



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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**In Reply Refer to:**  
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July 27, 2010

EMS TRANSMISSION 07/29/2010  
Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2010-052  
Expires: 9/30/2011

To: District Managers: Prineville, Spokane and Vale

From: State Director, Oregon/Washington

Subject: Fiscal Year 2010 Implementation Monitoring for DD: 12/17/10  
PACFISH/INFISH and the 1998 Biological Opinions for Salmon,  
Steelhead, and Bull Trout

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

**Purpose:** To provide direction for implementing FY 2009 PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinions (PIBO) Implementation Monitoring (IM).

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

**Timeframe:** Data shall be entered into the PIBO IM Web Database by December 17, 2010.

**Budget Impact:** None.

**Background:** The Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management (OR/WA BLM) has made commitments through the PACFISH and INFISH Management Strategies to improve aquatic resources found in the Interior Columbia River Basin. Since the OR/WA BLM began implementing these strategies, there has been improvement in management for aquatic resources in many areas.

In order to meet the terms of the 1998 PIBO, implementation monitoring (IM) is required with respect to livestock grazing. It is expected that the OR/WA BLM line officers will continue to work with their staff and grazing permittees to ensure that IM requirements are met for 2010. Compliance with this requirement is being monitored and will be presented to the Deputy Team

during its annual review. 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, monitors annual grazing indicators (e.g., stubble height, bank alteration, woody browse) and provides critical input into the PIBO effectiveness monitoring (EM) project, which examines the long-term effectiveness of range management in maintaining or restoring riparian and aquatic systems. Field units establish Designated Monitoring Areas (DMAs) on stream reaches where livestock have access and which reflect a typical level of grazing use. The DMAs are the sites where IM is done by the field units and also are the sites measured every five years for EM by the PIBO team. Therefore, first priority is placed on ensuring that the exact locations of DMAs are documented (using Universal Traverse Mercators (UTM) or lat/longs) and monumented (as with a fence post or other permanent marker) so that all monitoring is consistent and repeatable (*See Attachment 1—PIBO IM Protocol for Establishing DMAs*). It is important that PIBO Field Unit IM Coordinators (*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.

To evaluate overall trends in stream and riparian area conditions using the information collected by the Effectiveness Monitoring Team at DMAs, it is beneficial to have two years of IM data for each site. *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 condition and data collected the year before the EM visit will influence the site characteristics the following season when EM surveys are conducted. Two 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 DMAs:** It is important that districts collect data that reflect the livestock use indicators most important to stream banks and stream channels. Accordingly, the following IM requirements will apply to DMAs:

- Measurements will be on the greenline (first perennial vegetation above the water's edge).
- Measurements must include, at minimum: (1) bank alteration, (2) stubble height (unless no herbaceous vegetation is present on the greenline, as would be the case in deep shade), and (3) woody use (browse) along the greenline, assuming that 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](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:** The following monitoring is required for all authorized livestock grazing activities that have been completed during the current year:

- a. **Monitoring at PIBO Effectiveness Monitoring DMAs:** 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 DMAs selected by the EM Team. This includes DMAs in Hydrologic Unit Codes to be monitored in both 2010 and 2011. 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/](http://fswebgsc.gsc.wo.fs.fed.us/services/data_management/PIBO/) (select Implementation Monitoring/Pics\_sitemaps).
- b. 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 DMAs (see (a.) above). However, data from any additional sites the district chooses to monitor in PIBO watersheds are extremely valuable for analysis of trends. Please enter these data into the PIBO IM Web database.
- c. **Monitoring Pastures with Little or No Livestock Use:**
  - (1) **Temporary Non-use by Livestock:** Established DMAs must be sampled (according to the protocol, Attachment 1) in pastures under non-use, which can include 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.
  - (2) **Sheep Use or Physical Barriers:** DMAs that were established where there is currently little or no grazing in stream/riparian areas, whether due to use by sheep or physical barriers such as exclosures or canyon rims, should still be monitored. 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.
  - (3) **Permanently Closed to Grazing:** For all DMAs in pastures permanently closed to livestock grazing, sampling is NOT required. Please notify the PIBO EM team lead (Eric Archer, [earcher@fs.fed.us](mailto:earcher@fs.fed.us)) of any permanent closures.

For the 2010 and 2011 DMAs, download the site descriptions from the PIBO website [http://fswebgsc.gsc.wo.fs.fed.us/services/data\\_management/PIBO/](http://fswebgsc.gsc.wo.fs.fed.us/services/data_management/PIBO/) (select "Implementation Monitoring/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 DMAs. 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 considerably simpler 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 ([Al\\_Doelker@blm.gov](mailto:Al_Doelker@blm.gov), 503-808-6067).

**Validating IM Monitoring in 2010:** This year, the PIBO EM team plans to collect IM data at the same sites that Forest Service or BLM units did their IM monitoring in order to validate the accuracy of our sampling efforts. The team will select 30-40 DMAs across a variety of geographic areas and field units slated for monitoring in 2010 or 2011. This information will provide valuable insights and a double-check on field unit monitoring proficiency.

**DMA Coordination:** If new DMAs are established in 2010, the PIBO EM team will need to receive maps and UTM information 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 Effectiveness Monitoring Team; and Rangeland, Fishery, and Riparian Specialists in the Oregon State Office. Advanced notification of this data request was sent to the Prineville, Spokane, and Vale District Offices on June 24, 2010.

**Contact:** Questions about the PACFISH/INFISH IM program should be directed to Al Doelker, Fisheries Biologist, at 503-808-6067 (Al\_Doelker@or.blm.gov) or your Field Unit IM Coordinator.

**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 with assistance in this matter.

Signed by  
Michael S. Mottice  
Associate State Director

Authenticated by  
Paj Shua Cha  
Records Section

Attachment(s)

- 1 - PIBO IM Protocol for Establishing DMAs (3p)
- 2 - List of PIBO IM Contacts (1p)

Distribution

WO230 (204LS)  
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## **ATTACHMENT 1—PIBO Implementation Monitoring (IM) Protocol for Establishing Designated Monitoring Areas (DMAs)**

### **I. Selecting the DMA site**

For the PACFISH and INFISH Monitoring Program, DMAs 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.
  - Select sites where channel conditions have the potential to respond quickly to changes in management. These changes should be measureable. 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: DMAs 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: DMAs, 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 DMAs 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

<b>2010 OR/WA BLM Field Unit Implementation Monitoring Coordinators</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Prineville District Office	Jimmy Eisner	541-416-6753
Spokane District Wenatchee Field Office	Joe Kelly	509-665-2118
Vale District Office	Dorothy Mason	541-523-1308

<b>2010 Implementation Monitoring Core Team</b>		
<b>Office Represented</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>
USFS Region 1	Ann Carlson	406-329-3164
USFS Region 4	Cynthia Tait (co-lead)	801-625-5358
USFS Region 6	Dan Fissell	541-467-5117
	Tom Hilken	503-808-2822
USFS CRB Anadromous Fish Coordinator	Ann Carlson	406-329-3164
BLM ID and BLM MT	Scott Hoefler	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	509-378-5256
EPA Region 10	Don Martin	208-665-0458
PIBO EM Coordinator	Eric Archer	435-755-3565
Information Technology Transfer	Kerry Overton	208-373-4357