June 30.
	c. Livestock and wild herbivore allowable forage use in lesser prairie chicken habitat will not exceed 40 percent.	c. Livestock and wild herbivore allowable forage use in lesser prairie chicken habitat will not exceed 40 percent.
Chapter III-145 Management Area 4D	Manage for habitat needs of management indicator species.	Manage for habitat needs of management indicator species.
	a. Maintain big game hiding cover next to aspen viewing areas, and along the edge of arterial and collector roads.	Removed
	b. Maintain habitat capability at a level at least 70% of potential capability for aspen dependent and big game species.	b. Maintain habitat capability at a level at least 70% of pre-project levels for aspen dependent and big game species.

The following table displays the 1984 wording in the Plan and 2005 changes made to the wording for monitoring and evaluation of MIS.

Table 2. 2005 Modifications to Chapter IV of the Plan – Monitoring and Evaluation

Pertinent Section of the Plan	1984 Wording from Table IV-1	2005 Wording
Chapter IV- 6 Monitoring & Evaluation	Actions, Effects or Resources to be Monitored/Fish and Wildlife: Trend of Management Indicator Species Habitats and Populations	Actions, Effects or Resources to be Monitored/Fish and Wildlife: Trend of Management Indicator Species Habitats or Populations
	Monitoring Techniques or Data Sources: Habitat capability assessments, population estimates by State Wildlife Agencies, Resource Information System, Professional judgment by Forest Service biologists and activity reviews.	Monitoring Techniques or Data Sources: FS habitat capability assessments determined with HABCAP models; established monitoring protocols are used where and as they become available. For wide-ranging species, development and/or use of protocols are coordinated with other regional FS offices and/or agencies. Other data sources may include but are not limited to inventory and monitoring data gathered by State wildlife agencies, USFWS and other organizations to determine and/or estimate wildlife populations and trends, FS corporate or other databases such as the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS), professional judgment by FS biologists and activity reviews.
	Precision Reliability: Moderate	Precision Reliability: Moderate
	Measurement Frequency: 5 years	Measurement Frequency: 5 years or less
	Reporting Period: 5 years	Reporting Period: minimum 5 years

Pertinent Section of the Plan	1984 Wording from Table IV-1	2005 Wording
	Variability which would Initiate Evaluation: ± 25% change in species habitat capability or population size.	Variability which would Initiate Evaluation: ± 25% change in species habitat capability or population size.