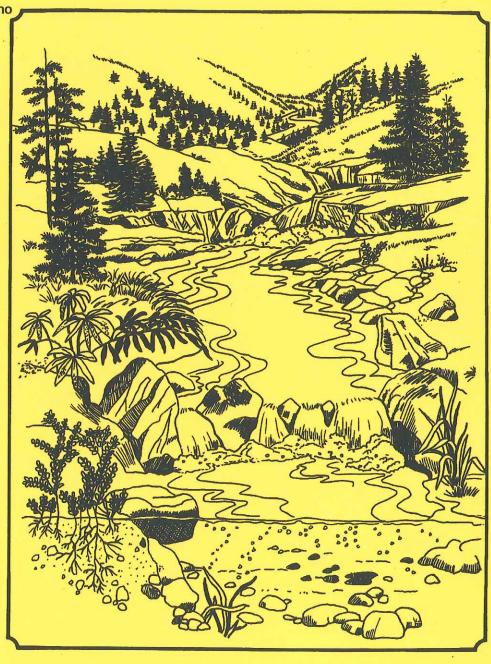
United States Department of Agriculture



Forest Service Grangeville, Idaho **Nez Perce National Forest Plan**

Ninth Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report



Fiscal Year 1996



August 1997

Dear Reader:

The Nez Perce National Forest Plan was finalized in October 1987. It charted a new course for managing the Forest for 10 to 15 years. It is our contract with you, the people we serve and the owners of the Forest, to manage the outstanding resources of the Nez Perce National Forest in an integrated, sustainable, ecologically sound manner so we can achieve a balance of uses.

The phrase "caring for the land and serving people" embodies the spirit of the Forest Service Mission. The spirited employees of the Nez Perce National Forest are committed to a deeply rooted land and service ethic. We strive to maintain ecosystem health and meet people's needs for uses, values, products and services, now and in the future.

We are nine years into the implementation of our Forest Plan. We recognize that some conditions have changed since 1987. This Ninth Nez Perce National Forest Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report highlights our progress.

We invite you to review and comment on this Report, your ideas are important to us.

As many of you are aware, over the past three years, the Nez Perce Forest has provided data and information in support of the large-scale assessment of the Upper Columbia River Basin. This assessment of past and current resource conditions on USFS and BLM lands will cover the entire State of Idaho, western Montana, and a small part of Nevada and Wyoming. The process will culminate in an EIS and Record of Decision for this area. The draft-EIS has been released and a proposed preferred alternative has been selected. We will keep you informed of the progress of this effort as it continues. Modification of forest plans and land management plans will likely result from this effort.

As always, we encourage you to work with us to improve our land stewardship responsibilities. Please feel free to call, visit, or write us anytime.

Sincerely,

Forest Supervisor

INFORMATION REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Information requests or comments about the Nez Perce National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan and or Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report can be directed to one of the following offices:

Salmon River Ranger District

Slate Creek Ranger Station HC01 Box 70 White Bird, ID 83554 (208) 839-2211

TTY: (208) 839-2328

Clearwater Ranger District

Route 2, Box 475 Grangeville, ID 83530 (208) 983-1963 TTY: (208) 983-0696

Red River Ranger District

Elk City, ID 83525 (208) 842-2255 TTY: (208) 842-2245 **Moose Creek Ranger District**

HC 75, Box 91 Kooskia, ID 83539 (208) 926-4258 TTY: (208) 926-7725

Elk City Ranger District

Elk City, ID 83525 (208) 842-2245 TTY: (208) 842-2233

Nez Perce National Forest Headquarters

Route 2, Box 475 Grangeville, ID 83530 (208) 983-1950

TTY: (208) 983-2280

Note: The Selway and Moose Creek Ranger Districts have been combined administratively under a single ranger. The headquarters for the new Moose Creek District (see above) are located at the Fenn Ranger Station.

Likewise, the Elk City and Red River Districts are managed by one ranger. Information can be obtained by calling either office.

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FOREST PLAN MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

FISCAL YEAR 1996

I. INTRODUCTION

The Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Nez Perce National Forest was approved by the Regional Forester on October 8, 1987. In it, a commitment was made to monitor and evaluate how well the Forest Plan is being implemented. Monitoring and evaluation comprise the management control system, and the results of monitoring and evaluation provide the line officer and the public with information on the progress and results of implementing the Forest Plan.

A commitment was also made to consider modifications to the Forest Plan using amendments based on the monitoring and evaluation findings. Monitoring and evaluation each have a distinctly different purpose and scope.

Monitoring is gathering information/data and observing the results of management activities to provide a basis for periodic evaluation of the Forest Plan. There are three types of monitoring:

- Implementation Monitoring ¹ (sometimes called compliance monitoring) determines whether management actions are implemented as specified in the NEPA decision, (e.g. making sure that a specific required mitigation requirement is implemented). The question being asked is: "Did we do what we said we were going to do?"
- Effectiveness Monitoring often occurs over a period of years and determines whether the management actions are effective in meeting management direction and objectives, (e.g. determining whether a standard for retaining a certain amount of woody debris on the site is effective in maintaining soil productivity and reducing erosion). The question being asked in this type of monitoring is: "Did the management practice do what we wanted it to do?"
- Validation Monitoring, which often occurs through research projects, determines if the assumptions underlying key elements of planning and analysis (including computer models) are correct. The question being asked here is: "Are the assumptions correct trhat are being used to make resource predictions and decisions?"

Evaluation is the analysis and interpretation of monitoring results. Evaluation will assist in the review of the conditions on the land covered by the Forest Plan as required at least every 5 years by the National Forest Management Act Regulations. Actions resulting from evaluation are reported in the Plan Amendments and Action Items (Appendix) sections of this report. Evaluating the results of implementation monitoring can lead to immediate changes in the operation of a project, whereas evaluating the effectiveness or validation monitoring can be a basis for changes in future planning or management.

Monitoring and evaluation focus on those facets of land and resource management which could most critically affect Forest Plan implementation. Monitoring elements include:

- items on which implementation may have a potentially significant effect;
- items where achievement of a relevant goal or objective is going to be difficult;
- items where projected effects may or may not occur as predicted;
- items where accomplishment of an objective or meeting of a standard determines the ability to achieve another goal or objective.

Forest Plan management activities were monitored and evaluated as outlined in the Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements section of the Forest Plan, pages 6 and 7, Table V-1, and Appendix O to determine how well objectives were met and how closely management standards were applied. Informal and formal field reviews were also conducted on a variety of projects during fiscal year 1995. These are documented in various ways, including daily diaries, file notes, and letters. These reviews are often conducted as routine inspections of timber sales, road contracts, mining operations, or while planning or implementing other projects. A summary of the key field reviews can be seen in Section II-D...Other Monitoring.

This report summarizes results of Forest Plan monitoring and evaluation conducted from October 1, 1994, through September 30, 1995. In some instances, it is difficult to determine how well the Forest Plan objective, outputs, and standards are being met. For some items, data is insufficient to evaluate trends. We are continuing to develop methodologies for data acquisition and interpretation useful for evaluation.

This report is organized into six main sections following the Introduction. Section II compares outputs and services planned to those accomplished and discusses the results of monitoring each item. Section II is subdivided by resource emphasis...ie. wildlife, timber, recreation etc. Section III identifies research needs. Section IV summarizes amendments made to the Forest Plan as of September 30, 1995. Section V lists those people who contributed to the preparation of this Report. Following Section VI, the Forest Supervisor Approval, is the Appendix to this report which lists references and status of progress on past action items.

II. MONITORING AND EVALUATION RESULTS AND TRENDS

A. Were Outputs and Services Provided as Predicted

Table 1 compares amounts of activities and outputs projected in the Forest Plan (Page II-9, Table II-1) with assigned targets for these schedules of work, and with actual accomplishments for these activities and outputs for the last three fiscal years 1994-1996.

Project outputs and activities published in the Forest Plan (Page II-9, Table II-1) are shown in the columns labeled "Original Forest Plan Projection."

Targets are amounts of work assigned to the Forest by the Regional Forester and have been adjusted from projected levels in the Forest Plan to reflect actual funding levels.

Accomplishments show the amount of work actually completed in each fiscal year.

Even though the reporting period for some monitoring items may be two or more years, information from all monitoring items is reported annually. This annual monitoring data will be evaluated at the end of the stated reporting period.

Table 1 - COMPARISON OF TARGETS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH FOREST PLAN PROJECTIONS

I IMIT I MATERIA	or Evaluations 74.2 Recovery & Conservation Tasks Plan Tasks Tasks	Hestored of Ennanced 39.2 Structures 72.9 Biological Assessments Tasks 10 11	72.6 Terrestrial Habitat Acres 200 200	72.5 Lake Habitat Acres	TE&S SPECIES HABITAT MGT 72.4 Stream Habitat Miles	ANADROMOUS FISH HABITAT MGT 70.3 Streams Restored/Enhanced Miles	INLAND FISH HABITAT MGT 68.3 Streams Restored or Enhanced Acres	WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT 66.2 Habitat Restored or Enhanced 37.2 Wildlife Structures 5,000 1,500 1,175 15	HERITAGE RESOURCES 65.2 Heritage Sites Evaluated 65.3 Heritage Sites Interpreted 65.4 Heritage Sites Protected and Preserved Sites	WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT 64.3 Wilderness Trails Available Miles	RECREATION MANAGEMENT 26.0 Seasonal Capacity Available 62.3 Trails Available - Total 62.5 Rec Special Use Permits 63.2 Recreation Use - Total M PAOT Days Miles	MONITORING 61.1 Forest Plans Revised 61.2 Forest Plans Amended 61.3 Assessments 61.8 Monitoring Forest Plans 61.9 Heritage Inventory 81.2 Air Quality Values Monitored Reports ACREV ACRE	Output of Activity Projection 2
		111		1		1	11	1,175 600 5	111	ı	185	3,429	Accomplishment 4 Targets 3
		-	1,250	1	l	1	1 1	600 510		1	1 1 1 85	7,044	Accomplishment 4
	0	Οω	1,600	0	0	33	0 8	650 4	000	0	185 0	00000	Targets ³
	0	4 87	1,600	0	0	25	17	703 3	10 0 20	1,726.8	185 1,901.6 66	3,542 1	Accomplishment

Table 1 - COMPARISON OF OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES WITH THOSE PROJECTED IN THE FOREST PLAN (continued 2 of 4)

			Fiscal	Fiscal Year 1994	Fiscal	Fiscal Year 1995	Fiscal	Fiscal Year 1996
Output or Activity	Units 1	Original Forest Plan Projection	Targets 3	Accomplishment 4	Targets 3	Accomplishment 4	Targets 3	Accomplishment
GRAZING MANAGEMENT 75.1 Allotment Administration to Std 75.2 Allotment Admin - Total 75.3 Allotments Analyzed and Decisions Implemented 30.0 Structural Improvements	Allotments Allotments Allotments Structures	1111	110 8	1 1 0 82	 0 42	 0 40	29 29 3 5	22 29 3 15
RANGELAND VEGETATION MGT 76.1 Rangeland Monitored and Evaluated 29.0 Range Non-Structural Improvements 09.0 Noxious Weed Treatment	Acres Acres Acres	500	 80 270	 80 270	 95 250	 96 373	0 20 200	0 20 205
TIMBER SALES MANAGEMENT 5 17.0 Volume Offered - Total 77.3 Volume Offered - Total 17.1 Volume Offered - New 77.4 Volume Offered - New 17.2 Volume Offered - SSF 77.5 Volume Offered - SSF 77.5 Volume Sold - Total 77.9 Volume Sold - Total 79.1 Volume Harvested - Total 79.1 Volume Harvested - Total	MMBF MOOF MOOF MOOF MOOF MOOF MOOF	108	66.0 32.0 34.0 0.0	1.01 0.0 1.0.1 7.01 1.0.7 1.0.8	50.0 23.0 27.0 0.0 0.0	2. 1 5. 1 6. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8.	4, 0 t 0 0 wowooooo	20.6 3,954.0 1,719.0 12.8 2,235.0 30.5 0
FORESTLAND VEGETATION MGT 19.0 Appropriated Reforestation 19.0 KV Reforestation 20.0 Appropriated Timber Stand Improvement 20.0 KV Timber Stand	Acres Acres Acres Acres	940 4,300 700 300	1,095 2,084 696 350	3,289 7,06 148	1,139 6,949 1,187	1,234 6,705 904 157	1,129 2,500 425 146	1,113 1,972 591 168
SOIL, WATER AND AIR 13.1 Soil - Ecological Inventory 13.0 Soil and Water Resource Improvements	Acres Acres	320	251	249	365	388	150	190
MINERALS 84.1 Non-Bonded, Non-Energy Operations Processed 84.2 Bonded, Non-Energy Operations Processed	Operations Operations	1 1 1	1 1 1	111	1 1 1	1 1 1	78.0	70.0 8.0 77.0
Non-Energy Operations 84.4 Bonded, Non-Energy Operations Administered to Std 84.5 Non-Energy Acres Processed 84.6 Abandoned Sites Reclaimed	Operations Acres Sites	1 11	1 11	1 11	1 11	1 11	23.0	37.0

Table 1 - COMPARISON OF OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES WITH THOSE PROJECTED IN THE FOREST PLAN (continued 3 of 4)

		Original	Fiscal	Fiscal Year 1994	Fiscal	Fiscal Year 1995	Fiscal	Fiscal Year 1996
Output or Activity	Units 1	Original Forest Plan Projection	Targets ³	Accomplishment 4	Targets ³	Accomplishment 4	Targets ³	Accomplishment
NON-ENERGY MINERAL RESOURCES 86.1 Mineral Materials 86.2 Precious Metals 86.7 Industrial Minerals 86.8 Base Metals	M Tons Troy Ounces M Pounds M Pounds	1111	1111	.		1111	0000	e Part _{de}
ENERGY RESOURCES *** No Known Sources on Forest ***							-	
LAND OWNERSHIP & SPECIAL USES 89.1 Landownership Administration 89.2 General Special Uses Applications Processed	Cases Permits	1 1	1.1	11	1 1	11	00	
89.3 Authorizations Administered To Standard	Permits	ı	1	ı	I	1	64.0	
89.4 Authorizations Administered Total	Permits	-	1	1	1	1	0	
90.1 Landline Maintenance 33.0 Landline Location 90.2 Special Area Boundary	Miles Miles Miles	111	14.0	13.0	13.0	12.0	11.0	
31.0 Land Ownership Adjustment	Acres	L	1	1	ı	-	0	
(excluding exclininges) 32.1 Land Exchange - Fee 32.2 Land Exchange - Partial	Acres Acres	1 25	118	+3	118	124	140 0	
34.0 Rights-of-Way Acquisition	Cases		-	L	1	1	1.0	
LAW ENFORCEMENT 92.1 Incidents 92.2 Cooperative Agreements	Incidents Agreements	11	11	11	1 1	-	00	
FACILITIES 91.2 Roads Maintained - Total 91.3 Roads Obliterated 93.1 Road Construction 93.2 Road Reconstruction 21.0 Trail Construction and Reconstruction	Miles Miles Miles Miles Miles	2,050 53 30 20	2,763 0.0 0.0 16.0	3,655 14.0 5.0 28.0	2,763 0.0 0.0 45.0	3,635 · 8.5 1.2 39.0	3,453 0.0 0.0 0.0 55.2	
FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT 16.0 Fire Protection Capability 16.2 Fuels Treatment (appropriated) 16.3 Fuels Treatment (brush disposal)	M Dollars Acres Acres	3,590	3,644	3,978	2,890	3,106	1,985 2,300	1,907.2 7,335 1,888

Table 1 - COMPARISON OF OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES WITH THOSE PROJECTED IN THE FOREST PLAN (continued 4 of 4)

			11	Fiscal Vear 1994	Fiscal	Fiscal Year 1995	Fiscal	Fiscal Year 1996
			Bacil					
Output or Activity	Units 1	Original Forest Plan Projection	Targets ³	Accomplishment 4	Targets 3	Accomplishment 4	Targets 3	Accomplishment
Job Corps) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c	ı	1	ı	ı	1	0.0	38.0
41.0 Young Conservation Corps	Enrolled 118				1	1	10,296.0	5,168.0
43.0 Senior Community Service	Enrollee Yrs	1	1	1			•	0.4
Employees Program	Enrollee Yrs	I 	1	1	I	1	o (, o
Forest Program 44.1 Hosted Program and	Enrollee Yrs	1	I	1	I	1	5	}
Other HRP								(
SAFETY 57.1 Motor Vehicle Miles Driven	Miles	1	11	11	1 1	11	00	00
58.1 Fixed Wing Aircraft	Hours	!				1	0	0
Hours Flown 59.1 Rotary Wing Aircraft	Hours	1	l	1				
Hours Flown								
						50		

Footnotes for Table 1

Unit Abbreviations

PAOT Days

persons at one time

MAUM

thousand animal unit months

MMBF

million board feet

² Projections originally published in the Forest Plan.

³ Forest target for a given fiscal year. Targets for grazing use are the same as permitted capacity.

⁴ Actual work accomplished during a given fiscal year. Accomplishments reported for grazing use are actual

use. Actual use may be less than capacity for the convenience of the permittee.

⁵ Timber Volume Offered includes all chargeable (i.e. counting towards Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ)) and non-chargeable volume offered for sale during the fiscal year. Timber Volume Offered also includes sales that received no bids. Volume offered counts toward the Forest's financed sell target while volume sold counts toward allowable sale quantity.

B. Are the Dollars and Workforce Costs of the Plan Implemented as Expected

Table 2 shows the amount of funds allocated to the Forest and expended by the Forest for the last three fiscal Years 1994 through 1996.

Table 3 - "Forest Plan Funding Needs", displays the FY 97 projected Forest budget using the new funding description breakdowns described above.

Dollars have been adjusted to constant 1996 values for Tables 2 and 3.

Throughout this report various types of funding are mentioned. Much of the forest's funding is obtained directly through Congressional appropriations. Additional funding comes from trust funds that include deposits made to the Forest Service by timber purchasers and range permittees to cover the cost of resource protection. Other funds are derived through partnerships with other organizations and private parties on a cost share or matching fund basis. The following sections describe these different funding types.

Appropriated Funds for National Forest System Lands

These are dollars appropriated by Congress to provide for the protection, management, and utilization of National Forest lands.

Range Betterment Funds

The range betterment program on National Forest lands is financed by a portion of grazing fee receipts. Fifty percent of grazing fee receipts are returned to the Forest to fund the installation of structural and nonstructural range improvements such as seeding, fence construction, weed control, water development, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. It is Regional policy that the range permittee cooperates by splitting the costs of labor and supplies. Often, the permittee cooperates in these activities by supplying the labor needed to implement and maintain the improvements.

Permanent & Trust Funds

Brush Disposal (BD)

After timber harvest operations, it is often necessary to dispose of brush and logging slash to protect and maintain National Forest resources. Timber sale contracts require that the timber purchaser complete this work when economical or expedient, or make a deposit to cover the cost when it is more practical for the Forest Service to complete the brush disposal work.

Timber Salvage Sales

Timber Salvage Sale funds are used for the design, engineering, and supervision of road construction for salvage sales and for sale preparation and administration of salvage timber harvest. These funds are used to salvage insect infested, dead, damaged, or down timber, and to remove associated trees for stand improvement. Part of the receipts from timber salvage sales are deposited in this account and used to prepare and administer future salvage sales.

Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenberg (KV) Funds

These are funds deposited by timber purchasers and used primarily for reforestation, timber stand improvement, and other resource activities to improve the future productivity of the renewable resources on timber sale areas.

Cooperative Work, Other (CWFS-Other) Funds

CWFS-Other funds are derived from deposits received from cooperators for protecting and improving resources as authorized by trust agreements. These deposits are used for the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of roads, trails, and other improvements, and for timber scaling services, fire protection, and other resource purposes. Cooperative road maintenance deposits are made by commercial users of the forest road system in lieu of actually performing their commensurate share of road maintenance. These deposits are used in conjunction with the Congressionally appropriated road maintenance funds to provide maintenance of system roads by the Forest Service.

Challenge Cost Share Dollars

Challenge Cost Share agreements are federal funds matched by various States, and privatenonprofit organizations to jointly develop, plan and implement projects to enhance specific resource improvement activities. These funds are currently permitted for use in recreation, wildlife and fish cost-share programs.

Table 2 - COMPARISON OF PROJECTED FUNDING LEVELS, ALLOCATIONS, AND EXPENDITURES

	Fiscal Y	ear 1994	Fiscal Ye	ear 1995	Fiscal '	Year 1996
Funding Description	Allocation (M 1996\$)	Expendi- tures (M 1996\$)	Allocation (M 1996\$)	Expendi- tures (M 1996\$)	Allocation (M 1996\$)	Expenditures (M 1996\$)
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	1,851	1,782	1,392	1,336	1,612	5 1,779
RECREATION, TRAIL MTC., WILDERNESS & HERITAGE RESOURCES	1,082	1,033	1,862	2,006	1,648	5 1,944
WILDLIFE & FISH	1,637	1,616	1,343	1,404	1,088	5 1,182
RANGE Range Range (Noxious Weeds)	475 50	477 47	395 37	492 45	277 45	276 44
SOIL AIR & WATER	734	751	604	638	389	⁶ 524
MINERALS	273	264	388	360	341	362
TIMBER 1 Timber Management Forestland Vegetative Improvement KV Reforestation/TSI/Other CWFS Other - Trust Fund Timber Salvage Sales - Permanent Fund FY 95/96 Totals =	8,084	6,964	1,501 952 3,135 229 2,097 7,914	1,515 1,008 2,534 48 1,722 6,827	1,081 788 2,213 50 1,709 5,841	7 1,326 446 2,014 93 1,799 5,678
PROTECTION 1 Fire Protection & Fuels Law Enforcement Brush Disposal (Perm. Fund) FY 95/96 Totals =	3,404	2,749	2,650 134 510 3,294	3,699 144 386 4,229	2,525 96 400 3,021	2,757 154 361 3,272
LANDS Special Uses & Land Exchange/Acquisition Landline Location	194 116	171 122	192 101	³ 1,837 97	136 103	115 133
FACILITIES Facility Maintenance Road Maintenance Facility Constr-Forest Admin., Other Pre-ConstrCapital Investment Rds Trail Construction/Reconstruction FY 95/96 Totals ==	3,383	3,242	196 639 18 584 412	205 767 4 587 631 523 2,713	163 647 69 347 468 	207 • 710 • 563 • 547 • 272 2,299
ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT 2	0	0	319	376	325	333
TOTAL	21,283	19,218	19,690	22,360	16,520	17,941

¹ In 1995, the funding description subheadings were changed. In order to compare FY 94 allocations and expenditures with FY 95 and FY 96 figures, the totals for the mainhead funding descriptions shown for FY 94 must be compared with the FY 95 and FY 96 totals. Funding levels for subheading descriptions cannot be compared between FY 94 and FY 95/96..

² FY 95 was the first year for this fund code

³ This represents the cost of purchasing the Painter Bar property and the Mackey Bar I and II parcels located within the Salmon River Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

⁴ Funding was held in the Regional Office until contracts were let for the Elk City triplex, Elk City office addition, Castle Creek campground flood damage repair, O'Hara campground rehab and the Spring Bar campground construction, thus, the funding was not included in the original allocation.

⁵ Apparent over-expenditures in FY 96 include expenditures of FY 95 carryover funding as well as the FY 96 allocation.

⁶ Apparent over-expenditure in FY 96 includes additional flood repair funding received late in the fiscal year.

⁷ Apparent over-expenditure in FY 96 reflects an additional \$200,000 received late in the fiscal year over and above the allocation.

⁸ Apparent over-expenditure in FY 96 reflects additional construction dollars held in the Regional Office and released to the Forest during contract award.

Table 3 - PROJECTED FOREST FUNDING LEVEL FY 1997

Funding Description	FY 1997 (M 1996\$)
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	1,612
RECREATION, TRAILS MTC. AND WILDERNESS	1,648
WILDLIFE & FISH	1,000
RANGE Range Range (Noxíous Weeds)	249 45
SOIL, AIR & WATER	450
MINERALS	341
TIMBER Timber Management Forestland Veg. Improvement KV Reforestation/TSI/Other CWFS Other - Trust Fund Timber Salvage Sales - Permanent Fund	1,416 710 2,484 50 2,000
PROTECTION Fire Protection and Fuels Law Enforcement Brush Disposal (Perm. Fund)	2,150 96 400
LANDS Special Uses, Land Exchange/Acquisition Landline Location	136 103
FACILITIES Facility Maintenance Road Maintenance Facility Constr Forest Admin., Other Pre-Constr./Capital Investment Rds.	163 647 0 272
ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT	410
TOTAL	16,382

C. Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements

Monitoring and evaluation results are summarized and discussed on the following pages. Each monitoring item lists:

- 1. what is being measured;
- 2. frequency of measurement;
- 3. reporting period;
- 4. variables which would initiate further evaluation;
- 5. the monitoring results; and
- 6. the evaluation of the monitoring results.

The items are arranged by resource and follow the requirements in the Nez Perce Forest Plan (Table V-1).



Item 1c: Big-Game Habitat Carrying Capacity

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 7 years (FY 1996)

<u>Variability which would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Significant trend deviations (evaluated at 5-year intervals) from planned or expected forage-generating activities or events (timber harvest, prescribed fire, and wildfire).

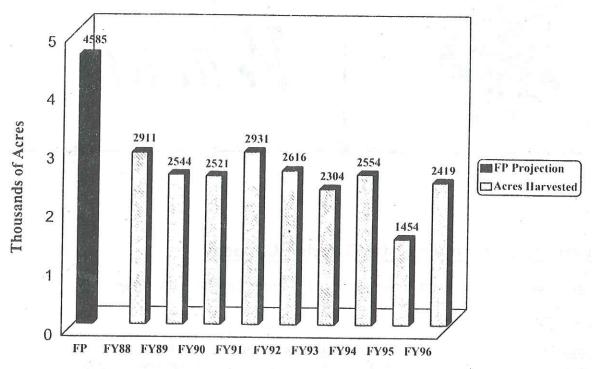
Forage Production

Monitoring Results:

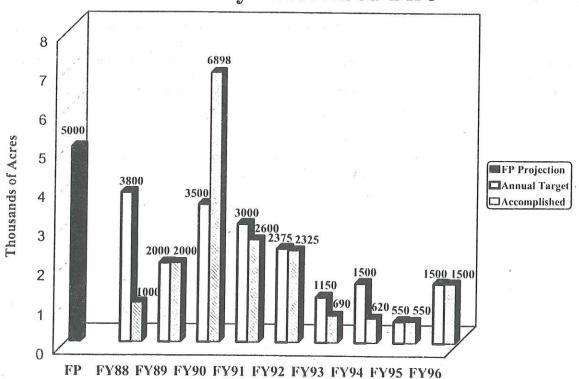
Timber harvest (i.e., clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood), prescribed fire and wildfire acreages are used as forage production indices. Forage production for elk and deer in the coniferous forests of north central ldaho is related primarily to shrub, grass and forb stages of forest plant succession. Creating openings in forest stands by timber harvest and fire, typically increases elk and deer forage. The Forest Plan projected an annual average of 4585 acres of regeneration timber harvest and 5000 acres of prescribed fire for elk and deer winter range. The Forest Plan also estimated wildfire acreage (based on a running 10-year average) to be approximately 4700 acres per year.

Projected acreages for each variable identified in the Forest Plan, and their FY 96 target and accomplishments, are depicted in the following graphs.

Big Game Forage Produced by Timber Harvest



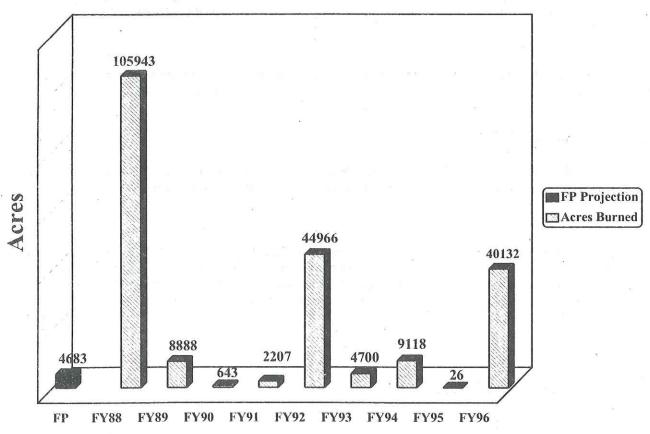
Big Game Winter Range Enhanced By Prescribed Fire



Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Since Forest Plan implementation, timber harvest that increased big game forage has averaged about 2472 acres per year (54 percent of the Forest Plan projection). Prescribed fire projects for big game winter range has averaged about 2020 acres per year (40 percent of projection). Large wildfires of 1988, 1992, and 1996 caused wildfire acreages to average approximately 24,069 acres per year (over 500 percent above the estimate). Though timber harvest and big game winter range prescribed fires have fallen short of planned acreages, wildfires have helped to compensate for these shortfalls.

Big Game Forage Produced By Wildfire & Prescribed Natural Fire



Summer Elk Habitat

The Forest Plan identified approximately 1,887,000 acres of elk summer range on the Nez Perce Forest. Of this amount, approximately 866,000 acres (46%) of elk summer range are within the Forest's three designated wildernesses. The Forest Plan designated elk summer range effectiveness objectives, outside wilderness areas, at 25% on approximately 165,000 acres; 50% on approximately 573,000; 75% on approximately 215,000; and 100% on approximately 74,000 acres. The "Guidelines for Evaluating and

Managing Elk Habitat in Northern Idaho" are used to determine if land management activities meet the elk summer habitat effectiveness objectives depicted in the Forest Plan.

Monitoring Results:

Compliance with summer objectives for projects implemented in FY96 has been excellent.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Current compliance with Forest Plan elk objectives is good, however some areas remain below objective for a variety of reasons. Assessment of Forest-wide elk summer range conditions continues to indicate:

1) Elk habitat effectiveness objectives are being met or exceeded on about 75% of the Forest's elk summer range; and 2) needed adjustments to meet Forest Plan elk objectives may conflict with motorized vehicle access more than originally anticipated.

The Forest is conducting a Forest Plan minor amendment process to correct original Forest Plan analysis unit errors and attempt to resolve some incompatibilities created by original objective assignments.

Moose Winter Range (MA 21)

Grand fir and pacific yew canopy cover and yew browse are important components of moose winter habitat. Timber harvest on moose winter range is limited to 5 percent of MA 21, per decade. Only 46 acres of MA 21 were harvested in FY 95.

Monitoring Results:

No site-specific or MA 21-specific monitoring was done on the Forest in FY95. The 38 acres harvested in FY95 is well below the 5 percent per decade limit and within Forest Plan standards.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Forest Plan direction to limit timber harvest to 5 percent per decade has been followed for projects initiated under the Forest Plan. Lack of funding has precluded gathering management data or conducting research to better describe preferred moose winter range characteristics. Reasons for limiting the clearcut/burn harvest acres deal with yew's susceptibility to fire. Other threatment methods may not be as harfmul to winter moose habitat.

Item 1d: Nongame Habitat

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 5 years (FY 1992)

<u>Variability which would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Significant deviation from Forest standards on a project-by-project basis triggers further evaluation.

Old Growth (MA 20)

The Forest Plan states that no timber harvest will be considered in designated old growth forest until decade 10 and/or in replacement stands until decade 16. In FY96, this standard was met, although recognition of risks from stand-replacing fires in ponderosa pine (Scott Fire) have led to proposals to partial harvest in some ponderosa pine old growth in the upcoming Berg timber sale.

Monitoring Results:

No field reviews of compliance with Forest Plan old growth standards was done in FY96. Database review of acres harvested in FY96 found no stands designated as old growth were harvested. Increased awareness of stand-replacement fire risks in ponderosa pine and dry Douglas-fir habitat types may stimulate future changes.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Compliance with Forest Plan standards for retention and protection of old-growth from harvest has been accomplished throughout Forest Plan implementation. Improved criteria for determining old-growth sites is being used. These new criteria have promoted field survey and interpretation resulting in improved determinations of old growth forests.

The effects of overstocked stands, and drought stress leading to stand-replacing forest fires especially where retention of old growth is desired, continues to be a concern in ponderosa pine and some Douglas fir cover types. The use of fire or some form of silvicultural treatment to thin understory trees which act as "ladder fuels" is needed to protect designated old growth forest from unnatural fuel build-ups and stand-replacing fires.

Snag Habitats

Monitoring Results:

Maintaining adequate numbers and size classes of snags throughout the managed landscape continues to be a challenge. Inventorying existing numbers of snags accurately on a landscape scale is proving to be a similar challenge. Maintaining snags in some managed areas is complicated by fuelwood gatherers, prescribed fire slash treatments, and windthrow.

Threatened and Endangered Species Habitats

Monitoring Results:

Management and protection of threatened, endangered and sensitive wildlife and their habitats are routinely evaluated in biological assessments/evaluations. In FY 96, no cases of "formal consultation" were required for any terrestrial species.

Over 27,000 acres of terrestrial threatened and endangered species (TES) habitats were inventoried. Three structures and 1,600 acres of habitat were improved for threatened and endangered species.

Gray Wolf

Numerous unconfirmed reports over the past eight years suggest individual wolves may occur naturally on the Forest. Seven separate reports of wolf or wolf sign were documented on the Forest in FY96. Reintroduced wolves with radio-collars which occupied the Forest in 1996 included wolves B5, B10, B33, and B14. Wolves B5 and B10 reproduced pups and spent much of the summer-fall period at the eastern side of the Forest within the Meadow Creek, Mallard Creek, and Bargamin Creek areas. There is no evidence of livestock depredation.

Grizzly Bear

No reports of grizzly bears were documented in FY 96. To date no confirmation of permanent grizzly occupation exists on the Forest.

Peregrine Falcon

Only one active natural nest is known on the Forest. Although intermittent activity by individual birds near the nest was observed the end of April 1996, no nesting took place. Review of conditions and circumstances by biologists of both the Forest and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could not explain the event but physical health of the adults upon returning from wintering grounds and the fact that several other pairs in the state failed to nest were cited as possible explanations. The USFWS agreed the failure was not related to land management.

Bald Eagle

The bald eagle was downlisted to threatened status in August 1995, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Bald eagles have been monitored through the Forest's participation in the annual bald eagle mid-winter census. Transects and counts are shown below:

Survey Route	Age	1984	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Salmon River: White Bird to Vinegar Creek	Adult Imma- ture	1 0	2	1 0	2	2	5	3 0	2	10 5	2	6 0	4 0
S.F. Clearwater: Farrens Creek to Crooked River	Adult Imma- ture	3 1	0	1	2	0	0	1 1	3 ·	0	3 1	3	2
M.F. Clearwater: Clear Creek to Selway	Adult Imma- ture	9	6 2	5	10	4 3	1	4	12 4	7	9	15 3	3
Grand Total	14	10	9	17	9	7	13	21	23	19	33	10	10

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

The winter survey routes located on the Forest yielded 9 adults and 1 immature birds. This was substantially lower than recent years, but on a par with the low counts of 1986, 1987, and 1989. However, variable weather conditions and the prey availability in other locations along its migration route, may account for large variations in local eagle populations. Local winter populations monitored by the Forest indicate the highest numbers are generally along the Middle Fork of the Clearwater and the lowest numbers are along the South Fork Clearwater River. Observations and surveys by Forest employees, agencies and citizens have not as yet located or confirmed any active bald eagle nests on the Forest to date.

Forest Service Sensitive Animal and Plant Species Program

Monitoring Results

Cooperative inventories of neotropical migratory bird populations (which include flammulated owls) continued in FY 96. Funding limitations limited the Forest's potential to monitor other sensitive animal populations extensively. Active information/education programs expanded public awareness for these species. Two different sightings of wolverine were reported in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness area. Two reports (tracks and direct observations) of fishers were documented from the Trapper Creek area (Soda Cr. road) and the Trout Creek drainage (South Fork Clearwater watershed). In addition, an unconfirmed report (two separate sightings) of a lynx were documented a few miles south of Elk City.

Conservation assessments and/or strategies have been developed on broad, landscape scales for white-headed woodpecker, black backed woodpecker, Coeur d'Alene salamander, pine marten, fisher, lynx, wolverine, mountain quail, Townsend's big-eared bat, flammulated owl and boreal owl. These assessments

are being used on the Forest to help assess project impacts and provide supplemental guidance in outyear planning.

Review of biological evaluations and conservation assessments suggest that increased harvest removal of firs from overstocked ponderosa pine sites along lower elevation river corridors could improve habitats for white-headed woodpecker and flammulated owls. Increased application of prescribed fires in forest stands could help improve habitats for several species including black backed woodpeckers, lynx, wolverine, and possibly mountain quail. Continued reductions in open road densities may help restore habitat quality for lynx, fisher, and wolverine. Thinning and selective harvest removal of firs in dry forest types could help restore habitats for some sensitive wildlife species.

Forest Service Sensitive Plant Species

Monitoring Results

Surveys and project clearances continued for the 28 plants designated by the Regional Forester as sensitive. New sightings were documented for Paysons milkvetch (Astragalus paysonii), candystick (Allotropa virgata), broad-fruit mariposa (Calochortus nitidus) and Clustered lady-slipper (Cypripedium fasciculatum) and puzzling halimolobos (Halimolobos perplexa perplexa). As result of a survey for the Federal Highway Administration, a new population of Giant helleborine (Epipactis gigantea) was found adjacent to the National Forest.

Long term monitoring continued on candystick, broad-fruit mariposa and Payson's milkvetch. The monitoring involves re-reading permanent plots on the Red River, Elk City, and Salmon River Ranger Districts. Monitoring is planned to continue for the foreseeable future. Additional monitoring was established for puzzling halimolobos and Cluster lady-slipper.

Item 1e: Acres of Big-Game Habitat Improvement

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

<u>Variability which would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: More than one year of variability from planned improvement acreages, excepting variances due to extreme fire conditions.

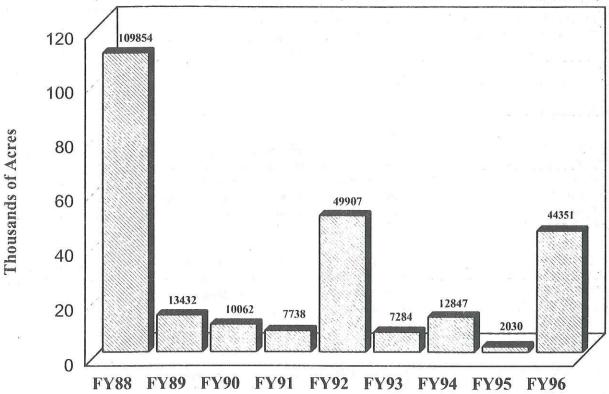
Wildlife Habitat Improvement

Monitoring Results:

In 1996, 650 acres of a 650 acre Forest target were accomplished with funds appropriated for wildlife habitat improvement. Habitat improvements were directed at big game summer and winter ranges and were done primarily by prescribed fire. In addition to big game summer range improvements, approximately 2,419 acres of elk and deer winter range were improved through timber harvest.

Cumulative Acres of Big Game Habitat Improved

(Prescribed Fire, Timber Harvest, Wildfire and Vehicle Restrictions)



Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Approximately 19,493 acres of elk and deer winter range have been improved, using only prescribed fire, since implementation of the Forest Plan. The average annual accomplishment is 2,020 acres per year. This falls short of the annual target of 5,000 acres by 40 percent. The cumulative shortfall over 9 years is approximately 25,507 acres below Forest plan projections. Acres of winter range improved by FY 96 prescribed natural fires (27,180 acres) is not included in this accounting.

* * * * * * *

Item 10: Population Trends of Indicator Species--Wildlife

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: FY 96

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: Variability thresholds which will trigger further evaluation for each species must be tailored to each species based on the amount of existing data on a given species, natural population fluctuations; and for game species, impacts of harvesting on populations. Evaluation for big-game species will be done cooperatively with Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Variability thresholds for nongame and T&E species for which data is currently limited, can only be determined after sufficient baseline population data is collected. Several years of population data must be collected before variability thresholds can realistically be estimated.

Discussion

This section covers those Management Indicator Species not already discussed in the Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive wildlife species categories previously discussed in this report.

Elk

Elk herds are the product of habitat quality, influenced by the effects of weather, hunting and predation. Forest management practices directly affect habitat quality and hunter access. To determine trends in elk herds within a managed forest environment, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game routinely conducts elk winter census surveys. These surveys yield estimates of herd size, productivity, sex and age ratios, and hunting season survival. Favorable trends include increasing counts, from a condition of low herd numbers, to stable counts, when desirable herd counts are present. Downward trends are not desirable. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game use the "Elk Sightability" census method, developed in north central Idaho.

Monitoring Results:

Elk surveys were completed only in units 15, 16, 19, and 20 in 1996. Hunt units off the Forest are not reported here. Winter census surveys since 1988 have yielded the following results:

			Est	Elk Pop imated by	ulation Sightabili	ty*		2	
UNIT 1	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
15			856 +/- 81			1236 +/- 310			1544
16			818 +/- 122		1 2 -	1432 +/- 156	2		1148
16A	1028 +/- 261			961 +/- 201	- <u>-</u>			475 +/- 114	
17	4506 +/- 535		"	3783 +/- 279	a 1 <u></u>	e)		4,995 +/- 555	
19		1467 +/- 37			1497				1566
20		1044 +/- 48	911	= <u>13</u> = ,	1237 +/- 61		1115		1277

^{*}Represents total population estimate of animals on the winter range of each unit.

¹ Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Big Game Management Unit

		*								
i	3 4				Bull:Cow ulls per 1	/ Ratios 00 Cows	s)			
Unit	Objec- tive 1	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
15	>20			20 +/- 5			11 +/- 5			9.6
16	>20			10 +/- 5			22 +/- 4			11.9
16A	>25	35 +/- 14			23 +/-				19.6 +/- 20.6	
17	>25	26 +/- 5			22 +/- 3				20.9 +/- 3.7	
19	>25		21 +/- 2			17 +/- 2				15.0
20	>25		26 +/- 4			31 +/- 5		19	1	31.4

^{1/} Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 5 year Elk Management Plan Objective (1991 to 1995); expressed as number of bulls per 100 cows.

				Calf:Cow lves per 1					
Unit	1988	1989	1990	1,991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
15			39	1943		43 +/- 17	W 1	<u></u>	32.4
16		1220	16			21 +/- 4			17.9
16A	32			30				14.7 +/- 5.1	*
17	27			24				22.2 +/- 3.2	
19		24			32				20.1
20		22			34		24		15.2

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

The above data represent only two data points per big game management unit, for each of the three elk population monitoring components.

Mild winters, varying degrees of hunter success (influenced largely by hunting season weather conditions) can significantly affect population data within any given hunting unit. In addition, the change in the elk tag system by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, has probably influenced hunter distribution.

Bull:cow ratios data suggest a continued downward trend in units 15, 16, and 19; while calf:cow ratios are in downward trends in units 16, 19, and 20.

<u>Update on cow elk harvest study</u>: Evidence from other big game species and analysis of elk populations in other states and countries suggests that elk populations may be most productive when <u>not</u> at highest densities. High densities may result in lower adult survival rates. A study was initiated by Idaho Fish and Game in 1992 to determine appropriate controlled antlerless elk permits. Unit 20 is a part of this study. Thus far, higher harvest rates on cows does not appear to have led to population declines.

Moose

Monitoring Results:

Moose populations are not surveyed on the Nez Perce forest by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game with any techniques capable of making accurate population estimates.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Moose populations appear to be stable or slightly increasing, based on incidental information and sightings. Although relatively common, nowhere on the Forest are moose populations considered high.

Bighorn Sheep

Monitoring Results:

	Bighorn Sheep Total Counts							
Unit	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996		
17	52			28	43	No data		
19		52	60			56		
20		106	66*		***	78		

^{*(}Incidental count, may not be complete.)

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

An outbreak of <u>Pasteurella haemolitica</u>, a pneumonia-like disease which began in 1984, initiated a population decline in Unit 18. A second outbreak of the disease in 1991 further impacted the population in Unit 18. The disease is being tracked and studied by IDFG laboratory in Caldwell.

Total numbers of bighorn sheep observed during surveys have declined in units 17, 19, and 20 since they early 1980's, however recent numbers in units 19 and 20 appear to be more stable than in unit 17. From 99 to 121 bighorn sheep were observed in unit 17 (1982-1984), whereas only 37 to 62 sheep were observed the last 3 surveys.

Pileated Woodpecker

Monitoring Results:

Due to inadequate funding and other priorities, including neotropical bird monitoring, only one of the five permanent pileated woodpecker survey routes were sampled during FY95. A summary of five years of data is displayed below for pileated woodpecker.

Pileated Woodpecker Relative Abundance Index (Green Creek Point Transect only)

Year	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Totals	9	9	6	13	6	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	5

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Available '96 data and previous year counts suggest that pileated woodpecker numbers are relatively stable, especially in the Green Creek Point area. Highly variable results indicate sampling size and regularity should be increased in an effort to improve data reliability.

Pine Marten/Fisher

Monitoring Results:

Due to inadequate budget levels, fisher/pine martens winter track counts were not done in FY 96, however two incidental observations of fishers and their sign were documented. Pine marten are much more common across the Forest..

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Difficulty in making positive identification of fisher verses pine marten tracks has complicated previous results. Based on the data collected to date, population trend for fishers is inconclusive. Based on a local study (Jones, J. 1991. Habitat Use of Fisher in North Central Idaho, M.S. Thesis, University of Idaho available at Nez Perce National Forest Headquarters Office), populations may be as much influenced by incidental trapping as by changes in habitat. Consistent, long term data collection may produce more useful data.

Goshawk

Monitoring Results:

Only one goshawk sighting, southwest of Syringa, was reported in FY 96. No new nests were discovered in FY 96. A FY 95 forest-wide goshawk nest habitat and field nesting survey yielded four confirmed and one probable nest detections in the South Fork Skookumchuck Creek, Race Creek, Lower O'Hara Creek, and Fern Creek watersheds. This brings the total number of known nest territories on the Forest to eleven.

The 1995 Forest-wide goshawk habitat survey concluded that: 1) quality goshawk nesting habitat is well distributed across the Forest; 2) Salmon River and Clearwater Ranger District areas had the highest numbers of watersheds with significant amounts of quality habitat.

Neotropical Migratory Birds

Though not considered management indicator species at this time, surveys for species diversity and relative abundance of neotropical migratory birds were done in FY96 through a partnership with Potlatch Forest Industries and the Clearwater National Forest. Twenty-three transects scattered across the developed portions of the Nez Perce Forest yielded over 70 different bird species. Red-breasted nut hatchers, Pine siskins, Townsend's warblers, Swainson's thrushes, Western tanagers, and golden-crowned kinglets were the most common species.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Region-wide data are beginning to relate species preferences by forest types and structural stages. For example, Townsend's warblers use a wide range of forest types but are most common in uncut forests. Brown creepers are nearly exclusive to late seral, uncut forests of spruce and cedar hemlock, while olive-sided flycatchers are least common in uncut forests and seem to prefer harvested areas. Human-induced changes on wintering grounds, brown headed cow birds, and pesticide use on wintering areas may be responsible for declines in some species.

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Item 11: Validation of Resource Prediction Models: Wildlife

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 2 to 6 years (FY 1989 to 1995)

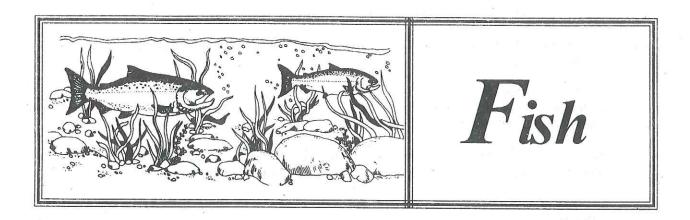
<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Major or significant refinements to wildlife models will be determined through coordination with other agencies including the Nez Perce Tribe and should be supported by research findings and will require Forest plan amendment. Local biologist judgment and experience is currently being used to supplement and temper the elk guidelines model in specific management situations as recommended in the current guidelines.

Discussion:

Evolving elk management issues and the influences of popular new off-road access vehicles are not addressed by the current summer elk habitat effectiveness guidelines.

The Forest is actively participating in a cooperative effort to evaluate and offer recommendations to update the elk summer habitat guidelines. Wildlife Biologists and agency managers from the IDFG, Nez Perce Tribe, Clearwater National Forest and Nez Perce National Forest are working to culminate tasks explored by the Venture 20 effort. Biologists are reviewing the elk model methodology for applicability and consistency.

A Forest Plan amendment or revision process with public input will be used if considered elk modeling modifications resulting from the Venture 20 exercise or similar coordination are formally proposed to update the Forest Plan.



Item 1f: Fish Habitat Improvements--Numbers of Acres and Structures

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability which would Initiate Further Evaluation: +/- 10% of Plan targets within a decade.

Prior to FY96, Forest Plan direction and emphasis for fisheries management included the desired future condition of streams for anadromous and resident fish habitat at 87 and 81 percent of biological potential Forest-wide, respectively. Since the beginning of FY96, the Nez Perce Forest Plan was updated by Amendment 20 ("PACFISH") and includes specific management direction for streamside vegetation (riparian habitat conservation areas, or RHCAs) and stream habitat (riparian management objectives, or RMOs).

FY 96 also included the addition of a new target, in line with large-scale changes in approaches to managing fisheries habitat. This target, "miles of stream protected", was included in the FY96 appropriation in addition to acres of improvement, numbers of structures, and acres or miles of inventory.

Prior to Amendment 20, the Forest Plan described management goals which: A) Provide and maintain a diversity and quality of habitat that ensures a harvestable surplus of resident and anadromous game fish species; B) Provide and maintain a diversity and quality of habitat to support viable populations of native and desirable non-native wildlife species, C) Provide habitat to contribute to the recovery of Threatened and Endangered plan and animal species in accordance with approved recovery plans, and D) Provide habitat to ensure the viability of those species identified as sensitive.

Specific Fisheries Objectives are designed to increase Anadromous fish habitat potential to 87 percent, 1 percent above the present level of 86 percent of habitat potential, through four measures: direct habitat improvement, soil and water resource improvement, use of fishery/water quality objectives for individual drainages, and maintenance of current high habitat levels in areas designated to remain roadless. These improvement measures will also benefit sensitive fish species identified around the time of the Forest Plan's inception (1987).

Sensitive species included chinook salmon, steelhead trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and bull trout. Since then, fall and spring/summer chinook salmon in the Salmon River basin have been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, fall chinook salmon in the Clearwater basin have been listed as threatened, steelhead trout in both basins are proposed as threatened, and bull trout have been listed as a C1 candidate species. A petition to list westslope cutthroat trout as threatened or endangered may be pending.

Amendment 20 includes the following direction:

- Maintain or restore water quality to a degree that provides for stable and productive riparian and aquatic ecosystems.
- Maintain or restore stream channel integrity, channel processes, and the sediment regime (including the elements of timing, volume, and character of sediment input and transport) under which the riparian and aquatic ecosystems developed.
- 3. Maintain or restore instream flows to support healthy riparian and aquatic habitats, the stability and effective function of stream channels, and the ability to route flood discharges.
- 4. Maintain or restore natural timing and variability of the water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.
- 5. Maintain or restore diversity and productivity of native and non-native plant communities in riparian zones.
- 6. Maintain or restore riparian vegetation to:
 - (a) Provide an amount and distribution of large woody debris characteristic of natural aquatic and riparian ecosystems,
 - (b) Provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation within the riparian and aquatic zones; and
 - (c) Help achieve rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration characteristic of those under which the communities developed.
- 7. Maintain or restore riparian and aquatic habitats necessary to foster the unique genetic fish stocks that evolved within the specific geo-climatic region; and
- 8. Maintain or restore habitat to support populations of well-distributed native and desired non-native plant, vertebrate, and invertebrate populations that contribute to the viability of riparian-depedent communities.

In addition, Amendment 20 also specifies that monitoring will be used to verify that PACFISH standards and guidelines were applied during project implementation (implementation monitoring) and to assess whether those protective measures are adequate to maintain riparian goals and management objectives (effectiveness monitoring).

One important source of information to monitor progress in both Forest Plan and Amendment 20 specifications is the annual budget. Allowable variation in this element would be +/- 10 percent of scheduled improvement dollars/targets. If the annual budget for direct habitat improvement and maintenance falls outside of these bounds, considering all sources of funding, the program would be further evaluated and the necessary adjustments in Forest outputs will be made.

Monitoring Results - Acres and Structures Accomplished, Miles of Stream Restored

Fish habitat improvements were traditionally reported as the number of structures and acres of improvements accomplished. In FY 96 this was changed to miles of stream restored and included both the acres improved and number of structures components. Fish habitat structures include structures used to provide fish cover, feeding, and rearing habitat (e.g., log check dams, rock v-berms, boulder clusters, stumps, side channel improvements), to improve fish habitat by reducing bank or channel erosion (e.g., gabions, log deflectors, rock riprap), and to provide or improve fish passage (e.g., fish ladders). Acres of habitat improvement refers to nonstructural habitat improvements that benefit fish. This includes the improvement

or establishment of spawning and rearing habitat through gravel placement or cleaning, stream bank stabilization, riparian vegetation restoration, and the number of acres of fish habitat made available to fish by removal of barriers to fish movement.

Direct habitat improvements and the maintenance of existing improvement measures are key elements in meeting fish habitat production goals for the Forest. The fish/water quality objectives in Appendix A of the Forest Plan indicate that several drainages are currently below their desired objective. This monitoring effort is designed to ensure that the direct habitat improvements scheduled for these streams are accomplished and the habitat is improved to the stated objective.

Additional sources of information on this element are quarterly attainment reports which will be monitored to ensure projects are being completed in a timely manner. Quality of work will be monitored through field review of projects to insure that state-of-the-art habitat improvement techniques are being employed. Project funds are used to monitor improvement measures to ensure that fish populations are responding as expected.

Beginning in fiscal year 1990, habitat improvement dollars allocated to the Forest were broken out for anadromous and inland fisheries; prior to 1990 these funds were combined. For each mile of stream surveyed, one acre of accomplishment was reported.

For FY96, the Forest's total budget allocation for anadromous fish was \$775M and \$35M for inland fish. Targets included 255 miles of streams protected, 41 miles of streams restored, and 0 miles of streams inventoried. The Forest Plan displayed an annual projection of 400 acres and/or structures of habitat improvement accomplished per year. Targets accomplished for FY96 included 42 miles of stream restored. Assuming an average stream width of 3.0 meters, 42 miles translates roughly to about 46 acres This amounts to 11 percent of the Forest Plan annual projection of 400 acres and/or structures of habitat improvement. Also in 1996, the Forest accomplished 95 miles of stream inventory although no inventory target was assigned. The Forest Plan did not project an accomplishment figure for miles of stream inventory. A more complete understanding of the watershed is required before instream structural improvement will be employed. The stream surveys are an important part of gaining that understanding.

A summary of the above information is shown in the following table.

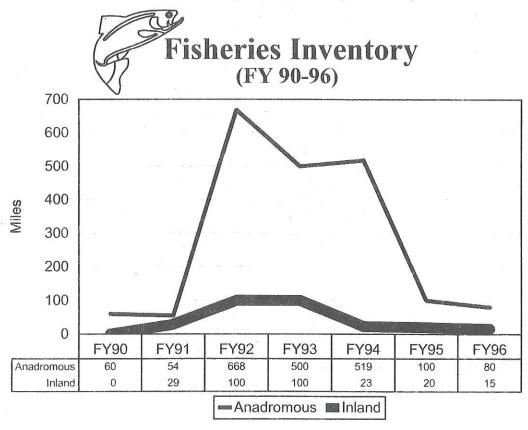
Fish Category	Funding Source	Miles Accom- plished	Structures Complete	Miles of Inventory
Inland	Appropriated	3	N/A	15
Anadromous	Appropriated	39	N/A	80
Inland	Contributed	0	N/A	N/A
Anadromous	Contributed	0	N/A	N/A
Inland	ΚV	0	. 0	N/A
Anadromous	KV	0	10	N/A
Totals	All Sources	42	10	95

Inventory: Although inventory targets were not assigned in FY96, the following stream inventory was conducted. The cooperative bull trout study with Idaho Fish and Game and Bureau of Land Management in the South Fork Clearwater continued, with a special focus this year on the bull trout population in Upper Red River. This involved inventory work in the potential upstream nursery areas of the drainage.

Inventory of the Meadow Creek (Selway) drainage was conducted in 1996 to obtain data in unroaded watersheds suitable for developing reference stream conditions. A complete basinwide survey was conducted in mainstem Meadow Creek and two significant tributaries, Buck Lake and East Meadow Creeks.

This survey was part of a two-year survey of the Meadow Creek drainage and was contracted. The portion of the mainstem surveyed in 1996 extended from the mouth of Schwar Creek upstream to the headwaters; the remainder will be surveyed in 1997. A total of 56 miles was surveyed in 1996, with the remaining eight miles to be surveyed in 1997.

Basinwide stream surveys were also conducted in the following streams: mainstem Lower Slate Creek from the mouth upstream to the Forest Service boundary, mainstem Goddard Creek from its confluence with the Selway River upstream to the headwaters, and four reaches in the Newsome watershed. A total of about 24 miles were surveyed with the basinwide method, in addition to those surveyed in Meadow Creek. Chinook salmon redd surveys were conducted in Main Red River, South Fork Red River, Upper Red River, and Lower Slate Creek for a total of 23 miles. Electrofishing and/or snorkel surveys were conducted in the lower reaches of Silver Creek and Fiddle Creek. Cutthroat trout were collected from Noble Creek, tributary to Big Mallard Creek, and sent to the University of Montana for genetic analysis.



Habitat Improvement

Twelve structures were placed in 19-Mile Creek, a third order tributary to the lower Selway River. This project was the continuation of a project initiated in 1994 with helicopter placement of logs and root wads throughout the watershed. The objective of this portion of the project was to improve fish passage into the stream and increase long-term channel stability near the mouth of the stream.

Funding for watershed improvement in the Goddard drainage was obligated in 1996, although the work is scheduled to begin in 1997. Work will include full obliteration of 1.5 miles of road constructed on landslide-prone terrain. Portions of this road have slumped into Goddard Creek each year since it was constructed in 1991. In addition, obliteration and rehabilitation of old roads and ORV trails on Iron Mountain (in the O'Hara watershed) were completed in 1996.

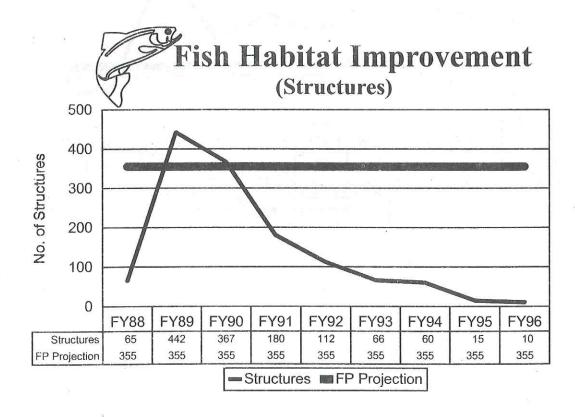
Fish passage in Peasley Creek was improved by modification of a culvert and addition of step structures to improve the approach to the culvert. Fish passage in Mill Creek was also facilitated by dispersal (not

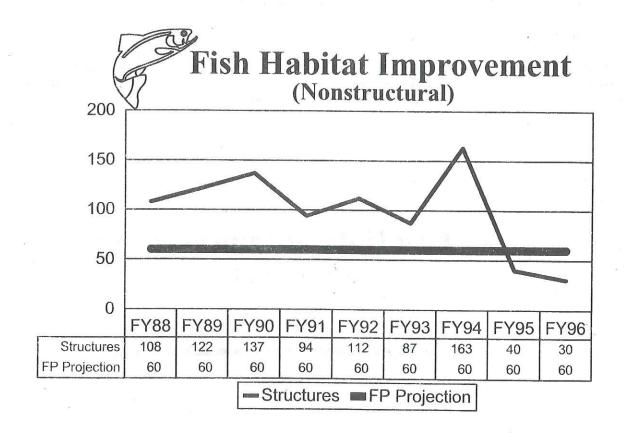
removal) of debris in the channel. For road obliteration, about 1.0 mi were completed in Bully Cree, 3.5 in American Creek, 1.0 mi in Deer Creek, and 1.5 mi in Mill Creek.

To address grazing impacts in Little Slate Meadows, a fence was constructed around problem areas, which combined with a number of other watershed improvements, resulted in improved watershed condition. These other improvements included 0.5 mi of road obliteration and planting and stabilizing eroding banks on existing roads. Improvements in other drainages included road stabilization in the Chair watershed and 10 acres of seeding and fertilization in the Allison and Fiddle watersheds.

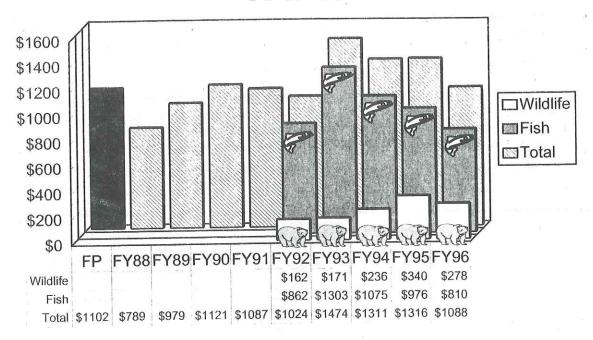
Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Forest lands management of aquatic habitats was done to provide for protection and, where needed, recovery for all aquatic species at risk, including sensitive species (i.e. bull trout, steelhead, and cutthroat trout). It was recognized that it is important to work with these species and their habitat requirements prior to the need to list them under the ESA.





Wildlife/Fish Annual Budget FY 88 - 96



As previously discussed, fisheries habitat improvement (non-structural), fisheries habitat protection, and watershed improvement have been more emphasized on the Forest than instream structural improvement. This shift in emphasis mirrors that of current fisheries habitat management emphasis described in numerous, more recent publications and in the Forest Service's own emphasis on ecosystem management. Stream structures are generally viewed as only one step in watershed restoration and in many cases are unnecessary or even detrimental to achieving properly-functioning watersheds. The Nez Perce Forest has focused more on management of the entire watershed, including road density, access, landslide-prone areas, riparian areas, and equivalent clearcut area, than instream structures.

This shift in emphasis is not reflected specifically in the Forest Plan, although it is implicit in management direction listed in Amendment 20. An amendment to the Forest Plan specific to both implementation and effectiveness monitoring for all Forest Service actions is recommended to increase consistency with current management emphasis.

Existing structures in O'Hara Creek, Slate Creek, and Crooked River were reviewed by two hydrologists, a soil scientist, and a fisheries biologist in 1997 to determine the effectiveness of structures in contributing to overall watershed condition. Results were structure-specific, indicating that some structures contributed to proper watershed function, others detracted, and some were neutral. This review prompted renewed interest in structure maintenance, reconstruction, and in some cases renewal. A more comprehensive plan for existing structures is proposed for 1997.

* * * * * * * * * *

Item 2e: Fish Habitat Trends by Drainage

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 1 to 5 years (FY 1988 to 1992)

<u>Variability which would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: A measured decrease of 10% or more below established objectives.

Monitoring Results

A minimum of five years of data are necessary in order to establish baseline habitat conditions and determine relative change in condition at the permanent monitoring stations. One of the 23 permanent Forest fisheries monitoring sites, displayed in the following table, was measured in FY 1996. The table summarizes the type of information collected to date at each monitoring station.

Permanent Monitoring Station Name	Site Surveyed in FY 96	Years Having Habitat Survey Data	Years Having Fish Density Estimates	Habitat Map of Site Available?
N.Fk.White Bird Creek*	No	1988,1989,1990,1993,1994,1995	1988,1989,1990,1993,1994,1995	Yes
S.Fk.White Bird Creek	No	1988, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1995	1988,1989,1990,1993,1994,1995	Yes
N.Fk.Slate Creek*	No	1988, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1995	1988,1989,1990,1993,1994,1995	Yes
Little Slate Creek	No	1988,1989,1990,1993,1994,1995	1988,1989,1990,1991,1993,1994,1995	Yes
Johns Creek*	No	1987,1988,1989,1990,1991	1987,1988,1989,1990,1991,1993	Yes
North Meadow Creek	No	1988,1989,1991,1995	1988,1989,1993,1995	Yes
N.Fk.Red River Upper*	Yes	1988,1989,1990,1994	1989,1990,1994	Yes
N.Fk.Red River Lower*	Yes	1989,1990,1994	1989,1990,1994	Yes
Trapper*	Yes	1988,1989,1994	1989	Yes
S.Fk./W.F.Red River	No	1988,1989,1990	1000	Yes
Upper Big Mallard Cr.2	No	1987,1989,1990,1991,1993,1996	1989,1990,1991,1993,1996	Yes
Running Creek*	No	1988,1989,1990,1995	1988,1989,1990,1995	Yes
Bear Creek*	No	1988, 1989, 1990, 1995	1988,1989,1990,1995	Yes
O'Hara Creek	No	1988,1989,1990,1991	1988,1989,1990,1991	Yes
Gedney Creek	No	1989,1990,1991	1989,1990,1991	Yes
Meadow Creek Lower ^{3*}	No	1988,1989,1990,1991,1993	1988,1989,1990,1991,1993	Yes
Meadow Creek Middle ^{4*}	Yes	1990,1993,1994,1995	82-83,87-88,1990,1993,1994,	163
-*			1995	Yes
Sable Creek	Yes	1987,1988,1990,1993,1994	1983,1987,1988,1990,1993,1994	Yes
Butte Creek	Yes	1987,1988,1990,1993,1994	1987,1988,1990,1993,1994	Yes
Tenmile Creek*	Yes	1988,1990,1993,1994	1988,1990,1993,1994	Yes
Lower Crooked River*	Yes	1988,1990,1993,1994	1988,1990,1993,1994	Yes
Lower Newsome Creek*	Yes	1988,1990,1993,1994	1988,1990,1993,1994	Yes
Upper Newsome Creek*	Yes	1988,1990,1994	1988,1990,1994	Yes

^{*}Stream also monitored by Idaho Dept. Fish and Game (IDFG) for population densities.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Permanent Forest fisheries monitoring sites were established to monitor general fisheries habitat condition across the Forest (Forest Plan, 1987).

Most stream survey data must be collected during base flows, so a limited amount of time is available to accomplish all stream survey work. One solution to accomplish consistent collection of data at monitoring stations would be to have a field crew specifically for monitoring stations across the Forest. A lot of the data

¹ These stations were dropped from Forest Plan (amended in FY 88), but a channel and substrate survey was conducted in cooperation with Intermountain Research Station personnel.

² This station is incorrectly called "Slide Creek" in the Forest Plan, after the Slide Creek Sale. Actual site is on Big Mallard Creek. It is being used to monitor a road crossing. The Forest Plan will be amended to reflect this name change.

³ Station location moved upstream 100m in 1989 to a location with a better diversity of habitat.

⁴ Only fish populations are sampled at this station.

that has been collected in the past is inconclusive in determining a baseline habitat because data collection methodologies have varied from year to year.

Nine permanent monitoring stations have had five years or more of data collection. They are North Fork White Bird Creek, South Fork White Bird Creek, North Fork Slate Creek, Little Slate Creek, Johns Creek, Meadow Creek Lower, Meadow Creek Middle, Sable Creek and Butte Creek. There are large variations in such parameters as acting debris, potential debris, pool quality, and instream cover. These inexplicable variations suggest the possibility of inconsistencies in methodology or erroneous data collection in the field. These inconsistencies must be examined thoroughly before determining the validity of the monitoring results.

Comprehensive analysis of all monitoring station data is planned for FY97 and funding for this project has been obligated. Thorough assessment of these data should result in an improved monitoring plan and an Forest Plan amendment describing this plan.

STREAM SURVEYS:

Basinwide and Other Surveys -- streams surveyed in 1996 were described earlier in under Item 1f. Surveys generally resulted in baseline habitat and species distribution data.

Data from these surveys has been, and will continue to be utilized in conjunction with analyses associated with Section 7 watershed consultation, and other related NEPA commitments.

Item 2p: Implementation of PACFISH and Effects of Management Activities on Anadromous Fish

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

Discussion:

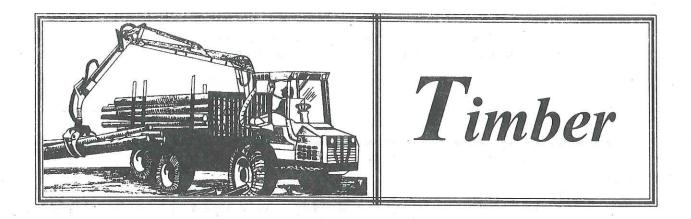
On May 22, 1992, the spring/summer and fall chinook salmon in the Salmon River drainage and the fall run chinook salmon in the Clearwater River were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). On May 26, 1995, both fish species were reclassified as endangered in an interim ruling, but since then the interim period ended with no further action, and the fish are again classified as threatened. In August 1996, steelhead trout in several coastal streams and in the Snake River basin were officially proposed for listing as threatened. A final ruling for listing is expected by the middle of August 1997. Bull trout are currently listed as a C1 candidate species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and may be officially proposed for listing under ESA. A petition to list westslope cutthroat trout may be pending also.

In response to the proposed steelhead listing, the Nez Perce Forest has been working cooperatively with the Clearwater National Forest and an interagency team composed of Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and State of Idaho to develop a strategic approach to recovery of steelhead. Implicit in this strategy is a common list of stream conditions, capability, and restoration needs. Also included in this effort is development or improvement of programmatic steelhead consultation with both the BLM and Clearwater National Forest and a context for project level consultation.

As previously discussed, the Nez Perce Forest Plan was amended by PACFISH (Amendment 20), with specific monitoring direction in addition to other direction listed under Item 2f. As per direction provided in Amendment 20, the Nez Perce Forest completed the 96 PACFISH Implementation Monitoring Report. The results of this report are summarized in the following table.

Project Name	District	Project type	Project Status¹	PACFISH Implem?	Watshd Anal Comp?	Effect. Mon. Im- plem.
Papoose Allot	1	Range	ì	Yes	No	No
Sherwin Allot	1	Range	i	Yes	No	No
Cow Creek Allot	1	Range	l i	Yes	No	No
Butte Gospel Allot	1	Range	i	Yes	No	No
Road Mtnc, and Rep	1 1	Road	i i	No	No	No
No Business TS	1 i	Timber	i	Yes	No	No
Shingle Fk TS	1	Timber	î	Yes	No	No
Berg Salvage	1	Timber	i	Yes	No	No
Hurley Cr. Road	1	Road Access	Ì	No	No	No
CRS TS	4	Timber	1	Yes	No	No
Corral Hill TS	4	Timber	Р	Yes	No	No
TwentyMile TS	4	Timber	1	Yes	No	No
Lower Cougar TS	4	Timber	l l	Yes	No	No
Silver West TS	4	Timber	- 1	Yes	No	No
Winter Survey TS	4	Timber	1	Yes	No	No
Otter Wing TS	4	Timber	Р	Yes	Yes	No
Sweed Meadow TS	4	Timber	Р	Yes	No	No
Silver Quartz TS	4	Timber	Р	Yes	No	No
Ridge Running TS	4	Timber	Р	Yes	No	No
Goose Dump Slvg	4	Timber	С	Yes	No	No
H-M Burning	4	Fire	1	Yes	No	No
D-4 Plantations	4	Fire	1	Yes	No	No
SF Clearwater	4	Fire	P	Yes	No	No
Whitebird Allot	4	Range	- I	Yes	No	No
Corral Hill Allot	4	Range		Yes	No	No
Meadow/Lightning	4	Range	!	Yes	No	No
Hungry Ridge Allot	4	Range	1	Yes	No	No
Big Cove Allot	4	Range	!	Yes	No	No
Earthquake Allot	4	Range	1	Yes	No	No
Blacktail Allot	4	Range	1	Yes	No	No
Tahoe/Clear Cr	4	Range	. !	Yes	No	No
Manes Land Xchange	5/8	Lands Timber	P P	Yes Yes	No No	No No
806 TS	5/8 5/8	Timber	P	Yes	No	No
Motherlode Slvg Windy Point TS	5/8	Timber	P	Yes	No	No
Moose Butte Slvg	5/8	Timber	P	Yes	No	No
Mackey Day Slvg	5/8	Timber	i . i	Yes	Yes	Yes
Crooked Cr Channel	5/8	Watershed	P	Yes	No	Yes
Petsite	5/8	Mining	P	Yes	No	No
Prosp/Bunny Slvg	5/8	Timber	P	Yes	No	No
Limber Meadows	5/8	Timber	l i	Yes	No	No
Boundary Trail	5/8	Recreation	P	Yes	No	No
Fitness Trail	5/8	Timber	P	Yes	No	No
Million Dollar	5/8	Mining	P	Yes	No	No.
Salmon R Burn	5/8	Fire	Р	Yes	No	No
RR Face Burn	5/8	Fire	P	Yes	No	No
Noble TS	5/8	Timber	l i	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jack TS	5/8	Timber	i	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lone Park TS	5/8	Timber	P	Yes	Yes	Yes
96 Salv Sales	5/8	Timber	1	Yes	No	No
Control (1970) 1970 1970 1970 1970 1970 1970 1970 1970	■ 137.5.25	Mining	. 2	Yes	No	No

Project Name	District	Project type	Project Status¹	PACFISH Implem?	Watshd Anal Comp?	Effect Mon. Im- plem.
Upper Swiftwater	6/7	Timber	Р	Yes	No	Yes
Middle Fork TS	6/7	Timber	Р	Yes	Yes	Yes
Selway Trail 4	6/7	Trail	С	Yes	No	Yes
O'Hara Campground	6/7	Recreation	С	Yes	No	No
Road Maint/Repair	6/7	Road	1	Yes	No	No
19-Mile Struct	6/7	Watershed	C	Yes	No	Yes
O'Hara Restoration	6/7	Watershed	Р	Yes	No -	Yes
Goddard Rest	6/7	Watershed	Р	Yes	No	Yes
Meadow Cr Trail	6/7	Trail	1	Yes	No	No
Rackliff Trail	6/7	Trail	P	Yes	No	No
O'Hara Trail	6/7	Trail	С	Yes	No	No
Meadow Cr Bridge	6/7	Trail	Р	Yes	No	No
Gedney Trail	6/7	Trail	·C	No	No	No
Glover Trail	6/7	Trail	Р	No	No	No
East Moose Bridge	6/7	Trail	Р	Yes	No	No
Butte Cr Bridge	6/7	Trail	Р	No	No	No
9730 Salvage	6/7	Timber	Р	Yes	No	No
SOB Salvage	6/7	Timber	Р	Yes	No	No
East Meadow Burn	6/7	Fire	Р	. Yes	No	No
Selway Slump	6/7	Road/Timber	С	Yes	No	No
O'Hara Slump	6/7	Road/Timber	С	No	No	No
Noxious Weeds	6/7	Chem Weed	P	Yes	No	No



Item 1h-1: Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) Sold By Components

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Any change in ASQ achievement altering the implementation of the long-term goals and objectives displayed in Forest Plan Chapter 2 (Forest-wide Management Direction) and Chapter 3 (Management Area Direction) may necessitate a Forest Plan Amendment.

Discussion:

The allowable sale quantity (ASQ) is defined as the maximum timber volume that may be sold during the planning period from the suitable land base. The ASQ is a sold-volume ceiling, and is monitored yearly against the average annual ceiling of 108 MMBF chargeable volume. This chargeable volume is divided into two components: regular (green live and recently dead resulting from insect/ disease or fire) and non-interchangeable (pulp/cedar products and endemic mortality). Nonchargeable volume is not considered as part of the ASQ when it is sold, since this component was not used in calculating the ASQ. Products that are included in the nonchargeable component include: firewood, volume removed from unsuitable lands and volume too small or defective to meet Regional utilization standards such as post and poles.

Although this item is monitored on an annual basis, actual ASQ achievement will be based on the decade total. Yearly figures may be above or below the Forest plan ASQ ceiling of 108 MMBF (103 MMBF regular and 5 MMBF non-interchangeable).

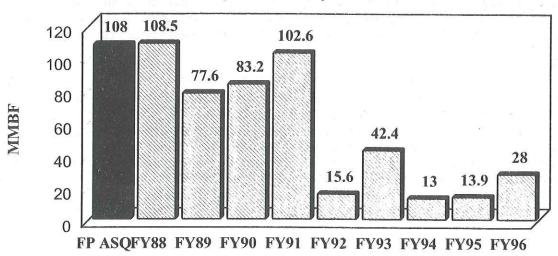
Monitoring Results:

CHARGEABLE VOLUME SOLD IN FY 1988-1995¹ (Volume Credited Toward ASQ on an Annual Basis)

Components					Volume (I	MMBF)	Y		
	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY95	FY96
Regular Non-interchangeable (NIC)	104.8	68.9	70.2	94.3	1.3	32.1	6.6	7.5	25.6
Pulp	1.3	7.6	10.3	4.8	14.2	10.2	6.4	6.4	2.5
Cedar Products	2.4	1.1	2.7	3.5	0.1	0.1			
Total	108.5	·77.6	83.2	102.6	15.6	42.4	13.0	13.9	28.1

¹ The ASQ accomplishment breakdown was based on the Nez Perce Periodic Timber Sale Accomplishment Report accumulated as of September 30, 1996 (fiscal year summary).

Chargeable Volume Sold By Year (FY 88 - 96)



Nine years of sold sale monitoring have shown that the Nez Perce has sold 61 percent of the scheduled acres, which contained only 68 percent of the average annual ASQ volume. There are very strong indications that the timber yield estimates (volume/acre) contained in the Forest Plan were overestimated (see Table 11-a). This issue will be addressed in the Forest Plan revision.

Analysis of the two ASQ components on the Forest (regular green and non-interchangeable) shows that in the first eight years of the planning decade (beginning in 1988) the Forest has sold 44 percent of the sawlog component and 164 percent of the non-interchangeable (NIC) component (pulp and cedar products).

In fiscal year 1996, the Forest sold 2.4 MMBF of the nonchargeable component (not counted as part of the ASQ). This was primarily firewood (both commercial and personal use) and post/pole material.

ASQ VOLUME SOLD TO DATE

Avg. Annual ASQ	1996 Chargeable Volume Sold	Total Chargeable Volume Sold to Date*	% of Avg. Annual ASQ Sold for 9 Years
103.0MM/year (sawlogs)	25.6MM	411.3MM	44
5.0MM/year (pulp/cedar prod)	2.5MM	73.6MM	164
108.0 MM/year (total)	28.1 MM	484.9 MM	50

^{*} In fiscal years 1988-1996, which are the first 9 years of the decade covered under the Forest Plan.

FUTURE ASQ SELL REQUIRED TO MEET DECADAL CEILING

Total Decadal ASQ Ceiling	Total Chargeable Volume Sold to Date*	% of Decadal Ceiling	FY 97 Avg. Annual Sell Required to Meet ASQ
1,030MM (sawlogs)	411.3MM	40	618.7MM/year
50MM (pulp/cedar prod)	73.6MM	1471	None

^{*} In fiscal years 1988-1996, which are the first 9 years of the decade covered under the Forest Plan.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results

In order to meet the total decadal ASQ ceiling of 1,080 MM, the Forest must offer 618.7 MM (an average of 316.1 MMBF/year) during the last year of the decade. The timber management section on the Forest is currently in a downsizing mode. Timber funding is expected to decrease. Other resource standards are proving to be much more constraining on timber harvest than originally anticipated. We suspect that yields were overestimated in the Forest Plan. Taken together, these factors indicate that selling the full first decade ASQ will not occur.

<u>Item 1h-2</u>: <u>Financed Volume Offered Attainment by Components</u>

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

Discussion:

Each year Congress appropriates funding to accomplish annual timber targets. Given the fluctuation in funding from year to year, these annual "timber targets" are not necessarily the same as the Forest's average annual ASQ. The achievement of financed "timber targets" differs from ASQ achievement in the following ways:

Accomplishment of "timber targets" takes place when a sale is <u>offered</u> ... as opposed to ASQ accomplishment credited when a sale is <u>sold</u>. Normally, 45-60 days elapse between sale <u>offering</u> (advertisement in local paper) and sale <u>selling</u> (signing contract). Sales offered near the end of the fiscal year

may be credited toward the "timber target" in one fiscal year and credited toward ASQ in the next fiscal year.

2. Nonchargeable offered volume (firewood and posts/poles) may be included in "timber target" achievement. The ASQ volume does not include nonchargeable volume.

Monitoring Results:

CHARGEABLE AND NONCHARGEABLE VOLUME OFFERED IN FY 1988-1996

		4.2	-14	V	olume (MME	3F)			
	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
Assigned Target	103.0	108.0	104.0	100.0	77.0	66.0	53.0	50.0	13.8
Accomplishment (Vol- ume Offered) ¹	104.6	107.7	84.5	86.9	49.8	34.5	10.3	4.4	20.6
% of Target	102	99	81	87	65	52	20	9	149

¹ Target accomplishment based on yearend Periodic Timber Sale Accomplishment Report (PTSAR) taken from the STARS database yearend summary. Beginning in FY95, volume offered figures do not include volume which was identified as optional removal by the timber sale contract, and later removed by the purchaser.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

The Forest was financed to offer an average of 75 MMBF/year during the first 9 years of the decade. Actual accomplishment was 55.9 MMBF/year (75 percent of assigned timber target).

In FY 96, the Forest exceed its financed timber target by 6.8 MMBF.

Due to reductions in timber and timber-related funding, future financed "timber targets" are not expected to increase. The FY 97 financed "timber target" on the Nez Perce is 31.7 MMBF.

Item 1i: Acres Timber Harvested by Method (Includes Precommercial Thinning)

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

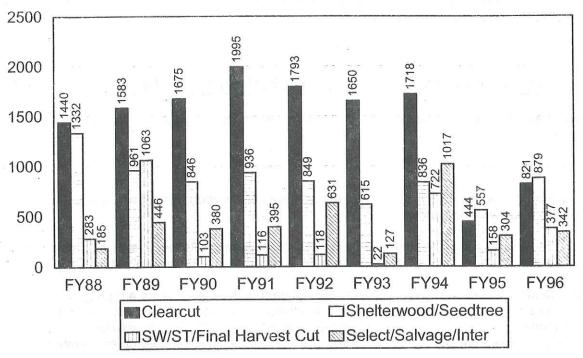
Reporting Period: Annually

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: Unacceptable results of an interdisciplinary review.

Monitoring Results:

Harvesting took place on 2,419 acres (34 percent clearcut, 36 percent seed and prep cut from shelterwood and seed tree, 9 percent salvage, 16 percent from final harvest, and 5 percent from other cutting methods). It should be noted that harvest acres represent the acres actually harvested in FY 96, and do not necessarily correspond to acres sold. Most sales have a contract life of from 2-6 years. It is likely that some of the harvested acres may have come from sales sold as early as 1992. The volume under contract has been going down for the past 3-4 years, but appears to have stablized. As of the end of FY 96, there was 60 MMBF under contract.

Acres Harvested By Method FY 88 - 96



Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

In the past, when the Forest had more than one year's worth of harvest volume under contract, the harvest acres were reflective of market conditions. In FY96, with less than one year's worth of volume under contract (based on 85 MM harvest average over the last 5 years), we expect harvest acres to be less.

Item 2f: Vegetative Response to Treatments

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 5 years (FY 1997)

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Data and analysis which would indicate that projected vields from regenerated stands are in error.

Discussion:

Permanent growth plots provide a means to assess and predict the results of silvicultural treatments. An important function is to assess the accuracy of managed stand yield tables in forest planning models. These yield tables were built using Prognosis (now called Forest Vegetation Simulator - FVS), a growth simulation model.

Since 1979, about 50 permanent plots suitable for monitoring treatment effects have been installed. Thirty-six were remeasured at 5 years and 24 were remeasured 10 years after installation. In 1995, plots of similar age and productivity were remeasured 10 years after installation. Measured growth was compared to FVS projected growth (see 1995 Monitoring Report).

Six plots were scheduled for remeasurement in 1996. None were remeasured nor was any analysis of previous year's remeasurements done due to lack of funds. Presently the Northern Region is trying to determine which plots to remeasure on a 5 year scheulde, which to delay or put on a 10 year remeasurement cycle, and which to discontinue monitoring.

Item 4: Acres of Harvested Land Restocked Within 5 Years

Frequency of Measurement: Annual for 1-, 3-, and 5-year-old regenerated stands (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 5 years

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Significant deviation from 5-year regeneration period after data is reviewed by an interdisciplinary team.

Discussion: Data for this item comes from the Timber Stand Management Record System and is summarized with the reforestation history (1/14/97), reforestation index report, and reforestation status (1/13/97) report.

Monitoring Results: Ninety-two percent of the acres planted in the past 5 years are progressing toward satisfactory stocking (are stocked). Replants are scheduled on the acres (8 percent) needing additional stocking. Natural regeneration is certified or progressing on 96 percent of acres harvested in the past 5 years. The remaining 4 percent are scheduled for additional treatment to insure successful regeneration.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results: Reforestation success has remained static to slightly improving since Forest Plan monitoring began. Dry summers extending into fall and animal damage have been the primary contributors to seedling mortality.

Item 5: Site-Specific Examination to Determine Suitability of Land for Timber Management

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 10 years (FY 1997)

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: Significant changes in suitable acres.

Discussion: Since the Forest Plan was implemented in 1987, land suitability classes have been assigned to individual stands. This is done during the compartment exam process and by interdisciplinary analysis for proposed projects. As stands are delineated, examined, or considered for treatment, suitability is assigned and recorded in the timber stand data base.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

As land suitability has been updated in the timber stand data base it is apparent that differences from forest plan assignments are becoming more significant. The entire suitability process must be re-evaluated in the revised forest plan. New proposed planning regulations have been published in the Federal Register. When and if these regulations are implemented, they should provide additional direction on this issue. This process could revise the specific criteria for describing tentatively suitable forest lands.

The results of monitoring changes in suitability are scheduled to be fully evaluated during the Forest Plan revision.

* * * * * * * *

Item 6: Maximum Size of Opening for Harvest Units

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annual

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: Unacceptable results of an interdisciplinary team review.

Discussion: Openings, as addressed in the Northern Region Guide, apply to all even-aged silviculture systems which include clearcut, shelterwood, and seed tree. Openings may occur when even-aged systems are initiated. Where timber management is the driving objective, the opening occurs when the regeneration harvest entry is completed as the stocking levels are below the desired future condition. The only exception would be a preparatory cut in a shelterwood system. Even-aged silviculture systems may or may not create openings for other resource objectives depending on the desired outcome of the harvest.

Monitoring Results: Two units were sold that exceeded 40 acres. A 46 acre opening will result from salvaging trees from a fire created opening. A 60 acre clearcut with reserves will result from salvaging a stand with severe root disease. Both were analyzed by an inter-disciplinary team and the public notified.

Item 11: Validation of Resource Prediction: Timber (Sold Acres in FY 88-95)

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 2 to 6 years (FY 1988 to 1996)

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: If validation efforts show a need for changes to existing resource predictions.

Monitoring Results:

Validation Monitoring: The Forest Plan contains estimates of the following four elements for the acres contained in timber sales scheduled to be sold during the first decade. These estimates were used to help derive the Forest's allowable sale quantity (ASQ) ceiling.

- Net volume per acre by silvicultural system
- Total acres by silvicultural system
- Distribution of total acres (%) by silvicultural system
- Total acres by Management Area (MA)

The following four tables display the Forest Plan estimates as well as actual FY 88-96 data taken from sold sales during this period. Sales contained in the actual FY 88-96 sold data include all sales of chargeable (ASQ) volume having an appraisal (Forest Supervisor and District Ranger authority timber sales). Offered sales that did not sell are not included.

Table 11-a -- Sold Net Volume/Acre by Silvicultural System

Siivicultural System	Forest Plan Estimated Volume/Acre (MBF)	FY88 Voj/Acre (MBF)	FY89 Vol/Acre (MBF)	FY 90 Vol/Acre (MBF)	FY 91 Vol/Acre (MBF)	FY 92 Vol/Acre (MBF)	FY 93 Vol/Acre (MBF)	FY 94 Vol/Acre (MBF)	FY 95 Vol/Acre (MBF)	FY 96 Vol/Acre (MBF)	Weighted Avg. @ FY 88-96 (MBF)
Clearcut(Units)	32.5	24.5	24.1	19.7	24.9	15.9	16.8	none sold	14.7	25.4	22.9
Clearcut(Rd ROW)	32.5	29.4	16.4	17.8	19.0	none sold	24.0	none sold	9.9	27.0	20.9
SW Prep Cut	none planned	19.3	none sold	5.3	none sold	5.9					
SW/ST Seed Cut ²	18.3	.15.5	15.4	15.9	15.6	none sold	11.6	none sold	8.4	18.5	14.9
SW/ST Final Cut ^a	5.0	57.6	8.4	7.3	5.9	none sold	4.7	13.6	none sold	7.7	5.5
Sanitation/Salvage	none planned	8.9	11.1	2.5	4.1	1.8	9.7	1.7	1.9	8.3	4.9
Commercial Thin	5.9	none sold	none sold	2.5	12.2	none sold	none sold	4.3	5,9	5.9	6.7
Selection Cut	12.6	4.6	none sold	12.8	none sold	8.0	11.9	none sold	none sold	7.0	6.9
Weighted Average	22,6	16.3	20.6	15.7	17.3	3.5	10.7	6.0	9.6	16.7	15.55
*Weighted by acres sold											

Table 11-b -- Distribution of Sold Acres by Silvicultural System

Clearcut(Units) Clearcut(PdROW)	inc above	3 40	4 61	on Oi	9 35	none sold	a 10	none sold	34	oo di	л О
Clearcut(RdROW)	inc above	3	4	On	9	none sold	з	none sold	12	8	on
SW Prep Cut	none planned	4	none sold	22	none sold	ı	7				
SW/ST Seed Cut ²	56	24	22	23	37	none sold	46	none sold	35	38	29
SW/ST Final Cut ³	S	29	o	10	11	none sold	20	36	none sold	ω	17
Sanitation/Salvage	none planned	1	-	7	7	84	19	61	13	22	10
Commercial Thin	20	none sold	none sold	_	_	none sold	none sold	4	თ	o o	4
Selection Cut	ω	ω	none sold	_	none sold	7	2	none sold	none sold	æ	ъ
Totals	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 11-c -- Total Acres Sold by Silvicultural System

Silvicultural System	Forest Pian Scheduled Acres/Year	FY 88 Acres Sold	FY 89 Acres Sold	FY 90 Acres Sold	FY 91 Acres Sold	FY 92 Acres Sold	FY 93 Acres Sold	FY 94 Acres Sold	FY 95 Acres Sold	FY 96 Acres Sold	Average FY89-96 Acres/Year
Clearcut(Units)	1,710	2;607	1,989	2,146	1,923	15	284	none sold	237	246	1,050
Clearcut(RdROW)	inc.above	239	144	191	503	none sold	87	none sold	86	142	155
SW Prep Cut	none planned	9	plos auou	69	none sold	none sold	o				
SW/ST Seed Cut ²	2,705	1,549	731	066	2,029	none sold	1384	none sold	249	627	840
SW/ST Final Cut ³	130	1,921	374	455	602	none sold	808	355	plos euou	26	486
Sanitation/Salvage	none planned.	52	23	317	386	145	574	909	92	376	286
Commercial Thin	100	none sold	none sold	34	67	none sold	none sold	38	42	109	32
Selection Cut*	125	189	none sold	31	none sold	12	45	none sold	none sold	128	. 45
Totals	4,770	6,560	3,261	4,233	5,510	172	2,982	666	706	1,687	2,902

First entry in a 3 or 4 step shelterwood. The goal is to open up the canopy to improve seed production.

2 Regeneration cut, where the trees left will provide the seed for the next stand of trees.

3 Final harvest of a SW/ST ... commonly called an *everstory removal*. Figures shown in the actual sold volume/acre include both final harvest of *managed stands* and liberation harvest (overstory removal in natural stands)

4 This refers to uneven aged management...either group or individual tree selection.

Table 11-d -- Total Acres Sold by Management Area (MA)

White general Emphasis Flats Plant Pla													
Higherian 180 139 176 38 1 4 13 13 Timber 2,543 5,083 2,374 3,305 3,601 160 1,722 621 605 1,556 2,1 Aggreg(12/16/17) 75	CMA	Management Emphasis	Forest Plan Scheduled Acres/Year	FY 88 Ac.Sold	FY 89 Ac.Sold	FY 90 Ac.Sold	FY 91 Ac.Sold	FY 92 Ac.Sold	FY 93 Ac.Sold	FY 94 Ac.Sold	FY 95 Ac.Sold	FY 96 Ac.Sold	Average FY83-96 Acres/Year
Aggregitz/17) 756 2.543 5.083 2.374 3.306 3.501 160 1,792 621 621 662 1,556 3.50 Aggregitz/17) 75	5	Riparian	180	****	139	103	176	ı	38	·	4	13	53
Aggreg(12/17) 75 —	2	Timber	2,543	5,083	2,374	3,305	3,501	160	1,792	621	605	1,556	2,111
Aggreg(12/16/17) 60 —	_т	Aggreg (12/17)	75		1	1	1	ı	1	1	ı	1	ı
Aggreg(12/16) 702 —	4	Aggreg (12/16/17)	09		I	l	1	ı	1	ı	1	1	1
Elk/Dear Winter Range 500 1,245 509 150 1,424 — 404 359 — 10 10 Visual/Scenic 388 71 173 647 409 12 — — 97 67 7 Aggreg/16/17/3 197 — — — 97 67 Old Growth none 35 22 — —		Aggreg (12/16)	702	1	1	ı	I	ı	Ĩ	ı	ı	-	1
Visual/Scenic 386 71 173 647 409 12 — — 97 67 67 Aggreg(16/17) 197 —	ω	Elk/Deer Winter Range	200	1,245	509	150	1,424	-	404	359	ı	9	456
Aggreg(16/17) 197 —	7	Visual/Scenic	388	7.1	173	647	409	12	Ĕ,	1	97	67	164
Old Growth none 35 22 — — 713 — — — — Mose Winter Range 110 126 44 28 — — 35 18 — 24 Municipal Watersheds 15 — — — — — — — 24 TOTALS 4,770 6,560 3,261 4,233 5,510 172 2,982 999 706 1,687 2,982	ω	Aggreg (16/17)	197	-	1	- 11	ı	1	ı	1	1	ı	I
Moose Winter Range 110 126 44 28 18 24 28 Municipal Watersheds 15 <	0	Old Growth	none planned	35	22	•	¥II	ı	713	1	ı	1	98
Municipal Watersheds 15	-	Moose Winter Range	110	126	44	28	ı	1	35	18	1	24	31
4,770 6,560 3,261 4,233 5,510 172 2,982 999 706 1,687	(C)	Municipal Watersheds	15	1	ı	1	1	1	I	1	Ĩ	ı	
		TOTALS	4,770	6,560	3,261	4,233	5,510	172	2,982	666	706	1,687	2,901

Management areas (MA) 13, 14, 15, and 18 are aggregates of other management areas. For instance, management area 13 includes intermingled acreages of MA-12 (timber) and MA-17 (visual/scenic); the exact acres of each MA are unknown. During project analysis, these aggregate MAs will be broken into their respective parts based on site-specific data. Sold acres reflect this breakdown.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

From the actual data for sold sales in FY 88-96, the following trends can be identified:

- Actual net cruised volume/acre (all silviculture systems) on sold sales continues to be less (31 percent) than that estimated in the Forest Plan (see Table 11-a). In looking at individual silviculture systems, the largest volume/acre difference between Forest Plan and actual FY88-96 figures continues to be in clearcutting (30 percent less) followed by SW/ST seed cuts (21 percent less). The SW/ST final harvest units yielded 32 percent more net volume than the Forest Plan estimate. Other systems also varied, but the sample size is too small to be significant.
- Actual FY 88-96 data for silvicultural system distribution also varies significantly from the Forest Plan estimates (see Tables 11-b and 11-c).
- The combined FY 88-96 sold acres are 39 percent less than the average annual sold acres estimated in the Forest Plan.

In order to be more consistent with the Forest Plan, future sales should consider less clearcut/final harvest prescriptions and more shelterwood/seed tree regeneration seed cuts. Also, given the fall down in volume per acre in sold sales compared with Forest Plan estimates, the Forest will continue to monitor closely and explore existing inventory data to determine if the FY 88-96 trends can be expected to continue.

Roadless Volume and Acres Sold

The following acres and timber volume sold on the Nez Perce NF were within inventoried roadless areas. During the first nine years of Forest Plan implementation, the Forest sold less volume in inventoried roadless areas than the decadal Forest Plan projection.

Roadless Volume and Acres Sold by Fiscal Year

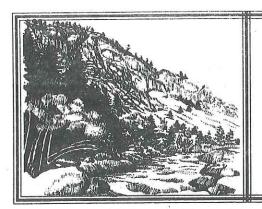
Fiscal Year	Roadless Volume Sold (MMBF)	Roadless Cutting Unit & Road Right-of-Way Acres
1988	6.3	246
1989	1.7	76
1990	7.4	402
1991	31.3	1,568
1992	0.0	0
1993	1.8	75
1994	4.9	359
1995	6.0	452
1996	0,0	0
Total	59.4	3,178

Roadless Volume and Acres as a Percentage of Total Sold

Total Chargeable Volume Sold MMBF (FY 88-96)	Actual Roadless Volume Percent- age	Total Sold Acres Included in Cutting Unit Road Right-of-Way, FY 88-96	Actual Roadless Acres Percent- age	Forest Plan Decadal Roadless Sell Estimate (%)
484.9	12	26,110	12	30

Roadless Acres Sold by Roadless Area

Number	Name	District	Sold Acres	Percent of Total Roadless Sold Acres
1894	Silver Creek-Pilot Knob	Clearwater	75	. 2
1921	Gospel Hump (Jersey-Jack)	Red River	833	26
1851	Little Slate Creek	Salmon River	667	21
1235	Dixie Summit - Nut Hill	Red River	402	13
1855	Salmon Face	Salmon River	174	5
1844	Clear Creek	Clearwater	150	5
1852	John Day	Salmon River	66	2
1841	Rackliff-Gedney	Selway	359	10
1847	Mallard	Red River	452	
	Total	=	3,178	100



Soil & Water

Item 1j: Soil and Water Rehabilitation and Improvements

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: If the Forest did not achieve its assigned target for the fiscal year.

Monitoring Results:

Implementation Monitoring: The assigned target for soil and water improvements using appropriated funds in Fiscal Year 1996 was 150 acres. The Forest Plan goal is 200 acres per year.

Summary of Improvements Accomplished in Fiscal Years 1988 - 1996

	Acres Improved								
Funding Source	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Soil and Water (NFSI and NFES)	74	131	159	120	214	244	243	314	190
Knutsen-Vandenburg (KV)	52	93	82	85	79	108	79	74	46
Road Maintenance	113	57	76	25	82	90	77	54	2
Other Funding	70	147	3	32	12	63	43	5	1
TOTAL	309	428	320	262	387	505	442	447	239

The following is a brief summary of 1996 watershed improvement projects by ranger district.

Salmon River Ranger District

The district reported accomplishment of 70 acres using NFSI and NFES funds. Projects included fencing to reduce all-terrain vehicle impacts, landslide revegetation, placement of open-top culverts, and revegetation of a mined site. Obliteration was accomplished on 1.4 miles of road in Little Slate Creek and contracted for 5.5 miles of road in East Fork John Day Creek. Both of these projects were post-flood

Clearwater Ranger District

The district reported accomplishment of 40 acres using NFSI and NFES funds. An additional 23 acres were accomplished using KV funds, for a total of 63 acres. Obliteration was accomplished on roads in the Cougar and Peasley Creek watersheds. Revegetation was accomplished on numerous areas needing erosion control around the District.

Red River/Elk City Ranger Districts

The two districts reported accomplishment of 30 acres using NFSI and NFES funds, 20 acres using KV funds, and 1 acre using other funds, for a total of 51 acres. Work included road obliteration, waterbar installation, drop inlet installation, ford hardening, revegetation, and sediment trap clean out. Work also continued continued on construction of an earthen berm sediment trap below the Haysfork hydraulic mining site.

Moose Creek/Selway Ranger Districts

The two districts reported accomplishment of 20 acres using NFSI and NFES funds and 3 acres using KV funds. An artificial salt lick was rehabilitated in in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. A decision was made not to proceed with lake level stabilization of Upper Bear Lake through partial removal of an abandoned irrigation dam. On the Selway Ranger District, projects included road obliteration, revegation, and/or drainage improvement. The contract was awarded for obliteration of road which had failures associated with the 1995 and 1996 flood events.

Effectiveness Monitoring: In 1996, the Clearwater Ranger District evaluated road improvement work implemented from 1992 to 1995 in the Clear Creek watershed. Of 26 sites evaluated, about 75% were functioning well and 25% were recommended for additional work.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results: Over the past nine years (1988-1996) the Nez Perce National Forest has exceeded the Forest Plan target of 200 acres for soil and water improvements. This trend has continued through 1996 (though at a diminished level) by accomplishing 190 acres with appropriated soil and water improvement funds and 49 acres through other funds. Overall effects of this improvement program on watershed and stream conditions are unknown at this time. Hopefully, trend monitoring at selected instream sites across the Forest will help answer this question.

Item 2g: Impacts of Management Activities on Soils

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: If more than 20 percent of an activity area has sustained significant or permanent impairment of the productivity of the land.

Monitoring Results: Soil monitoring is conducted during project planning, implementation, and following completion of management activities to determine how closely Forest Plan management standards are being followed.

Implementation Monitoring determines if the potential for soil damage was evaluated during project development and if designated best management practices (BMPs) were applied.

Effectiveness Monitoring determines if the implemented practices were adequate to:

- 1. Maintain 80 percent of an activity area in a productive condition, without detrimental compaction, displacement of surface soil, or puddling (loss of soil structure), and
- 2. Minimize erosion and sloughing on road cuts and erosion on other activity areas.

Validation Monitoring determines whether the data, assumptions, and coefficients used in soil and vegetation response models are correct.

Item 2h: Impacts of Management Activities on Water Quality

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: If violations of Idaho State Water Quality Standards were detected or if Forest Plan fish/water quality objectives were not met within acceptable time frames.

Monitoring Description and Results:

Effectiveness and Validation Monitoring: As in previous years, the Forest collected streamflow and water quality data at eight gauging stations (Rapid River, Little Slate Creek, Johns Creek, Upper Red River, South Fork Red River, Trapper Creek, Main Horse Creek and East Fork Horse Creek). Variables sampled included stream discharge, suspended sediment, bedload sediment, water temperature, and conductivity.

The Forest's Soil, Air and Water Program also maintained seven storage precipitation gages, five recording precipitation gages, five hygrothermographs, and two snow courses. Additional weather monitoring is conducted by fire personnel.

Until FY 92, the Forest issued an annual technical report entitled "Hydrologic Data Summary and Monitoring Analysis". This report summarized streamflow and climatic data collected on the Forest during the previous water year. It also provides a more detailed analysis of water quality and related monitoring results than the annual Forest Plan monitoring report. Due to personnel limitations and workload prioritization, no report has been issued since FY91. The annual report format will probably not be resurrected, but updated data will be made available, both in hard copy and electronically upon request.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Analysis of streamflow and sediment yield data from the gauged water quality monitoring stations is ongoing. In FY 95 and FY 96, particular emphasis was given to data analysis pertaining to instream water rights claims filed under the Snake River Basin Adjudication. At the present time, results of this analysis are involved in litigation and unavailable for distribution.

* * * * * * *

Item 2i: Water Quality: Project Level Administrative Reviews and Field Studies

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: If the reviews or studies discover violations of Forest Plan standards or Idaho Water Quality Standards.

Monitoring Results:

Implementation and effectiveness monitoring was accomplished on several different types of activities in FY96. The monitoring was conducted by Forest personnel with some assistance from other agencies and the public. The following activities related to water quality were reviewed and are summarized within this document:

- Elkard Timber Sale
- Storm and Flood Effects
- Rapid River Fire (Found in Item 1K)

Elkard Timber Sale - An interdisciplinary team reviewed this timber sale, located on the Selway Ranger District, in October, 1996. The specific review items included Idaho Forest Practices Act Rules, Forest Plan standards (as modified by PACFISH), commitments made in the project Environmental Analysis and Decision Notice, and Endangered Species Act consultation requirements. This timber sale is located in Elk City and Goddard Creeks, which are tributaries to the lower Selway River. The sale and associated capital investment roads included 4.64 miles of road construction, 14 million board feet of timber volume, and harvested 391 acres using helicopter and skyline yarding methods. The sale was awarded in 1991 and numerous modifications were made through 1995 to reduce environmental effects and maintain currency with new policy requirements. The review team visited two harvest units (Units 15 and 16) and one road segment (Road #9723).

On the activities reviewed, it appeared that all Forest Practices Act Rules were followed. Forest Plan standards appeared to have been met, with the possible exception of the soil impact standard in Unit 16. The standards calls for less than 20% of the area to be detrimentally impacted. In the case of Unit 16, lack of woody material on the ground and a relatively hot burn may have resulted in a higher level of detrimental impact. It appear that commitments made in the Environmental Analysis and Decision Notice were met, and often exceeded with the later changes made in the sale. This sale also went through consultation for effects on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. All requirements stipulated as a result of the consultation appeared to have been met or exceeded, with one exception. In Unit 15, some timber harvest occurred on landslide-prone terrain without prior field verification and harvest modification. In general, the activities reviewed had a high compliance rate with the review criteria listed above.

Storm and Flood Effects - Beginning in March, 1995, the Nez Perce National Forest and surrounding areas began to experience an exceptional period of high precipitation. The trend of above-average precipitation continued into 1996. The first storm of the period to cause significant impacts on the Forest occurred in May, 1995. In Water Year 1996, significant storm periods occurred in November-December, 1995 and in February, 1996. A period of minor flooding also occurred in April, 1996, but no significant impacts were reported on the Forest. General results of these storms were reported in the FY 1995 Annual Monitoring Report and will not be repeated here. Additional periods of flooding occurred in January, 1997 and May, 1997. Effects of these events are still being assessed and will be reported in the FY 1997 Report.

* * * * * * * *

Item 2j: Impacts of Management Activities on Riparian Areas

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Activity areas found in significant violation of Forest Plan standards.

Monitoring Results: Riparian area monitoring is conducted during project planning, implementation, and following completion of management activities to determine how closely Forest Plan management standards are being followed.

Implementation monitoring determines:

- 1. If riparian areas are delineated and evaluated during project design,
- 2. If preferential consideration is given to riparian-area-dependent resources in cases of unresolvable conflict,
- 3. If appropriate provisions of the Idaho Forest Practices Act (BMPs) are applied, or a variance sought, and
- 4. If effects on wetlands and floodplains are considered in project development.

Forest implementation monitoring reviews occurred on two fire salvage timber sales. Implementation monitoring continued on proposed activities with the potential to affect Snake River chinook salmon habitat. Riparian harvest prescriptions were adjusted or unit boundaries adjusted to better protect streambank and slope stability, shade, potential for woody debris recruitment, and to reduce erosion risk.

Effectiveness Monitoring determines:

- If management practices have caused detrimental changes in water temperature or chemical composition, blockages of water courses, or deposits of sediment that seriously and adversely affect water conditions and fish habitat; and
- 2. If cover and security for riparian-dependent species have been maintained.

Effectiveness monitoring was carried out as part of the review of proposed Forest activities that have the potential to affect anadromous fisheries habitat. Proposed harvest units were screened for occurrence on sensitive land types. Those identified during the screening process were reviewed on site to evaluate risk and adjust harvest prescriptions.

Range riparian monitoring was conducted on active allotments to monitor levels of utilization and stubble height in streamside zones, and assess streambank stability. Stream substrate composition was monitored in selected reaches.

Validation Monitoring is used to describe riparian dependent resources, their values, and predict effects of management (Forest Plan II-12). The riparian classification project initiated in 1989 is being used to identify sensitive stream types to identify areas most likely sensitive to livestock impacts.

Preliminary data was used to describe fire regimes in riparian areas.

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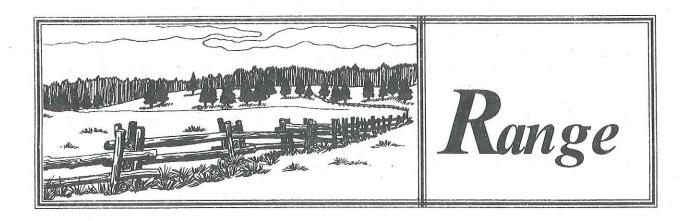
Item 11: Validation of Resource Prediction Models: Water Quality and Fish

Frequency of Measurement: Annually

Reporting Period: 2 to 5 years

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: If validation efforts show a need for changes to existing predictive models.

In 1994, an evaluation of the Forest's sediment yield model was completed through a University of Idaho master's thesis, titled "Evaluation of the NEZSED Sediment Yield Model Using Data from Forest Watersheds in North-Central Idaho". This study was completed by Dave Gloss, former District Hydrologist on the Red River Ranger District. The results of this study were report in the FY94 Annual Monitoring Report. Other than continued data collection at field sites, no further validation work on water quality or fish response models was done on the Forest in FY96.



Item 1g: Animal Unit Months Grazing Permits

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: +/- 10% of Forest Plan Estimate

Monitoring Results:

The Forest permitted 31,165 animal unit months (AUMs) during the 1996 grazing season. The Forest authorized through the yearly billing process 27,166 animal unit months. Actual use information indicated that permittees in general placed less than the authorized level of livestock on the allotments. Forest level actual stocking on the allotments was approximately 15% less than the current permitted levels.

Item 11: Range Analysis and Allotment Management Plan Updates

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: +/- 10% of Forest Plan Estimate

Discussion: During FY 96 range management program included, gathering resource data for planned allotment revisions, monitoring riparian zones, conducting allotment inspections, providing information for integrated resource analysis, gathering information to address the listing of Chinook as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act and consulting with National Marine Fisheries Service.

On July 27, 1995, President Clinton signed into law the 1995 Rescision Bill (PL 104-19). A portion of the Bill, Section 504, pertained to grazing on national forest lands, specifically allotment NEPA analysis, and grazing permit issuance. Passage of the Rescission Bill has caused the Nez Perce NF to modify the allotment analysis schedule and our strategy for issuing expiring and waived grazing permits.

Under the Rescission Bill, we are directed to issue new term grazing permits as they expire, even if the required NEPA analysis has not been completed. The Forest is to schedule the needed and required analysis.

All allotments without current or needed analysis must be scheduled within the next 15 years. The following Nez Perce Allotment Analysis Schedule has been modified as a result of the Rescission Bill.

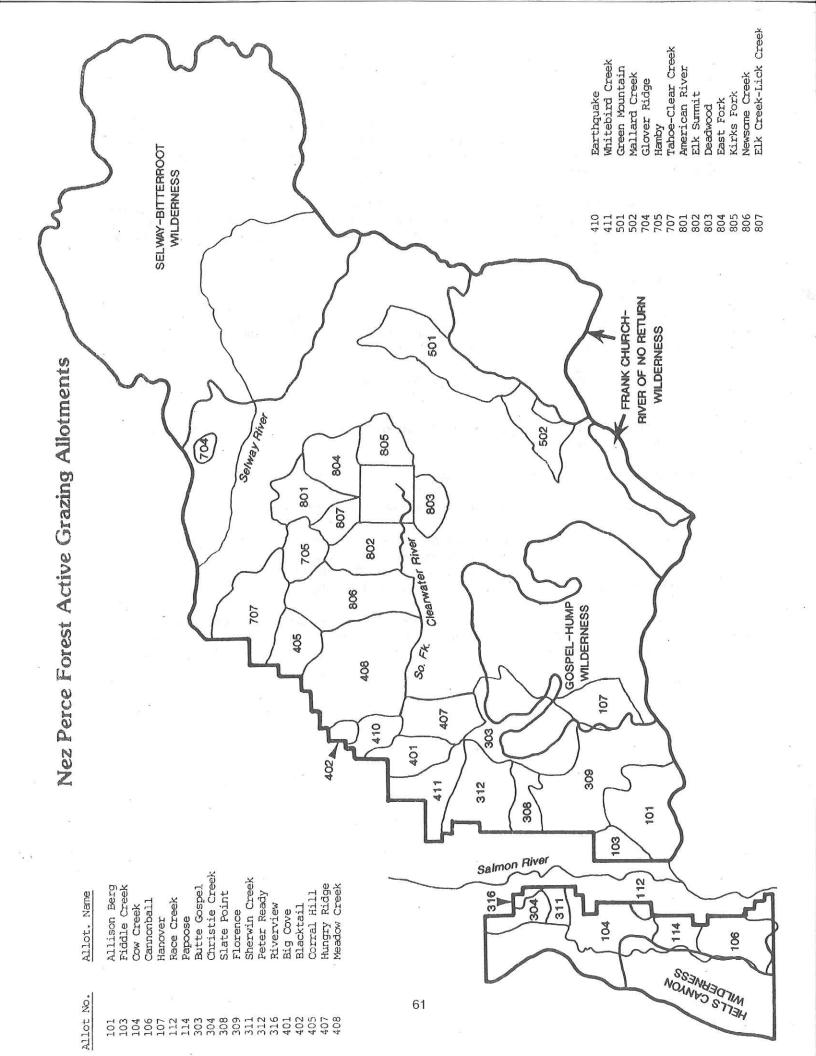
Analysis was completed on Meadow Creek, Hungry Ridge, and Allison-Berg Grazing Allotments to ensure compliance with Forest Plan Standards and applicable laws. NEPA decisions on the management strategy for these allotments were finished during 1996.

The information contained in the schedule reflects the best information available at this time and is based on current and expected funding levels. The schedule may be updated to reflect changes in resource information and Forest management priorities as a result of Forest Plan Revision and funding. At the current funding level and forest priority, all allotments that need revision will be updated by the year 2010.

GRAZING ALLOTMENT ANALYSIS UPDATE SCHEDULE

Allotment Name¹	Analysis Status	Time Period	Key Resource Values
Race Creek	Revision Complete	1992	Riparian
Blacktail	Revision Complete	1992	Big Game
Glover Ridge	Revision Complete	1992	Big Game
Allison Berg	Revision Complete	1996	Riparian
Hungry Ridge	Revision Complete	1996	Riparian/Wildlife
Meadow Creek	Revision Complete	1996	Riparian/Big Game
Papoose	Needs Revision	1996-1998	Riparian
American River	Needs Revision	1996-1998	Riparian
Elk CrLick Cr.	Needs Revision	1996-1998	Riparian
East Fork	Needs Revision	1996-1998	Riparian
Cannonball	Needs Revision	1999-2001	Wilderness/Recreation
Peter Ready	Needs Revision	1999-2001	Riparian
Butte Gospel	Needs Revision	1999-2001	Riparian
Hanover	Needs Revision	1999-2001	Wilderness/Riparian
Florence	Needs Revision	1999-2001	Riparian
Whitebird	Needs Revision	1999-2001	Riparian
Big Cove	Needs Revision	1999-2001	Timber Management
Cow Creek	Needs Revision	2002-2004	Wilderness/Timber Mgmt.
Sherwin Creek	Needs Revision	2002-2004	Riparian
Christie Creek	Needs Revision	2002-2004	Riparian
River View	Needs Revision	2002-2004	Timber Management
Newsome Creek	Needs Revision	2002-2004	Timber Management
Elk Summit	Needs Revision	2002-2004	Timber Management
Hamby	Needs Revision	2002-2004	Timber Management
Corral Hill	Needs Revision	2002-2004	Big Game
Fiddle Creek	Needs Revision	2005-2007	Timber Management
Tahoe-Clear Creek	Needs Revision	2005-2007	Riparian/Timber Mgmt.
Mallard Creek	Needs Revision	2005-2007	Riparian
Earthquake	Needs Revision	2008-2010	Riparian/Big Game
Kirks Fork	Needs Revision	2008-2010	Riparian
Green Mountain	Needs Revision	2008-2010	Riparian/Big Game/T&E

¹See Nez Perce Forest allotment map on following page. Vacant allotments are allotments with no Term Permit holder.



Grazing Monitoring Results:

The Forest is bringing all allotments into compliance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines through the term grazing permits. During the past year work priorities focused on the Endangered Species Act and consultation under Section 7, monitoring and permit administration. Annual operating instructions were developed with additional management requirements and monitoring to reflect the needs of riparian dependent species and the threatened spring/summer and fall chinook.

Inspection and monitoring of many allotments indicated that annual operating instructions were followed. Due to a more proactive role by permittees, increased monitoring and administration and tighter grazing standards, on-the-ground management improved in 1996. Most problem areas identified through monitoring and administration were small in size, and are easily corrected.

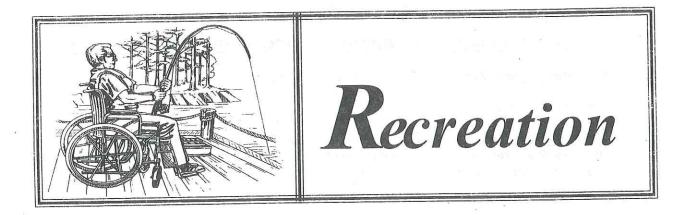
Grazing Guidelines

In 1996, the following grazing guidelines were incorporated into the annual operating instructions for grazing allotments. The grazing guidelines are intended to maintain desirable riparian conditions and achieve recovery of streams not in satisfactory condition.

- Forage Utilization: 40% or less of the current years growth by weight, measured during the grazing period.
- 2. Shrub Utilization: 40% or less of the available current year's growth, measured as a percent of the leader length browsed.
- 3. Bank Disturbance: 10% of the bank distance.
- 4. Stubble Height: 65% of the average ungrazed herbaceous plant height.

Monitoring suggests that, generally, permittees were successful in meeting the grazing standards stated in the annual operating instructions. At those locations where use/disturbance was approaching allowable standards, the permittee herded animals to less sensitive areas. Each time this occurred the permittees were notified and the livestock were promptly removed from the problem area.

There were monitoring sites where grazing exceeded the prescribed standards. The information collected during 1996 will be used to tailor site-specific management strategies for 1997 and focus additional efforts by the permittee and Forest personnel.



Item 1a: Recreation Visitor Days

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 5 Years (FY 1993)

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: Significantly different trends in recreation use occurring on the Nez Perce following a 5-year evaluation.

Discussion: The Forest Service is in the process of replacing the old Recreation Information Management (RIM) system with a new data base system known as Infrastructure or INFRA for short. This system will continue to report recreation use but will not increase accuracy.

Monitoring Results:

Baseline recreational use on the Forest was established through the use of traffic counters, fee campground user information, river permits, trailhead cards, and observation by field personnel. Since that time annual updates have been accomplished primarily through observations and comparison by field personnel. Through the use of field observation we are able to identify recreational trends, however, we cannot generate statistically accurate recreation use numbers from this technique.

Observations of 1996 use indicate a general increase in recreation activities on the forest. Activities such as camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing are increasing but at a slower rate than river use, ATV, winter use (particularly snowmobiling), and viewing wildlife and scenery - which exhibit the most dramatic increases. Wilderness use also appears to be increasing during the summer. A rough estimate would put recreation growth at one to three percent for camping, picnicking, etc. and five to ten percent for river use, viewing wildlife and scenery, ATV use, etc.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Due to declining budgets and a priority on maintaining service and maintenance of recreation facilities, little effort has been placed on gathering accurate visitor use information. Accuracy of recreation use estimates will improve only when gathering such information is given a priority and funds allocated accordingly.

Currently Forest recreation use numbers are updated annually based primarily on observations, comparisons or estimates by field personnel. The Forest needs to develop and implement a monitoring system that will provide better estimates of recreation use.

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Item 1b: Acres of Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Category

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 5 Years (FY 1992)

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Following a 5-year period, variation which would indicate that Forest Plan direction requiring a full range of recreation opportunities is not being met, or if the semi-primitive classes are being lost more quickly than specified in the Plan.

Discussion:

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is used to evaluate the recreation potential of the Forest. This spectrum defines six classes of recreation opportunities on a continuum ranging from primitive, where human disturbance is minimal, to urban, where sights and sounds of people are predominant. These classes are defined in relation to physical settings and recreation activities and experiences. The Nez Perce has been inventoried, mapped, and divided into four ROS classes. Currently, the Forest has no rural or urban class settings.

Monitoring Results:

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) mapping for the existing situation was completed in 1979. No subsequent mapping has been done on a Forestwide basis since then to update ROS categories or to determine changes in ROS classifications due to the implementation of management activities such as timber harvest. A comprehensive review of ROS changes will be needed to determine if Forest Plan direction is being met. Also, an update of ROS will be needed prior to completing the Forest Plan Revision and Planning Area analysis.

During 1996, timber harvest activities and road construction in previously unharvested or unroaded areas affected approximately 640 acres of Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM) and 445 acres of Semi-primitive Motorized (SPM) ROS classes, converting these to the Roaded Natural (RN) class. This is consistent with effects identified in the Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

In reviewing what has been completed using ROS, it has become evident that another category, roaded modified, needs to be formally adopted for use by the Forest. Roaded modified, used throughout the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service, has been used in some Nez Perce analyses. It best describes the recreation spectrum characterized by timber harvest units and road systems, but little in the way of recreation-oriented developments. It falls between the semi-primitive roaded and roaded natural categories.

There is a need to review and update Forest ROS maps and to modify our existing data base to track ROS acreage changes.

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Item 2a: Off-Road Vehicle Impacts

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 5 years (FY 1992)

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: Unacceptable impacts caused by off-road vehicle use.

Monitoring Results:

The Off-Road-Vehicle (ORV) Monitoring Plan referenced in Appendix O of the Nez Perce Forest Plan was replaced with an Access Management Monitoring Plan for the Forest. The development of a systematic method to monitor ORV use and impacts has not been a top priority on the Forest.

ORV use on the Forest has been increasing in popularity and variety. Snowmobiles, motorcycles, four-wheel all-terrain vehicles, and four-wheel drive vehicles all contribute to this use. Some conflicts exist among users, particularly on trails with established foot and stock use.

The most prevalent recreation use violation is illegal use of vehicles on closed roads, many of which are gated. Use is restricted on many roads for wildlife security, to prevent soil erosion, and to reduce road maintenance. However, no in-depth monitoring has been conducted to determine whether adverse effects have occurred due to ORV use. Off-road vehicles can be damaging to soil, water, and vegetation. This is particularly true where trail systems with a 24-inch tread width are used by vehicles with 42 to 52-inch tread width. Other damage by ORVs occurs off roads and trails through hill climbs and in ORV play areas.

Each year, closed gates are broken or circumvented, with resultant impacts. During FY 96 a total of 56 citations were issued on the Forest. The violations included motorized vehicles on closed roads (40 citations), vehicles blocking roads (12 citations), and motorized vehicles in wilderness (4 citations). There were also 34 incidents of damaged gates. Efforts to reduce the impacts from violations include posting explanatory signs describing reasons for closures, increased enforcement actions, publicity of successful prosecutions, and weekend patrols to provide contact with visitors and an opportunity to explain travel restrictions.

Little is being done in the way of ORV monitoring. Specific instances of detrimental effects of ORV use are handled on a case-by-case basis.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Through further development and implementation of the Access Management Plan, the Forest needs to develop a systematic method to monitor ORV use and impacts. Some of the methodology is documented in the Access Management Guidelines, but not enough to satisfy the requirements of the Forest Monitoring Plan.

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Item 2b: Adequacy of Cultural Resource Protection, Impacts on Cultural Resources

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 5 years (FY 1994)

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: A change in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 or other pertinent cultural resource laws and regulations could necessitate altering the cultural resource monitoring procedure to comply with the changes.

Monitoring Results:

During fiscal year 1996, 40 projects were inventoried for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as specified in the Forest Plan. The total number of projects inventoried was limited due to budget constraints. As a result, 4,605 acres were inventoried for cultural resources and 62 new archaeological sites were recorded.

Since implementation of the Forest Plan, several American Indian religious rites areas have been identified on the Forest.

Cultural Resource Inventory Results

Fiscal Year	Number of Projects Inventoried	Number of Acres Inventoried	New Archaeological Sites Recorded
1988	50	3,753	36
1989	22	2,600	17
1990	35	3,137	37
1991	33	4,286	29
1992	33	3,664	37
1993	22	2,290	24
1994	42	3,429	34
1995	71	7,044	42
1996	40	4,605	62

In addition to the new sites recorded, 71 previously recorded sites were revisited.

Adequacy of Cultural Resource Protection

Fiscal Year	Sites Inventoried	Evidence of Vandalism/Damage
1988	10	0
1989	28	3
1990	7	0
1991	42	2
1992	22	0
1993	32	0
1994	28	0
1995	53	0
1996	71	0

During the summer, Heritage personnel and staff from the University of Idaho performed a test excavation in a prehistoric site along Moose Creek in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The information gleaned from this

testing will be included in the Prehistoric Overview for the Nez Perce National Forest and will help us to gain better understanding of the prehistory in the Selway River region.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

None of the 71 sites monitored were impacted. Monitoring of the 71 sites revealed that the recommended protection measures were effective.

One current method being used to monitor cultural resources includes re-surveying sites and recording discernible effects or changes through completion of site report amendments or updates.

For Forest projects or undertakings with cultural sites we establish measurements for precise monitoring of sites eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. This is accomplished by identification of a permanent datum or controlled mapping point for each site. Recording bearing and distance measurements from the site datum to its boundaries and associated features allow us to accurately detect and document any changes or effects on a site during monitoring.

With the current Cultural Resource Management funding level it is not feasible to implement this procedure for all known cultural sites (including the ones outside of proposed project areas). An increase in the Heritage budget will be needed in order to develop a systematic procedure for more precise monitoring of sites. This is particularly needed for sites that are surrounded by on-going management activities or are located along highly used areas such as the Salmon and Selway Rivers.

Item 2c: Limits of Acceptable Change in Wilderness

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 5 years (FY 1992)

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: If, after a 5-year review period, changes in wilderness exceeded acceptable limits.

A comprehensive wilderness-wide report has been prepared for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (SBW), entitled "Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness 1996 State of the Wilderness Report." It contains a detailed monitoring report for the SBW. A copy is available upon request.

The Forest continues to replace substandard signs in all three wildernesses as funding levels allow.

Following is a summary of wilderness implementation plans, Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) planning, and wilderness fire plans for the Nez Perce National Forest:

Selway-Bitterroot:

This wilderness is managed under the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness General Management Direction, 1992. This original document was signed by the Regional Forester in 1982 and was replaced with the 1992 General Management Direction by a Forest Plan amendment.

The 1992 amendment includes Limits of Acceptable Change planning for recreation, trails, and airfield management. Updated management direction for vegetation was added to the General Management Direction in 1996.

The fire management plan, suspended in 1988, was revised in May of 1990, and put into effect during the 1992 fire season. The plan does not allow for planned ignition.

Gospel-Hump:

A management plan for the Gospel-Hump Wilderness was completed in 1985 and incorporated by reference into the Forest Plan for the Nez Perce National Forest. Campsite condition inventories are completed annually, as funding allows, to establish baseline information for the LAC process.

The fire management plan, suspended in 1988, was revised and put into effect for the 1993 fire season. The plan does not allow for planned ignition.

Frank Church - River of No Return:

A coordinated EIS is being prepared for management of this wilderness. Campsite condition inventories are completed annually, as funding allows, to establish baseline information for the LAC process.

The fire management plan, suspended in 1988, was revised and put into effect for the 1990 fire season. The plan allows for planned ignition.

Coordinated Wilderness Management

Coordination of wilderness management programs and activities among adjacent administering units of the same wilderness has improved greatly. Results of this coordination are evident in all wildernesses administered by the Nez Perce NF.

Preseason and on-the-ground coordination meetings were held in 1996 for the Gospel-Hump Wilderness, administered entirely by the Nez Perce NF (Red River and Salmon River Ranger Districts).

Coordinated management of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (SBW) has been formalized by creating a SBW Leadership Policy Council and Steering Group comprised of members from the Clearwater, Bitterroot, and Nez Perce National Forests, as well as the Regional Office.

A similar coordination structure has been established for the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness (FC-RONR). It consists of a Lead Work Group (LWG) and Board of Directors. The LWG is comprised of rangers from each district charged with management of the FCRONR, whereas the Board is staffed by the forest supervisors of the Nez Perce, Payette, and Salmon-Challis National Forests. The Nez Perce National Forest continues to manage 193,000 acres previously administered by the Bitterroot NF.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Coordinated wilderness management efforts are resulting in better, more consistent management on the ground. Improved budget accountability, wilderness planning, and better coordination among all managers of a particular wilderness are all evident. Specific accomplishments, including monitoring efforts, are included in the individual annual reports prepared for each wilderness.

A great deal of effort is being directed towards completing the draft environmental impact statement for the Frank Church-River of No Return wilderness. Wilderness management continues to be closely scrutinized at the local, regional and national levels. Concerns raised most frequently by wilderness managers including funding and personnel (especially with workforce and funding reductions) and a continuing need to better communicate with the public and Forest Service employees regarding the proper use and management of wilderness.

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Item 2d: Achievement of Visual Quality

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 5 years (FY 1992)

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: After 5 years of monitoring, an assessment indicates visual quality objectives are not being met.

Monitoring Results:

Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes were mapped Forest-wide over twelve years ago, prior to the development and implementation of the Nez Perce National Forest Plan. The major task remains to review the inventoried and interim VRM objectives and adopt them to meet current on-the-ground conditions and Forest Plan direction.

An important step toward achieving visual quality direction occurred in 1989 with the approval of Forest Plan Amendment #4. This amendment added definitions to aid in understanding the terms "adopted", "inventoried", and "interim" visual quality objectives (VQO's). It modified existing standards to remove inconsistencies in VQO's, to make the standards more attuned to procedures described in Agriculture Handbook 462 - The Visual Management System, and to specify a methodology for documenting visual quality objective decisions. VQO's are now "adopted" for all or part of 34 USGS 7.5 min quadangles (wilderness are mapped on all or part of 52 quads). These maps are filed at the Forest Headquarters Office.

Visual quality is being considered and documented in most on-the-ground activities. The Forest continues to use para-professionals to provide assistance on a project-by-project basis. Documentation of updates or revisions to Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) should be more consistent.

The VRM system will be replaced with a new system called Scenery Management System (SMS). Some of the concepts of the new system are being incorporated into different types of analysis, however, the VRM system was still the primary program used for analyzing scenic resources. The landscape character, scenic integrity, and recreation opportunity spectrum chapters of the SMS handbook were used for the South Fork Assessment project.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Progress in understanding and achieving adopted VQOs is being made on most districts. The scenic resources inventory will use the SMS Handbook. Further, monitoring and evaluation efforts should be organized and outlined as to type and process. The SMS Handbook will be used for planning work such as the South Fork Assessment.

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Item 2n: Management of Designated or Eligible Wild, Scenic, or Recreational River Segments

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1994 to September 30, 1995)

Reporting Period: 5 years (FY 1992)

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Following a 5-year period, information which would indicate management direction for designated or eligible wild, scenic, or recreational rivers is not being followed.

Discussion:

The Nez Perce National Forest manages parts of four rivers classified under the Wild and & Scenic Rivers Act, and 13 rivers that are eligible for classification. The four classified rivers include the Selway (40 miles Wild, 21 miles Recreational); Middle Fork Clearwater (11 miles Recreational); Rapid (12 miles Wild); and Salmon (66 miles Wild).

Eligible river segments are listed in Appendix P to the Forest Plan. Appendix P also includes a listing of outstanding features of each eligible segment.

Monitoring Results:

Management of Designated Rivers:

Salmon -- Compatible uses occurring on the Salmon River include private and outfitted boating (float and powerboat), administration of scenic easements, scenic easement acquisition, land exchange, interaction with river users and residents, dispersed recreation site maintenance, noxious weed management, and trail maintenance.

River management funding in '96 was the highest ever received on the Forest (\$63M). This was largely due to the contribution from Region 4. Subsequent management accomplishments included:

- Full river coverage during peak use period (control season), the fall months, and improved coverage during the late spring months.
- 2. Involvement with all parties responsible for management activities within river corridor.
- Treatment of noxious weed infestation.
- 4. Participation in development of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement.
- 5. Implementation of three partnership projects.
- 6. Administration of 3 scenic easements.
- Active involvement with river user groups and private landowners in accomplishing projects and sharing information.

Lack of funding for the lands program has limited land exchanges and the acquisition of additional scenic easements.

Middle Fork Clearwater -- There continues to be a need to update the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River Management Plan.

A shared Scenic Easement Administrator position established in 1995 between the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests provided consistent Wild & Scenic River easement administration on the Selway, Moose Creek and Lochsa Ranger Districts.

Selway -- The Wild segment of the Selway is managed through the management plan direction and a permit system. The river program is staffed with one seasonal river ranger and volunteer river assistants. Four river patrols were made during the control season. The purpose of the patrols is to maintain dispersed recreation sites, monitor use, and assist the public.

Management accomplishments in 1996 were:

- Improved coordination with other Forest Service units, including the Bitterroot and Clearwater National Forests.
- 2. Improved education of wilderness users about the management of the Selway River.
- 3. More touring and clean-up of river campsites.

The **Recreational** segment of the Selway is routinely monitored for compliance with direction for road management, administrative facilities, scenic easements, visual management, trail management, recreation, and water quality. Easement administration has improved due to the easement administrator position shared with the Clearwater National Forest.

Rapid River -- Trail work and grazing occurred along this corridor. These are in compliance with management direction.

Rapid River receives significant use by recreationists during the spring (primarily hikers) and fall (hunting). During the summer months the Rapid River corridor is used primarily as a travel route to the Hells Canyon wilderness. Forest Service patrols occurred during the spring to monitor campsites and make visitor contacts.

Management of Eligible River Segments

Bear Creek, Moose Creek, and Three Links, located on the Moose Creek Ranger District, are being managed as wild rivers through management direction contained in the Selway-Bitterroot Management Plan. These strategies comply with area management direction.

Slate Creek -- Grazing, road maintenance, mining, trail work, and fish structure construction all occurred within the segment eligible as a Recreational River. These activities are compatible with management direction. The upper reaches of the creek are also eligible for Wild river classification.

White Bird Creek -- A six mile segment located on private and National Park Service lands outside of the Forest boundary was found to be eligible for Recreational classification during the Forest planning process. The State of Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) has agreed to be the lead for a suitability study for this segment. The study will be completed when the IDWR completes the Salmon River basin component of the State Water Plan.

Running Creek -- In compliance with Forest Plan direction, no management activities occurred, except for trail clearing by users along Trail 529. This stream is eligible for Scenic and Wild classification.

Bargamin Creek -- Trail maintenance was in compliance with Forest Plan and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan direction. Reaches of Bargamin Creek are eligible for Scenic and Wild river classification.

Lake Creek -- Trail maintenance was in compliance with Forest Plan and Gospel-Hump Wilderness Management Plan direction. Reaches of Lake Creek are eligible for Recreational and Wild river classification.

Meadow Creek (Tributary to Selway River) -- Grazing allotment is in use status in compliance with Forest Plan direction. Reaches of Meadow Creek are eligible for Recreational and Wild river classification.

South Fork Clearwater River (Recreational) -- Idaho Highway Department waste dump sites are a visual concern (do not meet partial retention), and occupy potential visitor parking sites.

Johns Creek -- Current management is compatible with maintaining eligibility as a potential Wild river.

Lower Salmon River -- A bill was introduced in Congress in 1992 for designation of the lower Salmon River, but not acted upon. Current management is compatible with maintaining its eligibility as a Recreational river.

West Fork Gedney Creek -- Current management maintains eligibility as a potential Wild River.

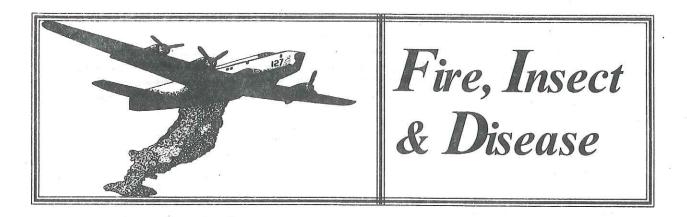
Suitability Studies: Suitability studies have been completed on the following streams considered to be eligible: Bear Creek complex, Moose Creek complex, Three Links Creek Complex, Gedney Creek complex, and Running Creek. The final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) for these studies was completed in September, 1995.

Funding is not currently available to complete suitability studies on the other eligible streams on the Forest. The current Regional strategy is to complete the suitability studies of the remaining streams as an integral part of the Forest Plan revision process.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Based on limited monitoring information, that management of designated Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers meets management direction for the segments. The Middle Fork of the Clearwater River System Management Plan needs to be updated and administration of scenic easements continues to need emphasis due to increased land sales and subdivisions. On the Salmon River recreation use is increasing during the spring and fall months and associated resource impacts are occurring. Sufficient resources must be available to ensure a Forest Service presence during these periods.

Although the Forest management of eligible segments generally meets Forest Plan management direction, lack of funding in the recreation and lands programs inhibits adequate monitoring and management of both designated and eligible river segments. Some river suitability studies have been completed, but much work remains to complete studies for some of the more complex and controversial eligible rivers such as Meadow Creek and the South Fork of the Clearwater River.



Item 1k: Acres and Numbers of Wild and Prescribed Fires

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 to September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 5 years (FY 1996)

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Unusual number of person-caused fires over the 10 year average indicating a trend of a specific cause(s). Unusual number of acres burned is unexplainable, such as unusually severe fire danger based on the burning index and the energy release component. Unusually high costs of fire suppression (over the ten year average). Inability to meet expectations contained in the National Fire Management Analysis for the Forest as per budget level allocated for current year.

Discussion: The Nez Perce National Forest experienced an above average fire season with a total of 319 fires which compares to the 10-year average (1986-1995) of 210 fires. 1996 marked the first year of the Clearwater/ Nez Perce Fire Zone operation. The 1996 season started with extensive rains during the winter and spring months which ceased in early July, with little moisture falling until early fall. Periodic thunderstorms gave some relief with moisture but lightning storms were intense and widespread throughout the Forest. The fire season did not end until early October.

In February, March, and April, the Clearwater/Nez Perce Fire Zone started dispatching personnel to the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, and Kentucky. May and June, resource orders were filled to the Southwest and California for overhead and hand crews. Smokejumpers, initial attack crews, overhead and engines were sent to the Southwest for long term details. Activity increased in June with requests for smokejumpers and overhead to Alaska, hand crews to Ontario, Canada, and overhead to the Great Basin. By season's end our employees had seen service in 20 states and in Canada and had provided more than 6,000 person days of support to incidents outside our fire zone.

North Idaho Incident Management Teams came to our zone three times in support of large incidents. All of these teams were assigned to fires on the Nez Perce National Forest. Another overhead team was put together to manage the Swet/Warrior fires located on the Bitterroot and Nez Perce Forests. This team was headed by retired Type I Incident Commander Dick Hodge. The Forest also used the assistance of a National Prescribed Natural Fire team. This team came in to assist the Forest in assessing the impacts of the entire prescribed natural fire program and wildfire alternative suppression strategy program (contain and confine fires).

Monitoring Results:

Numbers of Fires

Types of Fires	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	10 Year Average
Lightning Wildfires	238	276	49	320	61	284	197
Lightning Fires with Control Strategy	238	216	48	309	61	232	180
Lightning Fires with Contain/Confine Strategies	2	48	1	11	0	52	17
Person Caused Fires and Miscellaneous	32	16	8	19	5	18	19
Prescribed Natural Fires	13	12	5	0	20	17	10

Acres Burned

Types of Fires	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	10 Year Average
Lightning Wildfires	176	44,913	2	9,045	9	44,048	21,621
Lightning Fires with Control Strategy	176	44,741	2	5,172	9	2,470	13,170
Lightning Fires with Contain/Confine Strategies	0	172	0	3,873	0	12,837	5,577
Person Caused Fires and Miscellaneous	2,031	53	4	74	1 ,6	1,559	1,500
Prescribed Natural Fires	3,311	39	0	0	16	27,182	3,818

Individual fire reports were completed on all 1996 fires. The Clearwater/Nez Perce Fire Zone managed a total of 524 fires between the two Forests in 1996 - 319 fires on the Nez Perce and 205 fires on the Clearwater Forest. A total of 46,385 acres were burned on the two forests.

The Nez Perce National Forest, along with other federal, state, and private agencies of the North Idaho Airshed Group, continued their dialogue and cooperation to minimize or prevent the accumulation of smoke in Idaho to meet state and federal ambient air quality standards.

The Nez Perce Forest accomplished 4,467 acres of fuels treatment in 1996. Of this total, 2,579 acres of treatment were accomplished with forest protection dollars, commonly known as the natural fuels treatment program. Another 1,888 acres of treatment were accomplished with brush disposal funding, treating activity created fuels from timber sales. The target for natural fuels was 2,567 acres, while the target for treatment of activity fuels was 2,079 acres.

The Forest Fire Management program was not funded at the most cost efficient level as described by the National Fire Management Analysis System. Emergency Fire Fighting Severity (EFFS) funding was used to fund much of the aerial operations program as well as portions of the ranger district ground forces used for initial attack.

The Grangeville smokejumpers had a total of 67 fire jumps within the Clearwater/Nez Perce Fire Zone. This included 56 fires staffed on the Nez Perce Forest. A total of 259 smokejumpers jumped on these 67 fires. Grangeville smokejumpers also staffed 9 other fires from Grangeville on other forests and agencies. A total of 100 fires on the entire Clearwater/Nez Perce Fire Zone were staffed by smokejumpers from all smokejumper basis for a total of 379 jumps. There were two serious injuries consisting of one fractured knee and one sprained back. Both of these injuries were as a result of landings.

This season Grangeville smokejumpers performed approximately 5,200 hours of project work on and off the Nez Perce Forest, including spring prescribed burning, fuels work, sewing, trails, fall burning, timber cruising and presale work.

1996 was a busy year for the Clearwater/Nez Perce helicopter program. A total of 768.4 hours were flown on the fire zone in support of fire management activities. Another 192.6 hours were flown in support of local projects such as aerial ignition for prescribed burning, aerial seeding and trails maintenance. In addition, 132.3 hours were flown off the zone in support of fire management as well as 9.5 hours flown in support of project work. In all, 1,102.8 hours were flown; 70 fires were helitaked; 24 different helicopters were on the zone for a total of 347 contract days; 3,170 personnel were transported; 450,165 pounds of cargo was moved; and 430,934 gallons of water were dropped on fires.

Grangeville retardant base pumped 266,300 gallons of retardant in 1996. This is the second highest volume pumped on record, surpassed only in 1994 when 322,725 gallons were pumped. During 1996, 206,000 gallons of retardant were used on the Nez Perce Forest and 46,050 gallons were used on the Clearwater Forest. This retardant came from Grangeville and other surrounding bases.

Fire detection methods used by the Nez Perce Forest were from fixed lookouts and air patrols. Lookouts reported a total of 130 fires, Forest Service aircraft reported 120 fires, other aircraft reported 5 fires, regular Forest Service employees reported 39 fires, and reports of fires from all other sources including the private sector totaled 25.

The following are the total number of fires on each ranger district on the Nez Perce National Forest:

District	1996 # Fires	10 Yr. Avg.
Salmon River	43	37
Clearwater	31	23
Red River/Elk City	137	88
Moose Creek	50	44
Selway	58	32

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Item 7: Insect and Disease Activity

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

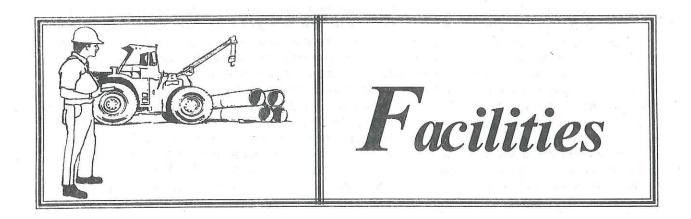
<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Significant increases in population or damage levels of insects or diseases

Monitoring Results:

Most insect populations remained static from 1995 to 1996. Significant increases occurred in Douglas-fir beetle, mountain pine beetle in lodgepole pine, fire engraver in grand fir, and balsam wooly adelgid in subalpine fir. Districts are monitoring concentrations of insects and evaluating treatment opportunities. Root disease continues to be a major problem in Douglas-fir and a minor problem in other species.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

In general, insect and disease conditions do not warrant area-wide control efforts. Silvicultural prescriptions will address stand treatment needs and mitigate the effects of insect and disease activity where possible. General insect and disease conditions will continue to be monitored to determine trends.



Item 2k: Mitigation Measures Used for and Impacts of Transportation Facilities on Resources

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 6 years (FY 1992)

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: If reviews or studies indicated that mitigation was not being implemented as specified or if effectiveness was not near the levels predicted.

Discussion:

Facilities on the Forest include buildings and administrative sites, property boundaries, and the transportation system of Forest roads and trails. Construction and maintenance of all facilities improves the safety and health of both Forest employees and the visiting public.

Buildings and Administrative Sites -- Monitoring the health and safety of Forest buildings and administrative sites is not a monitoring requirement of the Forest Plan. Federal, state, and local laws and regulations govern the construction, maintenance, and use of structures, potable water systems, and sewage treatment systems

Due to a program of regular annual inspections and Forest-wide prioritization of maintenance projects, all forest buildings, water systems, and wastewater systems that are in use meet basic structural and public health and safety standards. When new research reveals potential hazards to employees and forest visitors, testing and monitoring is done and mitigation or removal is completed to prevent human exposure to hazardous materials such as lead, radon, and asbestos in buildings, air, and water. This year, asbestos was removed from a building at Moose Creek Ranger Station and encapsulated in one building at Slate Creek and one building at Elk City Ranger Station. A notification letter was sent to residents of all Forest Service housing detailing levels and known locations of asbestos, radon, lead based paint, and lead in drinking water for each building. Due to mitigation, there are no known residences where these materials are a current health hazard to residents. Safety inspections were conducted at all administrative sites during 1996. The most urgent problems which were identified have been corrected and others are scheduled for correction as funding permits.

To meet changing administrative needs, this year a triplex apartment building and an office addition were completed at Elk City Ranger Station. Planning and design has begun for a new visitor info/office/conference building at the Fenn Ranger Station. A contract was let for an low cost warehouse for the Salmon River Seed Tree Orchard.

The Forest has three "Public Community" water systems that serve Fenn, Red River, and Slate Creek Ranger Stations. There are also two seasonal work center systems and ten seasonal use lookout and recreation site water systems currently operations. One system is operated by a recreation site permittee. Six other water systems are currently mothballed due to system problems that would require major renovation, or lack of need for their use. For all operational systems, bacteriological monitoring is completed monthly. Problems discovered during routine bacteriological testing led to the initiation of rehabilitation projects at six recreation and lookout water systems during 1996. Additionally, a new well was drilled at one recreation site and the water distribution lines were replaced at another site. This year, the only required chemical testing was for nitrate at all "public" systems and lead-copper at the Fenn Ranger Station. These tests were completed and showed no water quality problems. If any systems fail quality requirements, the problems must be corrected or the system closed to use. During 1996, copper mitigation was completed at the Slate Creek Ranger Station and the iron filter was replaced at the Red River Ranger Station to insure their water supplies continue to meet quality standards.

The Forest maintains three sewage treatment plants, one each at Fenn, Red River, and Slate Creek Ranger Stations. Effluent from these plants is tested monthly in accordance with each site's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. The information from these tests is forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency. The Forest did not discover any problems through effluent testing this year.

Property Boundaries -- There are approximately 350 miles of boundary between Forest lands and private landowners. There is an additional 330 miles of wilderness boundaries on the Forest. These boundaries are not yet all marked. Maintenance of existing posted boundaries continues at about 15-20 miles per year. Wilderness boundary is located when needed for specific projects. Due to the more difficult terrain and the areas where corners have not been reestablished for nearly 100 years, the rate of boundary location and posting is now about 10-15 miles per year. Currently the forest is providing information for one potential timber trespass and one small tracts. With the advent of project 615 the Land Net is being loaded into a GIS layer.

Right-of Ways

Although no new roads or trails are currently planned across private property the Forest has a substantial backlog of roads and trails which have been managed under prescriptive rights. Currently the Forest has one road right-of-way in the Regional Office for Office of General Counsel (OGC) review and approval. The Forest is actively working on three to five other road right-of-ways. Transportation planning on several districts is looking at trail needs with a potential of one to five active trail right-of-ways to be started this year. Currently the Forest is working on one to three trail right-of-ways. The Forest is currently defending an existing right-of-way in court. We are also working with the highway districts to transfer roads to them.

In addition to the Forest right-of-way needs on system roads, the Forest is seeing a substantial increase in the request for long term private road easements across Forest lands. These requests are for both system roads and private roads. Currently there are 10 to 15 applications on Forest.

Transportation System (Roads and Trails) -- Monitoring is conducted during project planning, implementation, and throughout the duration of use. Project planning provides rationale for required mitigation. Upon implementation, monitoring is continuous during contract administration as documented in contract daily diaries and during program management as documented in the facility maintenance records.

Monitoring is also performed during interdisciplinary project reviews and in the annual program review.

Mitigation is accomplished using a combination of practices and specific measures. Five specific practices are:

(a) Transportation Planning, which is a detailed office effort using maps, photos, historical data, land hazard information, and geotechnical information to identify and avoid possible stability problems and mass hazard areas and to hold road mileage to the lowest possible.

- (b) Route location, which ground-truths the results of the planning, refines locations, and provides further information on possible problem areas.
- (c) Contract Preparation, which assures that mitigation measures are incorporated into drawings and specifications to be followed when the facility is built.
- (d) Administration, which assures compliance with the contract.
- (e) Maintenance, which assures that the facility continues to function and provide the level of mitigation originally intended.

In addition to Best Management Practices and the practices listed above, specific design measures can be employed to reduce effects of facilities on resources. Some of these measures are:

- (f) Designed and controlled cut slopes, fill slopes, road width, and road grades. These effectively reduce sediment production by fitting the roads to the land.
- (g) Designed and controlled ditches, cross drain spacing, and culvert discharge. These prevent water from running long distances over exposed ground. Dewatered (dry) culvert installations and special drainage such as rock filter blankets and rock buttresses were demonstrated to be effective in the Horse Creek study.
- (h) Stabilization of road surface and ditch lines with competent rock (rock that does not rapidly disintegrate). The effectiveness of this measure in reducing surface erosion from these sources is dramatic, often over 90 percent.
- (i) Slash Filter Windrows. This measure was developed on the Nez Perce Forest as part of the Horse Creek study. It consists of placing logging slash at the base of fill slopes and below culverts where fish passage is not required. It is a very effective treatment; sediment leaving fill slopes is reduced by 80 to 95 percent.
- (j) Seeding and fertilizing cut slopes, fill slopes, and other disturbed areas. The objective is to reduce soil erosion from these sources after one growing season. Effectiveness has been rated at 85 percent or better once vegetation has become established.

Some of these measures are immediately effective, such as culvert dewatering. Slash filter windrows are effective immediately and during the first few years; after that they may become near capacity and in some instances begin to decompose. By that time though, revegetation becomes established and more effective.

Additional mitigation, in the form of project design in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service through the Level I consultation process, is now an integral part of every project. This process has been established in response to requirements of the Endangered Species Act. As a result of this process, each project receives joint evaluation and assessment of potential impacts and site specific mitigations are selected to address potential for resource impacts.

Monitoring Results:

Implementation Monitoring: All engineering projects for FY 1996 included specific mitigation measures to reduce facilities' impacts on resources. The following mitigation measures were used (not all were used on every project).

- Windrowing of construction slash at the toe of the fill.
- Rock surfacing of the entire road or at contributing areas.
- Layer placement and compaction of major fills.
- Grass seeding and fertilization of cut/fill slopes and disturbed areas.
- Rocking of ditch lines.

- Incorporating critical logging system controls into the design to minimize length of time of exposed soil,
- Straw bales to control erosion.
- Temporary waterbars to control erosion.
- Special project specification 204 (sps 204) to control timing of installation of mitigation measures.
- Installation of gates and or barriers to control traffic.
- Permanent waterbars (for trails)
- Controlled timber haul
- Placement of durable pit run rock blanket on fillslopes at major culvert installations to control erosion.
- Installation of drop inlets at critical locations to control erosion.
- Construction of rock buttress retaining structures.

The following tables identify principal mitigation measures specified/implemented by road project.

Table 2k-1 MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTED ON PROJECTS IN FY 1996

Project	Planned Sedi- ment Mitiga- tion (%)	Windrow Slash	Asphalt/ Rock Surfac- ing	Rock Ditches	Grass Seeding Fertiliza- tion	Straw Bales/ Mulch	SPS 204 ³	Layer Place Fills	Critical Logging Controls (designed into Package)	Tempo- rary Water- bars	Gates Traffic Control	Total Project Cost \$4
PUBLIC WORKS												
Selway Road Maintenance	NA	NA	х	NA	Х	Х	- X	NA	NA	х	Х	0.00
Selway Road Repairs ¹	NA .	NA	Х	Х	х	X	Х	х	NA	NA	х	118,051.00
Selway ERFO Repairs ¹	NA	. NA	х	Х	х	Х	Х	X	NA	NA	×	65,363.00
Iron Mountain Obliteration	NA	NA	NA	NA	Х	NA	х	NA	NA	Х	NA	11,446.40
Hungry Mill W/S 1 MP;	NA	NA	NA	NA	х	х	Х	NA	NA	Х	NA .	12,868.00
Hays Fork Glory Hole	NA	· NA	NA	NA	х	х	NA	х	NA		NA	51,563.00
Peasley Creek Culvert	NA	NA	NA	NA	х	Х	Х	NA .	NA	, NA	NA	15,700.00
19 Mile Channel Rehab	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7,300.00
TIMBER SALES												
Jack ²	80	х	Х	Х	х	х	.X	Х	х	Х	Х	937,811
Mackey Day ¹	80	Х	Х	х	х	х	×	х	Х	х	Х	762,196.00

¹ Projects awarded in FY96 that are scheduled to be completed in FY97.

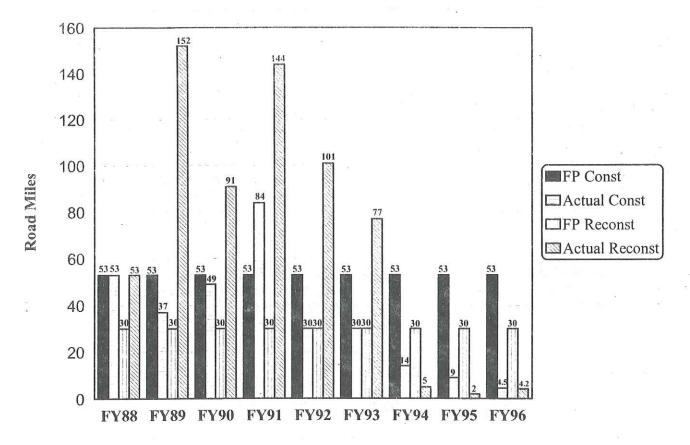
A total of 4.5 miles of road were constructed in FY96 and 4.2 miles of road were reconstructed. The Forest Plan predicted an average 53 miles of construction and 30 miles of reconstruction annually in the first decade. The "Forest Plan Roads" graph on the next pages shows the miles of road constructed and reconstructed annually since FY88, compared directly with Forest Plan predictions.

² Projects started in FY94 that were completed in FY96.

³ Special Project Specification - These are mitigation measures for construction practices.

⁴ Cost of mitigation measures is only a portion of the total project cost.

Forest Plan Roads



While the annual miles vary, the total 310 miles of road constructed since 1988 is less than the 477 miles predicted in the Forest Plan. The total miles of road reconstructed far exceed the mileage predicted in the Forest Plan.

Road Maintenance

Roads on the Forest are on a rotating schedule for maintenance. The level of maintenance varies by road. Level 1 maintenance addresses priority items for resource damage for drainage problems and access management signs on closed roads. Level 2 maintenance is on restricted roads and addresses priority items for resource damage for drainage, signs, and the road surface for high clearance vehicles. Open roads are maintained at Levels 3-5 that address drainage, signs, and the surface for passenger cars. The only difference between levels 3-5 is the type of road surface, ranging from gravel to pavement. The following chart shows the accomplishments for FY 96. If the work was completed to Forest Service Manual standards, it is categorized "To Standard," If some maintenance was performed on the road, but it was not completed fully to standards, it is listed as "Less than Standard."

ROAD MILES MAINTAINED*

Maintenance Level	Fully Maintained to Standard (Mi.)	Total Miles
Total	1,840	4,090

^{*}Includes purchaser maintenance.

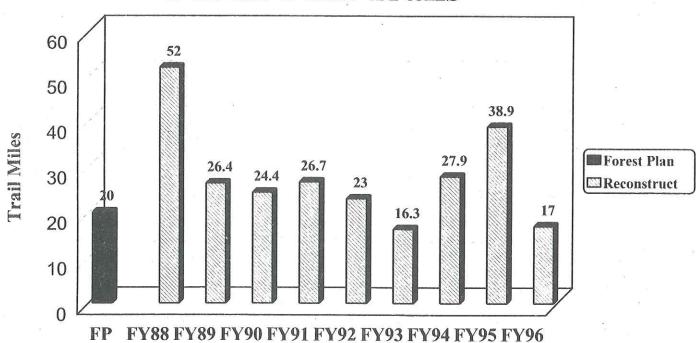
Restricted and open roads are periodically trimmed of overhanging brush and trees. The objective is to maintain sight distance for vehicle drivers and is a safety concern. In FY 96, 49 miles of road were brushed.

Signs along the roads are a safety item for the driving public and also give information. In FY 96, 5 new signs were installed on the Forest and 50 signs were replaced. These signs are installed following the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which is a Federal Highway Standard and is the same for all Federal, State, and County roads in the United States.

Trails

There are currently 3,206 total miles of trail on the Nez Perce National Forest. The Forest Plan projected 20 miles of trail would be reconstructed every year. The "Forest Plan Trails" graph below shows how the miles of trail actually reconstructed exceeded the Forest Plan every year except FY 93.

Forest Plan Trails



In FY 96, 2,078 miles of trail had some level of maintenance. While the Forest Plan did not project the trail miles maintained each year, the Forest has steadily increased the accomplishment (due to volunteers, grants, and floods), from 1,064 miles in FY 88 to the 2,078 miles accomplished in FY 96.

TRAIL MILES MAINTAINED

Maintenance Level	Total Miles Maintained
Level I	1,484
Level II	132
Level III	45
Less than Level I	(400)
Total Maintained	2,078
Total System	3,206

Implementation monitoring occurs during the normal execution of the Forest's workload. These documents are also on file in the planning records at the Forest Headquarters in Grangeville.

Effectiveness Monitoring: Effectiveness of mitigation measures is based upon information contained in the research summary "Reduction of Soil Erosion on Forest Roads," Intermountain Research Station General Technical Report INT-264 by Edward R. Burroughs Jr. and John G. King; "Effectiveness of Mitigation Practices and Specific Measures Associated With Facilities Proposed for Wingcreek-Twentymile EIS", Nez Perce National Forest, 1988; State Forest Practices Act and attendant BMP's; "Guidelines for Evaluating and Managing Summer Elk Habitat in Northern Idaho", Wildlife Bulletin No. 11, 1984, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; and in the "Nez Perce Access Management Guide", Nez Perce National Forest, 1988 as amended.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

The measures and practices being used to reduce sedimentation are effective, but do not totally stop all sediment movement. Continual attention and sensitivity to the watershed resource is required to ensure desired results are achieved. Flexibility to incorporate research findings and to take advantage of innovative construction and administrative techniques needs to be maintained.

Item 2I: Adequacy of Transportation Facilities to Meet Resource Objectives and User Needs

Frequency of Measurement: Continuous

Reporting Period: 5 years (FY 1992)

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: If public opinion is significantly against the Nez Perce access management program or if the program shows serious negative impacts upon resources.

Discussion:

The monitoring of item 2l is continuous. Due to the nature of transportation systems and their impacts upon management and use of the Forest, monitoring is both very important and very complex. Consequently, monitoring information comes from a variety of sources: facility maintenance records, environmental assessment documents, public letters and requests, and biological evaluations. The Nez Perce Access Management Guide also contains methodology and documentation designed to assist in monitoring.

Reporting for this monitoring item is being expanded in this report compared to past years. Subject headings are being provided to help track monitoring efforts.

Monitoring Results:

Traffic Surveillance

In 1984, Nez Perce Engineering instituted a traffic surveillance program, using inductive loop equipment.

The objective of having a traffic surveillance program is to provide managers data on use of representative Forest roads. This information can be utilized in (1) justification for commitment of capital investment funds for reconstruction of existing system roads; (2) preparation of Recreation Improvement Management (RIM) reports; (3) access management planning; (4) identifying high use/high maintenance roads, and allocation of road maintenance dollars to take care of them; and (5) design criteria, i.e. (ADT) (average daily traffic) counts, turnout spacing, surface types, lane requirements, and signing.

The three highest traffic volume roads on the Forest remain #223, Selway Road; #221, Grangeville-Salmon Road, and #1614, Salmon River road. These roads are arterials and collectors with a majority of the traffic on the County-maintained portions of these roads.

Overall, review of the traffic count program across the Forest suggests that recreation related traffic is remaining fairly constant across the Forest with a noticeable peak around the start of the general big game hunting seasons and that timber harvest related traffic is declining.

Traffic surveillance was not conducted on the Forest Service maintained road system in 1996.

Access Management

Road System

Inventory

The current Forest inventory shows 4,090 miles of road under Forest Service jurisdiction. Of this mileage, 1,141 miles are open and the remaining 3,849 miles are either closed to all vehicular traffic or have use and vehicle restrictions on them.

In 1996, the Forest updated the "1995 Access Guide," an itemized listing of access prescriptions for Forest roads. This was produced as a complement to the Forest Visitor Map in an effort to provide more complete information to Forest visitors.

Access for Hunters with Disabilities

Policy and guidance have been provided by the Regional Office in Missoula in the form of Manual and Handbook direction for providing access to hunters with disabilities. The Red River Ranger District has been managing such a program for several years.

Trail System

Groomed Snowmobile Trails

Efforts have been undertaken in recent years to provide opportunities for snowmobile recreationists. Through the cooperative efforts of local organizations, Idaho County Commissioners, the State of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Nez Perce National Forest, particularly the Ranger Districts, a number of routes are currently managed for winter snowmobile use.

The current inventory includes 363 miles of trail on the Selway, Elk City, and Red River Ranger Districts maintained in cooperation with the Valley Cats, Timberliners, and High Country snowmobile clubs; and 120 miles of trail on the Clearwater and Salmon River Ranger Districts maintained in cooperation with the Snow Drifters Snowmobile Club.

Ski Touring Trails

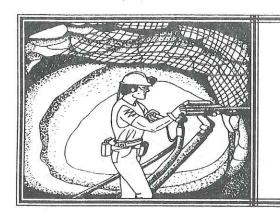
The Clearwater Ranger District, in cooperation with the State of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and the Idaho County Commissioners, offers opportunities for Nordic skiing. Currently, this groomed trail system includes 22.1 kilometers of trail at various difficulty ratings. There is additionally 15.2 kilometers classed as "most difficult" that receives infrequent grooming.

Motorized Trails

The Salmon River Ranger District, in cooperation with the State of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Off Highway Motor Vehicle grant funding, High Mountain Trail Machine Association and Treasure Valley Trail Machines, have completed to date 50 miles of the Front Country Off Highway Vehicle motorized trail system in the Florence Basin Area. At completion this system will provide 116 miles of motorized opportunity.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Effects of the access management program require time to be realized. Preliminary indication is that the Nez Perce Access Management program is working and that the Guide does provide the tools necessary for successful attainment of an integrated access management program.



Minerals

Item 2m: Adequacy of Mining Operating Plans and Reclamation Bonds

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Operating plans which need to be updated modified; bonds which need to be increased, decreased or returned; or case files which can be closed out.

Monitoring Results:

In order to meet Forest Plan direction in minerals, it is necessary to have Plans of Operations which contain adequate measures to protect surface resources. It is also important that mining operations be implemented in accordance with the approved plans. Reclamation bonds must be adequate to cover reclamation of areas disturbed by mining. However, once the operator completes reclamation work, the bond needs to be released. Item 2m measures how well the Forest is implementing the plan in these areas. Monitoring data is obtained from case files, from routine inspections by district employees, and from interdisciplinary team field reviews.

Out of 77 active Plans of Operation, 1 needs modification or updating to more accurately describe existing surface disturbance and/or changes in the operation. This is reduced by 1 from 1995. A review of bonds being held by the Forest Service indicate that 40 need to be revised or released. Many of these bonds are associated with operations that have been inactive for a number of years, rather than with the active plans of operations. If the bond is still active, the Plan of Operations is considered to be active. In 1994, it was reported that 121 percent of total plans had bonds that needed revision. This was because many operations were erroneously considered to be inactive, when the bonds were still active. Of the 40 bonds, considerable progress was made this year to either release or revise at least 20 of these bonds. The following table displays this data:

Ranger District	Active Plans of Operation ¹	Plans Needing Modification	Bonds Needing Revision	Bonds Needing Release
Salmon River	- 11	0	0	2
Clearwater	0	0	0	0
Red River	17	0	1	1
Moose Creek	0	0	0	0
Selway	0	0	. 0	0
Elk City ²	49	1	29	7
TOTAL	77	1	30	10

¹Does not include Notices of Intent.

The Forest Plan management direction for minerals states, "Exploration and development of mineral resources will be facilitated by providing timely responses to Notices of Intent and Operating Plans." In recent years, issues concerning cultural resources and threatened and endangered fish species, in addition to greater

²In 1995 more effort was made to go through the files and identify operations with bonds that were not active

analysis needs relating to watersheds and riparian ares, has greatly slowed response times to mining proposals. Regulation timeframes are not met. Although the minerals budget has been on the rise, declining forest budgets overall, combined with a smaller workforce means we will probably not be able to correct this problem.

In 1996, the Forest saw an increase in mining activities. Cyprus/Amax began an exploratory drilling program on forest and private land near Orogrande. They intend to expand their drilling significantly in 1997. A small placer operation started up on Crooked Creek above Dixie. This operation intends to continue into 1997 with both production and exploration. A small placer exploration operation occurred in Little Mallard meadows and may continue into 1997. Several other small exploratory operations also occurred on the forest.

The Forest continued to monitor the recreational suction dredging operations. Monitoring including inspection of on-going operations and counting of the number of dredges operating, taking turbidity samples and doing pebble counts above and below the operations and at the site of previous operations. There was a slight increase in the number of dredges operating, 40 dredges operated at different times. Many, for only a few days to a week. There was also an increase in recreational miners on the forest. A group called Gold Prospectors Association of America has a mining claim east of Newsome townsite and several in the Florence area. Membership is nationwide. This accounts for some of the increase in suction dredgers and the continuing increase in recreational miners.

In 1996, a long standing occupancy problem was resolved. The owners of the unpatented mining claims at the site known as Goldpoint held an auction that resulted in a major cleanup of the site. In addition, a group from Elk City interested in preserving pieces of the area's mining history, purchased the mill and the cabin (both built in 1937) and are actively working with the Forest Service to create an interpretive site.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

These monitoring results indicate that the Forest is actively working to improve the quality of its minerals management responsibilities in conformance with Forest Plan direction. The number of plans that need revision and the number of bonds that need to be released has been declining. This reflects increased emphasis on minerals administration by the districts. In early 1996 two key minerals administrators transferred and the positions were not immediately refilled due to current downsizing efforts by the Forest.

The following chart compares the above figures with those from previous years. Zero percent in each category would indicate the lowest degree of variation from Forest Plan direction.

Year	Plans Needing Modification (percent of total plans)	Bonds Needing Revision (percent of total plans)	Bonds Needing Release (percent of total plans)
1988	13 %	11 %	Unknown
1989	6 %	15 %	7 %
1990	9 %	9 %	8 %
1991	7 %	15 %	3.5 %
1992	4 %	6 %	0 %
1993	20 %	54 %	23 %
1994	6 %	121 %	50 %
1995	1 %	64 %	24 %
1996	<1 %	39 %	13 %

On the Forest as a whole there are still instances of unnecessary disturbance to surface resources, but this is mainly a result of unauthorized mining operations. The 1996 we saw both a continuing increase in recreational mining activity and interest by larger mining companies. Although we were short handed during the 1996 season we were able to use other forest employees to cover the on-going operations. Progress was made toward improving our minerals administration.



Item 3: Cost of Implementing Resource Management Prescriptions

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Changes in appropriations and expenditures to the degree that accomplishment of the Forest Plan's long-term goals and objectives are affected will necessitate a Forest Plan Amendment.

Discussion: The Forest's Outyear Program is reviewed and updated annually. The Outyear Program is no longer an attempt to project costs of fully implementing the Plan. Instead, the Forest redistributes funds among resource areas to show current priorities, but with a total approximately past funding levels.

Monitoring Results

Table 2, found in the beginning of this report, displays budget allocations and actual expenditures for the fiscal years 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996. Dollars have been adjusted to constant 1996 values.

Table 3 displays projected annual costs for FY 1997.

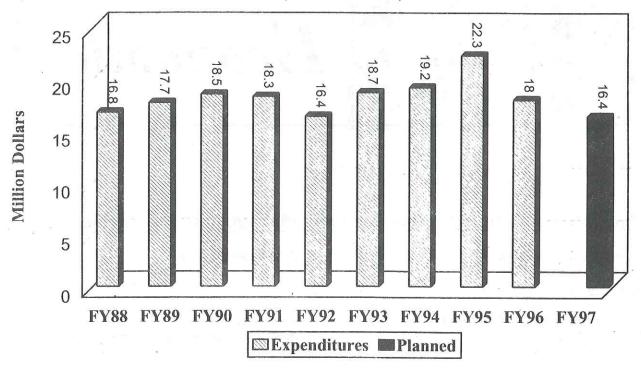
Corresponding activities and outputs for the period 1993-1996 are displayed in Table 1.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results

Past monitoring has shown that funding levels received have consistently been less than full Forest Plan funding levels. This situation will likely continue. It is unclear what effect these decreased budgets will have on the long-term goals and objectives of the Forest Plan. However, the activity and output levels of some resources projected at full Forest Plan funding levels have not been attained and may not be attained in the future.

\$ Implementation Funding

(FY 1988 -1997)



The chart shown above shows funding levels expended by the Forest in the past nine years and the projected funding level for FY 97. Dollars for all years have been adjusted to 1996 dollars.

The effects of this funding level can be seen in the sections of this report describing individual resource areas.

Item 3a: Forest Resource-Derived Revenues

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: 9 Years (FY 1996)

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Any change in resource-derived revenues altering the implementation of Forest Plan long-term goals and objectives will necessitate a Forest Plan Amendment.

Discussion: Resource outputs to which dollar values were assigned constitute the priced benefits included in the FORPLAN PNV (present net value) calculations. While both market and nonmarket benefits were used in the Forest Plan to determine total priced benefits, only certain resource benefits were used to determine the allocation and scheduling of prescriptions in FORPLAN. Only timber and range revenues are used in calculating returns to the government.

Monitoring Results

Revenues	Projected Annual Forest Plan Revenues (FY 96\$)	Actual FY 1988 Revenues (FY 96\$)	Actual FY 1989 Revenues (FY 96\$)	Actual FY 1990 Revenues (FY 96\$)	Actual FY 1991 Revenues (FY 96\$)
Timber	\$16,076,276	\$5,702,236	\$8,821,608	\$7,969,348	\$5,151,831
Range	\$58,000	\$43,137	\$46,261	\$48,609	\$42,467

Revenues	Actual FY 1992 Revenues (FY 96\$)	Actual FY 1993 Revenues (FY 96\$)	Actual FY 1994 Revenues (FY 96\$)	Actual FY 1996 Revenues (FY 96\$)	Actual FY 1996 Revenues (FY 96\$)
Timber	\$8,566,069	\$9,339,424	\$16,478,071	\$5,507,040	\$6,247,093
Range	\$40,349	\$40,500	\$43,405	\$33,520	\$27,225

Timber Revenues

The differences between projected Forest Plan timber revenues and actual timber revenues in FY 88 - FY 93 were due to two factors. First, we were not experiencing stumpage values as high as predicted in the Forest Plan. Stumpage values used in developing the Forest Plan were approximately \$231/MBF in constant FY 96 dollars. The actual experienced stumpage values were considerably lower. Second, timber harvest acres in fiscal years 1988 through 1995 were lower than the predicted average annual harvest displayed in the Forest Plan (Table 1). Also, see table 11-c on page 40 in the timber section. It shows that an average of 64 percent of the annual projected harvest acres (4,770/year) were actually sold (3,052/year).

Prior to the completion of the Forest Plan, sensitivity analysis was performed examining the effect of lower stumpage values on land allocation. Appendix D of the Forest Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) discusses this analysis. The analysis illustrated that while there would be significant changes in revenues, there would be little change in the programmatic allocation of the Forest Plan.

The revenue increase experienced in 1989 over 1988 can be attributed primarily to the increase in timber sale receipts. More timber was harvested in 1989, perhaps a function of more favorable market conditions.

The revenue decrease from 1990 to 1991 was a largely a result of different accounting methods used between 1990 and 1991. In particular, established Purchaser Credits for roads were used in 1990, while charged Purchaser Credits for roads were used in 1991. The method of depreciating roads also changed in 1991.

The revenue increase from 1992 to 1994 was due to the higher volume of timber harvested, higher prices and an evening out of the accounting method used for Purchaser Credit Roads which was changed in the previous year.

The revenue decrease from 1994 to 1995 was due to fewer acres being harvested in 1995. This trend continued through 1996.

The following table displays gains or losses from timber harvesting and related activities. Payments to States have not been included in this analysis, because it has been determined that Payments to States is not a legitimate cost to the timber program. Payments to States are shown in item 8: Effects of National Forest Management Lands, Resources, and Communities Adjacent to the Forest, of this report.

Gain or Loss of the Timber Program

FY 1988	FY 1989	FY 1990	FY 1991	FY 1992	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996
(FY 96\$)	(FY 96\$)	(FY 96\$)	(FY 96\$)	(FY 96\$)	(FY 96\$)	(FY 96\$)	(FY 96\$)	(FY 96\$)
\$356,152	\$1,723,133	\$788,597	(\$2,256,942)	(\$105,563)	\$1,038,411	\$5,931,087	(\$1.851.076)	*

^{*} As of the publication date of this report, the 1996 TSPIRS report which serves as the basis for these figures had not been distributed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Range Revenues

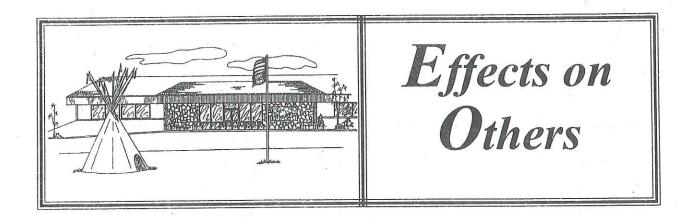
Differences between projected Forest Plan range revenues and actual range revenues are attributed to changes in grazing fees and a change in how revenues are calculated.

The range revenues in the Forest Plan were incorrectly calculated by multiplying the 1986/1987 grazing fee against the permitted Animal Unit Months (AUMs), instead of Authorized Head Months of use. Range revenues are correctly calculated by multiplying the current grazing fees against the Authorized Head Months of use. A "Head" is defined as a grazing animal 6 months or older.

In Fiscal Year 1996, grazing fees were \$1.35 per head month for cattle and horses, and \$0.27 for sheep. In 1996, 18,360 cattle and horse head months and 6,080 sheep head months were billed.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results

It is unclear what effect the difference in revenues received and expected will have on the Forest Plan's long-term goals and objectives.



Item 8: Effects of National Forest Management on Lands, Resources, and Communities Adjacent to the Forest

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Unacceptable effects determined by the Forest Interdisciplinary Team.

Discussion:

The Nez Perce National Forest is managed to do what is best for the land and resources which we hold in trust for the American people. Often those most affected by this management direction are the communities and organizations adjacent to the Forest.

Most Idaho communities and agencies are affected to some degree by activities and management direction of the nearby national forest. One of the most obvious is payment in lieu of taxes (the 25% funds) generated from sale or lease of resources, permits, and other income generated on national forest lands. Other effects are wages from the federal work force, income from recreation and tourism, raw material to industry, cooperative agreements between agencies and the Forest Service, and demographic trends which may to some degree be attributable to activities on or condition of National Forest lands.

Following are some examples of the effects of management of the Nez Perce National Forest on adjacent communities and agencies in 1996:

- In 1996, the Forest employed 352 people (compared to 540 in 1995) and had a payroll of \$10,384,108. Nez Perce NF employees bring diversity to local communities. Some are American Indian, Asian-Pacific Americans, and Hispanic Americans. Many employees donate their time and talent to a variety of local activities and causes. Nez Perce NF employees serve on local governing boards; school, church, and service club committees; and youth sports organizations.
- Payments to Idaho County from the sale of timber, grazing fees, other income, etc. from the Nez Perce Forest totaled \$1,576,746.38 in 1996. Payments to the County from all national forests was \$1,905,543.77, which includes the Bitterroot National Forest (\$67,426.49) and the Clearwater National Forest (\$261,370.90). The majority of funds from the Nez Perce NF were from the sale of timber. The

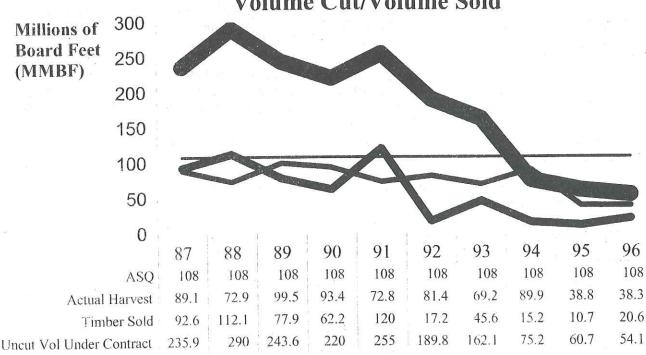
following chart displays payments (all receipts) to Idaho County from the Nez Perce National Forest since 1987.

Payments to Idaho County from Nez Perce NF (All Receipts)

Fiscal Year	Nominal Dollars	Constant 1996 Dollars		
1996	1,576,746	1,576,746		
1995	1,217,808	1,242,164		
1994	3,872,891	4,023,934		
1993	2,197,978	2,327,659		
1992	2,042,981	2,214,591		
1991	1,303,797	1,453,734		
1990	1,276,546	1,488,453		
1989	1,243,278	1,508,096		
1988	995,846	1,261,737		

- Primary lumber production facilities in the local area (Idaho, Lewis and Nez Perce counties) depend upon national forest logs for raw materials. For a sawmill to be viable it should maintain two to three year's supply of raw material under contract at all times. The following graph shows the uncut volume remaining under contract compared to the volume sold and volume harvested each year since 1987 on the Nez Perce National Forest. Obviously the supply of raw material (volume sold) from the Nez Perce NF has declined drastically since 1991. The effect likely will be reduced production, employment and perhaps closure of some area mills. Other effects could be added dependence on other BLM, State, Nez Perce Tribal, or private timberlands for raw materials.

Volume Remaining Under Contract (Uncut)
Volume Cut/Volume Sold



-ASQ -Actual Harvest Timber Sold Uncut Vol Under Contract

- Total expenditures (money allocated to the Forest by Congress) in fiscal year 1996, was \$26,494,000. Beside salaries, rent and other operational expenses, revenues are distributed to the local economies through formal contracts (\$627,527) and small purchases (\$1,286,000).
- In 1992, the Nez Perce National Forest became a grant administrator for funding through the 1990 Farm Bill. In 1995, the Elk City Alliance received \$16,950 for the development of Central Idaho Woodnet--a network of manufacturers of small forest products. The City of Grangeville Economic Management Team received a \$14,500 grant for a feasibility study of manufacturing straw-based particle board. In 1996, the Elk City Alliance received \$48,555 to implement business development strategies identified by Woodnet. The City of Riggins received \$37,576 for construciton of a restroom at Cleo Patterson Memorial Park.
- The Forest continued cooperative agreements with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Bureau of Land Management to study bull trout movements in the South Fork Clearwater River. The Forest concluded efforts to finish the "Venture 20" exercise in which the Forest cooperated with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Nez Perce Tribe on a variety of fish and wildlife issues on the Forest. Ranger Districts entered into a number of cost share agreements with local organizations in 1996. The purposes of some of these agreements were to maintain and construct trails, conduct wildlife surveys, and improve fish and wildlife habitat.
- The Forest provides the setting for a variety of recreation experiences. Over 500,000 recreation visitor days are estimated annually for such uses as camping, viewing scenery, boating, hunting, and fishing. The Forest is nationally known for the quality of big game hunting and white water boating. Winter sports and wildlife viewing are also increasing. The effects of these activities contribute to area economies and perhaps even real property values.
- Many rivers and streams on the Nez Perce National Forest flow onto adjacent ownerships. Management activities of watersheds on the Forest may affect water quantity and quality off the Forest. Some of these effects are monitored and reported in the Soil and Water section of this report under item 2h.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results

The falling timber supply to industry seems to be one of the most obvious effects of present management of the Nez Perce National Forest on adjacent communities and agencies. It has prompted limited local and state-wide support for turning management, especially timber management, over to the State of Idaho.

Item 9: Effects of Other Government Agencies' Activities on the National Forest

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996)

Reporting Period: Annually

<u>Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation</u>: Unacceptable effects determined by the Forest Interdisciplinary Team.

Monitoring Results:

State of Montana and State of Idaho (Air Quality): The Forest joined the North Idaho Airshed Group in 1990. This group's objective is to minimize or prevent impacts from smoke in North Idaho and Western Montana and to meet natinal ambient air quality standards when conducting prescribed burning. The Airshed Group was effective at not exceeding the ambient air quality standards in 1996. Monitoring of

smoke from wildfires and Prescribed Natural Fires on the Forest was done at Sula Peak, Montana. Days of highest fire activity still met air quality standards at Sula Peak.

State of Idaho Department of Lands (IDL): The agreement with the State of Idaho and federal land management agencies was re-written in 1996. One of the changes was to make the exchange of resources easier. The Nez Perce Forest used IDL resources (overhead, crews, and equipment) extensively to suppress wildfires in 1996. The Forest used crews from ICIO (Idaho Correctional Institute Orofino) several times to suppress wildfires on the forest and dispatched them in support of other agencies' suppression efforts.

Nez Perce Tribe: The Forest and the Nez Perce Tribe signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1995 stipulating that the Forest would train and equip a twenty person fire fighting crew from the Nez Perce Tribe. The training was accomplished in 1996 and the crew was used on fire assignments 17 times.

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ): The Forest coordinated with the Clearwater and Salmon River Basin Advisory Groups. These groups were formed by the State of Idaho primarily to coordinate activities pertaining to Water Quality Limited Streams and the Governor's Bull Trout Recovery Plan.

Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR): Under provisions of the Stream Channel Alteration Act, the Forest consulted with the IDWR with respect to activities affecting stream channels. The Department is also involved in administering the Snake River Water Rights Adjudication.

State of Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board: Through formal agreement, the Forest Service and the Board coordinate the permit and enforcement process for outfitters and guides providing public services on National Forest System lands.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG): IDFG works with the Forest in both a collaborative role and a resource advocacy role. Their involvement in FY96 included the following: whitetail deer research and incidental wildlife information gathering, information and support to assessment of TES issues on the Forest, assistance in validation of unverified bear sightings or photos for proper identification, participation in developing various species conservation assessments and strategies, input and collaboration to provide updating and improvement recommendations to the existing north Idaho summer elk model and opportunities to utilize an elk vulnerability model, winter surveys for elk and bighorn sheep populations, and providing a cooperative nongame wildlife position stationed in north central Idaho to interact and work with Forest non-game issues including neotropical migrant birds.

Idaho Soil Conservation District (ISCD): The ISCD is the lead agency on a meadow restoration project in Red River. The project is located on lands administered by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and potentially on private lands. The Forest provided technical and administrative assistance on the project in 1995.

Idaho State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO): The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) monitors the Nez Perce National Forest's compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This office reviews all cultural resource reports and site record forms. If a cultural resource is to be impacted by a Forest activity, the impact is mitigated through consultation with SHPO.

A programmatic agreement with SHPO and the preparation of a cultural resources overview through the University of Idaho, will result in more reliable and efficient identification and protection of all cultural resources, thus insuring compliance with the law and SHPO requirements.

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation: The Forest cooperated in the following grants administered by the State:

(a) Vessel Grant - Riggins Scat machine to provide for human waste management from the Salmon River floaters.

(b) Off-Highway Motorized Vehicle Grants:

- Brushing of 26 miles of snowmobile trails and the purchase/installation of 128 trail system signs;
- 2. Reconstruction of 1.8 miles of Anderson Butte NRT Trail; and
- 3. Level I, II, and III maintenance of 125 miles of motorized trails in the Florence Basin.
- (c) National Recreation Trail Fund maintenance of 35 miles of wilderness trail in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness.

Idaho Division of Aeronautics: The Board periodically inspects back country airstrips on the Forest and has been involved in any new planning efforts and proposals for backcountry airstrips. The Division helped reopen the Wilson Bar airstrip which was closed in 1992.

Idaho Conservation Data Center (ICDC): The ICDC cooperates with the Forest in conducting presence/distribution surveys for three sensitive plants and provided numerous data queries about rare species sightings for biological evaluation.

Idaho County: The County maintains the Salmon River, Dixie, and Crooked River roads under cooperative agreements.

The Forest continued to cooperate with the County on road maintenance on the Elk City District and in the Elk City township.

The County provides fiscal cooperation with snowmobile funding in support of the snowmobile trail grooming program as well as cooperating with snow plowing services for local Park and Ski and snowmobile programs.

The County provides cooperative maintenance services where shared responsibilities occur.

Idaho County Sheriff's Office (ICSO): The ICSO monitors Forest Service radios during non-official hours, provides assistance on patrols, security monitoring and arrests. The two agencies also cooperate in search and rescue missions. The Forest provides cooperative assistance by allowing the Sheriff's Office to use available Forest Service equipment when needed.

Nez Perce Tribe/Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission: The Nez Perce Indian Tribe, as in previous years, assisted the Forest in cultural awareness, recruitment and training activities. This assistance was of value in helping the Forest diversify its work force and accomplish resource management objectives. The Nez Perce Tribe is sponsoring a young horsemen's program called Appaloosa. This group will concentrate on learning packing skills through an outfitted educational trail ride program. The Forest Service is supporting this activity by teaching packing skills with forest and the 9 Mile Pack Train.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE): The COE was consulted on projects involving wetlands under provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): The USFWS provided ESA section 7 informal consultation support and/or concurrence to 125 biological assessments for listed and proposed species on the forest. In addition, the USFWS provided technical assistance and support to the development of several species conservation assessments and strategies of Forest species and provide for a statewide repository for information related to wolf, peregrine falcon, bald eagle and grizzly bear recovery efforts.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): The BLM and Nez Perce National Forest were involved in cooperative cadastral surveys. This was very beneficial to both agencies, with excellent results. An annual coordina-

tion meeting takes place. Activities coordinated include timber, range, mining, recreation, and water monitoring.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA): The Forest has continued working with BPA funds and several agencies and landowners to improve fish habitat, stream channel stability and riparian condition along several miles of Red River that is located on state and private lands.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): On May 22, 1992, the spring and summer run chinook salmon in the Salmon River drainage and the fall run chinook salmon in the Clearwater River were listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Forest continues working with NMFS in the Level 1 consultation process and Forest Plan consultation on steelhead (proposed for listing under ESA).

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

In order to meet the consultation requirements with NMFS, the Forest has programmed a major part of its funding and personnel to work on biological evaluations on all projects and activities. The purpose of these evaluations is to insure that projects and activities have a no effect or beneficial effect on chinook salmon recovery.

D. Other Monitoring

This section addresses monitoring information that is not identified as a requirement in the Nez Perce National Forest Plan (Table V-1). The Forest feels this information is important to monitor as part of Forest Plan implementation.

1. Nez Perce National Forest Accessibility for People with Disabilities

Discussion:

The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968 requires that all public buildings, facilities and programs funded in whole or part with federal funds be accessible to and usable by physically disabled persons. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1978 states, "No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by Federal financial assistance or by any Executive Agency". The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 provides standards - even when no Federal funds are involved - for addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, transportation, telecommunications, and services operated by private entities.

In 1991, the Nez Perce Forest Human Resource Team identified the need to evaluate accessibility of Forest facilities to people with disabilities. In June of 1991 a survey was initiated, using the newly developed Forest Service accessibility survey tool, to determine the accessibility of Forest campgrounds/picnic areas. In addition, the need was identified to evaluate Forest Service facilities. A special emphasis program was created in 1992 to deal with issues concerning people with disabilities. During the initial monitoring stages of facilities we realized the need for TDD (Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf) to allow better communication with our publics. TTDs have been installed in five District offices and the Forest Headquarters. To access these phone lines, use the following phone numbers:

Forest Headquarters	(208) 983-2280
Salmon River Ranger District	(208)839-2328
Clearwater Ranger District	(208) 983-0696
Red River Ranger District	(208)842-2235
Moose Creek/Selway Ranger District	(208)926-7725
Elk City Ranger District	(208)842-2233

General Description of the Different Levels of Accessibility (A Design Guide/Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation)

Accessible/Easy	Moderate	Difficult	
The general level of expected access to elements and spaces integrated into developed recreation sites or portions of sites. These are typically in: urban/rural settings; at sites managed to provide urban/rural recreation experiences; or at sites managed to provide an easy level of accessibility as defined by these guidelines.	The general level of expected access to elements and spaces integrated into moderately developed recreation sites or portions of sites. These are typically in: roaded natural settings; at sites managed to provide roaded natural recreation experiences; or at sites managed to provide a moderate level of accessibility as defined by these guidelines.	The general level of expected access to elements and spaces integrated into lesser developed recreation sites or portions of sites. These are typically in: semi-primitive settings; at sites managed to provide semi-primitive recreation experiences; or at sites managed to provide a difficult level of accessibility as defined by these guidelines.	

Monitoring Results:

Mobility Accessibility by Accessibility Levels

Facility	Easy/Accessible	Moderate	Difficult 0	
Fish Creek Pavilion 1994 - 100 People	Will accommodate 75 people	Will accommodate an additional 25 people		
Fish Creek Campground Sites: 11 total	9 campsites	2 campsites	0	
Blackerby Picnic Area Sites: 2 total	0	2 picnic sites	0	
Castle Creek Campground Sites: 9 total	0	8 campsites	0	
South Fork Campground Sites: 9 total	6 campsites	2 campsites	1 campsites	
Slims Camp Campground	0	0	Accessible at this level	
Selway Falls Campground	0	0	Accessible at this level	
Selway Fish Pond	Accessible at this level	Accessible at this level	Accessible at this level	
O'Hara Bar Campground Sites: 35	0	5 campsites	10 campsites	
Spring Bar Campground Sites: 17	0	6 campsites	3 campsites	
Allison Creek Picnic Area Sites: 2 total	0	0	1 picnic site	
Wildhorse Campground	0	0	Accessible at this level*	
Florence Cemetery	- Tr i - i		Accessible at this level*	
McAllister Picnic Area	25		Accessible at this level*	
Johns Cr. Trailhead			Accessible at this level*	
Cougar Cr. Trailhead			Accessible at this level*	
Trapper Cr. Trailhead			Accessible at this level*	
14 Mile Tree Trailhead		J.	Accessible at this level*	
Rocky Bluff Campground		de manuel compression de la compression della co	Accessible at this level*	
Meadow Creek Campground			Accessible at this level*	
Nelson Creek Campground			Accessible at this level*	
Red River Campground		2	Accessible at this level*	
Wild Horse Campground			Accessible at this level*	
Johnson Bar Campground			Accessible at this level*	
CCC Campground			Accessible at this level*	
Sing Lee Campground			Accessible at this level*	

Facility	Easy/Accessible	Moderate	Difficult
Slate Creek Ranger District Office	Accessible at this level	Accessible at this level	Accessible at this level
Clearwater Ranger District Office	Accessible at this level	Accessible at this level	Accessible at this level
Nez Perce Forest Headquarters Office	Accessible at this level	Accessible at this level	Accessible at this level
Red River Ranger District Office	Accessible at this level	Accessible at this level	Accessible at this level
Moose Creek/Selway Ranger District Office	Not Accessible at this level	Not Accessible at this level	Not Accessible at this level
Elk City Ranger District Office	Not Accessible at this level	Not Accessible at this level	Not Accessible at this level

^{*}Depending on weather

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Most Forest recreation sites have been reviewed to determine their accessibility to people with disabilities. Three sites are accessible at the Easy level. Another 4 sites are accessible at the Moderate level, and 18 sites are accessible at the difficult level. In many other sites it is difficult for someone in a wheelchair to use the toilet facility.

The Nez Perce Forest has a number of recreation areas that have a great potential for service to people with disabilities. Several years ago, the activities director from one of the local nursing homes indicated that they would love to take some of their residents to the forest if they could be assured of having accessible campgrounds and picnic facilities. Since then, we have completed several projects to improve recreation site accessibility. Most recently projects to increase accessibility at O'Hara and Spring Bar campgrounds were completed in FY 96.

The Selway pond project provides fishing access for people with mobility impairments and opened in May 1995. A hunting program for folks with mobility impairments is operated at Red River Ranger District in coordination with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Most developed recreation site facilities on the Nez Perce have been surveyed and transition plans developed. Each FS office will maintain copies of the transition plans that apply to their area. These transition plans will provide recommendations to the Forest on how to make the facilities accessible to people with disabilities.

By the end of 1997, all ranger station surveys and transition plans will be complete. An addition to the Elk City Ranger District office was completed late in 1996, making that office accessible. With the completion of the Elk City project, the Supervisor's Office and all district offices, except the combined Moose Creek/Selway at Fenn Ranger Station, will be accessible to everyone. A triplex apartment building, our first fully accessible residences for employees, was completed at the Elk City Ranger Station in 1996.

Moose Creek and Selway Ranger Districts are in the process of combining their districts at the historic Fenn Ranger Station and are in the early planning stages for providing accessible services there. A preliminary design was completed in 1996 for a new building at the site which would provide accessible visitor services.

2. Environmental Analysis Accomplishments Related to Timber

Monitoring Results: The following table and discussion summarize Forest Supervisor authority environmental analysis accomplishments between FY 88 and FY 96. Beginning in FY 93, District Ranger authority environmental analysis accomplishments are also included.

Fiscal Year	No. of Decisions	Included No. of Sales	Total Acres Analyzed	Proposed Harvest Acres	Average Harvest Volume (MMBF) per Timber Sale	Proposed Harvest Volume (MMBF) ¹
88	3	3	24,400	1,662	9.0	27.0
89	8	15	164,480	5,908	6.8	102.1
90	2	7	38,296	4,677	6.0	42.1
91	3	11	81,964	6,164	8.0	88.5
92	1	1	4,034	351	10.4	10.4
93	4	5	25,716	2,461	4.1	20.5
94	4	35	11,230	319	0.04	1.3
95	9	11	6,730	386	0.4	4.1
96	8	13	11,408	1,160	0.9	12.1
97				-		
98			*			
99				nger in gas	. = 1	
00	1					
9-Yr.Avg	. 5	11.2	40,918	2,565	3.0	34.2
Total	42	101	368,258*	23,088	(FE)	308.1

¹Proposed harvest volume figures in this table are different than those exhibited in Table 1 on pages 5 and 9 because of the rounding off of numbers.

In addition, the FEIS for Mill Creek was completed under Section 2001 Salvage Rider but was withdrawn after Secretary Glickman's letter.

The eight new timber related decisions in FY 96 included Corral Hill and Swede Meadow Salvage (Clearwater District); Red River Salvage (Red River District); 9730 Salvage (Selway District); Campbell Sup Salvage, Prospector Bunny and Boundary (Elk City District). The Record of Decision for the Upper Swiftwater Environmental Impact Statement was signed.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Many National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents require more than one year to complete. This results in high variability from year to year with respect to the number of decisions and acres analyzed.

As of the end of fiscal year 1996 (9 years since the Forest Plan went into effect), the Forest had completed site-specific analysis of 40 percent of the total suitable land base of 911,669 acres.

^{*}A 50,000 acre error in the total has been carred since 1992. This has been corrected this year.

Of the 42 total timber related NEPA decisions, 4 were Environmental Impact Statements, 20 were Environmental Assessments, and 18 were Categorical Exclusions.

3. Noxious Weed Management

Noxious weeds and invasive exotic plants are a rising concern on federal land across the western states. Many invasive exotics can invade healthy ecosystems, displace native vegetation, affect species diversity and wildlife habitat. Wide spread infestations may lead to soil erosion, reduce quality of recreation for visitors and threaten the long term viability of rare plants. Invasive exotics have been identified as major threat to our native biodiversity.

The Nez Perce National Forest is moving forward with an active management program for noxious weeds. The program is an integrated approach to managing the weeds on the forest and includes: education/awareness, inventory, prevention/early detection, treatment and monitoring.

Management priorities for the Nez Perce are, 1) to prevent the establishment of potential invaders, 2) the eradication of new invading noxious weeds, 3) the control of satellite infestations including the treatment of transportation corridors and areas of concentrated human activities, and 4) the containment of large established infestations.

The noxious weeds that are of greatest concern to the Forest are dyer's woad, rush skeleton-weed, yellow starthistle, diffuse knapweed, Russian knapweed, toothed spurge, leafy spurge, sulfur sinquefoil, spotted knapweed, Scotch thistle, orange and yellow hawkweed, and common crupina.

The Forest Service across Idaho restricted the use of hay and feed to only those products that were certified weed seed free or weed free, as part of a statewide prevention program. The Forest worked with Idaho County to ensure that a local supply of certified products was available.

District and Forest personnel have worked with many user groups and interested parties, during the 1996 season, in the identification and risks of invasive exotic plants. District personnel lead field trips to review infestation and risk levels in sensitive areas such as wilderness and wild and scenic rivers. Displays were set up at the Idaho County Fair and Idaho Horse Expo to educate users of the Forest in the risks of weed invasions.

Each district has a noxious weed coordinator that directs inventory, control and monitoring activities. Noxious weeds addressed in analyses for ground disturbing or habitat altering activities.

The Forest treated approximately 1,400 acres, during the 1996 field season, using a variety of tools. Weeds were treated by the release of biological control agents, the manual pulling of isolated infestations, mowing, the seeding of disturbed sites, and herbicides. The treatments are consistent with the estimated level outlined in the Forest Plan.

The Forest is involved in the implementation of the Salmon River Weed Management Area. The management area encompasses 500,000 acres in the lower Salmon River Canyon where a collborative plan has been developed between Idaho County, private landowners, and Federal and State land management agencies. The intent of the weed management area is to bring together those responsible for weed management within the Salmon River drainage, to develop common management objectives, facilitate effective treatment and coordinate efforts along logical geographic boundaries with similar land types, use patterns and problem species.

A similar effort is being developed in the Clearwater River Basin. The Forest is part of a coordinating committee of county, federal, state and private representatives. The committee was established to coordinate weed management activities across the entire Clearwater basin.

III. RESEARCH NEEDS

The following research needs have been identified during implementation of the Forest Plan. They will be recommended to the Regional Forester for inclusion in the Regional research program proposal.

1. The Elk Guidelines Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) model represents a composite of factors and variables affecting elk behavior from all over the west. There is a need for cooperative research to help refine the Northern Idaho Elk Guidelines HSI Model so variables characteristic of Northern Idaho will be more properly represented and the model better tailored to local conditions.

Status: To date, the Clearwater National Forest has taken the lead in generating a proposed method for validating the North Idaho Summer Elk Model. The method, developed with the cooperation of the University of Idaho, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, uses elk pellet transect data. Budget limitations currently prevent the implementation of the method on the Forest.

- 2. Moose winter range questions need to be addressed:
 - (a) What silvicultural system best maintains the yew component in the grand fir/Pacific yew association?
 - (b) How can fuels be managed and still retain Pacific yew?
 - (c) What is the optimum spatial arrangement of yew throughout the Forest?
 - (d) What is the optimum stand size for yew?
 - (e) How many acres of the grand fir/Pacific yew association exist on the Forest?
 - (f) Does the Forest Plan adequately address the definition and protection of key moose winter habitat which has no Pacific yew component?
- The consequences of repeated burning, and of maintenance of forest ecosystems in prolonged seral brush stages, need to be evaluated.
- 4. Determine the relative effectiveness of fertilization compared to burning for improving wildlife habitat.
- 5. Determine and define corridor attributes needed to link old-growth stands.
- 6. Stand dynamics for riparian habitat types are poorly described. Silviculturists need to be able to predict effects of timber management on stand regeneration, competition, future stand composition, and insect and disease patterns. Methods need to be developed to monitor the effects of timber harvest and other activities on riparian areas.
- Habitat relationships and limiting factors for most sensitive species (plant and animal) are poorly understood. Research is needed to better define critical habitat components for these species and risk posed by Forest management activities.

Accomplishment of Research Needs:

Repeated Burning: In 1993, an evaluation of the results of repeated prescribed fire on big game winter range was initiated. Although the field work was completed in 1991, the published results from the evaluation related only the favorable responses of elk and deer to improved winter forage conditions. Data collected on soil and vegetative response to prescribed fire is yet to be analyzed and the results published. Lack of available funding and staff time has precluded completion of this evaluation.

IV. PLAN AMENDMENTS

Amending the Nez Perce National Forest Plan is a normal process of improving our ability to care for the land. The need to amendment the Plan was anticipated at the outset. Twenty amendments and one revised amendment have been issued.

Following are summaries of those amendments made to date. A copy of any amendment(s) can be obtained by contacting the Nez Perce National Forest Supervisor's Office.

Amendment #1: Clarifies our intent to protect potential Wild and Scenic Rivers upon their inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, by providing more detailed Forestwide standards.

Proposed changes in the management standards were developed following guidance contained in the Wild and Scenic River Evaluation section of the Forest Service Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8). (10/88)

Amendment #1 (REVISED): Revised Forest Plan Amendment #1 is exactly the same as the original amendment except that the following statement has been removed. The amendment was necessary to settle an appeal of Amendment #1. (1/91)

"Boundaries may include adjacent areas needed to protect the resources or facilitate management of the river corridor."

Amendment #2: Clarifies the Forest's definition and management of motorized recreation on the Nez Perce National Forest. (10/88)

Amendment #3: Modifies standards listed in Chapter II (Forestwide Management Direction) and Chapter III (Management Area Direction). Clarification is provided in changes to the minerals section of Chapter VI (Summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation) and the glossary and monitoring items.

The specific standards modified are those relating to minerals, wildlife and fish, and riparian area management, and to provide clarification that will not alter the multiple-use goals and objectives as identified in the Forest Plan.

The need for changes and clarification in management standards was the result of negotiations with the Independent Miners Association's appeal of the Nez Perce National Forest Plan. An interdisciplinary team developed the settlement agreement that addressed the appellant's concerns and a proposal for correcting the Plan. (3/89)

Amendment #4: Modifies standards listed in Chapter II (Forestwide Management Direction), modifies the visual resource standards in Chapter III (Management Area Direction) and modifies specific monitoring requirements in Forest Plan Appendix O dealing with visual resource management.

The need for changes and clarification in management standards was the result of environmental analysis of proposed timber sales and road construction in the Wing Creek-Twentymile area. During the comment period of the Wing Creek-Twentymile Draft Environmental Impact Statement, concern was expressed on conflicting Forest Plan language pertaining to visual resource management. An interdisciplinary team was used to analyze the concerns and develop a proposal for correcting the Forest Plan. (3/89)

Amendment #5: Corrects errors displayed in the Nez Perce National Forest Plan Appendix A, Forest Fishery/Water Quality Direction by Prescription Watershed. These objectives provide management direction in terms of the maximum estimated increase in sediment over baseline conditions that can be approached or equaled for a specific number of years per decade.

Some of the changes are planning errors made in identifying sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines. Site-specific analysis and stream surveys have also revealed that some streams were incorrectly identified as not supporting anadromous fish. The errors were identified through environmental analysis of proposed timber sales and road construction. An interdisciplinary team was used in identifying the needed changes and proposing the corrections. (3/89)

Amendment #6: Corrects errors in Forest Plan Chapter II (Forestwide Management Direction), Chapter III (Management Area Direction), Chapter V (Implementation), Chapter VII (Glossary), and Appendix A (Fishery/Water Quality Direction).

The corrections made in this Forest Plan amendment provide clarification that will not alter the multipleuse goals and objectives as identified in the Forest Plan.

An error was identified through environment analysis of a proposed timber sale and associated road construction and habitat improvement project. Forest Plan Appendix A describes current fishery habitat quality in the West Fork of Red River (Prescription Watershed 17060305-04-18) as 50 percent of potential habitat quality. The West Fork of Red River is in a pristine natural condition. This watershed is roadless and no management activities are known to have occurred in either the watershed or the stream. The stream is, therefore, in a pristine, natural condition and it is appropriate to display it at 100 percent of potential habitat quality.

The Forest Interdisciplinary Monitoring Team identified additional typographical errors in the Forest Plan. This Forest Plan amendment includes the correction of those errors. (7/89)

Amendment #7: Clarifies language found in the following sections:

Chapter II (Forestwide Management Direction)

Chapter V (Implementation)

Chapter VI (Summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation)

Appendix O (Forest Plan Monitoring)

The specific items modified provide clarification that will not alter the multiple-use goals and objectives as identified in the Forest Plan.

The need for changes and clarification in management standards was the result of negotiations with the Nez Perce Indian Tribe on their appeal of the Nez Perce National Forest Plan. An interdisciplinary team was used in developing the settlement agreement that addressed the appellant's concerns and developed a proposal for correcting the Forest Plan. (1/90)

Amendment #8: The purpose of Forest Plan Amendment #8 is to clarify language in Appendix O (Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements).

During this past year the Forest Interdisciplinary Monitoring and Evaluation Team identified some items in the Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements Appendix that need correction or clarification.

These items focus on fish and wildlife monitoring. Specifically, the changes relate to forage production, wildlife population trends, and fisheries and watershed monitoring station costs.

The corrections made in this Forest Plan amendment provide clarification that will not alter the multipleuse goals and objectives as identified in the Forest Plan. (1/89)

Amendments #9 and #10: These amendments deal with management practices specific to the Cove and Mallard Timber Sales as described in the recently released Final Environmental Impact Statements for those sales. Amendment No.9 was formally adopted in the Mallard Record of Decision, and Amendment No. 10 was formally adopted in the Cove Record of Decision. Both of these amendments correct oversights in the Forest Plan.

These two amendments apply only to the timber sales analyzed in the Cove and Mallard Environmental Impact Statements. They do not apply to other timber sales on the Forest.

The two amendments will allow clearcutting and sanitation/salvage harvesting within Management Areas 12 and 17. (11/90)

Amendment #11: Forest Plan Amendment No. 11 makes adjustments in the Forestwide monitoring program and updates the fish/water quality objectives in Appendix A to the Plan. The changes in the monitoring program were recommended by the Forest Interdisciplinary Monitoring Team in the Nez Perce National Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Report for Fiscal Year 1989; the objective was to make the program more comprehensive. The revised fish/water quality objectives are based on recent stream surveys. Specific changes in both the monitoring program and the fish/water quality objectives are listed in the Decision Memo for Amendment No. 11. (1/91)

Amendment #12: Amendment 12 makes minor changes to the Wall Creek Municipal Watershed direction (Management Area 22) contained in the Nez Perce Forest Plan. These changes relate to improving the range of management practices identified in the Forest Plan, and specifically to items such as notifying the Water District if a fire occurs in the watershed and taking special precautions with machinery and chemicals. (2/91)

Amendment #13: Amendment 13 brings the Plan into compliance with legal requirements and Forest Service directives dealing with animal damage control. It should be noted that the amendment does not authorize any specific projects. (4/91)

Amendment #14: Amendment 14 has been voided, as directed by the Washington Office of the Forest Service. This amendment dealt with separately showing the allowable sale quantity (ASQ) that came from inventoried roadless areas and roaded areas. (3/91)

Amendment #15: Amendment 15 amends the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan and the Forest and Land Management Plans for the Bitterroot, Boise, Challis, Payette, Nez Perce, and Salmon National Forests.

The amendment changes wording in the Wilderness Management Plan related to reducing the storage of items and removal of plumbing fixtures from the wilderness. The amendment only modifies the schedule of implementation. (6/91)

Amendment #16: Amendment 16 adopts programmatic changes in management direction for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. These changes should enable wilderness managers to better meet both the letter and the intent of the Wilderness Act. (2/92)

Amendment #17: Amendment 17 allows salvage timber harvest within Management Area 20 (old growth wildlife habitat) following the Scott Fire. Analysis showed that salvage harvest would help to speed up the achievement of old-growth vegetative characteristics in the burned area. This amendment is specific to the Scott Fire salvage sale and will not apply to other areas on the Forest. (4/93)

Amendment #18: Amendment 18 brings the Forest Plan into compliance with a court order which addresses outfitter and guide operations in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. (7/94)

Amendment #19: Amendment 19 adds more specific management direction for vegetation in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness General Management Direction. It establishes goals, objectives, standards and guides and monitoring elements for vegetation within ecosystem management principles. It addresses such issues as: noxious weeds, rare plant protection, vegetative diversity and management of pack and saddle stock. (2/95) [Note: Based on negotiations with appellants, the decision was rescinded in May 1995. A new amendment/decision which provides additional clarification is expected in FY95.]

Amendment #20: The Nez Perce Forest Plan was amended by the Chief of the Forest Service to incorporate an interim strategy for managing anadromous fish-producing watersheds (PACFISH). (2/95)

V. LIST OF PREPARERS

The following individuals contributed to the development of the Monitoring and Evaluation Report for the Nez Perce National Forest for fiscal year 1996. Members of the Forest Interdisciplinary Monitoring Team are designated with an asterisk (*).

UNIT	NAME	AREA OF EXPERTISE
Supervisor's Office	Nick Gerhardt* Jerry Weigand* Dave Hayes*	Watershed Timber Timber Planning and Interdisciplinary Monitoring Team Co-Leader
	Leonard Lake* Roger Ward*	Range, Botany and Noxious Weeds Silviculture
	Nancy Rusho*	Minerals
	Dave Green* Dave Holt	Economics
et.	Jeff Adams Bruce Anderson Bo Neilson	Recreation/Wilderness/Rivers
	Cindy Schacher	Heritage Resources
	Randy Doman*	Fire
	Pat Green *	Soils/Ecology
	Dick Artley*	Land Management Planning and Forest Interdisciplinary Monitoring Team Co-Leader
	Steve Blair*	Wildlife
	Katherine Thompson	Fisheries
	Joe Bonn*	Engineering
	Kathie Snodgrass	Engineering
	Daryl Mullinix Laura Smith	Lands and Special Uses
	Monica McGee	Graphics Illustrator Technical Support
	Dave Holt	Budget and Finance

District review of the draft report was coordinated by the following individuals. The District review involved appropriate staff and resource specialists.

Salmon River Ranger District	Mike McGee*	District Monitoring Coordinator
Clearwater Ranger District	Sue Paradiso*	District Monitoring Coordinator
Moose Creek Ranger District	Heather Berg*	District Monitoring Coordinator
Elk City/Red River Ranger Districts	Kara Stockwell	District Monitoring Coordinator

In addition, the report was reviewed by the following individuals:

Coy Jemmett

Forest Supervisor

Ihor Mereszczak Michael Cook

Ecosystem Planning & Operations Staff Officer

Lands, Administration, Trails, Engineering, and Recreation Staff Officer

Byron Bonney Jan Robinson Fire Staff Officer Personnel Staff Officer

Elayne Murphy

Customer Service Information Staff Officer

Phil Jahn Jack Carlson Heritage, Watershed, Ecology, and Biology Staff Officer

Darcy Pederson

District Ranger, Salmon River Ranger District District Ranger, Clearwater Ranger District District Ranger, Moose Creek Ranger District

Jerry Bird

John Bisbee

District Ranger, Elk City/Red River Ranger Districts

VI. APPROVAL

I have reviewed the annual Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report for Fiscal Year 1996 for the Nez Perce National Forest that was prepared by the Forest Interdisciplinary Team. I am satisfied that the Monitoring and Evaluation effort meets the intent of both the Forest Plan (Chapter V) and 36 CFR §219. I have also considered the recommendations of the Interdisciplinary and Leadership Teams on proposed changes to the Forest Plan and will process the necessary Amendments after appropriate notification.

This report is approved:

COY G. JEMMETT Corest Supervisor

* APPENDIX *

STATUS of ACTION ITEMS IDENTIFIED PRIOR to FY 96

The action items shown below were identified between Fiscal Year 1988 - 1995 and are recurring. It also includes action items identified in FY 96 that were also identified in prior years and remain unresolved. Action to resolve these concerns in Fiscal Year 1996 is shown below. The fiscal year(s) that the action items were identified are shown on the "FYs Shown" line. Action items with an "incomplete" or "ongoing" status will be included in next years report. Action items that are 'complete" or "resolved" will not be repeated.

TIMBER

Item #1:

Continue to maintain expertice for the remeasurement of permanent growth plots. The data from such plots will be used to help develop yield tables in the revised Forest Plan.

FYs Shown:

FY 95

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

Is occuring as funding and personnel permit. This task remains a high priority on the Forest. The Regional Office is currently evaluating permanent plots regionwide to determine which should have continued measurement and which should not. This should reduce costs and duplication.

MONITORING

Item #1:

Review the appropriatness of adding a monitoring element to the Forest Plan addressing the Forest situation regarding the existence and treatment of commodity vs. non-commodity vegetation.

FYs Shown:

FY 91

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

Under ecosystem management, vegetation with potential commodity use as well as other vegetation will be inventoried and analyzed through the landscape assessment process. Historic and existing vegetation will be evaluated and the desired future vegetation conditions will be defined. Progress towards achieving desired vegetative conditions (including harvest of those with commercial value) will be monitored and displayed in future M&E Reports as the assessments are completed in FY 96-99. Commercial vegetation removal and harvest will continue to be reported at years end in the Annual TSPIRS Report.

RECREATION

Item #1:

Delevlop criteria for evaluating impacts of off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. Determine what is unacceptable change on a transportation system or land base as a result of these uses and user types.

FYs Shown:

FY 89-91, FY 94 and FY 95.

Status:

Not Completed

Discussion:

Continued lack of funding and the low priority assigned to this task compared with other recreation related work has resulted in very little work in this area.

The development of a systematic method to monitor off-road motor vehicle (ORV) use and impacts has not been a top priority on the Forest. As a result, specific instances of detrimental effects of ORV use continue to be handled on a case-by-case basis. Recreation, particularly motorized recreation, continues to be used as the principle mitigator for timber harvest. This is having significant effects on the long-term potential for recreation use and opportunities on the Forest and this effect will increase as timber harvest increases under the Salvage Bill.

Item 2:

Implement the National system called Infrastructure, which will be used to improve the gathering and documentation of visitor use information.

FYs Shown:

FY 94 and FY 95

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

The Nez Perce forest has implemented Recreation Infrastructure, however, more work needs to be done on the RIM system as it relates to this database. The current estimates of recreation use by activity are not statistically accurate. Higher priority needs to be given to gathering recreation use information.

Item 3:

Review and revise recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) forestwide, incorporate ROS analysis into all environmental analyses and develop a mechanism for updating ROS acreages in the database.

FYs Shown:

FY 94 and FY 95

Status:

Incomplete

Discussion:

The review, revision and acreage updating of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) forestwide was submitted as a project proposal for ecosystem management funding. It was the third priority project submitted for recreation and was not funded.

Item 4:

Establish a system of measurements for more precise monitoring of sites eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

FYs Shown:

FY 94 and FY 95

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

In accordance with the Region One Programmatic Agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer, National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible sites are currently being monitored before, during and after the implementation of specific projects. This monitoring documents any site changes which may have occurred due to potential project related impacts, vandalism, or the forces of nature.

A more comprehensive monitoring program needs to be established on a multi-year schedule. This monitoring, based on regular cycles would show any changes to sites and would allow for the documentation of such changes and move towards the proper allocation strategy and management of cultural resource sites. A detailed system and methodology

need to be developed for the identification and measurement of any changes which may have occurred. However, due to budget restraints this has not been possible. A significant increase in the Heritage Resource Program budget and personnel is needed to implement a systematic monitoring program which would adequately contribute towards the management of all NRHP eligible cultural resource sites on the Nez Perce National Forest.

Item 5:

Continue to replace sub-standard signs in the wilderness.

FYs Shown:

FY 94

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

The Forest is continuing to replace substandard signs in wilderness as funding levels allow.

Item 6:

Continue to strengthen the visual quality program on some Districts.

FYs Shown:

FY 94 and FY 95

Status:

Complete

Discussion:

The Forest has hired a landscape architect. This position is shared with the Clearwater National Forest. This person is assisting the Districts with their visual quality issues.

Item 7:

The Middle Fk of the Clearwater River Management Plan needs to be updated and the administration of scenic easements needs more emphasis.

FYs Shown:

FY 94 and FY 95

Status:

Incomplete

Discussion:

There continues to be a need to update the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River Management Plan. A shared Scenic Easement Administrator position was established between the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests to provide consistent Wild & Scenic River easement administration on the Selway, Moose Creek and Lochsa Ranger Districts.

Item 8:

Formally adopt a new "roaded modified" Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class for the forest.

FYs Shown:

FY 95

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

Work continues in this area.

FISHERIES

Item #1:

Fishery and water quality objectives for the South Fork of Clear Creek should be consistent with objectives for similar chinook habitat on the Forest. Also, one-half mile of stream in the

Clear Creek drainage does not have an assigned water quality objective.

FYs Shown:

FY 90.

Status:

Incomplete .

Discussion:

This situation will be corrected through the forest plan amendment process. Other higher priority work has delayed progress on this amendment. Given recent budget reductions and the pending Forest Plan revision work already underway, it is unlikely that an amendment will be made before the revised Plan is complete.

Item 2:

Monitoring of fish habitat condition needs to be adequately funded, staffed and given a higher priority for accomplishment.

FYs Shown:

FY 93 and FY 94.

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

The Forest is experiencing reduced budgets and as a result, is downsizing the workforce. In FY 96, the Forest will complete a workforce analysis in order to prioritize the work and match with existing skills. The results are unavailable at this time.

WILDLIFE

Item 1:

The Forest needs to determine how fire or silvicultural prescriptions might be used to protect designated old growth from stand-replacing fires.

FYs Shown:

FY 93

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

Research continues to evolve. We do know that the exclusion of fire in dry, lower elevation ponderosa pine habitats through aggressive fire control has interrupted the natural cycle of frequent interval (5-10 years), low intensity ground fires. These fires served to "thin" the invading fir trees when they are still very small. If left unmanaged, these small trees create what is called "ladder fuels", which provides a pathway for fire to reach the crowns of the pine trees. Prescribed burning under the right conditions and mechanical thinning from below are effective treatments and will be used on the forest in the future.

Item 2:

Concise snag identification and marking directions to Forest Service timber marking crews must be included in timber marking guidelines. Consistent, non-contradictory timber sale contract clauses are needed to help retain snags and trees for replacement snags.

FYs Shown:

FY 93

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

Field monitoring of 4 timber sales in 1993 revealed the Forest Plan snag management guidelines were not being met in all cases. The problem is not with the timber sale contract clauses. The clauses contain adequate language to meet the desired snag numbers.

Retention of an adequate number of snags requires that they be designated as "leave trees" by marking them with paint. It is vital that the intent of the silvicultural prescription be clearly translated into easily understood marking guides. It is also important that the actual marking is reviewed frequently by silviculturalists and biologists to assure the desired end result is being implemented. State and Federal safety requirements are making it more difficult to retain snags in the working area. New OSHA regulations require that each danger tree shall be felled, removed or avoided. Snag marking in the future must consider safety. Marking snags in clumps and marking snags that are least likely to be considered a "danger tree" are options that will be used in the future.

Item 3:

The Forest needs to continue to discuss with the Nez Perce Tribe alternatives to prescribed fire in achieving big game winter range improvements.

FYs Shown:

FY 93, FY 94 and FY 95

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

Work continues as time permits.

Item 4:

Fisher/pine martin transects need to have consistent annual readings to produce more useful data.

FYs Shown:

FY 93, FY 94 and FY 95

Status:

Incomplete

Discussion:

In FY 96, consistent annual readings of winter track count transects were precluded by erosion of funding for this kind of activity. Budget earmarked priorities (such as neotropical migratory bird monitoring) and reduced available personnel resources have both contributed to this weakness. The need to monitor fisher populations is greater than that for pine marten due to the relative scarcity and difficulty in monitoring the fisher versus the relative abundance of pine marten track sign.

Item 5:

The Forest should reinitiate Pileated woodpecker surveys with sample size and regularity increased to improve data reliability.

FYs Shown:

FY 95

Status:

Incomplete

Discussion:

Work is dependant on funding and personnel availability.

Item 6:

As funding permits, the Forest should gather management data to better describe preferred moose winter range characteristics.

FYs Shown:

FY 94

Status:

Incomplete

Discussion:

Reductions in available budgets along with shifting priorities and reduced staff time continue to reduce the Forest's ability to clarify and better describe moose winter range characteristics. The Forestwide yew wood inventory (from FY 93) remains available for review and to assist in conflict resolution when and if funding and personnel resources can be diverted to the task.

Item 7:

The Forest needs to concentrate on completing more accurate inventories of snags before and after timber harvest.

FYs Shown:

FY 95

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

Work continues as funding and personnel permit.

SOIL AND WATER

Item 1:

Additional work is needed to improve the quality of placer mining operations in some cases. The lack of specific mandatory "best management practices" is a limitation in achieving this.

FYs Shown:

FY 94

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

Work continues as funding and personnel permit.

Item 2:

To prepare for forest plan revision and development of an aquatic ecosystem conservation strategy, synthesis of available research, development of an aquatic classification system and characterization of aquatic community structure and distribution are needed.

FYs Shown:

FY 94

Status:

Complete

Discussion:

In FY 96/97, approximately 37 Region One "peer groups" will be formed to determine analysis, classification and data structure protocols for selected issues. Aquatics is one of the 37 issues addressed and has been completed.

Item 3:

Continued development of the NEZSED model and improvements in the reliability of observed sediment yield estimates are needed to improve future land management decisions.

FYs Shown:

FY 94

Status:

Incomplete

Discussion:

The priority of such work has not been high enough to warrant funding. Noting done to date.

Item 4:

To maintain soil productivity, water quality and maintain viable populations of native species, increased emphasis needs to be given to accomplishing integrated landscape and site specific assessments.

FYs Shown:

FY 93 and FY 94.

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

In FY 97, the Forest will complete an Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale of Slate Creek. Also, in FY 97, the Forest will begin the first of 3 landscape assessments at the 4th code HUC scale (750,000 - 1,000,000) acres in preparation for Forest Plan revision. This first landscape assessment will cover the South Fork Clearwater River drainage. The second such landscape assessment is planned for FY 98 in the Selway River drainage.

Item 5:

Determine whether to publish the "Hydrologic Data Summary and Monitoring Analysis

Report" for FY 92-95, or simply complete the data for distribution when requested.

FYs Shown:

FY 95

Status:

Resolved

Discussion:

Due to personnel limitations and other workload priorities, no report has been issued since 1991. The annual report format will probably not be resurrected, however, updated data will

be made available upon request.

Item 6:

Analyze the effectiveness measures being taken to promote riparian recovery in McComas Meadows in light of the effects to the meadows of the 1995 storm event.

FYs Shown:

FY 95

Status:

Ongoing

Discussion:

Meadow conditions were evaluated in the summer of 1996 and spring of 1997. A restoration

plan is being refined with implementation ongoing.

FACILITIES

Item 1:

By the end of FY 95, all facilities on the forest will be surveyed for accessibility for people with disabilities with transition plans developed.

FYs Shown:

FY 94

Status:

Complete

Discussion:

Most developed recreation facilities on the forest have been surveyed for accessibility for

people with disabilities with transition plans developed.

REFERENCES

The Nez Perce National Forest Headquarters can be contacted in regard to locating copies of the following cited material referred to in this report:

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- Gloss, David J., 1995. Evaluation of the NEZSED Sediment Yield Model Using Data from Forested Watersheds in North-Central Idaho. University of Idaho, Master's Thesis, Moscow, ID.