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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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August 20, 2010

EMS TRANSMISSION: 08/20/2010
Instruction Memorandum No. ID-2010-061
Expires: 09/30/2011

To: District Managers

From: Acting State Director

Subject: Interagency Implementation Team (IIT) (PACFISH/INFISH) Implementation
Monitoring for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 **DD: 01/15/2011**

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

Purpose: Direction for implementing FY 2010 PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinions (PIBO) Implementation Monitoring.

Policy/Action: This directive explains the Deputy Team's Implementation Monitoring (IM) Program requirements under PIBO for 2010.

Budget Impact: None.

Background: The Idaho 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 Idaho BLM began implementing these strategies, aquatic resource management has improved in many areas.

The IM for livestock grazing is required to meet the terms of the 1998 PIBO. Idaho BLM line officers are expected to continue to work with their staff and grazing permittees to ensure that 2010 IM requirements are met. Compliance with this requirement is being monitored and reviewed annually by the Deputy Team. We appreciate the work accomplished in 2009 and look forward to your continuing monitoring efforts for the 2010 grazing season.

Link between Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring: The PIBO IM includes measurement of annual grazing indicators (e.g., stubble height, bank alteration, woody browse) and provides critical data to the PIBO Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) project, which examines the long-term effectiveness of range management in maintaining or restoring riparian and aquatic systems. Designated Monitoring Areas (DMA's) are established by field units on stream reaches that are accessible by livestock, and receive a level of use typical for the allotment or pasture. The DMA's are the sites where IM is done by the field units and are the sites measured every 5 years for EM by the PIBO team. Therefore, it is critical that the exact locations of DMA's are documented (using Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) or latitudes/longitudes) and monumented with a fence post or other permanent marker so that all monitoring is consistent and repeatable (*See Attachment 1 - PIBO IM Protocol for Establishing DMA's*). It is important that PIBO Field Unit IM Coordinators (*See Attachment 2 - List of PIBO IM Contacts*) work closely with the PIBO EM Team to coordinate the locations of DMA sample sites used in both monitoring efforts.

It is important to have at least 2 years of IM data for each site to assist with interpretation of EM data and evaluation of stream and riparian area conditions and trends. Therefore, units are required to collect and report IM data on sites evaluated by the EM Team the year before and the year of the EM visit. The site's IM data collected the year before the EM visit will influence the site characteristics the following season when EM surveys are conducted. Two or more years of use data will strengthen our understanding of overall grazing at a site and ultimately lead to stronger correlations between cause (IM) and effect (EM) data sets.

Monitoring Methods at DMA's: It is important that field units collect data that reflect the livestock use indicators most relevant to stream banks and stream channel conditions.

Accordingly, the following IM requirements will apply to DMA's:

- measurements will be on the greenline (first perennial vegetation above the water's edge),
- measurements must include, at a minimum,
 - bank alteration,
 - stubble height (unless no herbaceous vegetation is present on the greenline, as would be the case in deep shade), and
 - woody use (browse) along the greenline, assuming woody vegetation is present.
- these measurements will be made using the Multiple Indicators Method (MIM) protocol.

The Draft 2010 version of MIM is available at the following website:

http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/research/techtrans/projects/pacfish_grazingdocs.shtml

Compliance/Non-Compliance Feedback for Line Officers: The PIBO monitoring program implements the monitoring requirements of PACFISH/INFISH, and the 1998 Biological Opinions for salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Line officers should assure that all actions they take are consistent with these requirements. A Line Manager's Certification Report (LMCR) will once again be required for the 2010 grazing season. More information concerning the LMCR will be sent out this fall.

Required IM Monitoring for 2010: This implementation monitoring is required for all authorized livestock grazing activities that have started on the ground or have been completed during the current year and according to the following:

- monitoring at PIBO EM DMA's: The PIBO IM program provides critical input to the PIBO EM project; therefore, first priority is placed upon the districts to complete PIBO IM at DMA's selected by the EM Team. This includes DMA's in Hydrologic Unit Codes to be monitored by the EM Team in both 2010 and 2011. The DMA location information, topographic maps, and photos of each site are available at the following website: http://fswebgsc.gsc.wo.fs.fed.us/services/data_management/PIBO/ (select IM/Pics_sitemaps/2010/ID and IM/Pics_sitemaps/2011/ID),
- all DMA locations listed in the IM/Pics_sitemaps/2010/ID BLM and IM/Pics_sitemaps/2011/ID BLM folders must be sampled this year (FY 2010). For 2010, this applies to the Challis, Upper Snake, and Cottonwood Field Offices. The PIBO EM Team will sample these DMA's over the next 2-year period (FY 2010 and FY 2011). Every PIBO EM site is sampled for IM by the field offices 2 years in a row; once during the year prior to EM, and once in the same year as EM, and
- the PACFISH/INFISH rule requiring monitoring of 20 percent of Category I pastures has been discontinued to allow units to focus resources on monitoring at PIBO EM DMA's. However, data from any additional sites the district chooses to monitor in PIBO watersheds are extremely valuable for trend analysis. Please enter these data into the PIBO IM Web database.

Monitoring Pastures with Little or No Livestock Use:

- **Temporary Non-use by Livestock:** Established DMA's must be sampled (according to the protocol and Attachment 1) in pastures under non-use, including pastures subject to:
 - post-fire rest or other range restoration work that requires non-use,
 - rest rotation or deferred grazing; and
 - permittee requests for nonuse for resource protection or personal convenience.
- **Sheep Use or Physical Barriers:** Field units should continue to monitor DMA's established where little or no grazing occurs in stream/riparian areas, such as sheep allotments or areas with exclosures or natural barriers. Data from these areas, along with data from areas of higher grazing intensities allow analysis to obtain the complete picture of grazing impacts on PACFISH/INFISH watersheds.
- **Permanently Closed to Grazing:** For all DMA's in pastures permanently closed to livestock grazing, sampling is NOT required. Please notify the PIBO EM Team lead (Eric Archer at earcher@fs.fed.us) of any permanent closures.

For the 2010 and 2011 DMA's, download the site descriptions from the PIBO website http://fswebgsc.gsc.wo.fs.fed.us/services/data_management/PIBO/ (select IM/Pics_sitemaps) and take them along as you do the end-of-season IM monitoring this fall. Check the accuracy of location information and appropriateness of these DMA's. Any discrepancies or issues must be addressed with the EM Team prior to April 2011.

Update on the New PIBO IM Web Database: The new database will be tested this summer and will be ready to use by early Fall 2010. It will have a one-page data entry design and will be easier to use than the previous version. Training (or an instructional document) will be provided

at a later date. Field units are required to enter all IM data into this database. Refer technical questions to Al Doelker at Al_Doelker@blm.gov or 1-503-808-6067.

Validating IM Monitoring in 2010: This year, the PIBO EM Team plans to collect IM data at the same sites where US Forest Service and BLM units did their IM monitoring in order to assess the accuracy of our sampling efforts. The team will select 30-40 DMA's across a variety of geographic areas and field units slated for monitoring in 2010 or 2011. This information will provide valuable insights and validation of field unit monitoring proficiency.

DMA Coordination: If new DMA's are established in 2010, location maps and UTM coordinates for the new DMA's must be submitted to the PIBO EM Team prior to the 2011 EM monitoring season, which begins in April.

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

Coordination: This Instruction Memorandum has been coordinated with members of the PACFISH/INFISH Monitoring Core Team; PACFISH/INFISH EM Team; and Rangeland, Fishery, and Riparian Specialists in the Idaho BLM State Office.

Contact: Questions about the PACFISH/INFISH IM program should be directed to Scott Hoefler, Fisheries Biologist, at 1-208-373-3819 or your Field Unit IM Coordinator.

Boise District with Union: Management is reminded to notify and satisfy any bargaining requirements prior to implementation.

Signed by:
Peter J. Ditton

Authenticated by:
Stacey Hansen
Administrative Assistant

2 Attachments:

- 1 – [PIBO IM Protocol for Establishing DMA's](#) (3 pp)
- 2 – [List of PIBO IM Contacts](#) (1 p)

cc:
SD, Montana
FM, Salmon FO
FM, Four Rivers FO
FM, Missoula FO
FM, Coeur d'Alene FO
FM, Idaho Falls FO
FM, Cottonwood FO
FM, Jarbidge FO
SD, Oregon/Washington
Linda Ulmer, CRB Coordinator
FM, Challis FO

ATTACHMENT 1 – PIBO Implementation Monitoring (IM) protocol for establishing Designated Monitoring Areas (DMA's)

I. Selecting the DMA site:

For the PACFISH and INFISH Monitoring Program, DMA's should meet the following criteria:

- **the site should represent typical livestock use,**
 - select a length of stream within the pasture that is representative of use, not an 'average' for the whole stream. For example, if one-fourth of the stream is expected to be grazed and three-fourths not to be used, select a DMA to represent the livestock use in the one-fourth of the stream rather than a site representing an average level of use across the whole stream,
 - select the DMA assuming that if proper management occurs at the site, the remainder of the pasture or use area will also be managed within requirements. Thus, livestock management that meets endpoint indicator standards at the DMA would result in meeting standards in the remainder of the pasture.

- **Once an area is selected that is representative of livestock use along the stream, use the following guidelines to pinpoint the monitoring location:**
 - select a monitoring site that is most critical in influencing listed fish species, (e.g., within spawning habitat, juvenile rearing habitat),
 - the site should be influenced principally by livestock grazing. Avoid areas where impacts to listed fish species are compounded by other activity types (e.g., recreation) or by non-USFS or BLM livestock grazing activities, and
 - select sites where channel conditions have the potential to respond quickly to changes in management. These changes should be measurable. Generally avoid sites that are impervious to disturbance (e.g., rock-armored channels) or those intentionally established for concentrated use (e.g., water gaps). Neither would show quick enough change in response to changes in pasture use and; therefore, would not be useful for adaptive management or Effectiveness Monitoring.

Other Considerations:

No livestock access or use: DMA's must be established in grazed pastures, regardless of amount of livestock use, unless that pasture has been formally removed or unallocated from grazing. Little or no livestock use in stream/riparian areas, whether due to use by sheep, temporary non-use, rest, or physical barriers such as exclosures or canyon rims, is still considered a management strategy, and consequently should be documented through IM. The effects of rest from grazing need to be analyzed **along with** effects of higher grazing intensities to obtain the complete picture of grazing impacts on PACFISH/INFISH watersheds.

Use an ID Team: DMA's, as well as their associated endpoint indicators, are best identified by an interdisciplinary team, including specialists knowledgeable in fish habitat requirements, channel processes, riparian vegetation, and livestock grazing management.

II. Mapping the DMA

- Step 1. Record the UTM coordinates at the downstream end of the reach using GPS. Also record the projection (e.g., NAD27).
- Step 2. Permanently monument the downstream end of the DMA reach using post, marker, rebar, etc.
- Step 3. Take photos looking upstream and downstream at the downstream end of the reach.
- Step 4. Prepare a site map or sketch with distinctive features of the site, or delineate the reach on a high-resolution aerial photograph (e.g., National Agricultural Image Project – NAIP). Write out directions so future workers can find the site.
- Step 5. Using GPS, measure the upstream UTM coordinate on-site (optional, but useful), or record the thalweg distance from the downstream monument to the upstream end.

III. Measuring DMA Indicators

- Step 1. Measure the reach using the same distance used by the PIBO EM Project: 120 meters thalweg length.
- Step 2. Measure IM indicators (e.g., stubble height, bank alteration, woody browse) on both sides of the stream reach.

IV. Questions & Answers

- **What if I want to move a DMA site where EM is located due to construction of beaver dams, channel alteration by floods, or because the site is no longer representative of grazing?** If a new DMA location is being considered, consult the PIBO EM coordinator (Eric Archer) or your IM Core Team member before proceeding.
- **What if the reaches which are representative of livestock use do not coincide with any reach that is sensitive with respect to listed fish habitat?** Select the reach that is representative of livestock use.
- **If the watershed does not contain ESA-listed fish, do I still need a DMA?** Implementation monitoring is required in those Category II pasture use areas being monitored by the PIBO EM Project.
- **When do I have to use the IM Database?** All IM data collected at EM Project DMA's must be entered into the IM Database. Data such as PACFISH/INFISH standards and guides compliance, use supervision, spot checks, DMA monitoring results, fence integrity, livestock access evaluations, unauthorized use, and any other kind of implementation monitoring relevant to livestock management of the pasture can be entered into the IM database.

ATTACHMENT 2 – Implementation Monitoring Contacts

2010 Implementation Monitoring Core Team		
OFFICE REPRESENTED	NAME	PHONE
USFS Region 1	Ann Carlson	406-329-3087
USFS Region 4	Cynthia Tait (co-lead)	801-625-5358
USFS Region 6	Dan Fissell, Tom Hilken	541- 467-5117 503-808-2822
USFS CRB Anadromous Fish Coordinator	Ann Carlson	406-329-3087
BLM ID and BLM MT	Scott Hoefer	208-373-3819
BLM OR/WA	Al Doelker (co-lead)	503-808-6067
NOAA Pacific Northwest	Nancy Munn	503-231-6269
USFWS Region 1	Clay Fletcher	208-378-5256
EPA Region 10	Don Martin	208-665-0458
PIBO	Eric Archer	435-755-3565
RMRS	Kerry Overton	208-373-4357

2010 Idaho/Montana BLM Field Unit Implementation Monitoring Coordinators		
NAME	OFFICE REPRESENTED	PHONE
Cindy Weston	Coeur d'Alene	208-769-5114
Craig Johnson	Cottonwood	208-962-3688
Jude Trapani	Salmon	208-756-5475
Cliff Tipton	Challis	208-879-6203
Arn Berglund	Idaho Falls	208-524-7509
Kate Forster	Jarbridge – Twin Falls	208-736-2365
Allen Tartar	Four Rivers	208-384-3349
Jo Christensen	Missoula	406-329-3721