

**File Code:** 2400**Date:** August 25, 2022**Route To:****Subject:** 5-Year Strategy to ensure consistent and predictable timber production and hazardous fuels reduction activities**To:** Forest Supervisors

Over the past several years, largescale wildfires and litigation have impacted our ability as a Region to deliver on expectations specific to reducing wildfire risk and restoring ecosystems. Our success in these efforts is contingent upon a robust and expanding forest products and service industry. Reductions in active management and an unpredictable flow of timber have a direct impact on the viability of industry and rural economies. Forest staff and our partners are now able to accomplish substantial restoration work through use of stewardship authority, good neighbor agreements, and use of perms and trusts. We now require a more resilient workflow for planning and implementation associated with active management.

Moving forward, I have made the decision to establish an active management strategy for each Forest and the Region as a whole. This includes the requirement that each unit maintain at least 3 years of NEPA shelf stock and one year of prep shelf stock or “3+1” strategy for commercial timber production at the designated FY26 achievement level. The Region transitioned to the “3+1” strategy starting in FY22, through a phased approach to be completed by FY26. The transition will include adjusting the timing of timber sale offerings, where feasible based on access to project areas, to space more evenly throughout all four quarters of the fiscal year. Attainment of the “3+1” goal will be achieved through targeted investments in resources over a 1-2 year timeframe for each unit based largely on opportunities and needs identified at the unit level through their 5-year integrated resource plans updated annually. As a Region we will attain a minimum of 630MMBF through the “3+1” strategy and up 700MMBF timber volume sold by FY26, which includes additional outputs anticipated through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and recently passed inflation reduction act (IRA) funding for increased wildfire risk reduction, commercial thinning, and shaded fuel break work.

The “3+1” strategy provides the opportunity to recognize and practice our interdependence and shared accountability. We will monitor outcomes, including progress with key metrics for NEPA planning and sale prep, including road packages and will use an adaptive learning approach. My expectation is for Forest Supervisors and Regional Directors to establish an appropriate level of periodic engagement and check ins throughout the year. It is also my expectation these check ins result in peer-to-peer learning opportunities at all levels of the organization. This will enable us to share our successes and challenges.

Benefits of the “3+1” strategy include increased understanding of our annual appropriations for active management as well as enhanced stability and consistency in perms and trusts, flexibility for unforeseen events such as wildfire, stable and predictable forest products for local economies, balanced delivery of volume sold throughout the fiscal year, and improved



communications with industry and partners. Overall, our goal is to improve our service to the public and partners and to increase our ability to address wildfire risk reduction and restoration needs.

I have asked Dan Shively, Director of Natural Resources, to lead this effort in collaboration with other key Directors and Forest Supervisors. Look for more engagement in the coming months as we activate on this endeavor. If you have questions, please contact Dan at daniel.shively@usda.gov or at 202-680-8842.

JAMES
DEMAAGD

Digitally signed by JAMES
DEMAAGD
Date: 2022.08.25
11:18:13 -07'00'

GLENN P. CASAMASSA
Regional Forester

cc: NR Forest Staff, Dan Shively, Michael Spisak, Brian Spradlin, Julia Riber, Eric Tomasik, Alex Robertson, Gavin Smith, Christy Darden, Chad Davis, Jon McMillan, Sally Butts