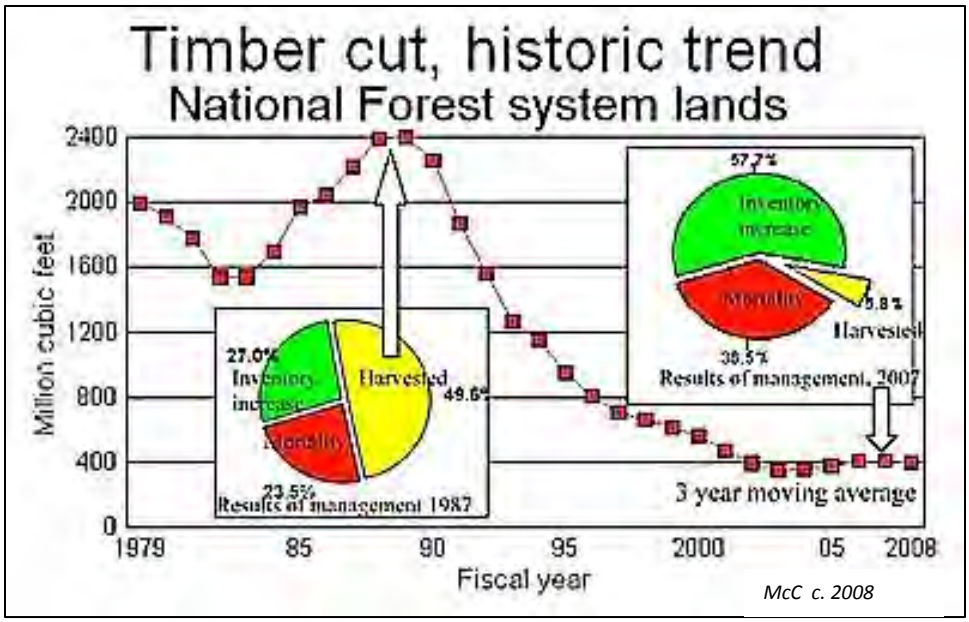
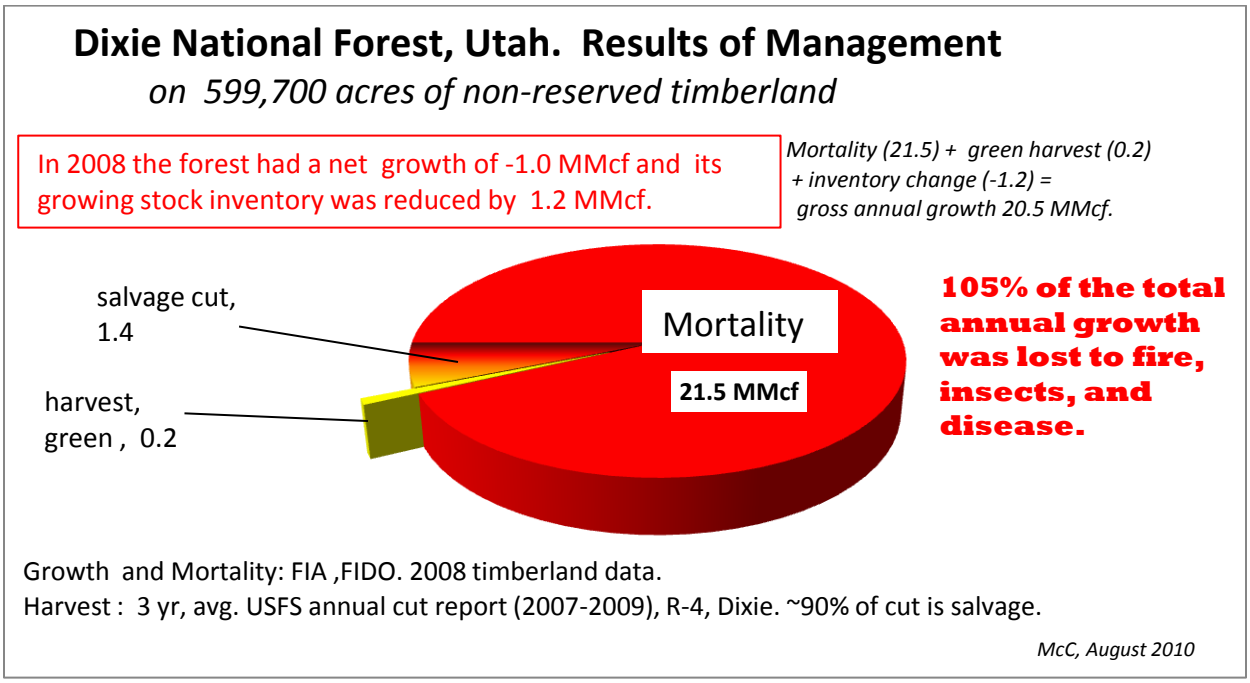
Comment on Planning Rule Framework

All resources interact with and affect other resources to varying degrees. Perhaps the most far-reaching and long-lasting impacts are those resulting from the management (or non-management) of the timber resource. Planning and plan execution for this resource in coordination with other interests is, arguably, the most difficult task that faces the forest manager. The forest plans and, especially, the EISs that I've seen are loaded with minutiae but generally do a poor job of making known to the public and their elected representatives what the "big picture" on the forest really is. Further, I suspect that, in many cases, the planning team members themselves are not fully aware of what has and is happening on their forest.



The graphic on the left is for the entire National Forest System. I propose that every plan display a similar graphic that would provide historic background for the involved forest, showing the relative volumes harvested in the past, and also the current status of cutting.

Some National Forests, notably those in the Interior West, have or will soon have negative inventory changes – mortality will exceed growth. It is especially important to openly examine such situations and the plans should identify the causes, the results, and proposed corrective action. This condition now exists on the Dixie National Forest in Utah. Here is a suggested graphic for this situation.



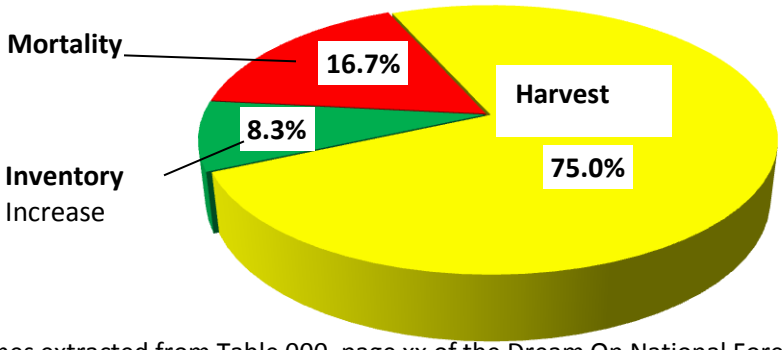
Finally, each plan should display in graphic form the Growth, Harvest, and Mortality expected during the upcoming planning period. Such a visual will clearly show areas of concern, promote public understanding of the problems facing the land manager, and allow informed public comment and appropriate legislative action on the solutions proposed for these problems. Here is one possible format.

Proposed Timber Management for the Dream On N.F.

for the Plan Period 2011 -2020

(on ~1,000,000 Acres of"harvesting allowed")

Mortality (10.0)+ harvest (45.0) + inventory increase (5.0) = gross annual growth= 60.0 MMcf.



Volumes extracted from Table 000, page xx of the Dream On National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.