



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office

P.O. Box 2965

Portland, Oregon 97208



**In Reply Refer to:**

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June 29, 2007

EMS TRANSMISSION 07/11/07

Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2007-070

Expires: 9/30/2008

To: District Managers: Prineville, Spokane, Vale

From: State Director, Oregon/Washington

Subject: PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring for FY 2007 DD: 01/15/2008

**Program Area:** 1150 Threatened and Endangered Species, 1120 Fisheries, Range 1020, Riparian 1040

**Purpose:** Direction for implementing Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinions (PIBO) Implementation Monitoring.

**Policy/Action:** This directive explains the Regional Deputy Team's Monitoring Program requirements under the PIBO for 2007. Grazing is the only management activity that is required to be reported for 2007.

**Timeframe:** Data should be entered into the PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring Database by December 31, 2007. Files need to be exported from the database and submitted to Al Doelker (OR-931) by January 15, 2008.

**Budget Impact:** None

**Background:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has made commitments through the PACFISH and INFISH Management Strategies to improve aquatic resources found in the Interior Columbia River Basin. Since the BLM began implementing these strategies, and in some cases even before, there has been marked improvement in management for aquatic resources. This effort is recognized and commended. It is expected that BLM line officers will continue to work with grazing permittees to ensure that this cooperative effort continues. Compliance with PIBO directives is mandatory until new Resource Management Plans are completed.

The application for the Implementation Monitoring Module will meet the interagency grazing implementation monitoring requirements for the salmon, steelhead, and bull trout PIBO issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1998.

[Information Bulletin \(IB\) No. OR-2005-159](#) provides direction and clarification on several issues surrounding grazing monitoring in riparian areas. It describes riparian assessment and monitoring protocols, and provides guidance for their use to meet desired conditions described in the PACFISH/INFISH decision documents.

### 1. Link to Effectiveness Monitoring

The PIBO Implementation Monitoring and PIBO Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) programs are integrated. Therefore a high priority is placed upon using the PIBO implementation module at the same Designated Monitoring Areas (DMAs) used by the PIBO EM team. Therefore, it is critical that field staff work closely with the EM Team and coordinate exact locations of DMA sample sites for use in both protocols. ***The protocol for selecting and monitoring DMAs is contained in Attachment 1.*** This year's Deputy Team Field Reviews will include an audit to assess compliance with this protocol. The PIBO DMA sites will be selected for the field audit by the Regional Office (RO)/State Office (SO) member participating in the review.

Monitoring coordinators (Attachment 2) at the RO/SO will work with their counterparts at the field offices to assure that ***implementation monitoring is accomplished at the end of the season for each of the repeat DMA sites which will be sampled by the EM Team during 2007 and 2008*** (see item 4.2, below). A description of these sites is contained in Attachment 3. For Oregon BLM, this includes 17 DMAs state-wide. This does not constitute an increase in the monitoring workload, because the PIBO sites can be included as part of the required sampling for at least 20 percent of the Category I pasture use areas.

Requiring two years of implementation data on the DMAs selected for EM will strengthen the relationship between the use indicators measured for implementation, such as stubble height and bank alteration, with the long-term attributes measured by EM. This information will be used to develop cause and effect relationships between riparian end-of-season condition and long term trend in riparian condition, thus providing information for adaptive management decisions regarding grazing practices.

It is important that data collected at the PIBO repeat-site DMAs reflect the livestock use indicators applicable to stream banks and stream channels. Accordingly, the following requirements will apply to these DMAs:

- 1) Measurements will be on the greenline (first perennial vegetation that forms a lineal grouping of community types on or near the water's edge).
- 2) Measurements must include, at minimum, bank alteration and stubble height (unless livestock do not use herbaceous vegetation on the greenline). Where woody vegetation dominates the DMA with little or no herbaceous vegetation along the greenline, woody use (browse) should be measured and may be sampled in lieu of stubble height.

The monitoring protocol used for accomplishing this is the Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) method, available at: [http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/publications/technical\\_bulletins/tb\\_07-01.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/publications/technical_bulletins/tb_07-01.html).

## 2. Compliance/Non-compliance Feedback

The monitoring program was developed to provide field unit line officers with a mechanism for implementing the monitoring requirements of PACFISH, INFISH, and the 1998 Biological Opinions (BO). *Line officers are accountable for assuring that all actions they take are consistent with these requirements.* Accordingly, managers need to review and act upon the results of Implementation Monitoring. The monitoring module contains a “Non-compliance” report and questionnaire, which can be used to evaluate the need to modify or refine adaptive management actions. In addition, the module contains a “local” questionnaire with comment fields that can be used to track and report monitoring results based upon local monitoring requirements of land use plans and/or National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) decisions including their respective Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation documents.

## 3. Adaptive Management

The Oregon State Office (OSO) and Forest Service (FS) Region 6 (R6) developed a document on July 27, 2005, titled “[R6/BLM, PACFISH/INFISH BO – Clarification of Riparian Monitoring and Assessment Protocols and Implementation](#)” (FS R6/OSO). The intent of this guidance is to clarify PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring and provide a process for prioritizing local monitoring efforts. It includes excerpts from the [University of Idaho’s Stubble Height Study Team report](#) and explains that stubble height and other annual monitoring indicators should not be used as decision-making tools for administrative actions on grazing permits. This guidance also contains a “decision tree” process for adaptive management actions. The FS R6/OSO memorandum also included the [multiple indicator monitoring method](#) (MIM, Cowley/Burton/Smith), which can be used as an efficient and repeatable monitoring technique covering the PIBO Implementation Monitoring requirements of this Instruction Memorandum (IM).

## 4. Sampling Scheme for 2007:

Field units will apply a sampling scheme of grazing activities authorized during FY 2007 as follows:

- 1) Sample at least 20 percent of Module Category I<sup>1</sup> pasture use areas per year, based on field unit priorities with input from the Level 1 Team. Field unit decides where to focus, although every Module Category I pasture use area must be sampled at least once within the life of the 10-year term grazing permit. The 20 percent sample of Category I pasture use areas may be inclusive of:
  - a. samples collected for pastures in the EM Team’s 6th Field Hydrologic Unit Code (HUCs) as identified in 2 below;
  - b. all prior year non-compliance activities in the grazing program as identified in 3 below, and;
  - c. local implementation monitoring requirements for grazing about which local ESA consultation requires reporting through the PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring Database as identified in 4 below;
- 2) Sample all DMAs selected for repeat monitoring by the EM Team in both FY07 and FY08. The EM Team’s 6<sup>th</sup> field HUCs, DMA coordinates, DMA access information, and photos can be found in the “IM” folder at the PIBO ftp site: [ftp://fsweb.gsc.wo.fs.fed.us/pub/PIBO\\_New/](ftp://fsweb.gsc.wo.fs.fed.us/pub/PIBO_New/). Furthermore, the

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<sup>1</sup> Module Category I is defined as all FS/BLM pasture/use areas with riparian areas that lie entirely or partially within a 6th-field HUC/subwatershed that have ESA-listed fish species (salmon, steelhead, or bull trout) or designated/proposed critical habitat.

number of additional DMAs that are needed in 2007 and the current DMA locations by Resource Area and stream are shown in Attachment 3 and in the Excel spreadsheet file "07-08 DMA list" in the IM folder at the following ftp site: [ftp://fsweb.gsc.wo.fs.fed.us/pub/PIBO\\_New/IM/spreadsheets/](ftp://fsweb.gsc.wo.fs.fed.us/pub/PIBO_New/IM/spreadsheets/)

- 3) Sample all prior-year non-compliance activities in the grazing program.
- 4) Sample any implementation monitoring requirements for livestock grazing about which local ESA consultation requires reporting through the PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring database.

The OSO last year worked with Prineville, Spokane and Vale staff to develop a multi-year PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring strategy tailored for each district. This strategy should be used to assist in developing and implementing a 2007 district sampling scheme.

## 5. **Reporting**

Once the district sampling scheme (item # 4 above) is developed and implemented, field units will enter the collected data into the PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring Database. The PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring Database is available on-line at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/research/techtrans/projects/pacfish\\_home.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/research/techtrans/projects/pacfish_home.shtml).

If questions do arise with downloading or populating this database, please refer your questions to Kerry Overton at 208-373-4357 ([koverton@fs.fed.us](mailto:koverton@fs.fed.us)) or Taylor Dixon at 208-373-4395 ([tdixon@fs.fed.us](mailto:tdixon@fs.fed.us)).

Field units are also encouraged to use the PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring database to record and report all stream/riparian-related implementation monitoring requirements for activities other than grazing or outside of the requirements of PACFISH, INFISH, and the BO's. It has been designed to accommodate requirements other than PACFISH or INFISH standards.

## 6. **Coordination**

As in previous years, the Implementation Monitoring Program will rely on coordination between the Implementation Monitoring Task Team members and Field Unit Coordinators. The Field Unit Coordinators are the local point of contact for those aspects of the monitoring program, including training, which are not activity-specific. The Regional or State counterparts, members of the Interagency Implementation Monitoring Task Team and Field Unit Coordinators are listed in Attachment 2.

Please notify Al Doelker ([Al\\_Doelker@or.blm.gov](mailto:Al_Doelker@or.blm.gov)) by July 18 if the Field Unit Coordinators phone numbers have changed or if you are assigning someone other than the Field Unit Coordinator listed in Attachment 2.

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** No manual/handbook sections are affected.

**Coordination:** This IM has been coordinated with members of the PACFISH/INFISH Monitoring Task Team and Rangeland, Fishery, and Riparian Specialists in the OSO and USFS R6 RO. Advanced notification of this data request was sent to Prineville, Spokane, and Vale District Offices on June 7, 2007.

**Contact:** Questions about the PACFISH/INFISH Implementation Monitoring program should be directed to Al Doelker (Al\_Doelker@or.blm.gov) or your Implementation Monitoring Task Team representative.

**Districts with Unions** are reminded to notify their unions of this Instruction Memorandum and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by  
Michael S. Mottice  
Acting, Associate State Director

Authenticated by  
Paj Shua Cha  
Records Section

3 Attachment(s)

- 1 - [PIBO Implementation Monitoring Protocol for Establishing Designated Monitoring Areas](#) (4pp)
- 2 - [Implementation Monitoring Contacts](#) (1p)
- 3 - [Name and Location of all PIBO EM sites to be visited in 2007 \(by office\)](#) (1p)

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