

Appendix D

Management Indicator Species

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Table D-1. Revised List of Management Indicator Species in the 2006 Forest Plan

Species	Global Abundance Rank	Federal Conservation Status	Reasons for Selection	Habitat Objective
Wild (naturally reproducing) brook trout (<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>)	G5	None	High-interest game fish. Top-level predator, population changes reflect an integration of effects to water quality and stream conditions across aquatic ecosystems influenced by management on National Forest System lands. The Forest is developing an aquatic monitoring strategy that will include brook trout.	Maintain at least 560 miles of coldwater stream habitat capable of supporting wild, naturally producing brook trout, a MIS.
Cerulean warbler (<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>)	G4	None	High-interest non-game species. Associated with large trees, gaps, and complex canopy layering characteristic of old-growth forests. A forest interior species that is believed to be sensitive to fragmentation. The Forest and WV DNR are cooperating on an ongoing songbird point count monitoring program that is expected to provide Forest-wide data on this species.	Maintain at least 50,000 acres of mid-late and late successional (>80 years old) mixed mesophytic and cove forest to meet habitat needs for cerulean warbler, a MIS.
Wild turkey (<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>)	G5	None	High-interest game species. In the Appalachians, strongly associated with oak mast. Requires herbaceous openings for brood range and is expected to reflect the effectiveness of the cooperative Forest-WV DNR wildlife opening management effort. Uses shrub/sapling stands for nest sites. Ongoing harvest data collected by WV DNR provides a Forest-wide population index.	Maintain at least 150,000 acres of 50-150 year old oak and pine-oak forest in MPs 3.0 and 6.1 to meet habitat needs for wild turkey, a MIS.
West Virginia northern flying squirrel (<i>Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus</i>)	T2	Endangered	High-interest endangered species. Appears to be associated with certain late successional characteristics (snags, canopy gaps, moist microclimate, co-dominance by spruce). The Forest is developing a long-term, Forest-wide monitoring program in cooperation with WV DNR and USFWS.	Maintain at least 20,000 acres of mid-late and late successional (>80 years old) spruce forest, with a long-term objective of increasing this to at least 40,000 acres to provide optimum habitat for WVNFS, a MIS.

Table D-2. Disposition of Management Indicator Species from the 1986 Forest Plan

Species	Disposition/Rationale
Virginia big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus</i>)	Not carried forward as an MIS. Habitat generalist; population changes may be difficult to relate to National Forest management activities. Very rare species that is difficult to monitor outside of hibernacula. Will still be included in TES bat monitoring at the project/watershed level.
Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Not carried forward as an MIS. Forest habitat generalist; population changes may be difficult to relate to National Forest management activities. Very rare species that is difficult to monitor outside of hibernacula. Will still be included in TES bat monitoring at the project/watershed level.
Cheat Mountain salamander (<i>Plethodon nettingi</i>)	Not carried forward as an MIS. Occurs in isolated populations that are protected from management impacts. Potential for effects to populations will still be analyzed at the project level. Effects to high-elevation/spruce forest habitat will be monitored via West Virginia northern flying squirrel.
"Wild" trout	Brook trout carried forward as an MIS in the 2006 Forest Plan.
Black bear (<i>Ursus americanus</i>)	Not carried forward as an MIS. Wide-ranging species; difficult to relate population changes to specific National Forest management activities. Effects to this species are analyzed in the EIS. Effects to oak forest habitat will be monitored via wild turkey.
Wild turkey	Carried forward as an MIS in the 2006 Forest Plan.
White-tailed deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>)	Not carried forward as an MIS. Habitat generalist; population changes may be difficult to relate to National Forest management activities. Effects to this species are analyzed in the EIS.
Gray squirrel (<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>)	Not carried forward as an MIS. Effects to oak forest habitat will be monitored via wild turkey.
Varying hare (<i>Lepus americanus</i>)	Not carried forward as an MIS. Cryptic species that is difficult to monitor effectively. Effects to high-elevation/spruce forest habitat will be monitored via West Virginia northern flying squirrel.
West Virginia northern flying squirrel	Carried forward as an MIS in the 2006 Forest Plan.