

**Monongahela National Forest
Order of Entry Strategy
Talking Points**

- The Forest has developed a strategic approach to achieve and communicate outcomes for integrated planning projects. Integration means the full complement of land stewardship responsibilities and opportunities from vegetation management to recreation, cultural resources, sustaining local economies, and many others. Each zone now has a committed planning team which can sustain a large-scale NEPA planning project annually with the intent of implementing the forest plan. “Large” generally means the watershed level of 10s of thousands of acres.
- North Zone (NZ) has identified 11 watersheds and the South Zone has identified 10 watersheds to focus the order of entry for landscape scale restoration efforts and analysis.

NORTH ZONE				
Priority	Watershed Name	Year of Entry	Lead District	Acres FS/Total acres including all ownership
1	Upper Cheat River	2020	Cheat-Potomac	FS: 33,991 Total: 141,548
2	Deer Creek	2021	Greenbrier	FS: 40,333 Total: 89,139
3	Upper South Branch-Lower North Fork Potomac River	2022	Cheat-Potomac	FS: 65,601 Total: 382,964
4	Upper Shavers-Tygart Valley	2023	Greenbrier	FS: 94,889 Total: 231,263
5	Haddix Run-Shavers Fork	2024	Cheat-Potomac	FS: 30,719 Total: 84,287
6	Upper Glady	2025	Greenbrier	FS: 38,524 Total: 62,695
7	Dry Fork East	2026	Cheat-Potomac	FS: 45,889 Total: 93,378
8	Upper Greenbrier River	2027	Greenbrier	FS: 69,356 Total: 85,127
9	Upper North Fork Potomac	2028	Cheat-Potomac	FS: 36,857 Total: 104,784
10	Dry Fork West	2029	Cheat-Potomac	FS: 48,961 Total: 74,851
11	Blackwater River	2030	Cheat-Potomac	FS: 14,277 Total: 89,238
SOUTH ZONE				
Priority	Watershed Name	Year of Entry	Lead District	Acres FS/Total acres including all ownership
1	Upper Elk River	2020	Marlinton-White Sulphur	FS: 33,746 Total: 154,102
2	Cranberry River-Spring Creek	2021	Gauley	FS: 67,750 Total: 139,282
3	Sitlington Creek-Greenbrier River	2022	Marlinton-White Sulphur	FS: 50,069 Total: 199,962
4	Williams River	2023	Gauley	FS: 73,340 Total: 82,624
5	Anthony Creek	2024	Marlinton-White Sulphur	FS: 72,009 Total: 94,607
6	Laurel Creek – Cherry River	2025	Gauley	FS: 28,429 Total: 106,011
7	Headwaters Gauley River	2026	Gauley	FS: 17,833 Total: 86,268
8	Howard Creek	2027	Marlinton-White Sulphur	FS: 7,570 Total: 58,495
9	Knapp Creek	2028	Marlinton-White Sulphur	FS: 41,060 Total: 70,188

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10	Wolf Creek – Greenbrier River	2029	Marlinton-White Sulphur	FS: 8,550 Total: 203,210
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- With the ten watersheds on the south zone, re-entry will be approximately every 10 years. On the north zone, with the eleven, re-entry will be approximately every 11 years.
- The north and south zone planning teams will process each watershed with the goal of achieving a 2-year planning cycle that includes pre-planning, data collection and completion of NEPA documents leading to decision.
- District Rangers have the responsibility to maintain timelines and work to resolve and communicate issues early and often so as to maintain accountability for meeting Forest and Regional commitments.
- The Forest will expand and focus partner and stakeholder’s involvement on the watersheds in the order they are scheduled for entry. This will help align interests, timelines, partnering opportunities as well as shared resources to achieve and build on implementing the objectives of our forest plan. The zones will increase use of GNA, shared stewardship and other opportunities as well as seek shared projects with DNR, DOF and other agencies.
- FY2020 began the order of entry cycle and each zone has begun the pre-planning efforts in their first watersheds. FY2021 will begin the pre-planning efforts for the second priority watershed in each zone and so on until each watershed has been analyzed. The expectation is for out-year pre-planning and assessments to occur as early as possible in the fiscal year. Doing so will allow silviculture to ensure stand data are available and current, to select prescription areas that meet forest plan desired future conditions, and share the information with the District and SO.
- This order of entry is only subject to change if a major event were to occur that the Forest Supervisor determines is warranted to make a change or place a watershed on hold.
- There are a variety of NEPA tools that can be applied to each watershed such as: Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) Categorical Exclusion (CE), Environmental Analysis (EA), other CEs, etc... and the zones are highly encouraged to fully explore these options during the pre-planning phase.
- These efforts support the Forest’s ongoing efforts to increase the pace and scale of restoration with increased fire and timber targets, both of which support are supported by management direction in the Forest Plan
- The timber outputs on the Forest have been steadily increasing since 2015 with a goal of providing stable timber output of 30 MMBF by 2022.
- Collaboration with partners is expected to continue to be a part of the Forest stewardship effort in future under authorities such as Good Neighbor, cost-share agreements, participating agreement, and shared stewardship agreements.
- Current status of watershed projects: Upper Cheat and Upper Elk both in NEPA process; Upper Cheat has developed purpose and need/proposed action and now ready for public input

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through 30-scoping, which will be out soon; Upper Elk is going to decision notice and FONSI within upcoming month; Cranberry River-Spring Creek is in pre-NEPA inventory; Deere Creek moving forward with first IDT, inventories in progress.