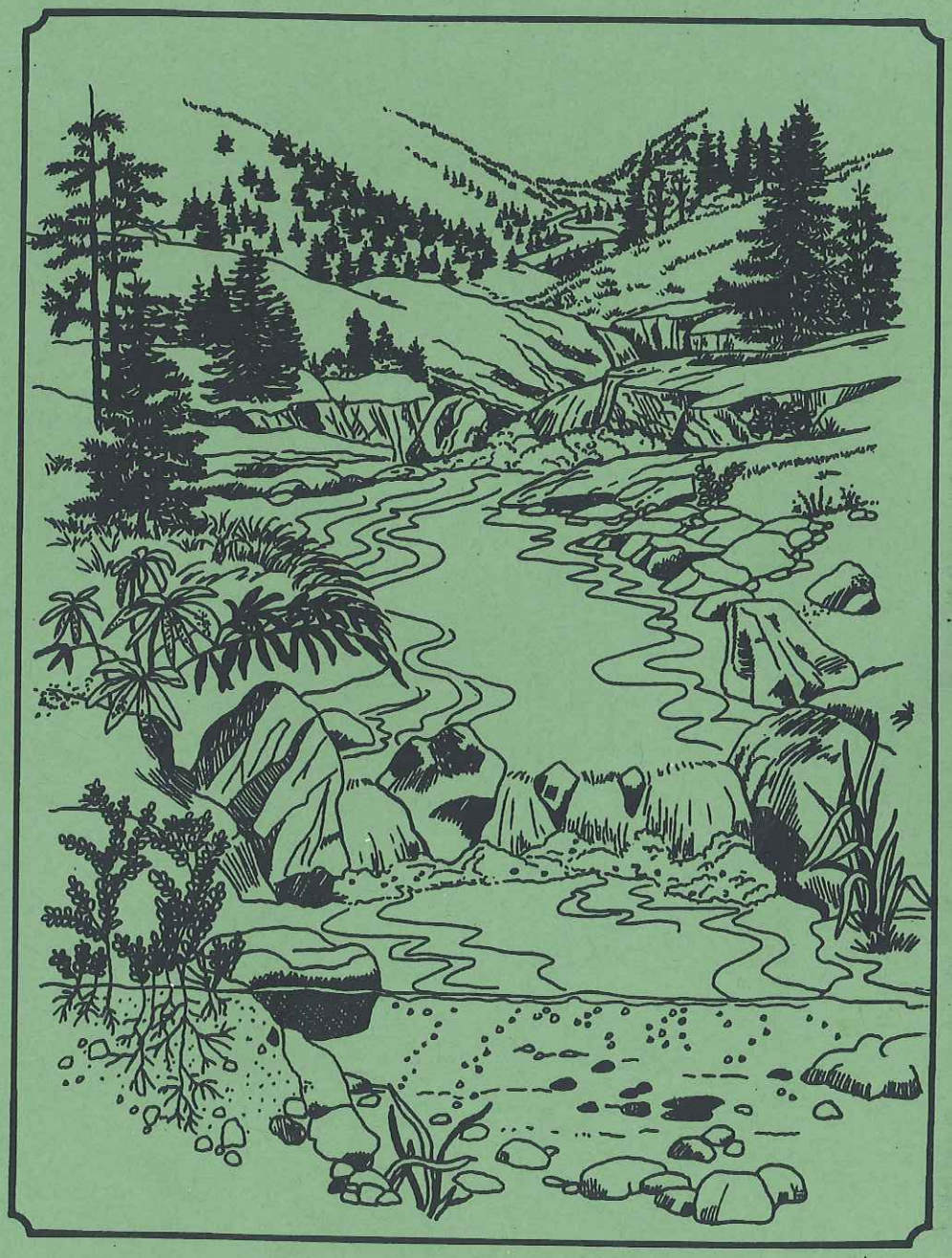
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Nez Perce National Forest Plan

Tenth Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report



Fiscal Year 1997

Information Requests and 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, Idaho 83554
Phone: (208)-839-2211
TTY: (208)-839-2328
FAX: (208)-839-2211

Moose Creek Ranger District
HC 75, Box 91
Kooskia, Idaho 83539
Phone: (208)-926-4258
TTY: (208)-926-7725
FAX: (208)-926-7119

Clearwater Ranger District
Route 2, Box 475
Grangeville, Idaho 83530
Phone: (208)-983-1963
TTY: (208)-983-0696
FAX: (208)-983-4056

Red River Ranger District
Elk City Ranger Station
Elk City, Idaho 83525
Phone: (208)-842-2245
TTY: (208)-842-2233
FAX: (208)-842-2245

Nez Perce National Forest Headquarters
Route 2, Box 475
Grangeville, Idaho 83530
Phone: (208)-983-1950
TTY: (208)-983-2280
FAX: (208)-983-4090

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 the Elk City Ranger Station.

Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report

Nez Perce National Forest

Fiscal Year 1997

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 the act of 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** (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?" In this report, implementation monitoring is the type of monitoring assumed, unless otherwise specified.
- **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 that 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 1997. 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, 1996, through September 30, 1997. 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:

- Section I. The Introduction.
- Section II compares planned outputs and services with the actual accomplishments and discusses budget and expenditure history and future projections. Section II also includes a detailed summary of monitoring findings for each of the required Forest Plan Monitoring Elements, 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, 1997.
- Section V lists those people who contributed to the preparation of this report.
- Section VI is the Forest Supervisor Approval page.
- The Appendix to this report lists references and the status of progress on past action items.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MONITORING AND EVALUATION RESULTS AND TRENDS

A. Were Outputs and Services Provided as Predicted

Table 1 compares the levels 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 fiscal year 1997.

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

The targets represent the levels 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

Land Management Planning (NFLP)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
11.2	EM121	Forest Plan Mntmg/Evaluation	Reports	NA	0	1
11.3	EM112	Forest Plan Rvsns Underway	Plans	NA	0	0
61.0	EM112	Significant FP Amend. Underway	Amendments	NA	0	0
61.1	EM112	Forest Plan Rev. Completed	Plans	NA	0	0

Inventory and Monitoring (NFIM)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
13.2	EM111	Riverine Vly Sgmt Scale Inv.	Miles	NA	0	0
13.3	EM111	Rvrn Strm R/C Unit Scale Inv.	Miles	NA	0	0
13.4	EM111	Lacustrine Lk Type Scale Inv.	Acres	NA	0	0
13.5	EM111	Lcstrn Lk Zone/Site Scale Inv.	Acres	NA	0	0
13.6	EM111	Ecrgn Sci -D/D/P Assessment	Assessment	NA	0	0
13.7	EM111	Ecsrgn Sctn RvB/s Assesment	Assessment	NA	1	1
13.8	EM111	Lndscp/Wtrshd Sci Assessment	Assessment	NA	0	0
14.2	EM111	Ecrgn Sci-D/D/P Assessnent	Assessment	NA	0	0
14.3	EM111	Ecsrgn Sctn RvB/S Assessment	Assessment	NA	0	1
14.4	EM111	Lndscp/Wtrshd Sci Assessment	Assessment	NA	0	2
60.1	EM111	Forest Res. Inventory	Acres	NA	0	0
60.2	EM111	Rangeland Res. Inventory	Acres	NA	0	2,500
60.3	EM111	Wildlife Habitat Inventory	Acres	NA	0	6,200
60.4	EM111	TE&S Habitat Inv.	Acres	NA	0	5,666
60.5	EM111	Stream Aquatic Biota Inv.	Miles	NA	0	0
60.6	EM111	Lake Aquatic Biota Inv.	Acres	NA	0	0
60.7	EM111	Ecsrgn (sct/sbsct) Scale	Acres	NA	0	0
60.8	EM111	Landscape Scale Inventory	Acres	NA	0	0
60.9	EM111	Land Unit Scale inventory	Acres	NA	0	0
61.9	EM111	Heritage Inventory	Acres	8,000	0	1,900
81.2	EM121	AQRV's Inventory & Monitoring	AQRV	NA	0	1

Recreation Management (NFRM)

Mar Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
26.0	AN1	Seasonal Capacity Available	PAOT Days	NA	503,400	496,125
62.3	AT1	Recreation Trails on System	Miles	NA	1,480	1,676
62.5	AS1	Rec Spcl Use Permits Total	Permits	NA	65	67
63.2	AN1	Recreation Use Total	M Visits	NA	0	1,592
XXXX	AT23	Trail Maintenance	Miles	NA	0	0

Wilderness Management (NFWM)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
64.3	AT1	Wilderness Trails on System	Miles	NA	0	1,726
XXXX	AT23	Trail Maintenance	Miles	NA	0	0
65.2	AC1	Heritage Sites Evaluated	Sites	NA	0	11
65.3	AC1	Heritage Sites Interpreted	Sites	NA	0	0
65.4	AC1	Heritage Sites Preserve/Protect	Sites	NA	0	16

Wildlife Habitat Management (NFWL)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
37.2	CW221	Wildlife Structures	Structures	NA	5	5
66.2	CW222	Wildlife Hab Rest/Enh	Acres	5,000	980	1,025

Inland Fish Habitat Management (NFIF)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
68.3	CI2221/222	Inland Fish Stream Rest/Enh	Miles	NA	5	5
68.4	CI2221/222	Inland Fisk Lk Rest/Enh	Acres	NA	0	0

Anadromous Fish Habitat Management (NFAF)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
70.3	CA221/222	Anad Fish Stream Rest/Enh	Miles	NA	0	5
70.4	CA221/222	Anad Fish Lk Rest/Enh	Acres	NA	0	0

TE&S Habitat Management (NFTE)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
39.2	CT221	TES Structures	Structures	NA	0	2
72.4	CA221/222	TE&S Aq Strm Hab Rest/Enh	Miles	NA	0	0
72.5	CT221/222	TE&S Aq Lk Hab Rest/Enh	Acres	NA	0	0
72.6	CT222	TES Hab Restored/Enh	Acres	64	0	550
72.9	CT1	Bio Assess/Evaluation	Tasks	NA	0	60
73.1	CT1	Recovery & Conserv. Plan	Tasks	NA	0	0
74.2	CT1	Species Delisted/Reclassified	Species 1/	NA	0	0
74.3	CT1	Sensitive Species Downlisted	Species 1/	NA	0	0

Grazing Management (NFRG)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
30.0	DL221	Range Structural Imp	Structures	NA	11	11
75.1	DL1	Grazing Allot. Adm to Stnrd	Permits	NA	24	24
75.2	DL1	Grazing Allot. Admin - Total	Allotments	NA	0	28
75.3	DL1	Grazing Allot Analyzed /Implmnt	Allotments	NA	4	0
75.5	DL1	Grazing - Sheep & Goats	Hd Months	NA	0	7,605
75.6	DL1	Grazing - Cattle & Horses	Hd Months	NA	0	15,001

Rangeland Vegetation Management (NFRV)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
9.0	DN241	Noxious Weed Treatment	Acres	250	200	1,259
29.0	DN222	Range Non-Struct Imp.	Acres	500	0	50
76.1	DN1	Rangeland Monitor/Evaluated	Acres	NA	0	5,000

Timber Sales Management (NFTM)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
16.3	PF2/24/241/242	Fuels Treatment-BD	Acres	NA	1,862	2,463
17.1	ET1143	Volume Offered, New	MBF	NA	12,100	19,983
17.2	ET1143	Volume Offered, SSF	MBF	NA	19,600	14,412
77.4	ET1143	Volume Offered, New	CCF	NA	3,025	3,520
77.5	ET1143	Volume Offered, SSF	CCF	NA	4,900	2,588
77.8	ET1143	Volume Sold	MBF	NA	0	30,408
77.9	ET1143	Volume Sold	CCF	NA	0	12,163
79.1	ET12FS/PP/TC	Volume Harvested - Total	MBF	NA	0	19,364
79.2	ET12FS/PP/TC	Volume Harvested - Total	CCF	NA	0	7,746

Forest Vegetation Management (NFFV)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
19.0	ET24	Reforestation	Acres	940	1,007	1,407
19.0	ET24	Reforestation-KV	Acres	4,300	1,534	1,850
20.0	ET25	Timber Stand Improvement	Acres	700	817	808
20.0	ET25	Timber Stand Improvememt-KV	Acres	300	138	148

Soil, Water, Air Operations (NFSO)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
81.1	FA	PSD Permit Apps. Reviewed	Applications	NA	0	0

Watershed Improvements (NFSI)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
13.0	FW221/222	Soil & Water Resource Imp.	Acres	320	142	143
82.5	FW1	Class I Watersheds	Watersheds	NA	0	0
82.6	FW1	Class II Watersheds	Watersheds	NA	0	0
82.7	FW1	Class III Watersheds	Watersheds	NA	0	0

Non-Energy Resources (NFMG)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
84.1	GL1/GR1	N-Bond N-Energy Ops	Operations	NA	34	0
84.2	GL1/GR1	Bond N-Energy Ops	Operations	NA	34	20
84.3	GL1/GR1	Total Bond N-Energy Ops	Operations	NA	102	104
84.4	GL1/GR1	Bond N-Energy Op Adm To Stnd	Operations	NA	51	50
84.5	GE1	N-Energy Acres Processed	Acres	NA	0	0
84.6	GZ22	Abandoned Sites Reclaimed	Sites	NA	2	2
84.7	GG1	Geologic Mgmt Areas Admin.	Areas	NA	0	2
84.8	GL1	Geologic Permits/Reports Comp.	Reports	NA	0	5
86.1	GR1/GC1	Mineral Materials	Tons	NA	0	988
86.2	GL1	Precious Metals	Troy Oz. 1/	NA	0	0
86.7	GL1/GE1/GC1	Industrial Minerals	Pounds 1/	NA	0	0
86.8	GL1/GC1	Base Metals	Pounds 1/	NA	0	0

Real Estate Management (NFLA)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
89.1	JL23	Landownership Admin	Cases	NA	0	1
89.2	JL122	Gen Special Use Aps Processed	Permits	NA	0	53
89.3	JL11	Auth Administered to Standard	Permits	NA	0	120
89.4	JL11	Auth Administered - Total	Permits	NA	0	134

Acquisition of Lands (LALW)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
31.0	JL26	Ownership Adjustment	Acres	NA	0	20
32.1	JL263	Land Exchange - Fee	Acres	25	0	0
32.2	JL263	Land Exchange - P/Interest	Acres	NA	0	0
34.0	JL251	Rights-Of-Way Acquistions	Cases	NA	1	1

Land Line Location (NFLL)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
33.0	JL24	Land Line Location	Miles	NA	10	10
90.1	JL23	Land Line Maintenance	Miles	NA	0	20
90.2	JL24	Special Area Boundary Location	Miles	NA	0	2

Road Maintenance (NFRD)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
91.2	LT23	Roads Maintained - Total	Miles	NA	4,090	4,090
91.3	LT23	Roads Obliterated	Miles	NA	0	9
91.4	LT23	Roads Fully Maintained	Miles	NA	0	0

Law Enforcement Operations (NFLE)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
92.1	PL133	Incidents	Incidents	NA	0	0
92.2	PL121	Cooperative Agreements	Agreements/1	NA	0	0

Forest Road Construction (CNRN, CNTM, CNGP)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
93.1	LT22	Road Construction	Miles	53	0	6
93.2	LT22	Road Reconstruction	Miles	30	0	31

Forest Trail Construction (CNTR)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
21.0	AT22	Trail Const/Reconst.	Miles	20	22	26.2

Forest Service Fire Protection (FFFF)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
16.0	PF111	Fire Protection Capability	Dollars	NA	0	$ 1,994,432
16.2	PF21,241,242,243	Fuels Treatment	Acres	4,540	6,100	4,182

Job Corps (FFFF)

MAR Code	Work Activity	Definition	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	FY 97 Target	FY 97 Accomplishment
41.0		YCC Participation	Enrolee Yrs	NA	0	17
43.0		SCS PArticipation	Enrolee Yrs	NA	7,280	3,024
44.0		NFS Program Volunteers	Enrolee Yrs	NA	0	7
44.1		Hosted Program/ Other HRT	Enrolee Yrs	NA	0	1.4

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 (1995-1997).

Table 3, "Projected Forest Funding Level", displays the actual FY98 and projected FY 99 Forest budget by resource function. Dollars have been adjusted to constant 1997 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 and 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 funds are 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 sales.

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 Congressional approporiated 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 private non-profit 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

Funding Description	Fiscal Year 1995		Fiscal Year 1996		Fiscal Year 1997	
	Allocation (FY 1997$)	Expenditures (FY 1997$)	Allocation (FY 1997$)	Expenditures (FY 1997$)	Allocation (FY 1997$)	Expenditures (FY 1997$)
General Administration	$1,432	$1,375	$1,659	$1,831	$1,394	$1,472
Recreation, Trails Mtc.	$1,916	$2,064	$1,696	$2,000	$1,496	$1,507
and Wilderness						
Wildlife and Fish	$1,382	$1,445	$1,120	$1,216	$920	$932
Range						
Range	$406	$506	$285	$284	$310	$347
Noxious Weeds	$38	$46	$46	$45	$120	$101
Soil, Air and Water	$622	$657	$400	$539	$305	$298
Minerals	$399	$370	$351	$372	$356	$355
Timber						
Timber Management	$1,545	$1,559	$1,112	$1,364	$1,183	$1,117
Veg. Improvement	$980	$1,037	$811	$459	$686	$740
KV Reforest/TSI/Other	$3,226	$2,607	$2,277	$2,072	$2,000	$1,255
CWFS Other-Trust Fund	$236	$49	$51	$96	$50	$48
Timber Salvage Sales	$2,158	$1,772	$1,759	$1,851	$2,000	$1,851
Protection						
Fire Protection & Fuels	$2,727	$3,806	$2,598	$2,837	$2,853	$2,843
Law Enforcement	$138	$148	$99	$158	$113	$104
Brush Disposal	$525	$397	$412	$371	$400	$274
Lands						
Special Uses/Land Exchng	$198	$1,890	$140	$118	$107	$148
Landline Location	$104	$100	$106	$137	$103	$89
Facilities						
Facility Mtc.	$202	$211	$168	$213	$168	$173
Road Mtc.	$658	$789	$666	$731	$647	$635
Facility Const-Forest Adm	$19	$604	$71	$579	$17	$27
Pre Const-Capital Inv. Rds	$601	$649	$357	$563	$310	$345
Trail Const/Reconst	$424	$538	$482	$280	$32	$360
Ecosystem Management	$328	$387	$334	$343	$533	$608
Totals =	$20,261	$23,008	$16,999	$18,461	$16,103	$15,629

Table 3

Forest Funding Level for FY 98 and Tentative FY 99

Funding Description	FY 1998 (in M 1997$)	FY 1999 (in M 1997$)
General Administration	$1,225	$1,197
Recreation, Trails Mtc.	$1,526	$1,586
and Wilderness		
Wildlife and Fish	$907	$994
Range		
Range	$237	$237
Noxious Weeds	$138	$152
Soil, Air and Water	$299	$332
Minerals	$313	$309
Timber		
Timber Management	$893	$1,045
Veg. Improvement	$807	$760
KV Reforest/TSI/Other	$1,306	$1,425
CWFS Other-Trust Fund	$423	$95
Timber Salvage Sales	$2,280	$1,805
Protection		
Fire Protection & Fuels	$3,595	$3,211
Law Enforcement	$122	$107
Brush Disposal	$380	$210
Lands		
Special Uses/Land Exchng	$142	$142
Landline Location	$100	$100
Facilities		
Facility Mtc.	$157	$171
Road Mtc.	$632	$655
Facility Const-Forest Adm	$12	$0
Pre Const-Capital Inv. Rds	$562	$475
Ecosystem Management	$533	$522
Total	$16,590	$15,531

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).

Wildlife

Item 1c: Big-Game Habitat Carrying Capacity

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 7 years (FY 1996)

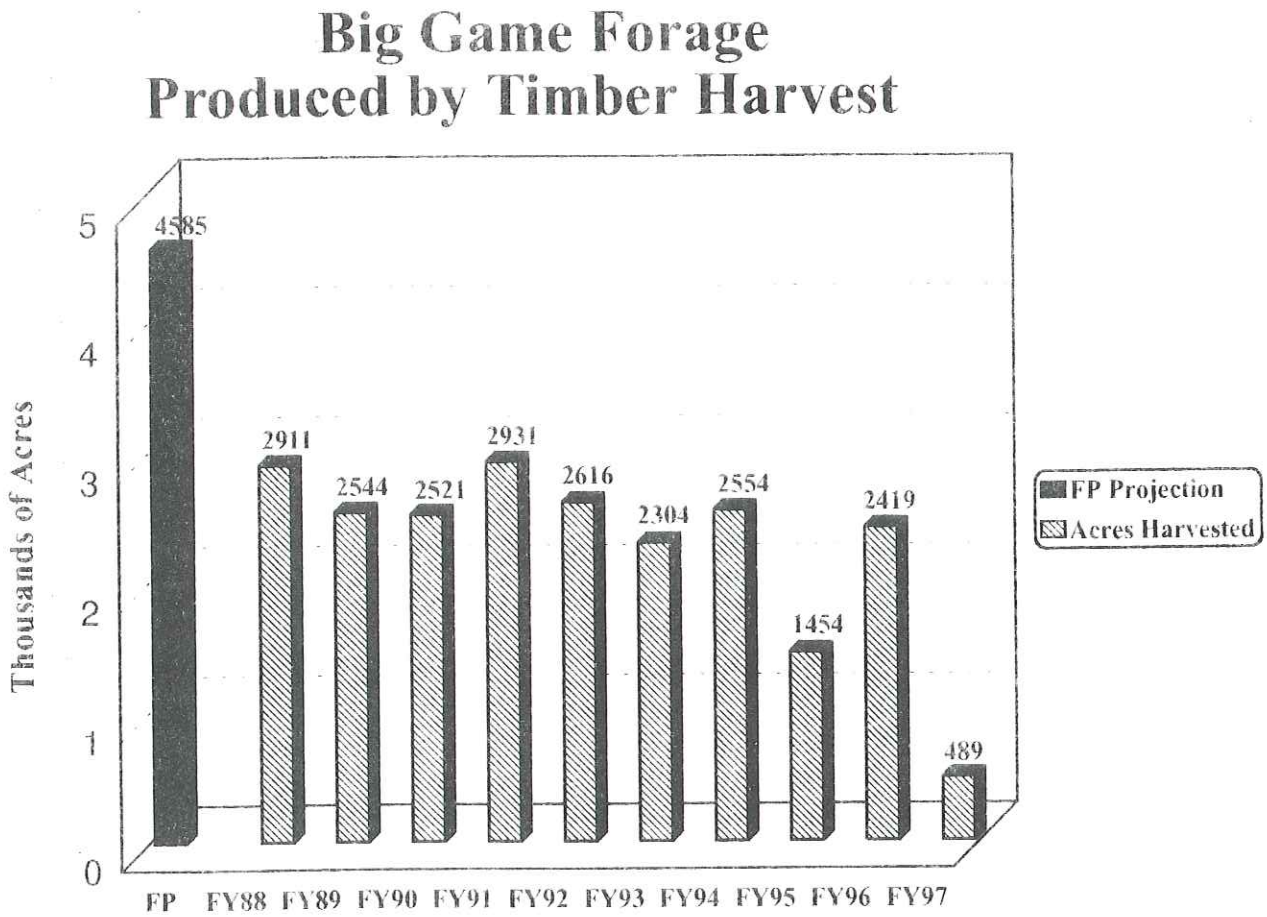
Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: Significant trend deviations (evaluated at 5-year intervals) from planned or expected forage-generating activities or events (timber harvest, prescribed fire, and wildfire).

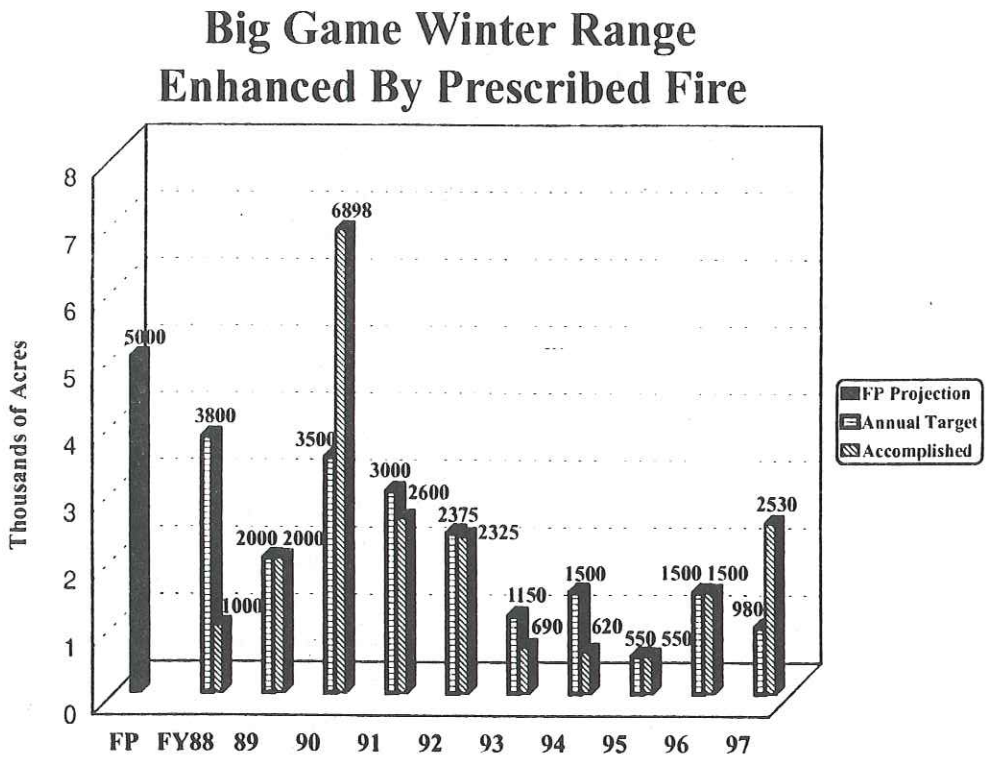
Forage Production

Monitoring Results:

Timber harvest (i.e., clear-cut, seed tree, and shelter wood), prescribed fire and wildfire acreages are used as forage production indices. Forage production for elk and deer in the coniferous forests of north central Idaho 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 4,585 acres of regeneration timber harvest and 5,000 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 4,700 acres per year.

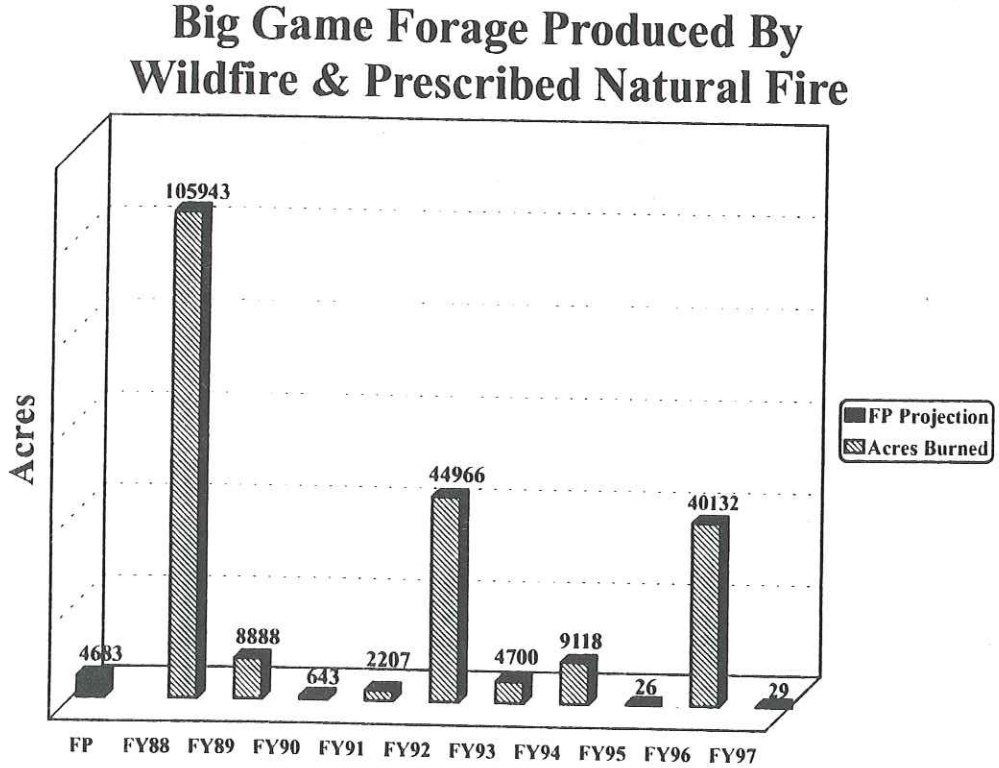
Projected acreages for each variable identified in the Forest Plan, and their FY 97 target and accomplishments, are depicted in the following graphs.





Evaluation of Monitoring Results

Since Forest Plan implementation, timber harvest that increased big game forage has averaged about 2,274 acres per year (50 percent of the Forest Plan projection). Prescribed fire projects for big game winter range has averaged about 2,650 acres per year (57 percent of projection). Through timber harvest and big game winter range prescribed fires have fallen short of planned acreages, wildfires have helped to compensate for these shortfalls.



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 percent) of elk summer range are within the Forest's three designated wildernesses. The Forest Plan designated elk summer range effectiveness objectives at 25 percent on approximately 207,132 acres; 50 percent on approximately 463,372; 75 percent on approximately 274,033; and 100 percent on approximately 942,568 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 78 percent 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 completed a Forest Plan minor amendment (Forest Plan Amendment #23) process to correct original Forest Plan analysis unit errors and resolve many 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 11 acres of MA 21 were harvested in FY97. These were salvage harvested and were not post-treated with prescribed fire. The acreage harvested was well below the 5 percent limit.

Monitoring Results:

No site-specific or MA 21 specific monitoring was done on the Forest in FY97. The 11 acres harvested in FY 97 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 clear-cut/burn harvest acres deal with yew's susceptibility to fire. Other treatment methods are not considered as winter moose habitat.

Item 1d: NonGame Habitat

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 5 years (FY 1992)

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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. Recognition of risks from stand-replacing fires in ponderosa pine habitat types have led to proposals to partial harvest in some ponderosa pine old growth. Twenty-seven acres of predominantly salvage harvest type occurred in MA 20 sites in FY 97.

Monitoring Results:

No field reviews of compliance with Forest Plan old growth standards was done in FY 97. Database review of acres harvested in FY 96 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 in how these specific habitats are managed.

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 buildups 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 fuel wood 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 97, only one "formal consultation" involving the Shingle peregrine nest and reforestation activities was required. No other formal consultations were conducted.

Five-thousand-six-hundred-sixty-six (5,666) 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 nine years suggest individual wolves may occur naturally on the Forest. Nine total reports of wolf or wolf sign were documented on the Forest in FY 97. Reintroduced wolves with radio-collars occupied the forest in 1997, and included wolves B5, B10, B18, B31, and B33. Two surviving pups born to B5/B10 in 1996 were located with the pair in May 1997, near the Trilby Lakes. There is no evidence of livestock depredation on the Forest to date.

Grizzly Bear

No reports of grizzly bears were documented in FY 97. To date no confirmation of permanent grizzly occupation exists on the Forest.

Peregrine Falcon

A second active nest was identified in 1997 on the Forest. Although intermittent activity by individual birds near both nests was observed early in summer, 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. The USFWS agreed the Shingle nest failure was not related to land management.

Bald Eagle

The bald eagle was down listed 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	1997
Salmon River: White Bird to Vinegar Creek	Adult	1	2	1	2	2	5	3	2	10	2	6	4	3
	Immature	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0
S.F. Clearwater: Farrens Creek to Crooked River	Adult	3	0	1	2	0	0	1	3	0	3	3	2	3
	Immature	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	6	0	0
M.F. Clearwater: Clear Creek to Selway	Adult	9	6	5	10	4	1	4	12	7	9	15	3	5
	Immature	0	2	2	2	3	1	4	4	1	3	3	1	1
Grand Total	14	10	9	17	9	7	13	21	23	19	33	10	10	12

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

The winter survey routes located on the Forest yielded 11 (eleven) adult birds and 1 (one) immature bird. 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 97. Funding constraints limited the Forest's potential to monitor other sensitive animal populations extensively. Active information/education programs expanded public awareness for these species.

A single, unconfirmed sighting of a lynx was reported near Burnt Knob Lookout. The Fish and Wildlife Service reclassified the lynx as "warranted but precluded" due to higher priority species. It became a C-2 candidate for

federal listing in 1997. Three white-headed woodpeckers were confirmed in Rooney Basin of the Salmon River Ranger District.

Conservation assessments and/or strategies have been developed on broad, landscape scales for white headed woodpecker, black backed woodpecker, Coeur d'Alene salamander, pine martin, 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. Surveys were conducted for Constance's bittercress and candy stick, as well as Mac Farlane's Four O'clock. Monitoring continued for puzzling halimolobos and broad-fruit mariposa. As a result of the survey for the Federal Highway Administration, a new population of Giant helleborine (Epipactis gigantea) was found adjacent to the national forest.

Item 1e: Acres of Big-Game Habitat Improvement

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

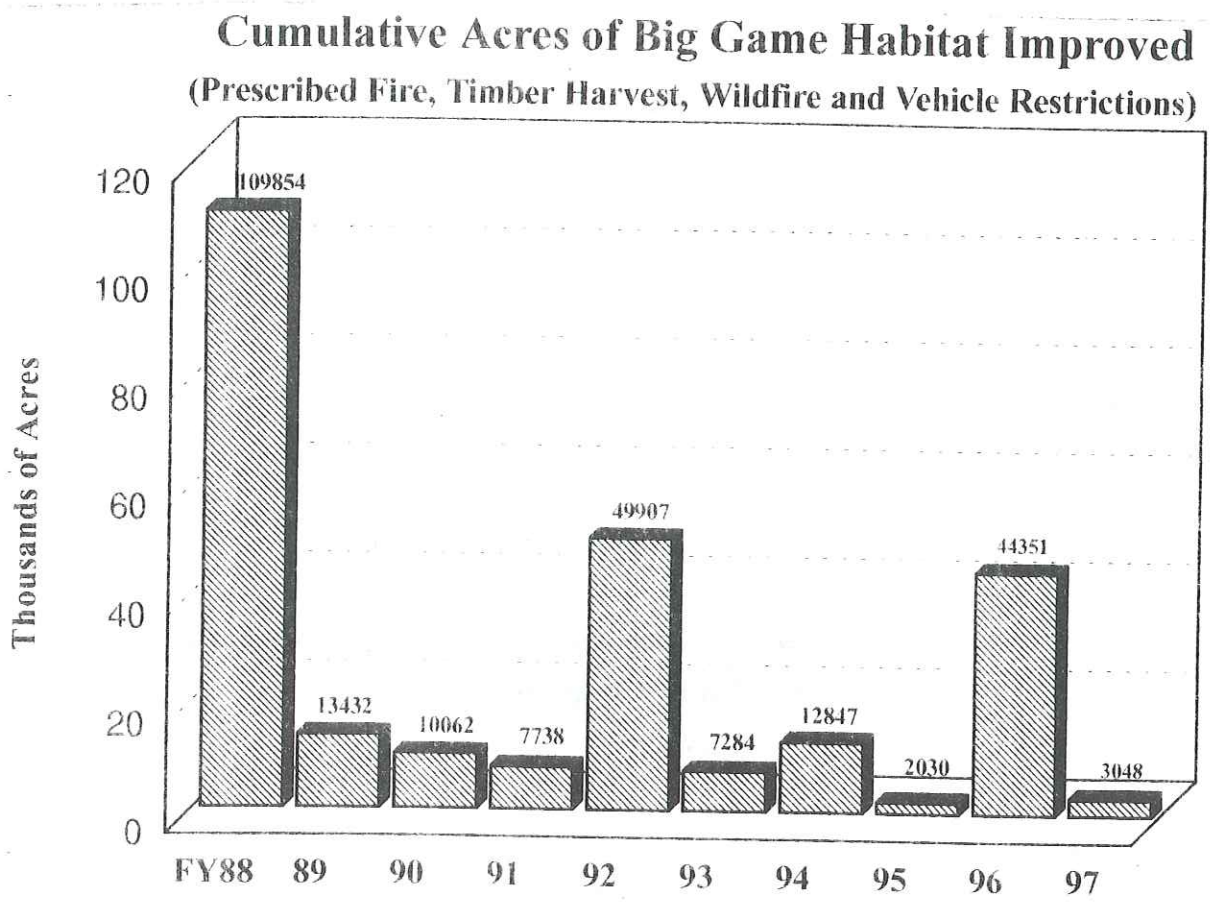
Reporting Period: Annually

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: More than one year of variability from planned improvement acreages, excepting variances due to extreme fire conditions.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement

Monitoring Results:

In 1997, the Forest over accomplished its 980 acre target by 500 acres. These acres were accomplished with partner funds, along with fire and wildlife appropriated funds. 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 489 acres of elk and deer winter range were improved through timber harvest.



Evaluation of Monitoring Results

Approximately 20,713 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 2,071 acres per year. This falls short of the annual target of 5,000 acres by 41 percent. The cumulative shortfall over 10 years is approximately 29,287 acres below Forest plan projections.

Item 10: Populations Trends of Indicator Species - Wildlife

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: FY 97

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.

Monitoring Results:

Elk surveys were not completed on any Nez Perce National Forest hunt units in FY 97. Winter census surveys since 1988 have yielded the following results:

Elk Population
Estimated by Sightability[1]

Unit[2]	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
15	---	---	856 +/-81	---	---	1236 +/-310	---	---	1544	No data
16	---	---	818 +/-122	---	---	1432 +/-156	---	---	1148	No data
16A	1028 +/-261	---	---	961 +/-201	---	---	---	475 +/-114	---	No data
17	4506 +/-535	---	---	3783 +/-279	---	---	---	4995 +/-555	---	No data
19	---	1467 +/-37	---	---	1497	---	---	---	1566	No data
20	---	1044 +/-48	---	---	1237 +/-61	---	1115	---	1277	No data

Bull:Cow Ratios
(Bulls per 100 Cows)

Unit	Objective[3]	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
15	>20	---	---	20 +/- 5	---	---	11 +/- 5	---	---	9.6	no data
16	>20	---	---	10 +/- 5	---	---	22 +/- 4	---	---	11.9	no data
16A	>25	35 +/- 14	---	---	23 +/- 8	---	---	---	19.6 +/- 20.6	---	no data
17	>25	26 +/- 5	---	---	22 +/-3	---	---	---	20.9 +/- 3.7	---	no data
19	>25	---	21 +/- 2	---	---	17 +/1 2	---	---	---	15.0	no data
20	>25	---	26 +/- 4	---	---	31 +/-5	---	19	---	21.4	no data

[1] Represents total population estimate of animals on the winter range of each unit.
[2] Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Big Game Management Unit
[3] 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 Ratios
(Calves per 100 Cows)

Unit	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
15	---	---	39	---	---	43 =/- 17	---	---	32.4	No data
16	---	---	16	---	---	21 =/- 4	---	---	17.9	No data
16A	32	---	---	30	---	---	---	14.7 =/- 5.1	---	No data
17	27	---	---	24	---	---	---	22.2 =/- 3.2	---	No data
19	---	24	---	---	32	---	---	---	20.1	No data
20	---	22	---	---	34	---	24	---	15.2	No data

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 possibly influenced hunter distribution.

Bull:cow ratios data from 1996 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.

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. Hunter permit numbers have increased substantially in recent years.

Bighorn Sheep

Monitoring Results:

Bighorn Sheep Total Counts

Unit	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
17	52	---	---	28	43	No data	No data
19	---	52	60	---	---	56	No data
20	---	106	66*	87	---	78	No data

*Incidental count, may not be complete

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

Total numbers of bighorn sheep observed during surveys have declined in units 17, 19, and 20 since the 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, no permanent transects were sampled in FY97. A summary of six 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	1997
Totals	9	9	6	13	6	No survey	No survey	No survey	5	No survey

Evaluation of Monitoring Results

Available data from previous year counts suggest that pileated woodpecker numbers are relatively stable, especially in the Green Creek Point area.

Pine Marten/Fisher

Monitoring Results:

Due to inadequate budget levels, fisher/pine martens winter track counts were not done in FY97. Pine marten are much more common across the Forest. An IDFG furbearer harvest report for all of Idaho County for 1995 listed the following numbers of marten: 3. Considering these numbers, if near reality, trapping may not be a valid cause for concern under current fur prices. Other furbearers reported harvested in 1995 in Idaho County included: beaver (23), bobcat (6), coyote (37), mink (4), muskrat (4), raccoon (7), and skunk (16).

Goshawk

Monitoring Results:

No new nests or sightings were reported in FY97. A FY95 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 watershed 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 FY97 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 65 different bird species. Red-breasted hatches, Pine siskins, Townsend's warblers, Swainson's thrushes, Wester 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.

FY95-96 data was analyzed across the Forest to determine if fragmentation-related nest predation or brood parasitism by cow birds presents a problem. Sampled cow bird numbers (5 in 1995, 1 in 1996) did not appear to be cause for concern. Avian nest predators commonly associated with forest fragmentation in eastern forests were entirely absent from '95 and '96 survey results. A report is available from the Forest Headquarters Office in Grangeville.

Item 11: Validation of Resource Prediction Models: Wildlife

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 2 to 6 years (FY 1996 to 1997)

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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 judgement 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 have completed 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.

Fish

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

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

Section not updated for 1997 report

* * *

Item 2e: Fish Habitat Trends by Drainage

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

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

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: A measured decrease of 10% or more below established objectives.

Section Not Updated for 1997 Report

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

Section Not Updated for 1997 Report

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Timber

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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 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 int he 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.

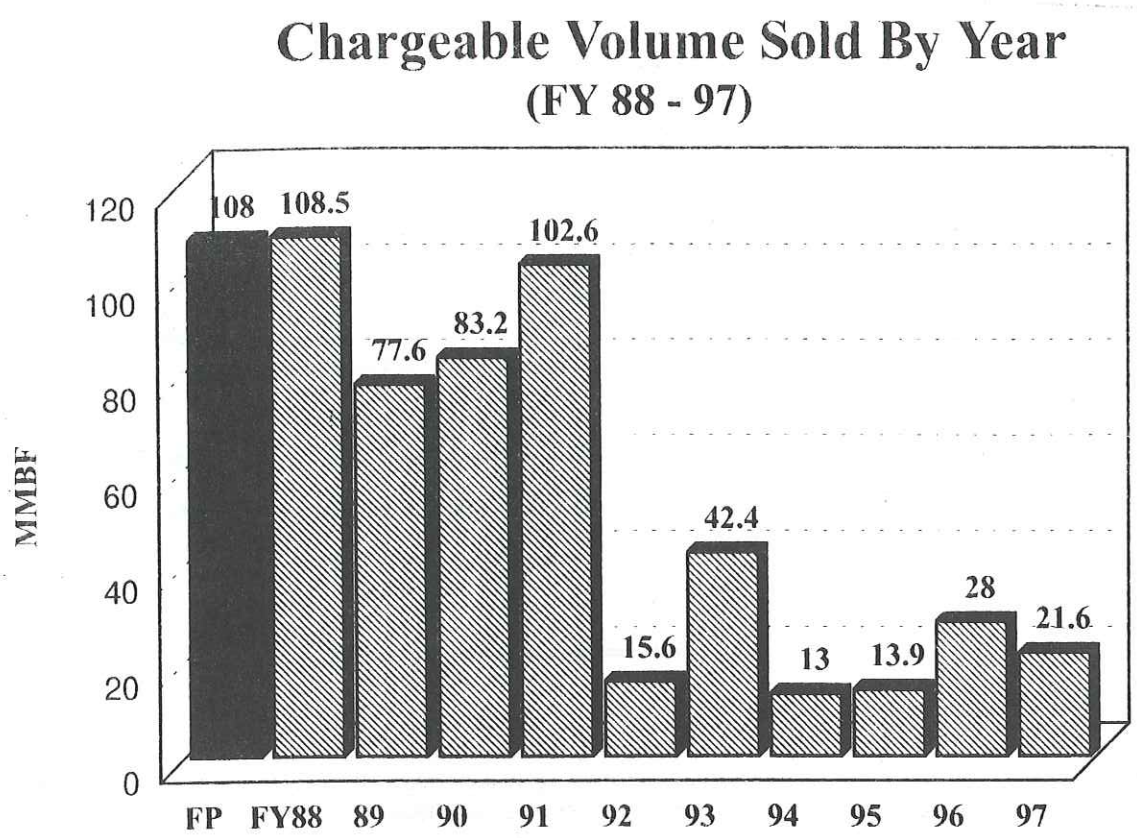
Although this item is monitored on an annual basis, actual ASQ achievement will be based on the decade total. Yearly figures may be above or below the Forest Plan ASQ ceiling of 108 MMBF (103 MMBF regular and 5 MMBF non-interchangeable.

Monitoring Results:

CHARGEABLE VOLUME SOLD IN FY 1988-1997*
(Volume Credited Toward ASQ on an Annual Basis)

Components	Volume (MMBF)									
	FY88	FY89	FY90	FY91	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97
Regular	104.8	68.9	70.2	94.3	1.3	32.1	6.6	7.5	25.6	21.1
Non-Interchangeable (NIC)										
Pulp	1.3	7.6	10.3	4.8	14.2	10.2	6.4	6.4	2.5	.3
Cedar Products	2.4	1.1	2.7	3.5	0.1	0.1	---	---	---	.2
Total	108.5	77.6	83.2	102.6	15.6	42.4	13.0	13.9	28.1	21.6

* The ASQ accomplishment breakdown was based onthe Nez Perce Periodic Timber sale Accomplishment Report accumulated as of September 30, 1997 (fiscal year summary).



Ten years of sold sale monitoring have shown that the Nez Perce has sold 61 percent of the scheduled acres, which contained only 47 percent of the average annual ASQ volume. There are 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 of the Forest (regular green and non-interchangeable) show that in the ten years of the planning decade (beginning in 1988) the Forest has sold 42 percent of the sawlog component and 148 percent of the non-interchangeable (NIC) component (pulp and cedar products).

In fiscal year 1997, the Forest sold 1.6 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 DURING THE FIRST DECADE

Avg. Annual ASQ	1997 Chargeable Volume Sold	Total Chargeable Volume Sold to Date*	% of Avg. Annual ASQ Sold for 10 Years
103.0 MM/year (sawlogs)	21.1 MM	432.4 MM	42
5.0 MM/year (pulp/cedar products)	0.5 MM	74.1 MM	148
108.0 MM/year (total)	21.6 MM	506.5 MM	47

*In fiscal years 1988-1997, which is the decade covered under the Forest Plan.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results

The Forest was not able to accomplish its decadal ASQ ceiling of 1,080 MMBF. Other resource standards are proving to be much more contraining on timber harvest than originally anticipated. In addition, other constraints not considered when the ASQ ceiling was developed have reduced the amount of volume available for harvest and we suspect that projected timber yields per acre were overestimated in the Forest Plan.

Item 1h-2: Financed Volume Offered Attainment by Components

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

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.

1. Accomplishment of "timber targets" takes place when a sale is offered ... as opposed to ASQ accomplishment credited when a sale is sold. Normally, 45-60 days elapse between sale offering (advertisement in the local paper) and sale selling (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 1988-1997*

	Volume (MMBF)									
	FY88	FY89	FY90	FY91	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97
Assigned Target	103.0	108.0	104.0	100.0	77.0	66.0	53.0	50.0	13.8	31.7
Accomplishment (Volume Offered)	104.6	107.7	84.5	86.9	49.8	34.5	10.3	4.4	20.6	32.4
% of Target	102.0	99.0	81.0	87.0	65.0	52.0	20.0	9.0	149.0	102.0

* 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 70.6 MMBF/year duing the first 10 years of the decade. Actual accomplishment was 53.6 MMBF/year (76 percent of assigned timber target).

In FY97, the Forest exceeded its financed timber target by 0.7 MMBF.

Due to reductions in timber and timber-related funding, future financed "timber targets" are not expected to increase. The FY98 financed "timber target" on the Nez Perce National Forest is 30.0 MMBF.

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

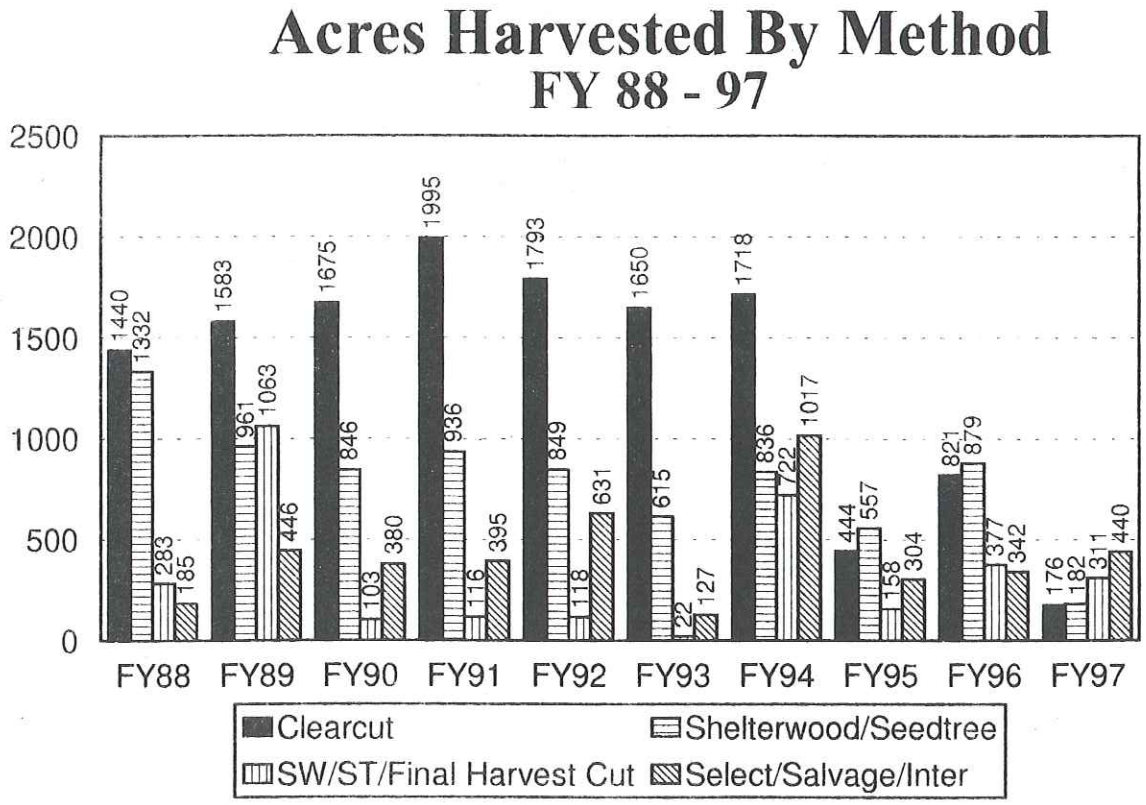
Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

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

Monitoring Results:

Harvesting took place on 1,109 acres (16 percent clear-cut, 28 percent seed and prep cut from shelterwood and seed tree, 12 percent selection harvest, 19 percent salvage, 16 percent from final harvest, and 9 percent from other cutting methods). It should be noted that harvest acres represent the acres actually harvested in FY 97, 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 1993. The volume under contract has been going down for the past 3-4 years, but appears to have stabilized. As of the end of FY 97, there was 63 MMBF under contract.



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 FY 97, the Forest had slightly over one year's worth of volume under contract (based on 51 MMBF harvest average over the last 5 years).

Item 2f: Vegetative Response to Treatments

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 5 years (FY 1997)

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: Data and analysis which would indicated that projected yields 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).

In 1997, the Regional Office Inventory Service Center analyzed the entire permanent growth plot program. The purpose was to reduce costs by only remeasuring those plots which adequately represented treatments and growth conditions throughout the region. The region selected 30 of the Nez Perce growth plots for continued remeasurement. The Region would fund only the remeasurement of these plots on the Nez Perce National forest. The Forest reviewed the other 20 and determined that 11 should continue to be remeasured for information useful for monitoring specific conditions locally.

The Forest remeasured six growth plot stands in 1997. The data has been entered into the Regional R1-Edit program. In future years between three and six growth plot stands will be remeasured annually. The Regional Office should assist the Forest in remeasurement and data analysis due to reduced Forest funding.

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, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 5 years

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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, reforestation index report, and reforestation status report (12/5/97).

Monitoring Results:

Ninety-five percent of the acres planted in the past 5 years are progressing toward satisfactory stocking (are stocked). Replants are scheduled on the acres (5 percent) needing additional stocking. Natural regeneration is certified or progressing on 95 percent of acres harvested in the past 5 years. The remaining 5 percent are scheduled for additional treatment to ensure 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, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

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 Forest Plan revision process.

Item 6: Maximum Size of Opening for Harvest Units

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

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 shelterwood system. Even-aged silviculture systems may or may not create openings for other resource objectives depending ont he desired outcome of the harvest.

Monitoring Results: No units were sold that exceeded 40 acres.

Item 11: Validation of Resource Prediction: Timber

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 2 to 5 years

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

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 88-97 data taken from sold sales during this period. Sales contained in the actual FY 88-97 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

Silvicultural System	Forest Plan Estimated Volume/Acre (MBF)	FY88 Vol/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)	FY 97 Vol/Acre (MBF)	Weighted Average FY 88-97
Clearcut (Units)	32.5	24.5	24.1	19.7	24.9	15.9	16.8	none sold	14.7	25.4	34.2	23.0
Clearcut (Rd ROW)	32.5	29.4	16.4	17.8	19.0	none sold	24.0	none sold	9.9	27.0	none sold	20.9
SW Prep Cut[1]	none planned	19.3	none sold	5.3	none sold	none sold	none sold	none sold	none sold	none sold	6.9	6.6
SW/ST Seed Cut[2]	18.3	15.5	15.4	15.9	15.8	none sold	11.8	none sold	8.4	18.5	8.6	14.0
SW/ST Final Cut[3]	5.0	5.6	8.4	7.3	5.9	none sold	4.7	13.6	none sold	7.7	3.7	6.5
Sanitation/Salvage	none planned	8.9	11.1	2.5	4.1	1.8	9.7	1.7	1.9	8.3	6.5	5.3
Commercial Thin	5.9	none sold	none sold	2.5	12.2	none sold	none sold	4.3	5.9	5.9	8.8	7.3
Selection Cut[4]	12.6	4.6	none sold	12.8	none sold	8.0	11.9	none sold	none sold	7.0	1.9	4.2
Weighted Average	22.6	16.3	20.6	15.7	17.3	3.5	10.7	6.0	9.6	16.7	7.5	14.7

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

Silvicultural System	Forest Plan Scheduled Distribution %	FY88 Distrib. %	FY89 Distrib. %	FY 90 Distrib. %	FY 91 Distrib. %	FY 92 Distrib. %	FY 93 Distrib. %	FY 94 Distrib. %	FY 95 Distrib. %	FY 96 Distrib. %	FY 97 Distrib. %	Weighted Avg. FY 88-97 Distrib. %
Clearcut (Units)	36	40	61	51	35	9	10	none sold	34	15	3	33
Clearcut (Rd ROW)	inc. above	3	4	5	9	none sold	3	none sold	12	8	--	5
SW Prep Cut[1]	none planned	<1	none sold	2	none sold	none sold	none sold	none sold	none sold	--	14	2
SW/ST Seed Cut[2]	56	24	22	23	37	none sold	46	none sold	35	38	41	30
SW/ST Final Cut[3]	3	29	6	10	11	none sold	20	36	none sold	3	3	15
Sanitation/Salvage	none planned	1	1	7	7	84	19	61	13	22	19	11
Commercial Thin	2	none sold	none sold	1	1	none sold	none sold	4	6	6	4	1
Selection Cut[4]	3	3	none sold	1	none sold	7	2	none sold	none sold	8	16	3
Weighted Average	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

[1] 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 "overstory 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-c -- Total Acres Sold by Silvicultural System

Silvicultural System	Forest Plan Scheduled Acres/Year	FY88 Acres Sold	FY89 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	FY 97 Acres Sold	Avg. FY 88-97 Acres/Year
Clearcut (Units)	1,710	2,607	1,989	2,146	1,923	15	284	none sold	237	246	89	954
Clearcut (Rd ROW)	inc. above	239	144	191	503	none sold	87	none sold	86	142	--	139
SW Prep Cut[1]	none planned	3	none sold	69	none sold	none sold	none sold	none sold	none sold	none sold	393	47
SW/ST Seed Cut[2]	2,705	1,549	731	990	2,029	none sold	1,384	none sold	249	627	1,141	870
SW/ST Final Cut[3]	130	1,921	374	455	602	none sold	608	355	none sold	59	97	447
Sanitation/Salvage	none planned	52	23	317	386	145	574	606	92	376	535	311
Commercial Thin	100	none sold	none sold	34	67	none sold	none sold	39	42	109	104	39
Selection Cut[4]	125	189	none sold	31	none sold	12	45	none sold	none sold	128	464	87
Weighted Average	4,770	6,560	3,261	4,233	5,510	172	2,982	999	706	1,687	2,823	2,893

[1] 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 "overstory 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 ... eith group or individual tree selection.

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

CMA Code	Management Emphasis	Forest Plan 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	FY 97 Acres Sold	Average FY 88-97 Acres/Year
10	Riparian	180	---	139	103	176	---	38	1	4	13	---	47
12	Timber	2,543	5,083	2,374	3,305	3,501	160	1,792	621	605	1,556	2,118	2,112
13	Aggreg(12/17)	75	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
14	Aggreg (12/16/17)	60	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
15	Aggreg (12/16)	702	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
16	Elk/Deer Winter Range	500	1,245	509	150	1,424	---	404	359	---	10	177	428
17	Visual/Scenic	388	71	173	647	409	12	---	---	97	67	528	200
18	Aggreg (16/17)	197	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
20	Old Growth	none planned	35	22	---	---	---	713	---	---	---	---	77
21	Moose Winter Range	110	126	44	28	---	---	35	18	---	24	---	27
23	Municipal Wtrshds	15	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Totals	4,770	6,580	3,261	4,233	5,510	172	2,982	999	706	1,687	2,823	2,891

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 88-97, the following trends can be identified:

- Actual net cruised volume/acre (all silviculture systms) on sold sales continues to be less 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 FY88-97 figures continues to be in clearcutting, followed by SW/ST seed cuts. The SW/ST final harvest units yielded 30 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 88-97 data for silvicultural system distribution also varies significantly from the Forest Plan estimates (see Tables 11-b and 11-c).

- The average annual FY 88-97 sold acres (table 11-c) are 40% 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 88-97 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 in 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
1997	0.0	0
Total	**59.4**	**3,178**

Roadless Volume and Acres as a Percentage of Total Sold

Total Chargeable Volume Sold MMBF (FY88-97)	Actual Roadless Volume Percentage	Total Sold Acres Included in Cutting Unit Road Right-of-Way, FY 88-97	Actual Roadless Acres Percentage	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	11
1847	Mallard	Red River	452	15
	Total		**3,178**	**100**

Soil & Water

Item 1j: Soil and Water Rehabilitation and Improvements

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

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

Implementation Monitoring: The assigned target for soil and water improvements using appropriated funds in Fiscal Year 1997 was 142 acres and total accomplishment was reported to be 143 acres. An additional 43 acres of work was accomplished using road maintenance and other funds, for a total annual accomplishment of 186 acres. The Forest Plan goal is 200 acres per year.

Summary of Improvements Accomplished in Fiscal Years 1988-1997

	Acres Improved									
Funding Source	**1988**	**1989**	**1990**	**1991**	**1992**	**1993**	**1994**	**1995**	**1996**	**1997**
Soil and Water (NFSI & NFES)	74	131	159	120	214	244	243	314	190	143
Knutsen-Vandenburg (KV)	52	93	82	85	79	108	79	74	46	4
Road Maintenance	113	57	76	25	82	90	77	54	2	24
Other Funding	70	147	3	32	12	63	43	5	1	19
Total	309	428	262	262	387	505	442	447	239	190

The following is a brief summary of 1997 watershed improvement projects by ranger district.

Salmon River Ranger District: The district reported accomplishment of three acres in Schwartz Meadows using NFSI funds. Access to a sensitive meadow system and stream crossing was restricted. KV Funds were used to obliterate 0.7 miles of road in the Scott Timber Sale area, resulting in an improvement of 4 acres. Among other projects, a fillslope and streambank along the Little Salmon River that were damaged during flooding in January 1997, were repaired.

Clearwater Ranger District: The District reported accomplishment of 64 acres using NFSI and NFES funds. This included 2.8 miles of road obliteration in the Bully, Cougar, and Browns Creek watersheds. Trees and shrubs were planted on several landslides, roads, and streambanks to assist in stabilization.

Red River/Elk City Ranger District: The District reported accomplishment of 57 acres using NFSI and NFES funds. Among other projects, work continued on a sediment detention basin and stabilization work at the Haysfork hydraulic placer mine site.

Moose Creek/Selway Ranger District: The District reported accomplishment of 18 acres using NFSI and NFES funds. Three miles of road were partially recontoured and three miles were stabilized at 25 stream crossings. One-half mile of road was recontoured in the Swiftwater Creek watershed. An artificial salt lick and an abandoned trail section were rehabilitated in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness. The fishing pond at Fenn Ranger Station was dredged of sediment which accumulated during floods in 1995 and 1996.

Effectiveness Monitoring

The Clearwater Ranger District evaluated two road obliteration projects, one road stabilization project, and one stream stabilization project for effectiveness. Previous trail rehabilitation work in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness (Moose Creek Ranger District) was evaluated and found to be successful.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results

From 1988 through 1996, the Forest exceeded its Forest Plan watershed improvement goal of 200 acres per year. This was not achieved in 1997. An overall evaluation of the watershed improvement program has not been conducted. The nature of improvement projects has changed over the past ten years, with the most notable shift being a change in emphasis toward permanent decommission of unneeded roads.

Item 2g: Impacts of Management Activities on Soils

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

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

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.

Draft regional soil quality standards were proposed in 1997, and will, when adopted, supplement Forest standards.

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

Results:

Implementation Monitoring:

Most environmental analyses completed in 1994 used soil information to describe soil limitations and opportunities within assessment areas. This information was usually used to assist in project design and development of specific mitigation measures. Analysis of soil limitations and subsequent project design would benefit from development of consistent protocols and training.

Soil information was consistently used to predict sediment production. Predicted sediment was used to help select number, location, and scheduling of activity areas.

Landform, stream, slope and soil information was used with watershed historic files and photos to delineate landslide prone terrain. Field reviews were used to refine those delineations, avoid areas of risk or adjust project designs to minimize risk.

Effectiveness Monitoring:

Effectiveness monitoring was conducted during the course of one Forest field review. The field review evaluated impacts of ground based harvesting using a harvester and wheeled skidder and trailer as a surrogate for a forwarding system, as well as a track mounted loader and a stroke delimber. It was not apparent that this ad hoc system left the ground with less compaction or displacement than hand felling and tractor skidding. Because it is unlikely that this particular kind of system would be used again, the cost of systematic quantitative monitoring was not justified.

Another field review of more standard feller buncher and forwarder operations was held on university and private lands in 1997. While quantitative data are not available on soil displacement or compaction, these sites appeared to

sustain less damage than conventional tractor skidded sites, while allowing for complex thinning operations in small and medium timber (to 18 inches diameter). Gentle slopes and closely spaced trails required for feller buncher and forwarder access are the main limitations of this system.

Qualitative effectiveness monitoring was conducted on one 1994 and one 1996 wildfire. Results indicate :

- Machine excavated or hand fire lines installed during fire suppression may create areas of raw exposed substrate that are a potential source of sediment into a stream or may be difficult to stabilize and return to pre-fire levels of productivity, especially fire lines constructed in shallow or rocky soils, on steep slopes, and in harsh high elevation climates. Rapid stabilization or obliteration after the fire is controlled has proven difficult where experienced operators, or native seed, are not available in a timely manner. Hand labor on the most fragile sites is recommended where needed to ensure timely treatment or minimize additional disturbance. Development of a native seed bank for restoration projects is recommended. Supply of native seed adapted to local soil and climatic conditions is often limited, especially in severe fire years.
- Monitoring of revegetation, soil erosion, and stream morphology and substrate after the 1994 wildfire indicated low levels of on-slope erosion and minor levels of channel scour and downstream deposition. Natural vegetation recovery is occurring in a timely way, and native plant community reestablishment has been successful, with little weed encroachment.
- Monitoring of the 1996 wilderness fire indicate that areas of channel scour and deposition and isolated headwater debris torrents have occurred in response to increased water yields. Some overland flow has occurred on exposed southerly slopes and in swales. A few stream channels have been rerouted and large woody debris has been moved and sometimes concentrated into large jams. Many fresh snags are available for recruitment to the channels. Periods of high turbidity are common in streams after storms. Fish species and abundance appear to have been little affected except for young of the year.
- Monitoring of two sites affected by past illegal salt licks was done. Restoration has included recontouring, decompacting, planting, seeding with native plant species, mulching, and using slash to reduce big game trampling. These sites appear to be recovering.

Validation Monitoring:

A landslide inventory was carried out in 1997 to assess the occurrence, terrain settings, impacts, and management activities associated with landslides that occurred as the consequence of widespread storms and flooding in winter, 1995, through spring, 1997.

309 landslides including debris torrents, debris avalanches, slumps, road cut failures and road fill failures were identified from forest-wide aerial photo reviews and district reports. Aerial assessments were completed on 39 percent of these and additional field assessments were done on 61 percent. Complete synthesis of these data is not complete, but the table below summarizes certain results of this inventory.

Management Settings Associated with Landslides				
Roads	Natural	Harvest	Fire	Trails
72%	18%	6%	2%	1%

Slides were inventoried both in areas with an extensive development history and in wilderness areas, where natural fire has been allowed to play some role in recent years. Preliminary summaries suggest that 35 percent of slides were 10 to 50 cubic yards, 27 percent were 50 to 100 cubic yards and 38 percent were greater than 100 cubic yards. About 36,000 cubic yards was the maximum measured. Many slides associated with roads were road cut and fill failures of 10 to 50 cubic yards that did not immediately contribute sediment to streams, but sediments from road cut failures could become entrained into the road drainage system if not removed promptly. Most landslides, whether on natural slopes or associated with roads, harvest, or fire, were on steep slopes (50 percent or more) and frequently associated with shallow soils, southerly aspects, and subsurface moisture concentrations or interrupted subsurface drainage. Of the total landslides assessed, 24 percent delivered sediment to streams and 76 percent did not,

although they may have moved sediments into dry channels or lower slope positions where the risk of sediment delivery is greater than before the slide occurred.

More complete analysis will be done in 1998.

Monitoring Evaluation

Improved use of soil information in risk assessment, project analysis and design, and better understanding and mitigation of soil impacts associated with road construction, logging and site preparation in the Forest Monitoring continue to merit emphasis. Use of soil information in restoration assessment and design will be equally important.

There is increased public interest in fire effects and fire rehabilitation activities on National Forest lands. Better documentation of rationale for burned area rehabilitation recommendations is warranted.

Ability to analyze landslide risk and impacts in different management and terrain settings will derive from the landslide inventory, but results may not be adequate to calibrate sediment delivery in prediction modeling. This effort should be given a high priority for completion and peer review to identify needed supplementary data or analysis. A consistent protocol for delineation of landslide prone terrain, with use of site specific information and application of expertise proportional to risk is being developed to ensure that slope stability hazards are identified and addressed as part of PACFISH and other aquatic conservation strategies (see riparian monitoring section).

Item 2h: Impacts of Management Activities on Water Quality

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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 gaging 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.

Watershed personnel 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 fiscal year 1992, 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 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 FY 91. The annual report format is not planned to be resurrected, but the data is available, both in hard copy and electronically upon request.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results

Analysis of streamflow and sediment yield data from the gaged water quality monitoring stations is ongoing. From 1995 through 1997, particular emphasis was given to data analysis pertaining to instream water rights claims filed under the Snake River Basin Adjudication.

The Northern Region continued evaluation of high mountain lakes for sensitivity to long term deposition of atmospheric sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium. On the Nez Perce National Forest, Shasta Lake, located in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness, was selected as a long term study site. Field data were collected at Shasta Lake in 1996. In 1997, a contract was awarded to evaluate the likely response of the lake to changes in atmospheric deposition. The results of the analysis suggest that Shasta Lake has a slightly elevated acid ion content, but not enough to cause

measurable response in average annual pH or alkalinity. Modeling suggests that this would remain the case with increases in atmospheric deposition up to 200%. However, there is evidence that seasonal changes in pH and alkalinity during spring snowmelt may have already occurred and also can be expected under future scenarios. Field sampling is continuing in 1998, to be followed by additional analysis.

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

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 1997. The monitoring was conducted by Forest personnel with some assistance from other agencies and the public. The following activities were reviewed with respect to their effects on water quality:

Chinese Rabbit Stew Timber Sale
Silver West Timber Sale
Twentymile Timber Sale
Otterwing Timber sale
Rapid River Fire

Timber Sale Reviews: Interdisciplinary field reviews were conducted on four timber sales. Review items related to water quality varied by sale, but typically included compliance with Idaho Forest Practices Act Rules, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, Endangered Species Act consultation requirements, and commitments made in project-specific decision documents.

Compliance with Idaho Forest Practices Act Rules (also referred to as Best Management Practices in the Idaho Water Quality Standards) was evaluated on three timber sales. Of 185 specific rule checks, 176 cases (95%) were found to be satisfactory and 9 cases (5%) were deemed to be unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory cases were relatively minor departures and the review team did not always reach consensus. They included the following situations:

- Road segments not adequately drained;
- Cutslope slump not stabilized;
- Road segment constructed overwidth;
- Slash filter windrow constructed across stream;
- Logs decked partially within Class II stream protection zone;
- Minimum road construction within Class II stream protection zone not achieved;
- Rule variances not requested.

Follow-up actions were recommended to correct the above BMP compliance departures. The recommended actions included direct improvement of on site problems, proper documentation of justifiable FPA rule variances, refined guidelines for use of slash filter windrows in the vicinity of live water road crossings, and improved coordination of road construction standards.

Other than the above, all other water quality related Forest Plan standards and guidelines that were checked were deemed to be met or exceeded on the reviewed timber sales. Some site specific reductions to standard PACFISH Riparian Habitat Conservation Area timber harvest buffer widths were noted, but the process allowing such

modifications was followed. In one case, the road sediment mitigation level specified in the decision document was not fully met (70% estimated achievement versus 80% specified).

Rapid River Fire: This was a wildfire that burned approximately 3,900 acres in the Seven Devils Mountains in 1994. After the fire, stream condition and snag monitoring sites were installed. The stream condition sites were sampled in 1994 and 1995. Results of this monitoring were reported in the Fiscal Year 1995 Annual Monitoring Report. In October 1996, an interdisciplinary field review was conducted on a portion of the Rapid River Fire. The field review focused on the appropriateness of the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) response, fire suppression rehabilitation, and post-fire grazing allotment management. The following summarizes findings of the field review.

The Forest did not request funds for emergency rehabilitation on the Rapid River Fire. This was due to: 1) the relatively small areas of moderate and high intensity burn; 2) the relatively low erodibility of the soils in that area; and 3) a sizable proportion of the fire being in wilderness. This call was somewhat controversial, especially with the local grazing permittees. There was also some concern expressed relative to the proximity of the Rapid River Fish Hatchery, located several miles downstream of the fire.

The field review looked at several areas of varying burn intensity within the area from Windy Saddle to Cannon Creek. Forest Service personnel generally agreed that the post-fire recovery objectives were being met in terms of vegetative ground cover and native species mix. There were only minor sites of post-fire erosion noted. The permittees on the trip felt that more ground cover was needed and that post-fire seeding would have been preferred. The permittees also questioned the differences in post-fire BAER policies on adjacent national forests.

The review team also visited a rehabilitation bulldozer-constructed fireline. The fireline was obliterated with a tracked excavator, waterbarred, and then seeded by hand. This work was funded with fire suppression funds, rather than BAER funds. There was little evidence of erosion and the seeding took well. It was agreed by all that the fireline was recovering adequately and did not require further treatment at that time. It was also noted that, in the location reviewed, the rehabilitation work could have been conducted by hand, since the fireline was not deeply excavated during its initial construction.

Item 2j: Impacts of Management Activities on Riparian Areas

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

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

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.

In addition, monitoring determines if PACFISH standards that constitute Forest Plan amendments, or additional guidance from the regional aquatic conservation strategy, are being followed.

Four forest implementation monitoring reviews occurred in 1997. See item 2i: Water Quality. District implementation monitoring continued on proposed activities with the potential to affect chinook salmon or steelhead habitat in key watersheds. 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 or landslide potential. As more stringent riparian protection zones have been adopted, many proposed timber sales have been revisited and are being remarked to meet these newer standards.

Effectiveness monitoring determines:

1) 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 for livestock grazing was initiated in 1997. The purpose of this type of monitoring is to determine if grazing strategies are providing for an upward trend in key riparian parameters or is maintaining the desired conditions. The focus is unconfined low-gradient stream channels that are sensitive to livestock grazing. Monitoring was done in active range allotments, in exclosures and in areas accessible to grazing. The parameters that were sampled included streambank stability, streambank angle, and streambank plant community. These riparian attributes were selected because they appear to respond to changes in livestock grazing. Fifty meter segments were randomly selected along selected stream reaches. The segments were then sampled for the key riparian attributes. The results for the initial sampling are displayed below.

American River (AR)	1 reach;	5 sample segments
Slate Creek (SC)	1 reach;	5 sample segments
Lower Wind River (LWR)	1 reach;	4 sample segments
Upper Wind River (UWR)	1 reach;	3 sample segments
Fish Creek-Inside exclosure (FC-I)	1 reach;	5 sample segments
Fish Creek-Outside (FC-O)	1 reach;	5 sample segments

Riparian Area Monitoring Results in Grazed Areas

	AR	SC	LWR	UWR	FC-I	FC-O
Average Bank Stability	64%	84%	15%	50%	70%	68%
Average Bank Angle	117°	74°	124°	108°	106°	115°
Plant Communities						
Rock	2%					
Sand/Gravel Bar	9%		17%	3%		
Wet Meadow - sedges/rushes	24%	51%	44%	60%	43%	24%
Bluejoint	21%	34%			2%	
Red top/bluegrass	23%		3%		14%	37%
Reed canarygrass	4%					
Mannagrass	2%				14%	3%
Conifer	8%	10%	8%	5%	6%	12%
Labrador tea		2%				
Mesic Mdw sedges/rushes	7%	2%		15%	16%	15%
Oatgrass			21%			
Bentgrass			4%	5%		
Tufted hairgrass			2%			
Mixed Forb		1%	1%	12%		1%
Alder					5%	8%

This information will be compared with subsequent sampling along the same reaches in the future. These first year samples are considered baseline information with which later monitoring will be compared to assess trends. The comparison will provide managers with an analysis of changes in the riparian attributes over time, and document maintenance of desired condition, recovery to improved condition, or need for change in grazing management. Additional monitoring sites will be added in 1998 and 1999.

Effectiveness monitoring of road obliteration or decomissioning projects was done to assess how objectives, designs, and operator skills affected success in removal of road segments to reduce landslide potential and restore channel morphology. Road fill material was removed from stream crossings and stream channels were restored on 6 road segments. The full recontour projects were very successful. Thirty to 60 foot fills were pulled to grade and the 35 percent channel experienced very little downcutting. About 20 fills were removed, and annual grasses and riparian shrubs planted. On the road segment in which the objective was to restore crossings but retain the road bed, the fills were not properly pulled to the natural stream and bank gradient, and stream downcutting has occurred. It appears that road decommissioning in positions where subsurface and surface moisture concentrations occur will require designs focused more particularly to allow passage of surface and subsurface water.

Validation Monitoring is used to describe riparian dependent resources, their values, and predict effects of management (Forest Plan II-12).

Development of an aquatic land type association map layer was initiated in 1997. This is a broad scale land classification that complements valley bottom mapping. It uses landforms, stream pattern and morphology, and terrestrial and aquatic disturbance dynamics, to describe patterns of aquatic habitat potential and response to management. Draft maps were completed for the South Fork Clearwater subbasin in 1997. Patterns of stream order and gradient were documented and analyzed for differences among map units. They appear to be good predictors of stream order and gradient patterns, stream order jumping, and certain aspects of aquatic habitat potential.

No other validation monitoring occurred in 1997, because of funding constraints and priorities.

Monitoring Results:

Implementation Monitoring: Riparian areas are consistently delineated during integrated resource analysis using National Wetland Inventory maps and field observation. This delineation is based on identification of perennial and intermittent streams and areas of soils with high water tables and water loving vegetation. Estimated acres of riparian areas are calculated from these delineations during the management area validation process. Additional riparian areas are usually identified during sale layout.

Monitoring on one timber sale suggests that while the environmental assessment may identify measures needed for protection of riparian resources, that direction is not always effectively translated to marking guidelines and on the ground implementation, or may need updating as new standards are adopted. Riparian buffer widths and landslide prone areas have not always been consistently delineated to meet the intent of not only more recent guidance, but sometimes standards current at the time of the environmental analysis.

Two issues have emerged from this monitoring. One is the recognition that bringing older sales into compliance with new standards will likely be a continuing and significant responsibility as new science becomes available and new standards are developed. The second is that some riparian issues are not consistently being addressed in sale layout and marking, perhaps due to lack of expertise or perhaps due to sale preparation in winter, when wet areas or unstable slopes are more difficult to recognize.

Effectiveness Monitoring: Current Forest policy (1991) states that "Project-level NEPA documents must therefore demonstrate through analysis that riparian-dependent resources will be protected or enhanced". This requires "adequate site-specific data, analysis, and documentation".

District sale administrators, fisheries biologists, soil scientists and hydrologists have examined and modified harvest unit boundaries and leave tree marking to better protect riparian dependent resources in sales that have not yet been harvested.

Range allotment monitoring using more rigorous vegetation and stream bank condition descriptors, will result in better understanding of riparian response to current grazing management schemes and identify rates of recovery or need for change.

Monitoring of road obliteration or restoration projects is helping to better define what designs and skills are needed to successfully reduce road related riparian impacts.

Validation Monitoring: The riparian classification project made no progress in 1997 because of funding constraints. Its objectives are to describe the stream systems, soils and vegetation of these areas, their equilibrium states, disturbance regimes, and response to disturbance. The draft valley bottom maps are increasingly being used for interpretations and survey design, but delineation and characterization remain incomplete, and documentation not developed.

Aquatic land type association mapping is a coarser scale classification of multiple reaches and stream systems as well as uplands, which offers lower resolution, at lower cost. It offers a useful framework in which to interpret aggregates of valley bottom and reach level survey information.

Monitoring Evaluation:

Delineation of riparian areas using basic attributes of stream channel, flows, and vegetation is being done consistently and will provide good information on the extent of this environment on the Forest. About 3/4 of the non-wilderness Forest wetland inventory maps have been prepared for spatial analysis (about 1/3 of the total forest). These assist in more realistic delineation of riparian habitat conservation areas.

Although riparian areas are being well delineated, evaluation has proven more difficult, hence most activities are deferred. Riparian dependent resources, functions, and the management necessary for their maintenance, are poorly understood. To prepare for Forest Plan revision and development of an aquatic ecosystem conservation strategy, we need to synthesize available research, and characterize relationships between mappable features and fisheries potential and sensitivity.

Effective implementation of riparian direction in environmental documents is receiving heightened emphasis. Better communication of riparian objectives and clearer guidelines for riparian habitat conservation area delineation and leave tree marking are needed. Ensuring that revised protection measures are extended to proposed projects will require systematic field reviews as new protection measures are adopted. Field reviews will continue to be needed to ensure that timber sale layout and marking, especially when done in winter or on steep slopes, accurately delineate site specific riparian habitat conservation areas, including unstable slopes. A consistent protocol for identification of landslide prone terrain is being developed that uses increasing levels of site specific information and expertise to delineate and design activities appropriate to sensitive slopes.

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 2 to 5 years

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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 FY 94 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 FY97.

Range

Item 1g: Animal Unit Months Grazing Permits

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

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

Monitoring Results:

The Forest permitted 29,800 animal unit months (AUMs) during the 1997 grazing season. The Forest authorized through the yearly billing process 27,100 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 10% less than the current permitted levels.

Item 1l: Range Analysis and Allotment Management Plan Updates

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

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

Discussion:

On July 27, 1995, President Clinton signed into law the 1995 Rescission 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. Under the Rescission Bill, the Forest is 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 fifteen years.

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, forest management priorities as a result of Forest Plan Revision, and funding. At the current funding level and forest priority, all allotments that need revising will be updated by the year 2010.

Grazing Allotment Analysis Update Schedule

Allotment Name	Analysis Status	Time Period	Key Resource Values
Race Creek	Revision Complete	1992	Riparian
Blacktail	Revision Complete	1992	Big Game
Allison Berg	Revision Complete	1996	Riparian
Hungry Ridge	Revision Complete	1996	Riparian/Wildlife
Meadow/Lightning	Revision Complete	1996	Riparian/Big Game
Papoose	Revision in progress	1998	Riparian
American River	Revision in progress	1998	Riparian
Elk Creek - Lick Creek	Revision in progress	1998	Riparian
East Fork	Revision in progress	1998	Riparian
Cannonball	Needs Revision	99-01	Wilderness/Recreation
Peter Ready	Needs Revision	99-01	Riparian
Butte Gospel	Needs Revision	99-01	Riparian
Hanover	Needs Revision	99-01	Wilderness/Riparian
Florence	Needs Revision	99-01	Riparian
Whitebird/Cove	Needs Revision	99-01	Riparian
Christie Creek	Needs Revision	02-04	Riparian
River View	Needs Revision	02-04	Timber Management
Newsome Creek	Needs Revision	02-04	Timber Management
Elk Summit	Needs Revision	02-04	Timber Management
Hamby	Needs Revision	02-04	Timber Management
Corral Hill	Needs Revision	02-04	Big Game
Fiddle Creek	Needs Revision	05-07	Timber Management
Tahoe-Clear Creek	Needs Revision	05-07	Riparian/Timber Mgmt.
Mallard Creek	Needs Revision	05-07	Riparian
Earthquake	Needs Revision	08-10	Big Game/Reforestation
Kirks Fork	Needs Revision	08-10	Riparian

Implementation Monitoring:

The following grazing guidelines were incorporated into the Annual Operating Instructions for grazing allotments. The grazing guidelines are used to manage livestock and to estimate the time when animals need to be rotated away from sensitive streams reaches. The goal of grazing management is to maintain desirable riparian conditions and achieve recovery of streams not in satisfactory condition.

1. Forage Utilization: 40% or less of the current year's 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.

The following table summarizes the implementation conducted during the 1997 field season.

ALLOTMENT Riparian Area	Forage Utilization	Shrub Utilization	Stream Bank Disturbance
ALLISON-BERG ALLOTMENT			
Berg Creek	<5%	<5%	0%
Kelly, Van Creek	<5%	<5%	<5%
BUTTE-GOSPEL			
Mill Creek	30%	5%	7%
HANOVER ALLOTMENT			
U. Wind River Meadow	20%	10%	15%
L. Wind River Meadow	45%	0%	25%
Hanover Creek	40%	0%	16%
Indigo Creek	40%	0%	16%
CHRISTIE ALLOTMENT			
Rhett Creek	n/a	5%	7%
Christie Creek	55%	30%	12%
Joe Creek	20%	10%	10%
Johnson Creek	20%	20%	5%
Deer Creek	35%	0%	10%
COW CREEK ALLOTMENT			
Bean Creek	25%	<5%	5%
China Creek	25%	5%	10%
Clark's Fork	20%	0%	<5%
Cow Creek	20%	0%	5%
Kessler Creek	10%	5%	<5%
Kirkwood Creek	10%	5%	<5%
PAPOOSE CREEK ALLOTMENT			
S. Fork Squaw	15%	<5%	5%
Cabins (S. Fork Squaw)	5%	<5%	<5%
PETER READY ALLOTMENT			
Jungle Point	20%	10%	<5%
Peter Ready Creek	20%	10%	<5%
RACE CREEK ALLOTMENT			
W. Fork Race Creek	15%	20%	10%
SHERWIN CREEK ALLOTMENT			
Sherwin Creek	70%	5%	10%
AMERICAN RIVER ALLOTMENT			
American River	Rested	0%	0%
Lumber Luke Creek	0%	0%	0%
BLACKTAIL ALLOTMENT			
Schwartz Creek	0%	0%	0%
EARTHQUACK ALLOTMENT			
Earthquake Creek	<5%	0%	<5%
Edgewood Creek	<5%	0%	<5%
ELK SUMMIT ALLOTMENT			
Beaver Creek	0%	0%	0%
Allison Creek	0%	0%	0%
Moose Creek	0%	0%	0%
ELK/LICK CREEK ALLOTMENT			
Limber Luke Creek	0%	0%	0%
HUNGRY RIDGE ALLOTMENT			
Deer Creek	<5%	0%	<5%
Big Canyon	15%	0%	<5%
MEADOW/LIGHTING ALLOTMENT			
North Meadow Creek	<5%	0%	<5%
Cougar Creek	15%	0%	<5%

ALLOTMENT Riparian Area	Forage Utilization	Shrub Utilization	Stream Bank Disturbance
NEWSOME ALLOTMENT			
Donkey Creek	0%	0%	0%
Mare Creek	0%	0%	0%
Mule Creek	0%	0%	0%
WHITEBIRD CREEK ALLOTMENT			
Goodwin Creek	10%	0%	5%
Pinnacle Creek	5%	0%	<5%
S. Fork Whitebird Creek	0%	0%	0%
Cold Springs Creek	0%	0%	0%

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

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. Grazing along many streams was far below the allowable levels prescribed in the annual operating instructions for 1997.

Nez Perce Forest Active Grazing Allotments
SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS
FRANK CHURCH-RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS
GOSPEL-HUMP WILDERNESS
HELLS CANYON WILDERNESS
Selway River
Clearwater River
So. Fk.
Salmon River
402 Blacktail
405 Corral Hill
407 Hungry Ridge
408 Meadow Creek
410 Earthquake
411 Whitebird Creek
502 Mallard Creek
705 Hamby
707 Tahoe-Clear Creek
801 American River
802 Elk Summit
804 East Fork
805 Kirks Fork
806 Newsome Creek
807 Elk Creek-Lick Creek
Allot No. Allot. Name
101 Allison Berg
103 Fiddle Creek
104 Cow Creek
106 Cannonball
107 Hanover
112 Race Creek
114 Papoose
303 Butte Gospel
304 Christie Creek
311 Sherwin Creek
312 Peter Ready
316 Riverview
401 Big Cove

Recreation

Item 1a: Recreation Visitor Days

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 5 years

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

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:

Base line recreational use on the Forest was established through the use of traffic counters, fee campground user information, river permits, trail head 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 1997 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.

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 5 years

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: Following a 5-year period, variation which would indicated 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 Forest-wide 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.

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, using 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.

Item 2a: Off-Road Vehicle Impacts

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 5 years

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

This Section Not Updated for 1997 Report

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 5 years

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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 1997, 24 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, 1,876 acres were inventoried for cultural resources and 9 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
1997	24	1,876	9

In addition to the new sites recorded, 66 previously recorded sites were revisited.

Adequate 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
1997	66	0

During the summer of 1997, Nez Perce National Forest Heritage personnel discovered a National Register of Historic Places eligible prehistoric village site along the Selway River. This exciting discovery, along with future archaeological excavation of the site, could yield new and intriguing information as to the prehistoric land use patters of the Selway River region.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results:

None of the 66 sites monitored were impacted. Monitoring of the 66 sites revealed that the recommended protection measures were effective.

One current method being used to monitor cultural resources includes resurveying 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 prices 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 ongoing 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, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 5 years

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

This Section Not Updated for 1997 Report

Item 2d: Achievement of Visual Quality

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 5 years

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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.

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 5 years

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

Introduction:

The Forest Leadership Team identified River Recreation as one of the high priority programs. In 1994, the Nez Perce Forest was included in the Wild River Country subcategory of the Northern Region's Recreation Strategy with a primary focus to be on River Dependent uses. This attention is understandable recognizing that the Nez is responsible for management of four classified rivers (Selway, Rapid River, Clearwater and Main Salmon) and lies adjacent to other classified rivers (Snake River in Hells Canyon, Lochsa, and Middle Fork of the Salmon). In addition, suitability studies have been conducted on ten Forest Rivers for possible inclusion into the classified rivers systems and six others have been identified as eligible.

Current Situation:

These rivers provide a wide spectrum for public use and enjoyment. The Selway and Middle Fork of the Salmon are truly wilderness rivers with the Selway the more pristine allowing only one launch per day while the Middle Fork provides opportunities to float over 100 miles within the Frank Church Wilderness. The Lochsa offers exceptional kayaking and is easily accessed from US Highway #12. Rapid River was classified primarily to protect water quality for anadromous fish and is popular with hikers and stock groups. The Middle Fork of the Clearwater, which also parallels US #12, provides unlimited access to floaters and power boaters. The Snake and Main Salmon River flow through Wildernesses and present the public the chance to float, power boat, drive into, fly into, hike, and horseback. In addition, private inholdings along all of these rivers present challenges and opportunities to river managers. Also, partnerships have been successfully used in collaborative management of resources and preventing or minimizing degradation of the natural setting.

Following is a breakdown of the classified rivers the Nez Perce is partially responsible for management by Wild and Scenic River Designation, previous and current funding, ROS, activities associated with the river, and proximity to Wilderness:

Attribute	Salmon River	Rapid River	Upper Selway River	Lower Selway River	Middle Fork Clearwater River
Length	79 Miles	13 Miles	42 Miles	19 Miles	10 Miles
W&S Designation	Wild	Wild	Wild	Recreation	Recreation
ROS	Semi Primitive Motorized to Roaded Natural	Primitive to Semi Primitive	Primitive	Roaded Natural	Roaded Natural
Resource Values and Activities Associated w/River	Motorboats, rafting, private property (including scenic easements), trails, several miles of primitive roads, airstrips.	Grazing, trails, outstanding water quality.	Rafting, trails, some private property, outstanding water quality.	Developed recreation, roads, power boats, private lands.	Roads, developed recreation, power boats, private lands.

Accordingly, river management on the Nez Perce must be viewed in a Regional and National context considering how our rivers contribute socially and ecologically to the wild and scenic river system.

Need:

Social and ecological pressures on the Nez Perce and adjacent rives are mounting. The demand to use and enjoy these waterways is increasing. On the Main Salmon for example, floating has been increasing at an annual rate of 2% and jet boat use has become much more popular during the fall period. Spring trail use at Rapid River has increased significantly, creating congestion at the Rapid River Fish Hatchery.

Levels and types of use have increased on the Selway Recreation River, and change in private landownership has made scenic easement administration more difficult. Public interest surrounding the recent Hells Canyon management decision and Frank Church River of No Return DEIS readily demonstrate the complexity and controversy associated with river management issues. In addition, ecological impacts such as noxious weed invasion and private land subdivision threaten the character and integrity of our classified river corridors.

Following are specific issues or threats to Nez Perce and adjacent area rivers:

Social

1. Loss of agency credibility with our publics interested in River Management.
2. Increased use/demand for use of Nez Perce rivers resulting from management decisions in other areas (ie Increased user fees on Colorado River, Recent Hells Canyon Decision).

Ecological

3. Increase use of ecologically sensitive, unregulated rivers and tributaries (South Fork of Clearwater, Meadow Creek, Rapid River etc).
4. Expanding noxious weed populations.

Administrative

5. Development of unprotected private lands situated in classified river corridors.

6. Lack of policy and management consistency between Districts, Forests, and Regions and with other agencies.

Clearly, river management poses unique challenges and opportunities. Managers need to be proactive rather than reactive. There is a need for the Nez Perce Forest to:

1. Secure sufficient resources to accomplish at least base level management functions.
2. Enhance opportunities to secure addition resources.
3. Improve efficiency in accomplishing our tasks.

Goals:

In order to fulfill our needs the following goals should be strived for:

1. Secure sufficient resources to accomplish base level management.
2. Secure additional resources through partnerships and other collaborative approaches.
3. Improve Efficiency through sharing resources with other Districts/Forests/Regions

Program Components:

Important Elements Needed for a Successful Forest Rivers Program:

1. Provide for full Forest Service presence within the river corridors during entire period when use is significant (control and shoulder seasons). Such a presence would result in:
   a. Promote low impact River use and deliver wilderness ethics messages.
   b. Ensure that all River Corridor users have the necessary trip permits and equipment and are otherwise complying with requirements for use during the Control Seasons.
   c. Maintain the River Corridor in clean, natural condition year round through monitoring, inventories, inspections, and clean-ups of the River banks, campsites and other high-use areas.
   d. Routinely visit and develop positive relationships with land owners, user groups, and special interest groups.
   e. Be available to assist the public in any safety situation on the river, and to assist the Idaho County Sheriff's search and rescue operations as needs dictate.
2. Closely cooperate with other authorities responsible for managing the River Corridors, especially the North Fork Ranger District (R4), West Fork Ranger District (Bitterroot NF), Lochsa Ranger District (Clearwater NF), Red River and Clearwater Ranger Districts, and BLM.
3. Prevent establishment of and reduce existing infestations of destructive noxious weed species.
4. Continue involvement with Wilderness planning, implementation, and monitoring (Frank Church EIS, Selway Bitterroot Plan, and Hells Canyon Management Plan including Rapid River.
5. Work closes with users, user groups, and private landowners in cooperatively accomplishing projects within the river corridors.
6. Administer existing land easements to ensure compliance with agreements.
7. Increase other USFS personnel's familiarity with the Nez Perce Forest Classified Rivers and associated wilderness. Facilitate involvement with Forest, Regional, and Washington Office program managers, specialists, and researchers.

8. Pursue acquiring (easements or title purchase) additional private lands within the river corridors.
9. Provide historic and prehistoric cultural resources interpretation.
10. Provide logistical support in transporting necessary goods to and from field stations and for special projects involving individual or groups needing to do research, inventories, management reviews, etc.

Accomplishments:

1. Maintained Forest Service presence (primarily through river patrols) on Salmon and Selway Rivers during and outside of control seasons. Selway river patrols were extended beyond the control season to monitor increased floating use resulting from favorable late season water levels and to assess visitor impacts on campsites. Extensive late season monitoring and public contacts were initiated in September on the Main Salmon. This information will be useful in the Frank Church River of No Return (FCRONR) planning process.
2. Continued cooperative management between various river managers for numerous activities and projects (Selway, Slate Creek, the Clearwater Forest, North Fork on Salmon/Challis, Payette National Forest, BLM, Idaho Fish and Game, and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation).
3. Continued public contacts using informational/educational framework to ensure river users apply low impact camping techniques, to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations and to reduce user conflicts. Close to 3,000 people were contacted on the Main Salmon and several hundred visitors contacted on the Selway river.
4. Maintained the river corridor in excellent condition through routine inspections and campsite cleanups. The Selway River beaches continued to be found in pristine conditions. About 800 pounds of garbage primarily resulting from early and late use were removed from the Main Salmon.
5. Noxious Weed management. River patrol with assistance from many volunteer groups pulled 40 acres of noxious weeds primarily spotted knapweed and rush skeleto weed on the Main Salmon. Over the years such projects have freed up dozens of previously infested campsites. During September extensive inventories of the higher elevation drainages was accomplished. On the Selway River spotted knapweed biocontrol insects were released as part of a cooperative project with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. In addition, extensive weed inventories were initiated pulling occurred on several campsites.
6. River patrols supported and assisted the scenic easement program, fisheries program, the fire program, Boise Adjudication Team, and a botanical survey of rare plants along the Main Salmon Corridor.
7. River managers frequently visited private landowners/managers who live within the river corridors maintaining the working relationship necessary for effective management of the river canyons.
8. Forest river managers continued their involvement with the FCRONR Planning Process and implementation of the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Plan.

Summary:

Management the classified rivers administered by the Nez Perce is moving towards a multi Forest/multi Region approach. The Nez Perce is coordinating with the Clearwater, Wallowa Whitman, and Salmon-Challis Forests to maximize efficiency, provide continuity, and minimize redundancy. Public demand for river access is growing particularly during the spring and fall months. In addition, ecological issues such as exotic plant invasion and development of private lands within the river corridors is becoming more apparent. In 1997, collection of information on extent, type, and timing of river use was accelerated and inventories of noxious weeds expanded. Information from these inventory/monitoring efforts will support the ongoing analysis projects (FCDEIS, Clearwater River Analysis, ect.) where decisions on river management issues will be made.

Fire, Insects & Disease

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 5 years (FY 1996)

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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 a below average fire season with a total of 74 fires which compares to the 10-year average (1988-1997) of 197 fires. 1997 marked the second year of the Clearwater/Nez Perce Fire Zone operation. The 1997 season started with extensive precipitation; during the October to June period all weather stations exceeded the 30 year averages, some by as much as 20 inches. July rainfall also exceeded the 30 year averages, August and September recorded approximately average rainfall. The result was that normally flashy fuels did not dry and some vegatation remained green and did not cure, limiting the potential for fire ignition and spread.

Few resources were mobilized to support prescribed fire or wildfire suppression on other units.

The very low level of fire activity did not require the mobilization of any incident management teams or prescribed fire management teams. No fire or camp crews were utilized from the Nez Perce Tribe and virtually no contractor equipment was placed into service.

Monitoring Results:

Numbers of Fires

Types of Fires	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	10 Yr. Avg.
Lightning Fires	238	276	49	320	61	284	69	190
Lightning Fires with Control Strategy	238	216	48	309	61	232	50	172
Lightning Fires with Contain and Confine Strategy	2	48	1	11	0	52	2	15
Person Caused Fires and Misc.	32	16	8	19	5	18	5	17
Prescribed Natural Fires	13	12	5	0	20	17	17	9

Individual fire reports were completed on all 1997 fires. The Clearwater/Nez Perce Fire Zone managed a total of 157 fires between the two Forests in 1997 - 74 fires on the Nez Perce and 83 fires on the Clearwater Forest. A total of 29 acres were burned on the Nez Perce Forest.

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. (See the Air Quality discussion.)

Acres Burned

Types of Fires	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	10 Yr. Avg.
Lightning Fires	176	44,913	2	9,045	9	44,048	26	16,658
Lightning Fires with Control Strategy	176	44,741	2	5,172	9	2,470	9	12,094
Lightning Fires with Contain and Confine Strategy	0	172	0	3,873	0	12,837	1	5,970
Person Caused Fires & Misc.	2,031	53	4	74	1	1,559	3	802
Prescribed Natural Fires	3,311	39	0	0	16	27,182	15	3,108

The Forest Fire Management program was not funded at the most efficient level (MEL) as described by the National Fire Management Analysis System (NFMAS). The Forest was budgeted about 30% below MEL.

Revision of the Selway Bitterroot Prescribed Fire Guidebook was started by representatives from the three participating Forests to reflect current policy and operational proceedures. Planning was initiated on the Salmon River Canyon Project to indentify prescribed burning opportunities. The BLM, two Forest Service Regions, and four National Forests are participating in this planning effort to analyze 1.8 million acres.

The Nez Perce Forest accomplished 6664 acres of fuels treatment in 1997 compared to 4467 acres in 1996. Of this total, 4197 acres of treatment were accomplished with forest protection dollars, only 68% of the assigned target. Another 2467 acres were accomplished with brush disposal funding, treating activity created fuels from timber sales, this exceeded the target by over 660 acrres.

The Grangeville smokejumpers had a total of 19 fire jumps within the Clearwater/Nez Perce Fire Zone. This included 18 fires staffed on the Nez Perce Forest. A total of 50 smokejumpers jumped on these 19 fires. Grangeville smokejumpers also staffed three other fires from Grangeville on other forests and agencies. There were two serious lost time injuries a fractured fibula and and fractured femur. Both of these injuries were as a result of landings.

This season Grangeville smokejumpers performed approximately 11,000 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. That is a big increase from 1996 when 5200 hours of project work was performed.

In 1997 the Clearwater/Nez Perce helicopter program flew a total of 431 hours, down from 1103 in 1996. This reduction in hours flown reflects the very low level of fire activity. Only 169 hours were flown in support of fire management activities; 20 fires were helitaked; 14 different helicopters were on the zone; 1033 personnel were transported; 263,748 pounds of cargo was moved; and 118,536 gallons of water were dropped on fires. Another 263 hours were flown in support of local and off Forest projects such as aerial ignition for prescribed burning, aerial seeding and trails maintenance and six heavy lift bridge placements.

Grangeville retardant base pumped 32,000 gallons of retardant in 1997 compared to 226,000 in 1996. Only 8,000 gallons were dropped on the Nez Perce / Clearwater Zone.

Fire detection methods used by the Nez Perce Forest were from fixed lookouts and air patrols. Lookouts reported 43% of the fires a total of 32 fires, Forest Service aircraft reported 18 fires or 25% of the detections. Other aircraft reported one fire, regular Forest Service employees reported 9 fires, and reports of fires from all other sources including the private sector totaled 14.

Item 7: Insect and Disease Activity

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: Significant increases in population or damage levels of insects or diseases.

Monitoring Results:

Most insect populations remained static from 1996 to 1997. Significant increased 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. The Forest will request field exams by Regional Office specialists to confirm the aerial observations and recommend actions.

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.

Facilities

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 6 years

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 waste water 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 follow-up radon monitoring was completed at a Red River ranger Station duplex where radon mitigation was installed. Results show acceptable radon levels. Long-term radon monitoring was initiated at other residence to assure radon mitigation systems installed several years ago are still working.

To meet changing administrative needs of the combined Selway and Moose Creek Districts, a preliminary design was completed for a new accessible visitor info/office/conference building at the Fenn Ranger Station. A contract was let for interior finished space in the warehouse at the Salmon River Seed Tree Orchard.

Major repair and maintenance projects included insulating the attic of the Elk City Ranger District office, re-roofing the Salmon River Ranger district office, and fixing drainage problems and flood damage at the Elk City and Fenn Ranger Stations.

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 water systems currently operating. One system is operated by a recreation site permittee. For all operational systems, bacteriological monitoring is completed monthly. Problems discovered during routine bacteriological testing led to the initiation of rehabilitation projects at six recreational and lookout water systems during 1996. The distribution lines were replaced at one recreational site. This year the only required chemical testing was for nitrate at all "public" systems and lead-copper at the Slate creek and Fenn Ranger stations. 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.

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 450 miles of boundary between Forest land and private landowners. Three-hundred-forty-one miles have been retraced and posted to standard with approximately 113 miles remaining to be posted. In addition to the property lines, there is an estimated 330 miles of wilderness boundaries on the Forest. Maintenance of the existing posted boundaries continues at about 25 miles per year. Due to more difficult terrain and areas where corners have not been reestablished for nearly 100 years, the rate of boundary location is now about 8-10 miles per year. Currently the Forest is providing information for one potential timber tress pass and one Small Tracts Act.

With the advent of project 615, the Land Net is being loaded in ALP (Automated Lands Program) for a GIS layer.

Right-of-Ways:

Although no new roads or trails are planned across private property, the Forest has a substantial backlog of roads and trails which have been managed under prescriptive/appropriated rights. In FY 97, the Forest resolved two road right-of-ways (Road No. 241 and Road No. 9823). The Forest is actively working on three to five other right-of-ways and two trail right-of-ways.

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

Frequency of Measurement: Continuous

Reporting Period: 5 years

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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 conducted on the Salmon River Road in 1997.

Access Management

Road System

- Inventory:

  The current Forest inventory shows 4,060 miles of road under Forest Service jurisdiction. Of this mileage, 1,141 miles are open and the remaining 2,919 miles are either closed to all vehicular traffic or have use and vehicle restrictions on them.

  In 1997, the Forest updated the "1997 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 Forest Service 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. In addition, there is 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 53 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:

Access analysis documentation needs to be revised. Access analysis worksheets as contained in the Nez Perce Access Management Guide, 1988, have proved cumbersome. Computerized spreadsheets have better capability to display access alternatives in project analysis.

Minerals

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

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

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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 54 active Plans of Operation, 8 need modification or updating to more accurately describe existing surface disturbance and/or changes in the operation. This is increased by 7 from 1996. A review of bonds being held by the Forest indicate that 20 need to be revised or released. Many of these bonds are associated with operations that have had minimal activity for a number of years. IF the bond is still active, the Plan of Operations is considered to be active. Of the 20 bonds needing to be revised, considerable progress was made this year to either release or revise at least 5 of these bonds. The following table displays this data

Ranger District	Active Plans of Operation	Plans Needing Modification	Bonds Needing Revision	Bonds Needing Release
Salmon River	8	1	1	2
Clearwater	1	0	0	0
Red River/Elk City	45	7	19	0
Moose Creek	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**54**	**8**	**20**	**2**

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 analysis needs relating to watersheds and riparian areas, 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 1997 the Forest saw a similar level of activity as in 1996. Cyprus/Amax continued their exploratory drilling on the Petsite project near Orogrande. Their proposed exploration was much larger than 1996. Although the project was analyzed for up to 36,400 feet of road building only about 10,500 feet of road was actually built. With the recent drop in the price of gold it is unlikely they will continue exploration in 1998. A small placer operation called Million $ Placer operated on Crooked Creek above Dixie. Operations were smaller in 1997 compared to 1996. The same group, Grandma's Inc. submitted a plan of operations for exploration in the headwaters of Crooked Creek. The proposal has not been approved and is waiting on concurrence from National Marine Fisheries Service. No operations occurred in Little Mallard Meadows in 1997. A plan has been submitted for 1998. Several other small exploration and placer 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 decrease in the number of dredges operating, 31 dredges operated at different times on the forest. Many, for only a few days to a couple of weeks. In late 1997 there was an increased interest in operating larger commercial dredges. We will be processing plans for potentially three, 8-inch suction dredges to operate on Red River and the South Fork of the Clearwater River in 1998. Although we have monitored suction dredges for the last 3 years, we have had difficulty finding experienced people to analyze the pebble count data that has been collected.

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 %
1997	15 %	37 %	4 %

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. In 1997 we saw a leveling out of interest by large mining companies, but a continuing interest by recreational miners. In 1997 we were fully staffed except for a 3 month time period when the Forest Geologist was on maternity leave. Significant progress was made toward improving minerals administration.

Economics

Item 3: Cost of Implementing Resource Management Prescriptions

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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 similar to past funding levels.

Monitoring Results:

Table 2, found in the beginning of this report, displays budget allocations and actual expenditures for the fiscal years 1995, 1996, and 1997. Dollars have been adjusted to constant 1997 values.

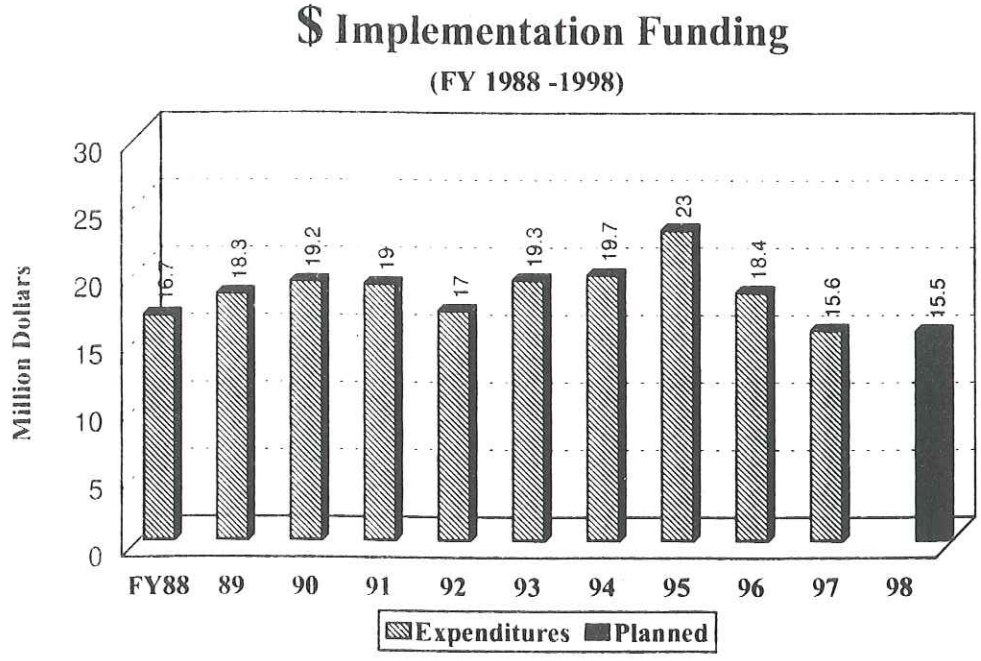
Table 3 displays projects annual costs for FY 1998.

Corresponding activities and outputs for the prior 1995-1997 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 will likely not be attained in the future.

[Insert Chart Here]



The chart shown above displays funding levels expended by the Forest in the past ten years and the projected funding level for FY98. Dollars for all years have been adjusted to 1997 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, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: 10 years

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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 prices 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:

Timber and Range Revenues
(all figures are in 1997 dollars)

Revenue Source	Projected Annual Forest Plan	FY 1988 Revenues	FY 1989 Revenues	FY 1990 Revenues	FY 1991 Revenues	FY 1992 Revenues	FY 1993 Revenues	FY 1994 Revenues	FY 1995 Revenues	FY 1996 Revenues	FY 1997 Revenues
Timber	$ 16,6545,995	$ 5,904,315	$9,153,372	$8,270,489	$5,357,818	$8,909,396	$9,679,699	$17,018,458	$5,652,828	$6,337,101	$2,818,184
Range	$ 58,000	$ 44,703	$ 48,001	$ 50,446	$ 43,125	$ 41,966	$ 41,975	$ 44,829	$ 35,084	$ 27,617	$ 27,782

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 $235/MBF in constant FY97 dollars. The actual experienced stumpage values were considerably lower. Second, timber harvest acres in FY 88-FY 93 were considerably lower than the predicted average annual harvest displayed in the Forest Plan (Table 1).

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 decrease from 1990 to 1991 was 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 and 1997.

The following table displays gains or losses from timber harvesting and related activities. Payments to States have not been included in this analysis, because is 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 (before payments to states)
(all figures are in 1997 dollars)

FY 1988	FY 1989	FY 1990	FY 1991	FY 1992	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
$ 368,774	$ 1,787,937	$ 818,396	<$2,347,182>	<$ 109,794>	$1,076,245	$6,125,598	<$1,865,417>	<$ 352,475>	<$2,192,210>

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 1986/87 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, six months or older.

In Fiscal Year 1997, grazing fees were $1.35 per head month for cattle and horses, and $0.27 for sheep. In 1997, 20,254 cattle and horse head months and 6,802 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.

Effects on Others

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annually (October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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 1997:

- In 1997, the Forest employed 360 seasonal and permanent people (compared to 540 in 1995 and 352 in 1996) and had a payroll of $11,145,510. Nez Perce National Forest 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 National Forest 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 $ 714,852 in 1997. Payments to the County from all national forests was $1,504,475, which includes the Bitterroot National Forest ($85,514) and the Clearwater National Forest ($704,108). The majority of funds from the Nez Perce National Forest were from the sale of timber. The following chart displays payments (all receipts) to Idaho County from the Nez Perce National Forest since 1988.

Payment to Idaho County from Nez Perce National Forest (all receipts)		
Fiscal Year	Nominal Dollars	Constant 1997 Dollars
1997	$ 714,852	$ 714,852
1996	$ 1,576,746	$ 1,616,007
1995	$ 1,217,808	$ 1,274,558
1994	$ 3,872,891	$ 4,154,450
1993	$ 2,197,978	$ 2,412,281
1992	$ 2,042,981	$ 2,301,214
1991	$ 1,303,797	$ 1,511,883
1990	$ 1,276,546	$ 1,544,110
1989	$ 1,243,278	$ 1,565,411
1988	$ 995,846	$ 1,306,948

- 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 chart 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 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.

Remaining Timber Volume Under Contract and Timber Volume Harvested and Chargeable Volume Sold (all volume figures are in millions of board feet)											
	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
Timber Harvested	89.1	72.9	99.5	93.4	72.8	81.4	69.2	89.9	38.8	38.3	19.4
Timber Sold	92.6	108.5	77.6	83.2	102.6	15.6	42.4	13.0	13.9	28.1	21.6
Vol Under Contract	235.9	290.0	243.6	220.0	255.0	189.8	162.1	75.2	60.7	54.1	63.3

- Total expenditures (money allocated to the Forest by Congress) in fiscal year 1997, was $17,908,200. Beside salaries, rent and other operational expenses, revenues are distributed to the local economies through formal contracts ($1,397,000) and small purchases ($1,597,000).

- 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 1997. 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 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, 1996 - September 30, 1997)

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability Which Would Initiate Further Evaluation: 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 1997. 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. This agreement remains in effect.

Nez Perce Tribe: Nez Perce Tribe: The Nez Perce National Forest was one of five forests signing a one year experimental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Nez Perce Tribe in 1998. This particular MOU exempts tribal members from paying campground fees at developed campgrounds, and from forest stay limits when the member is engaged in tribal hunting, fishing or gathering activities. Forest Service law enforcement has coordinated with Tribal law enforcement to enforce the MOU and to deal with any protests by tribal or non-tribal members against the agreement.

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 FY97 included the following: whitetail deer research and incidental wildlife information gathering, information and support to assessment of TES issues on the Forest, 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 1997.

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:

- Vessel Grant - Riggins Scat machine to provide for human waste management from the Salmon River floaters.
- Off-Highway Motorized Vehicle Grants:
    1) 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.
- 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 Forest Service provides funding to the ICSO to patrol National Forest roads and campgrounds. The ICSO also assists the Forest Service during illegal protest activities on NFS lands by providing personnel and jail facilities as needed. The ICSO provides radio dispatching service to Forest Service law enforcement officers. The two agencies cooperate in search and rescue missions, and the Forest Service provides available equipment and personnel during other county emergencies, such as fires and flooding. Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers are authorized to assist the county in enforcement of state law violations occurring within the forest boundary.

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 and stream channels 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 95 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, grizzly bear and bull trout 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 coordination 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 person. 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 Resources 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
Moose Creek Ranger District	(208)926-7725
Elk City Ranger Station, Red River 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 difficult level of accessibility as defined by these guidelines.

Monitoring Results:

Mobility Accessibility by Accessibility Levels

Facility	Easy/Accessible	Moderate	Difficult
Fish Creek Pavillion 1994 - 100 People	Will accommodate 75 people	Will accommodate an additional 25 people	0
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 campsite
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		
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			Accessible at this level*
McAllister Picnic Area			Accessible at this level*
Johns Creek Trailhead			Accessible at this level*
Cougar Creek Trailhead			Accessible at this level*
Trapper Creek Trailhead			Accessible at this level*
14 Mile Tree Trailhead			Accessible at this level*
Rocky Bluff Campground			Accessible at this level*
Meadow Creek Campground			Accessible at this level*
Nelson Creek Campground			Accessible at this level*
Red River Campground			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*
Iron Phone Junction			Accessible at this level*
Leggett Creek	100		Accessible at this level*
5-Mile Pond			Accessible at this level*
Slate Creek Ranger District Office	Accessible at this level		
Clearwater Ranger District Office	Accessible at this level		
Nez Perce Forest Headquarters Office	Accessible at this level		
Red River Ranger District Office	Accessible at this level		
Moose Creek Ranger District Office	Not Accessible at this level	Not Accessible at this level	No Accessible at this level
Elk City Ranger District Office	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 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.

The Selway Pond project opened in May 1995 and provides fishing access for people with mobility impairments. 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 Forest Service 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 1998, all ranger station surveys and some 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 Forest Headquarters and all district offices (except the Moose Creek Ranger District office at Fenn Ranger Station) will be accessible to everyone. A triples 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 97. Beginning in FY 93, District Ranger authority environmental analysis accomplishments are also included.

Fiscal Year	Number of Decisions	Included Number 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	4	6	45,775	4,509	3.26	22.3
98						
99						
00						
10 Year Average	4.6	10.7	41,403	2,760	3.1	33.0
Total	46	107	414,033	27,597	---	329.9

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

The four new timber related decisions in FY 97 included Beartoes and Berg Salvage (Salmon River Ranger District), 806 (Elk City Ranger District), and the Record of Decision for the Mill Creek Environmental Impact Statement (Clearwater Ranger District) 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 1997, (10 years since the Forest Plan went into effect), the Forest had completed site-specific analysis of 45 percent of the total suitable land base of 911,669 acres.

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 continues to move 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 continues to be dyer's woad, rush skeletonweed, 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 continues to work 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 1997 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. Many user groups were contacted to discuss the risk of weed invasion to their interest areas.

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

The Forest treated approximately 1,300 acres, during the 1997 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. Volunteer groups were active in manually control spotted knapweed along the beaches of the Wild and Scenic sections of the Salmon River. Bio-coontrol insects were released for yellow starthistle, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle and goatweed. 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 collaborative 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. The results of this effort is the integration of the Forest program with the county and state efforts.

A similar effort is ongoing 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. In 1997 the committee finalized the strategic

weed management plan for the Clearwater basin. In 1998/1999 the plan will require the cooperators to re-align their individual weed management priorities to accomplish basin priorities and to ensure that the work is coordinated across the watershed. The Forest program in the Clearwater drainage will become increasingly integrated with the county, state and other federal agency efforts.

The Forest received grants for cooperative weed management from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. These funds were used in the Salmon River canyon as part of the coordinated partnership. Many of the funds were used across property lines to treat and manage high priority weeds, such as yellow starthistle and rush skeletonweed, important to the partnership.

The Forest continues to work with the University of Idaho, Forest Health Protection Group and Clearwater National Forest in the development of a field guide for the management and monitoring of Biocontrol agent for yellow starthistle. This work includes the distribution, release and monitoring of 5 insects that has been approved for release. It also incorporates vegetation monitoring as part of the management of the release sites. The results of the field work will be a protocol guide edited and published through the University of Idaho. The guide is expected to published in the winter of 1998.

4. Snag Fall and Fuel Accumulation after Wildfire

Snags provide important wildlife habitat and sources of large organic debris to soil and streams. The persistence of snags after fire or logging is little understood. We monitored snag fall and fuel accumulation rates in plots established in areas burned by wildfire and not subsequently salvage harvested. Plots are located in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and the Rapid River roadless area on the Nez Perce National Forest.

Thirty five .05 to .1 acre plots were established at about 4,500 feet to 6,400 feet elevation, in sub-alpine fir and grand fir habitat types. Two plots are in riparian areas. 292 trees were tagged and measured. Slopes ranged from about 5 to 50 percent. Aspects ranged from east to south. Species composition at the time of the fires included grand fir, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and Engelmann spruce. Diameters ranged from 5 to 40 inches and man diameter was about 13 inches DBH.

Fires occurred in 1988 and 1994 so monitoring results are for 3 to 8 years. Monitoring has been periodic, at 1 to 3 year intervals. Fires were mostly stand replacing with mortality at 100 percent. Plot 4 in the Selway-Bitterroot was moderate in severity, but subsequent mortality amounted to almost 100 percent. A few western larch trees survived on one other plot.

Over all plots, species, and size classes in the 1994 Rapid River fire, about 99 percent of all trees were still standing after 3 years. In the 1988 Footstool fire, about 91 percent of trees were still standing after 8 years. Subalpine fir seems to be falling the fastest. Diameters of fallen trees were usually small: from 5 to 17 inches (mean about 10 inches), although one 24 inch grand fir had fallen.

After eight years, snags have decayed to class 2 or 3. Decay classes are those used in ECODATA sampling. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are usually class 2: most branches are in place and bark is often intact. Subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and grand fir are often class 3: bark is sloughing, especially on subalpine fir, and branches are being lost.

Fuels immediately in the autumn after the 1994 fire averaged about 2.6 tons, mostly 1,000 hour fuels (n=10). After 8 years fuels in the 1988 fire averaged 6.1 tons (n=10).

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: An interagency team of elk habitat technical specialists comprised of biologists from Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game, Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests, and Nez Perce Tribe organized through the "Venture 20" effort have completed a technical review and proposed edits and improvements to the existing Guidelines for Evaluating and Managing Summer Elk Habitat in Northern Idaho (Leege 1984). A draft of this updated proposal titled, "Interagency Guidelines for Evaluating and Managing Elk Habitats and Populations in Central Idaho (Servheen, 1997;Wildlife Bulletin No. 11) was prepared. The 1997 draft proposal results in the following adjustments to the 1984 model including: removal of the security area variable, incorporation of trails into access calculations, addition of elk vulnerability model, and other less significant changes. An on-Forest interdisciplinary review of these draft 1997 updates to the 1984 model resulted in the preliminary conclusion that a significant Forest Plan amendment may be required prior to Forestwide application. Ratonale behind this preliminary conclusion included the following: 1. Replacing the Nez Perce Forest Plan's Appendix B implies a change to Forest Plan direction. 2. Cumulative effects of implementing the 1997 version have not been evaluated or publicly displayed. 3. Elk and elk habitat management are significant public issues on the Forest. 4. Public input from recreation, hunting, and motorized user publics relative to the 1997 changes have not been solicited or reviewed. 5. Application of an elk vulnerability model was not addressed by the 1984 elk model in Appendix B of the Forest Plan. Site-specific incorporation and adoption of the 1997 adjustments to the 1984 elk model will be encouraged for application on a site-by-site basis following appropriate NEPA, but Forestwide application of the 1997 version will require incorporation into the Forest Plan Revision Process.

2. Moose winter range questions need to be addressed:

   - What silvicultural system best maintains the yew component in the grand fir/Pacific yew association?
   - How can fuels be managed and still retain Pacific yew?
   - What is the optimum spatial arrangement of yew throughout the Forest?
   - What is the optimum stand size for yew?
   - How many acres of the grand fir/Pacific yew association exist on the Forest?
   - Does the Forest Plan adequately address the definition and protection of key moose winter habitat which has no Pacific yew component?

3. 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.

7. 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.

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 multiple-use 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 multiple-use 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: This (3/91) amendment would partition the allowable sale quantity (ASQ) by separately showing the ASQ that came from inventoried roadless areas and roaded areas. Thirteen Forest Plans in the Northern Region were amended. The decision was appealed to the Chief of the Forest Service who affirmed the decision. The Secretary of Agriculture opted to review the Chief's appeal decision and reversed the decison in October, 1991, thereby vacating and voiding Amendment 14 of the Nez Perce Forst Plan.

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)

Amendment #21: This was a project-specific amendment based on the analysis contained in the Hungry-Mill FEIS. The amendment changed the summer elk habitat potential objective from 50% to 25% on 2,838 acres within the Hungry-Mill analysis area. (3/97)

Amendment #22: This was a project-specific amendment based on the analysis contained in the Berg Timber Sale EA. The amendment allows timber harvest within Mangement Area 20 (old-growth wildlife habitat) in order to improve and maintain the long term sustainability of the ponderosa pine communities in designated areas of the Berg Timber Sale. The amendment is only valid for the contract life of the timber sale and does not apply to future actions in this area or elsewhere on the Forest. (1/97)

Amendment #23: This amendment corrects summer elk analysis units and objectives that were mismatched in the original Forest Plan. (7/97)

Amendment #24: This was a project-specific amendment based on the analysis contained in the Hungry-Mill FEIS. The amendment updated Forest Plan Appendix A information for several watersheds in the Hungry-Mill analysis area to account for new information on the species of fish that exist in these watersheds. (8/97) The amendment was challenged in court and subsequently withdrawn in (5/98)

Amendment #25: This was a project-specific amendment based on the analysis contained in the Middle Fork FEIS. The amendment updated Forest Plan Appendix A information for three watersheds in the Middle Fork analysis area to account for new information on the species of fish that exist in these watersheds. (10/97)

Amendment #26: This was a project-specific amendment based on the analysis contained in the Middle Fork FEIS. The amendment allows timber harvest within Mangement Area 20 (old-growth wildlife habitat) in order to improve and maintain the long term sustainability of the ponderosa pine communities in unit F Middle Fork Timber Sale. The amendment is only valid for the contract life of the timber sale and does not apply to future actions in this area or elsewhere on the Forest. (10/97)

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 1997. Members of the Forest Interdisciplinary Monitoring Team are **highlighted in bold type**.

Name	Area of Expertice
Nick Gerhardt	**Hydrology and Watershed**
Jerry Weigand	**Timber**
Leonard Lake	**Range, Botany and Noxious Weeds**
Nancy Rusho	**Minerals**
Kara Chadwick	**Silviculture, Insects and Disease**
Dave Green	**Economics**
Lois Geary	**Budget and Finance**
Randy Borniger	**Recreation**
Bruce Anderson	**Rivers**
Wayne Wright	**Trails**
Bo Nielsen	**Landscape Architect**
Cindy Schacher	**Heritage Resources**
Randy Doman	**Fire and Air**
Pat Green	**Ecology and Soils**
Dick Artley	**Land Management Planning**
Steve Blair	**Wildlife**
Katherine Thompson	**Fisheries**
Joe Bonn	**Facilities**
Kathie Snodgrass	**Disabled Persons Access**
Daryl Mullinix and Jennifer Stephenson	**Lands and Special Uses**
Laura Smith	**Illustrator**
Monica McGee	**Technical Supporto**
Elayne Murphy	**Public Affairs**

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

Monitoring Coord	**Salmon River Ranger District**
David Harper	**Clearwater Ranger District**
Heather Berg	**Moose Creek Ranger District**
Kara Chadwick	**Elk City Ranger District**

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

Chuck Wildes	**Forest Supervisor**
Ihor Mereszczak	**Ecosystem Planning & Operations Staff Officer**
Michael Cook	**Lands, Administration, Trails, Engineering, and Recreation Staff Office**
Byron Bonney	**Fire Staff Officer**
Phil Jahn	**Heritage, Watershed, Ecology, and Biology Staff Officer**
Jack Carlson	**District Ranger, Salmon River Ranger District**
Darcy Pederson	**District Ranger, Clearwater Ranger District**
Jerry Bird	**District Ranger, Moose Creek Ranger District**
Mike McGee	**Acting District Ranger, Elk City Ranger District**

APPROVAL

I have reviewed the annual Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report for Fiscal Year 1997 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:

Charles C. Wildes — 9/21/98

Charles C. Wildes
Acting Forest Supervisor

Date

* APPENDIX *

Status of Action Items Identified in Prior Years

The action items shown below were identified between Fiscal Year 1988 - 1997 and are recurring. It also includes action items identified in FY 97 that were also identified in prior years and remain unresolved. Action to resolve these concerns in Fiscal Year 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.

Action Item (s) Related to 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.**
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	**Fiscal Year 95**
Current Status	**Ongoing**
Discussion	**Progress 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.**

Action Item (s) Related to Monitoring	
Item #1	**Review the appropriatness of adding a monitoring element to the Forest Plan addressing the Forest situation regarding the existance and treatment of commodity vs. non-commodity vegetation.**
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	**Fiscal Year 91**
Current 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.**

Action Item (s) Related to 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.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Year 93
Current 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.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Year 93
Current 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.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Years 93, 94 and 95
Current Status	Ongoing
Discussion	Work continues as time and funding permit.

Item #4	Fisher/pine martin transects need to have consistent annual readings to produce more useful data.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Years 93, 94 and 95
Current 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.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Year 95
Current 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.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Year 94
Current 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.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Year 95
Current Status	Ongoing
Discussion	Work continues as funding and personnel permit.

Action Item (s) Related to 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**
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	**Fiscal Year 89-91, 94 and 95**
Current 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.**

Item #2	**Implement the National system called Infrastructure, which will be used to improve the gathering and documentation of visitor use information**
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	**Fiscal Years 94 and 95**
Current Status	**Ongoing**
Discussion	**The Nez Perce forest has implemented Recreation Infrastructure, however, more work needs to be done on the RIM syatem 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.**
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	**Fiscal Years 94 and 95**
Current 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.**
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	**Fiscal Years 94 and 95**
Current 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.**

Item #5	Continue to replace sub-standard signs in the wilderness.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Year 94
Current Status	Ongoing
Discussion	The Forest is continuing to replace substandard signs in wilderness as funding levels allow.

Item #6	The Middle Fk of the Clearwater River Management Plan needs to be updated and the administration of scenic easements needs more emphasis
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Years 94 and 95
Current 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 #7	Formally adopt a new "roaded modified" Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class for the forest.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Year 95
Current Status	Ongoing
Discussion	Work continues in this area as funding allows.

Action Item (s) Related to 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.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Year 90
Current 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.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Years 93 and 94
Current 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.

Action Item (s) Related to 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.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Year 94
Current Status	Ongoing
Discussion	Work continues as funding and personnel permit

Item #2	Continued development of the NEZSED model and improvements in the reliability of observed sediment yield estimates are needed to improve future land management decisions.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Year 94
Current Status	Incomplete
Discussion	The priority of such work has not been high enough to warrant funding. Noting done to date.

Item #3	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.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Years 93 and 94
Current Status	Ongoing
Discussion	In FY 97, the Forest worked on two Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale: Slate Creek and Newsone Creek. Also, in FY 97, the Forest worked on 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 early FY 99 completion in the Selway River drainage. In FY 99 work will begin on the Salmon River landscape assessment.

Item #4	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.
Fiscal Years when the Action Item was identified	Fiscal Year 95
Current 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.

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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- Fan, S., (Editor), 1988. Twelve Selected Computer Stream Sedimentation Models Developed in the United States. Subcommittee on Sedimentation, Interagency Advisory Committee on Water Data, Federal Energy Commission, Washington, D.C.
- 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.
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- State of Idaho, Idaho Department of Lands. 1990. Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Idaho Forest Practices Act, Title 38, Chapter 13, Idaho Code.
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