

MONITORING & EVALUATION REPORT

For FY 2002-2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Page</u>
Forest Supervisor's Certification	
Executive Summary	
I. Introduction.....	1
Purpose	1
Monitoring and Evaluation.....	1
Report Organization	1
II. Monitoring Results, Findings and Evaluations	2
Issue A. Ecosystem Condition, Health and Sustainability	2
Sub-Issue 1. Biodiversity	2
Vegetation Management.....	2
Grasslands-Cedar	2
Forests-Age Class.....	3
Regeneration Checks.....	3
Precommercial Thinning and Release.....	4
Prescribed Fire.....	5
Other Uses of Prescribed Fire.....	4
Species Restoration	6
Restoration of Storm-Damaged Areas	7
Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) Midstory Vegetation Control	7
Old-Growth Inventory	7
Bog Restoration.....	8
Management Indicator Species (MIS).....	9
Threatened and Endangered Species	9
Other Species of Concern	10
Rafinesque's big-eared bats	10
Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program	11
Project Prairie Birds.....	11
Breeding Bird Survey.....	11
Globally Important Bird Area.....	12
Aquatic Species Inventories	12
Sub-Issue 2. Forest Health	12
Air Quality.....	12
Integrated Pest Management.....	12
Other Mortality Events	15
Drought.....	15
Losses Due to Wildfires	15
Sub-Issue 3. Watershed Conditions	15
Macroinvertebrate/Water Quality Baseline Inventory.....	16
Long-Term Soil Productivity Study	17
Multi-use Trail Management	17
Oil Well Spills and Salt Water Discharge	18

Table of Contents – (continued)

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Page</u>
Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Closures	18
Soil Resource Inventory Acres & Soil/Water Accomplishments	19
Changes to Plan Appendix F Soil Tolerance Tables	19
Streamside Management Zones	19
Ten Percent Roads and Trails Funds (TRTR) Accomplishments.....	20
Texas Forest Service (TFS) Best Management Practices (BMP) Results.....	20
Timber Sale Erosion Control Efforts	20
Watershed Restoration Work	20
Well Plugging or Closures.....	22
Issue B. Sustainable Multiple Forest and Range Benefits	21
Sub-Issue 1. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities.....	23
Fishing Opportunities.....	23
Visual Quality Objectives	24
Public Private Venture (PPV) Studies	25
Customer Card Summaries	25
Visits and Operations Costs	26
Recreation Construction	27
Trail Work	27
Shooting Area	28
Fee Demo.....	29
Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Use and Stamp Trend.....	30
Designated Campsites/Hunter Camps.....	33
Sub-Issue 2. Infrastructure	34
Transportation System.....	34
Road Management Policy	35
Dams	35
Roads Bridges and Major Culverts	36
Water and Wastewater Systems	36
Structures (FA&O and Recreation).....	36
Land Acquisition	37
Rights-of-ways Acquisitions for Better Public Access	38
Landownership Adjustments.....	38
Landline Boundaries	38
Right-of-way Acquisition to Facilitate Management	39
Accessibility Changes.....	39
Sub-Issue 3. Human Influences.....	40
Population/Demographics of NFGT Counties.....	40
Population/Urbanization Issues Affecting National Forest Land Management.....	41
Off-road Vehicles	41
Urban Interface	41
Visitor and Resource Protection	41
Fire Management Implications	42
Prescribed Fire	42
Wildland Fire Suppression	42

Table of Contents – (continued)

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Page</u>
Sub-Issue 4. Roadless Areas/Wilderness/Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	42
Roadless Areas.....	43
Wilderness	43
Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	44
Sub-Issue 5. Timber.....	44
Timber Harvest on the NFGT	45
Sub-Issue 6. Forage	46
Sub-Issue 7. Other Products	48
Fuelwood	48
Minerals.....	48
Sub-Issue 8. Heritage Resources	50
Issue C. Organizational Effectiveness.....	54
Sub-Issue 1. Economics.....	54
Budgets.....	54
Workforce.....	55
Rural Development Program	56
Sub-Issue 2. Evaluating New Information	57
Emerging Issues	57
New Laws/Rules/Regulations	59
Publications of Interest	64
III. Evaluation of Outcomes on the Land.....	66
IV. FY 2002-2003 Action Plan.....	72
References	

Appendices

- A. List of Names and Positions of Report Preparers
- B. Amendments Made Since the *Forest Plan* Was Completed
- C. Status of Previous Action Plan
- D. Summary of Field Reviews/Other Administrative Actions
- E. Updated Research Information
- F. Management Indicator Species
- G. Age Class Tables
- H. Acronym Listing
- I. Comment Form

Table of Contents – (continued)

<u>Tables</u>	<u>Page</u>
Table 1 Prescribed Fire-Acres	5
Table 2 Species Restoration.....	6
Table 3 Acres of Midstory Treatments	7
Table 4 Comparison of Stands 95 Years and Older by Forest Type	8
Table 5 Threatened and Endangered Species (except MIS).....	9
Table 6 Grant Monies for Trails	27
Table 7 Fee Demo Funds.	29
Table 8 Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Trends	33
Table 9 Population Estimates.....	40
Table 10 Wilderness Areas.....	43
Table 11 Timber Volume Sold vs. Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) Volume (MMBF).....	45
Table 12 Fuelwood Sales.....	48
Table 13 NFGT Minerals	49
Table 14 Parcels & Acres Offered for Mineral Lease and Number of Parcels & Acres Leased	50
Table 15 Budget Allocations	54

<u>Figures</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 1 Employee using drip torch during prescribed burning operations.....	5
Figure 2 Aerial view of prescribed burning on Grasslands unit	6
Figure 3 SPB galleries	13
Figure 4 Feral hog distribution in Oklahoma and Texas.....	15
Figure 5 East side of trail crossing.....	17
Figure 6 West side of trail crossing.....	17
Figure 7 Area before the project.....	21
Figure 8 Area during the project.....	21
Figure 9 Area after mulching and seeding.....	21
Figure 10 Area after completion of project.....	21
Figure 11 Fishermen at Scott's Ridge.....	24
Figure 12 Shooting areas before restrictions.....	28
Figure 13 Area during clean-up efforts.....	28
Figure 14 Area after clean-up efforts.....	28
Figure 15 Banister WMA entry sign	31
Figure 16 Ceremony for Navy Seabees after main construction on Davy Crockett District Office.....	37
Figure 17 Entrance sign at Big Slough Wilderness.....	44
Figure 18 Annual Timber Volume Sold.....	46
Figure 19 Drilling operation	48
Figure 20 Well pad site.....	50
Figure 21 Employees performing shovel tests.....	52
Figure 22 Front view of Lake Fannin lodge.....	52
Figure 23 Volunteers stabilizing front porch of lodge.....	53
Figure 24 Volunteers installing a door lintel at lodge.....	53
Figure 25 Number of people assisting from each state.	58